



**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

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### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In studying English, "students have fairly limited access to spoken English, and written English often becomes primary importance for stimulating language acquisition" (Lazar, 1993:17). One of the written English sources is a literary text which provides a good way of stimulating this acquisition. There are some reasons in using literature in the classroom (Collie and Slater, 1987:3-5). First, as cultural enrichment, literature increases the foreign students' insight into the country whose language is being learnt. Second, as language enrichment, literature provides rich context of vocabulary and grammar. The last reason, as personal involvement, literature encourages students to express their opinions and feelings.

One of the ways in expressing opinions and feelings through literature is analyzing a literary work. Of course, this is not an easy task. This can be seen that some students have difficulty in analyzing the literary work because they do not understand the

important parts of the literary work or even they do not comprehend what they have read. Hence, the writer encourages herself in analyzing the literary work.

Literature is classified into three genres or classes. The first is poetry which is much more economical in the use of words and relies heavily on imagery, figurative language, rhythm and sound. The second is drama or play which presents fictional events and is designed to be performed by actors. The last form is prose fiction or narrative fiction which focuses on one or a few major characters and deals with problems or difficulties in their lives. This includes novels and short stories. Among the forms of narrative fictions, the novel has the longest story which creates an imagined world through description and dialogue.

The writer is interested in studying a novel because of some reasons. First of all, "a novel is greatly concerned with character" (Little, 1967:101). Because of its length, the novel will explore in considerable depth the relationship of the characters. Second, "reading a novel could be a social event: people read to each other as a means of sharing experience" (Robert, 1989:53). In the novel, there is also significant message whether implicitly or explicitly stated that implies to the truth. The message usually deals with the

problems of life. Third, "among the forms of imaginative literature in English, the novel has been the favorite of both writers and readers for more two hundred years" (Kennedy, 1991:213). In addition, Little says that "the novel is one of the best vehicles for the expression of moral and social ideas, as the majority of novelists and readers have recognised for several centuries" (1967:101). Next, by analyzing a novel, the writer feels anxious to know how the story goes on, how the main character faces and solves his or her own problems, and how the story ends. Finally, the writer also gets something precious since the novel has many elements in it, such as theme, setting, conflict, character and structure.

Among many elements of novel, the writer chooses conflict, character and theme because these elements hold important part in the story. Without a conflict, a story cannot be said a story because there is no problems to be faced and solved by the characters. By analyzing the conflict, we can also understand the characteristics of the characters in the story and the relationship between the characters themselves. Furthermore, theme can be explored through the development of the character, the nature of the central conflict and its outcome (Perrine, 1966:121). In

conclusion, analyzing the theme cannot be separated from analyzing the conflict and the character.

In this study, the writer would take David Herbert Lawrence as a novelist because she is interested in Lawrence's works which deal with the social condition of England at that time, especially the situation of the working classes. Moreover, Lawrence's output is remarkable considering his unsettled life and his poor health (Drabble, 1996:562). Despite his poor health, Lawrence manages to produce, besides novels, many poems, short stories and essays. The four novels that make Lawrence well-known are The White Peacock (1911), Sons and Lovers (1913), The Sisters which is later split into The Rainbow (1915) and Women in Love (1921). In these novels, Lawrence deals with the problems of human relations, applying his theories in particular to the relation of man and woman. Besides that, Lawrence is a good novelist in describing human relationship and conflict. As Kettle says,

"Lawrence sees human relationship essentially in terms of a conflict out of which a synthesis is possible but by no means inevitable. It is his ability to convey across this sense of conflict - which does indeed go deeper than a rational level - which gives his finest descriptions of personal relationships their unique force and insight". (1976:104)

The writer would like to analyze Sons and Lovers

since in this novel, Lawrence wants to describe in the guise of fiction his own childhood and youth. Engel says that "Sons and Lovers was Lawrence's first important novel, the work that established him among the finest young novelists of his generation, so it is undeniable that Sons and Lovers is Lawrence's masterpiece" (1985:7). Furthermore, Sons and Lovers does not simply present the readers with a man who has chosen his mother's side and rejected his father's. However, the working classes in this novel are displayed in their sordid and penury, not as figures of fun nor even as objects of compassion, but as human beings which generation after generation in the twentieth century has identified. This novel depicts a family of boys so dominated by their mother's affection that when the boys grow up, they cannot form satisfactory relationships with women. In addition, Lawrence himself had suffered that fate. Through this novel, Lawrence describes Paul Morel's roles as clearly as possible. Paul Morel, the main character, has two roles in his life, as a son and as a lover. Niven states,

"In Paul's case, he is not just a son to his mother and a lover to Miriam and Clara; the roles can be reversed as he becomes at times almost his mother's beau and seeks from both the other women a kind of substitute maternalism" (1978:49).

This idea becomes the title of Lawrence's novel Sons and

## Lovers.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problems

This study is intended to analyze the relationship of the main character of D.H Lawrence's novel entitled Sons and Lovers. Based on the title of the novel, the main character, Paul Morel has two roles in his life, as a son and as a lover. From the main character's roles, the writer would like to write the main problem. The main problem is "What is the relationship between the main character and other characters?" In analyzing the relationship between the main character and other characters, the writer would like to elaborate the main problem into the following questions:

1. What is the relationship between Paul Morel, as a son, and his mother?
2. Why does Paul Morel, as a lover, always experience unsuccessful relationships with his lovers ?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to analyze the relationship between the main character and other

characters. This objective can be elaborated into the following objectives:

1. to describe the relationship between Paul Morel, as a son, and his mother.
2. to find out the reasons why Paul Morel, as a lover, always experiences unsuccessful relationships with his lovers.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that through her study, people may know more about David Herbert Lawrence as one of the greatest psychological English novelists because almost of his works deal with psychology matters.

This study is aimed to give some contribution to the teaching of literature at the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

Finally, this study hopefully encourages other students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to write a study on literary works, especially novels. In other words, the writer expects that literature will become more interesting to students.



### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer of this thesis limits her study only in one of the Lawrence's works of Sons and Lovers particularly in the relationship among Paul Morel, his mother and his lovers, based on the reason that this theme is the important part in the novel and influences the whole story of the novel.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some key terms used in this study are defined.

1. **A Novel** is "a fictional prose narrative of considerable length, typically having plot that is unfolded by the actions, speech and thoughts of the characters". (Soukhanov, 1996:1239).
2. **A character** is "a reasonable of a human being, with all the good and the bad traits of being human". A story is usually concerned with a major problem that a character must face. This may involve interaction with another character, with a difficult situation, or with an idea or general circumstances that force action. (Robert, 1989:56).
3. **Conflict** is "a clash of actions, ideas, desires

or wills". The main character may be pitted against some other person or group of persons ("man against man"); he may be in conflict with some external force - physical nature, society or fate ("man against environment"); or he may be in conflict with some elements in his own nature ("man against himself"). The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional or moral. (Perrine, 1966:59).

### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

There is a fundamental theory which deals with analyzing Sons and Lovers novel, in this case analyzing the main character's relationship with other characters. Guerin says that "any study of the characters in a literary work or the relationship between an author's life and his writing will include a psychological analysis" (1986:8). Besides that, Freud, as quoted by Bee, implies that when only a mother's role is present, she is inevitably controlling most of the important aspects of her child life. (1975:275).

### **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter

one presents the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, the definition of key terms, theoretical framework and organization of the study. Chapter two deals with a review of the related literature which covers related theories and related studies. Chapter three concerns about the methodology. Chapter four discusses about the analysis of the main character's relationship with other characters. Finally, chapter five is dealing with the conclusion and suggestion.