

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

As there are so many fields of studies that one may have in the world of education, this study focuses on the study on literature. Literature is the one chosen for it is believed to be the study that touches the inner part of human beings. Many people may even consider literature as a part of their life, for it gives them pleasures. Moreover, Roberts and Jacobs (1989:1) also add that literature is the written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell stories, dramatize situations and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden and ennoble readers.

There are at least three types of literature that we can find in our surrounding, such as poetry, drama and also prose fiction. Prose fiction includes novels and short stories. This study limits on the discussion of short story, as it is a piece of prose fiction which is not too long, yet it covers a complex but solid story. Because of its nature, a not-too-long, complex-but-solid story, short story is made enjoyable by its readers.

Among the literary works, there many stories that are worth one's study or even one's honor are written by well known authors. Not to mention others, for they are too many to be mentioned, one of the authors is Guy De Maupassant. Henry Rene Albert Guy De Maupassant is a master of short story. He was born on the 5 August 1850 in Tourville sur Arques, and lived in Normandy with his mother and a great friend, Flaubert, who became his mentor. Eventhough he began to show signs of

general paralysis, a side effect of the syphilis he had contracted as a youth, he worked incessantly and his output was prodigious. Also he once attempted suicide in 1892 and was then incarcerated in an asylum where he died of his paralysis in July 1893. (See the introduction part in *Wordsworth Classics Guy De Maupassant The Best Short Stories* for further explanation)

This study chooses Guy De Maupassant since he can illuminate an entire code of values by means of a few telling details, yet he states more clearly than he implies, leaving little open to interpretation. Furthermore, the most important reason is that there is a sensuous quality to his careful portrayal of people and he excels at natural description that is simple and direct. He reveals envy, greed, hypocrisy, selfishness, vanity, and cruelty. Thus, the main reason is because the appalling irony of human contradictions is a theme that links much of his work.

Related to that, this study tries to find out the ironies and their similarities in Guy De Maupassant's three short stories. Those short stories are *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace*, and *The Jewels*. The study uses those three short stories, since those stories have been considered to have so many ironies and more importantly, they are assumed to have shared some similarities in irony. The story of *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior* used in this study tells about a son who did not only inherit his father's inheritance but his father's mistress as well. The story of *The Necklace* tells about a false necklace, which was replaced with the real diamond necklace by the married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Loisel, that caused them lived in a hard time for ten years to pay it. The story of *The Jewels* tells about a man who is happier living with a wife who had cheated him by being someone's mistress than living with an honorable plain wife.

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

As it has been mentioned that one characteristic of Guy De Maupassant's short stories is mostly ironical, this study is aimed to find out the ironies and their similarities shared in the three short stories of Guy De Maupassant, which are *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*. Thus, the research questions are formulated as follow:

- (1) What are the ironies found in the short story of *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*?
- (2) What are the similarities in irony found in the three short stories–*Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*?

## 1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the questions above, the study is planned to find out:

- (1) The ironies in the short story of *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*;
- (2) The similarities in irony found in the three short stories–*Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*.

## 1.4. Significance of the Study

As there are not many students of Widya Mandala Catholic University who study about the irony in a short story, the study is expected to be able to give a useful information about the irony in Guy De Maupassant's three short stories. It is also expected that the study can be used as one of the literary collections for the library

study. Eventually, the study is also hoped to be able to stimulate one's sense of sensitivity on life, since this study concerns about the irony in life.

#### 1.5. The Scope and Limitation

As a whole, this study centers on the findings of irony in the three short stories of Guy De Maupassant and also the similarities in irony shared in those short stories. This study only focuses on the three short stories, *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*, because those three short stories chosen are assumed to have the most irony and share some similarities in irony.

Since this study uses the intrinsic analysis, it identifies and analyzes the irony through the intrinsic part of the literary work. Thus, the study includes the theories related to the intrinsic part of short story, which are mainly about the elements of short story—character, plot, setting and theme. However, considering that the ironies in those three short stories are mostly found in the character and the theme elements, so this study tries to focus on the findings through those two elements.

Moreover, dealing with the findings of irony, this study includes the theories related to irony, especially the nature, the form and the phase of irony. Due to the limitation of the sources and time, the study is limited to the findings of irony in each short story without classifying it into its form, such as irony of the situation, dramatic irony, or socratic irony, which are discussed more in Chapter II. Although this study also includes the phase of irony; however, the study is not intended to divide the ironies found based on the phase, because it is almost hard to separate or to divide them.

## 1.6. Definition of Key Terms

Although the terms in this study may probably have been known, those terms are still needed to be clarified. Therefore, the study defines the terms used as follows:

### (1) Short Story

A short story is a piece of prose fiction in which a character or a group of characters gets from here to there. Thus, a *short story* in this study is defined as the depiction (picture) of a series of cause and effect incidents involving an individual or a group of individuals; growing out of a basic problem, situation, predicament, or dilemma which is related in the process of the incidents' taking place; arriving at some kind of culmination, high point, crisis, or turning point; and then coming quickly to an end (Peden, 1971:20).

### (2) Character and Characterization

In this study, the term *character* is simply the person who is involved in the short story. It is the person who reveals the story (Scheld and King, 1970:57).

Here, a *characterization* is defined as a literary tool that is used to visualize and to create a clear picture of a certain character (Holman, 1972:91).

### (3) Plot

The term *plot* is the significant events or episodes in a story, so arranged that each contributes to the final meaning of the story and reveals some facet of human life in all its complexities (Scheld and King, 1970:3).

#### (4) Setting

The study defines *setting* as the atmosphere that is the background of the main plot that includes the time and place (Holman and Harmor, 1986:465).

#### (5) Theme

It is the motivating idea of the story. It is also considered as the reason that the story goes (Peden, 1971:19).

#### (6) Irony

Little defines irony as a kind of humor that seems to be an inverted attack (Little, 1966:49). Meanwhile, Hadiri considers irony as a course of events, which is contrary to what is expected (Hadiri, 1981:1). Taken from the two definitions, *irony* in this study refers to a kind of humor in which a course of events that is contrary to what is expected, seems to be an inverted attack.

### 1.7. Theoretical Framework

Basically the study uses the theories related to the short story and irony in its analysis. Those theories are considered to be an essential base in analyzing the irony in the short stories conducted in this study.

The theories related to the short story in this study discuss about the elements of the short story, which are character, plot, setting and theme. However, this study focuses on the character and the theme elements in its findings because the ironies in the short stories are mostly found in those two elements.

Despite the theories related to the short story, the study also discusses some theories related to the irony. They are mainly about the nature, the form and the phase of irony.

#### 1.8. Research Method

As it is considered to be a literary analysis study, the study uses the intrinsic analysis in its findings. The study identifies and analyzes the ironies found in three short stories through the elements of the short story, especially the character and the theme elements.

The corpus of the study is the three short stories by Guy De Maupassant, in which many ironies and their similarities would be found. The short stories used are *Hautot Senior and Hautot Junior*, *The Necklace* and *The Jewels*.

#### 1.9. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I, Introduction, includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, The Scope and Limitation, Definition of Key Terms, Theoretical Framework, Research Method, and Organization of the Study. Chapter II deals with Review of Related Literature. Chapter III, Research Method, discusses about The Research Design, The Corpus, The Instrument, The Procedure of Data Collection and The Procedure of Data Analysis. In Chapter IV, it is about The Findings of Irony in the Short Stories is explained in details. The last chapter, Chapter V is about Conclusion and Suggestions.