

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the writer is making a conclusion of the analysis done in chapter IV. In addition, the writer also gives some suggestion for the students of English Department who are interested in studying literature, especially in studying novel.

5.1 Conclusion

As novel is familiar enough to among of the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, the writer chooses to study novel through its character, as characters are very important in the role of novel.

Studying characters in novel is always important and useful because the writer can learn more about various people and their characters throughout the story. Here, before concluding how a character is, the writer always refers to Morgan's (1975:2) opinion that states that motives, feelings, dreams, attitudes and beliefs can influence one's behavior, as the basis on studying one's character. Therefore, the writer can also concern with those things in studying the development of Isabel's character.

In The Portrait of A Lady, Isabel Archer, the main character, is found by her Aunt Lidya (Mrs Touchett) in an old house in Albany, New York. She is brought to Gardencourt in Europe by Mrs Touchett to extend her education, possibly to marry well. Isabel is very pretty, attractive and genius. Isabel is also a proud and independent woman who has other ideas. She has no desire to marry

and wishes to create her own future, rather than finding it as a wife. Consequently, she refuses two very eligible suitors. When her uncle Lord Touchett dies, leaving Isabel a fortune, he unwittingly does her a great disservice, for on a visit to Italy, she is introduced by Madame Merle to Gilbert Osmond. Osmond is a charming but worthless dilettante who sees Isabel as a beautiful prize, a mother for his daughter Pansy and a source of easily attained wealth. From his cruel cynicism comes Isabel's tragic disillusionment. When Isabel takes her decision to return to Rome the dominant sense is not of the waste and degradation of a splendid spirit, but of a kind of inverted triumph. Better death than a surrender of the illusion which the novel has so richly and magnificently and tragically illuminated.

From the first question of the statement of the problem concerning the stages that Isabel goes through, the writer reveals that Isabel goes through four stages. The writer uses her own way of determining the stages of Isabel's character development based on the significant changes in Isabel. The first is when she first arrives at Gardencourt from Albany, New York. The next stage is after becoming an heiress. The following stage is after travelling all over the world. The last stage is after Isabel gets married with Gilbert Osmond.

Concerning the second question of the statement of the problem, which is about the development or change occurred to Isabel during those above stages, the writer concludes that Isabel changes a lot. In the first stage, Isabel still has her real character. She hasn't developed her character yet. In the next stage, Isabel begins to change. She has many more ideas than before. She has too many graceful illusions. She thinks she has the power to do everything she wants. She also

dresses elegantly. At this stage, the development refers to the physical and mental development. In the third stage, after travelling everywhere, she changes, too. She feels that she is now a very different person from the innocent young woman from Albany who first begins to take the measure of Europe from the quiet Gardencourt – almost two years ago. She flatters herself that she is now wiser in the ways of the world and knows what she wants from a desire to keep moving. At this stage, the development refers to the mental development. In the last stage, she changes after she gets married with Osmond. There is something fixed and mechanical about her manner which is not completely natural. She also dresses more elegantly than before. The free, spirited girl becomes quite another person that is the fine lady who is supposed to represent someone. At this stage, the development refers to the physical and mental development.

This is the summary of findings :

| No | Stage | Development |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | When Isabel first comes to Gardencourt | Isabel's character hasn't developed yet. |
| 2 | After she becomes an heiress | Isabel has more ideas than before and dresses elegantly |
| 3 | After she travels everywhere | Isabel feels wiser than before and wants to get married. |
| 4 | After Isabel gets married with Gilbert Osmond. | Isabel dresses more elegantly but more stiffly and she becomes quite another person. |

In this novel, Henry James depicts the heart and soul of a young woman whose destiny is taken from her own hands. The freedom she seeks turns out to be an idealized freedom; its ends, therefore, can only end in a desire not merely to be free in this world but to be free of this world.

The writer then also concludes that Henry James The Portrait of A Lady is a novel about destiny. Or, to use a concept rather more in tone with the language of the book itself, it is a novel about freedom. It is one of the most profound expressions in literature of the illusion that freedom is an abstract quality inherent in the individual soul.

5.2 Suggestion

By studying the characters of The Portrait of A Lady, the writer learns that someone might fail in her life if she is too proud and independent.

One thing that one should consider in getting marriage is that she should really know the personality of the husband because finding a husband is difficult. Once, she makes a mistake, she will never be happy. She also has to realize her weaknesses and introspect them, whether they are right or wrong and she must be able to see the reality.

From the analysis of this novel, hopefully readers can learn the message that the author wants to say and also they will be able to grasp the valuable experience in the novel.

From the conclusion discussed, the writer also would like to give some suggestion concerning language teaching and further literary research.

Concerning the language teaching, the writer wants to suggest that teachers ask the students to analyze a literary work exposing the natural use of the language. It is known that in literature the language is being used in its most natural form.

Concerning further literary research, what the writer has done in this thesis is only covering the study of the character. She hopes that this study might arouse the students' interests in studying the novel further.

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