

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are six parts presented in this introduction. The first part is the background of the problem that tells about the author of the novel and a brief background that explains why the writer of this thesis is interested in this novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Part two deals with the statement of problem that has to be solved. Next, in part three she states the purpose of the study. Then scope and limitation are discussed in part four. In this case, she wants to limit how far she does for her study. Then, part five concerns with the significance of the study. Finally, the last part is for the organization of the thesis where the writer explains how she organizes her thesis.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

People and language cannot be separated. Without language we cannot communicate and without people we also cannot communicate. That is why we need people and language to communicate. Furthermore, without communication we also cannot develop socially. Therefore, it is necessary to understand and know that there are many things that cause the development of someone's character. Those things can be people and their characters, environment where he lives, or furthermore, it can be all of them. One of the forms of communication is through written language such as literature, newspaper and so on. In many literary works that the writer has read, she was very interested in Samuel Langhorne Clemens's master piece that is The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn. That is why she has chosen this work for her thesis.

The adventure of Huckleberry Finn is the greatest work in the Twentieth Century that was published in 1884. In writing this story, Samuel used the name of Mark Twain. He was born on November 30, 1835, in the backwoods settlement of Florida in the northeastern Missouri, some thirty miles inland from the Mississippi, in the central region of the United States of America.

This town was used for the setting of the story and the atmosphere of his story. Besides that, he also used the background of other towns during his career. He took seven years in finishing this story.

From the title of the story, it is known that the book tells about the adventure of a young boy named Huckleberry Finn. Along his adventure, Huck met Jim, the slave. Both of them ran away from their home to find their freedom. Huck Finn ran away from his cruel father and Widow Douglas, who adopted and tried to civilize him, while Jim ran away from his owner, Miss Watson. Then together they floated down on a raft hoping to reach Cairo, the free state. During the journey, they moved from one village to another village, from one town to another town. Sometimes they also stayed in one of the families in the towns. That is why in the book we can find many dialects. In the novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain wrote that there were seven dialects used in the story (Mark Twain, 1959 : page 10). They were the Missouri Negro dialect, the extremist form of the backwoods Southwestern dialect, the ordinary "Pike County" dialect, and four modified varieties of the last. Each dialect was used by different people in different towns. These people of

these towns were represented by groups or people from different levels of society who met Huck and Jim.

During the journey, Huck's character developed from a young boy to become more mature because along the journey he met many people from different levels of society to whom he spoke and interacted. The development of Huck's character throughout the novel showed a growth in maturity as he encountered the evil of the adult world (Brian Donnelly : 65). Brian also said that Huck himself is the main and most fully developed character in Twain's novel (Brian Donnelly : 65). Huck matures as the result of his profoundly educational adventures (Edwin Harrison Cody : 857). Therefore, the development of Huck's character happened along his journey down the river (Cleanth Brooks, 1973).

The development of Huck's character differs from Tom and Jim. Although Huck and Tom are in the same age, they are brought up in different backgrounds of families. Huck is a waif who never knows his mother nor the respectable kind of home background while his father is a cruel drunken man. Therefore, Widow Douglas adopts him and tries to civilize him. He misses the opportunity to live with his own family. It differs from Tom, who comes from a good home and is cared by his

loving Aunt Polly. However, Huck becomes more mature than Tom, who still lives in the childish world of fantasy. It is the same with Jim. Although both of them are together in the journey, Jim's character does not develop like Huck's. It is because during the journey Huck always meets other people and interacts with them while Jim always hides. As he is a runaway nigger, people always look for him. Besides, as the nigger he cannot mingle with the White for he belongs to the lowest level in the society.

The development of Huck's character can be seen through his togetherness with Jim. Together with the development of Huck's character, Huck's attitude toward Jim also develops. In the early chapters he looks upon the Negro slave with eyes conditioned by the attitudes of St. Petersburg. However, as they progress down the river he increasingly comes to see Jim as a human being with normal instinct and desires (Brian Donnely :64). At the end of the story, the relationship between Huck and Jim develops fully. He respects and loves Jim. Even, he considers Jim as his missing father. Therefore when he hears that Jim misses his family very much and wants to earn much money to buy his family back in order to be together with them, Huck's heart is touched by it. Thus,

Huck wants to set Jim free from slavery. Huck wants to do anything to reach his freedom.

After reading this book, the writer's curiosity appeared why Huck's language change gradually during his journey even though he does not get a formal education from school.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

During the journey, Huck's character develops. It happens because of his interacting with many people coming from different level of society. From those people, he learns a lot and indirectly this influences Huck's character. Jim, for example, is a slave and Huck's companion on his journey. Jim's wishes to be together with his family touches Huck's heart. So he wants to do anything to set Jim free from slavery. From Jim, Huck learns about humanity, freedom and family. Because of this, Huck, then, considers Jim as his "father". Besides Jim, along the journey he also meets and interacts with many people that also influence the development of Huck's character especially the people from the high level of society. From them, Huck learns not only the moral, humanity, knowledge and so on that cause his character develops but also the language.



In the language he learns about the way they talk and use the language.

Therefore, through the research, the writer wants to know and understand:

- a. Who are the people that influence Huck's character?
- b. Does the development of Huck's character reflect in his language?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of writing this thesis is to tell the reader that environment where someone lives and the people to whom someone interacts can influence his character and makes his character develops. Through the research the writer wants to find out whether the development of Huck's character can be reflected through his language or not. Huckleberry Finn, for example, is a boy who does not go to school to get his formal knowledge but his language develops. It is because of his interacting with the people where he stays especially the people who come from the high level in the society who are educated. He learns much from them. So indirectly it influences Huck's character and language.

1.4. Scope and Limitation

The scope of the analysis of the language development is through sociolinguistic approach based on Huck's utterances with the background of literary criticism for her reference.

There are seven kinds of dialects written in this novel that are the Missouri Negro dialect, the extremist form of the backwoods Southwestern dialect, the ordinary Pike County dialect, and four modified varieties of the last (Mark Twain : 10). People coming from different countries and different levels in the society use those dialects. Although there are many kinds of dialects and many people who use those dialects, the writer does not discuss all of them. She limits to the dialects and the people who have an interaction with Huckleberry Finn. For the language, the writer categorizes those dialects into two kinds that are called Standard English and sub standard or dialect. Here, Standard English means the English language that is used by the educated and the people who come from the high level in the society that have high positions in the society. Whereas Sub Standard or dialect is the Black English or the language mixed the Black English and the Standard English. Next, for the people, the

writer limits to the people who speak with Huck that can be represented by a group or a person of each town where Huck comes or stay or even, get along with him.

The study of Huckleberry Finn's language is taken from the point of view of the transition from Huck's utterances that are from the beginning until the end of the story and its environment as seen through sociolinguistic approach. This approach enables the writer to relate the language to the social factors to make the analysis of Huck's language development in relation with his character development more objectively. It is said so since there is a relationship between language and society. The use of language by different groups of people relate to the society that uses the language. The variations of language in which people communicate with one another attempt to the factors that are involved. Hymes has proposed the various factors that are involved in speaking. The factors are relevant in understanding how the particular communicative event achieve its objectives. That is why he uses the word of SPEAKING as an acronym for the various factors he deems to be relevant. Those factors are: setting, participants, ends, act sequence, key, instrumentalities, norms of interaction and

interpretation, and the last is genre.

Furthermore, the writer relates the development of Huckleberry Finn's language with the development of his character (it can be seen on Chapter III, The Methodology). Here, the writer relates the sociolinguistic theories to the literary theories which deal with characterization. The writer proves that the development of Huck's character is seen through his language that is being influenced by the environment where he lives and the people to whom he interacts.

Thus, in analyzing Huck's language, the writer takes Huck's speech for the language factors. From the novel, the writer divides the story into four stages. The first stage is taken before Huckleberry Finn, the central character, begins his journey. The second stage is taken during the beginning of his journey with Jim. The third stage is taken during the journey when Huck and Jim come into contact with a wide variety of people. The last stage is taken after his journey that is marked by the return to the mood and the atmosphere of the first chapter by the re-entry of Tom Sawyer. Here, the function of Tom Sawyer is as the mark to the situation of where Huck and Tom's were in the childhood. Also, Tom is used for the comparison of the development of

Huck's language as the reflection of his character that he gets from his journey. So, it can be seen clearly the development of Huck's language.

Next, for the social factors, the writer takes the five factors of the Hymes SPEAKING components that are setting, participants, ends, key, and instrumentalities. The use of those factors, here, is for analyzing the factors that causes the development of Huck's language. So, the development of Huck's character can be seen through his language.

1.5. Significance

In writing this thesis, the writer hopes that this thesis can be useful for other people. In understanding that the development of someone's character and his language cannot be separated from the influence of his environment. In this case, it can be someone to whom he speaks to or/and the social environment where he lives. For example, Huckleberry Finn's language develops together with his character that is being influenced by the environment where he lives and the people with whom he interacts and gets along. It happens because along his adventures he always meets and interacts with many people that have different backgrounds and

environments. From them, Huck learns a lot of things. He always keeps in his mind what he hears, learns and knows from those people. Thus, his mind and thought develop. The development of his mind and thought reflects on his attitude and character that makes him become more mature. Because of this development, Huck's language develops also. He can fix up his language that does not follow grammatical rules to become the language that follows the order of grammatical rules. That is why, it is important to know the people and environment that influence the development of someone's character and language.

1.6. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter discusses the introduction including the background of the problems, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, scope and limitation, significance and the last one is the organization of the study. The second chapter consists of the theories related to the topics that support the thesis. Then, the method of research that consists of data collection and data analysis found in chapter three. Chapter four deals with the data analysis of the language used by

Huckleberry Finn based on his character development. Finally, the last chapter concerns with the conclusion of the thesis based on the analysis done in chapter four.