

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the thesis writer will explain why she chooses Andre Gide and his work The Counterfeiters, and the topic “development of personality” which will be analysed in this thesis. She will also mention her purpose in writing this thesis. Besides, in the methodology, the writer will use the theory of characterization as her tool in analysing the main character’s action, speech and thought in order to find out the development of the main character’s personality.

I.I. Background of the Study

Imaginative literature are classified into three types, they are prose fiction, poetry and drama (Roberts & Jacobs, 1986 : 3). Imaginative literature differs from textbooks, history, news articles, biographical works, etc.

Imaginative literature may be based upon situation that may never occur. This is not to say that literature is not truthful, but the truth of literature is truth to life and human nature, not necessarily to the world of

historical and scientific facts. Therefore, one can learn about a real life from a

fictional person in literature. Here, the thesis writer chooses a novel as one type of prose fiction. Novel explores personality instead of giving simple defined pattern of human behaviour. Through the exploration of personality of the fictional characters which more or less have the same characteristics of real people, the writer is able to learn about herself and other people better. She also chooses a novel because the description and explanation in a novel is clearer and easier to understand, compared to the other two types of imaginative literature. For example in Poetry, the use of words is much more economical. Besides, as it relies heavily on imagery, figurative language, rhythm and sound (Roberts & Jacobs, 3), it is difficult to understand poetry. Furthermore, the thesis writer does not choose drama for her study because in order to be fully experienced, a drama should be seen and heard, not merely read (Shaw, 1905 : 123). Drama usually designed for presentation on a stage.

The writer of this thesis is interested in this particular author, Andre Gide, because Gide was a very famous contemporary French writer, yet, few of the students of Faculty of Letters know about him. His new form of novel has influenced the development of French literature. According to Gide, a novelist may develop his fiction in such a way that this element loses its traditional identity; the important thing is that the novelist, no less than the poet, is an

imaginative artist whose task and privilege is to create for each subject a form that will fuse so inseparably with the matter (Lynes, 1941:181). This valuable lesson has influenced each new generation of writers and critics, which also makes Gide known as a courageous master (182).

Andre Gide is one of the French authors who has a reputation as an international writer. As an international writer, Gide had got many prizes, such as the Nobel Prize in Literature from Nobel Foundation in 1947, the Goethe Medal in 1932, the honorary doctorate in Letters from University of Oxford in 1947 and the Goethe Plaque from the City of Frankfurt on the Main in 1949 (CA, Vol. 124). Moreover, as a novelist, Gide is universally recognized as a master of the *recit* (narration). The composition of Gide's *recit* shows great narrative mastery in the chronological organization of events. It means that Gide is very careful in arranging every event that happens in his *recit*.

The subject of every Gide's novel is based on the events of his life, as told by Dimouro that, "All of Gide's works are influenced by contradictory events in his life"(212), which mean the puritan and the libertine in his nature. The topic that Gide always discusses in each of his novel is about life which is the beginning of countless dramas that are never resolved or that merge into other dramas (Painter, 86). It means that life for a human being is a struggle

because as a human being, he /she will face many problems, therefore he/she will try to solve them. However, the problems that he/she faces in his/ her life never end. In other words, when one problem is solved, another problem will then appear.

The thesis writer chooses to discuss The Counterfeiters because this novel won a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1947. Moreover, this novel is different from Gide's other novels. This novel is written in the style of a diary or journals. Besides, the thesis writer is attracted to the title of the book The Counterfeiters. As the counterfeiters usually means a group of people who counterfeit money, the thesis writer is surprised to find that there are no money counterfeiters in the story. Instead, it talks about something else which arouses the thesis writer's curiosity to analyse further. The story is centered on Bernard, a boy of seventeen who lives surrounded by the counterfeiters, which in this case are hypocrites. Although at first he is influenced by the hypocritical people, later he realizes that to live in hypocrisy is wrong . The realization of Bernard about which is good or bad for his future life shows that he has entered a new phase in his life.

This thesis discusses the development of a young man in one phase of his life. Bernard, a young man in this story, one day finds an old love letter of his

mother. In this letter, he finds that he is an illegitimate son. As a result, he becomes very angry because he cannot either accept that fact nor control his emotion. Considering his parents have lied to him for many years, he then leaves his parents. After he leaves his home, he experiences many kinds of events. He learns a lot from his experiences which also help him solve his problems and shape his personality.

The thesis writer is interested in the process of the development of one's personality because this process is very important for one's future. One's environments may influence the development of one's character traits. These character traits will also influence the development of one's personality. For example, a child who is raised by dishonest adults may become a dishonest person. Later, when he/she becomes an adult, he/she will have problems because of his/her dishonest character. This kind of character trait will affect his/her personality. Since people will see him/her as a dishonest person, they will avoid him/her so that his/her future is also affected. Believing that the development of personality is important, the thesis writer is trying to discuss the process of Bernard's development in his personality.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Bernard , a seventeen years old teenager, finds out that he is an illegitimate son. Since he cannot accept the fact that he is an illegitimate son , he leaves his house. The writer is curious to know how Bernard, as the main character in this story undergoes the development of his personality so that finally he can accept the reality.

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The thesis writer wants to prove that through some events Bernard has undergone the process of development in his personality which results in his accepting the reality.

1.4. Importance of the Study

The thesis writer hopes that her study can arouse the readers' personal appreciation to Andre Gide so that they would like to read more of Gide's works. The stories in Gide's works tell about events which may happen in one's life. By reading Gide's work , one will learn something, for example how to solve problems, etc. In this novel , The Counterfeiters, the main character learns from his experiences how to accept the bitter reality. The thesis writer hopes that the way Bernard solves his problems may help the readers in solving

theirs. Besides, the writer also hopes to make the readers understand the meaning of some experience in their life, so that they can use their experience to develop their personality.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

The writer's scope of discussion is the main character in Gide's novel The Counterfeiters, Bernard. The thesis writer limits the discussion on the process of Bernard's personality development.

I.6. Methodology

The method of writing this thesis goes as follows: first, she does the note taking and library research to collect the data, criticisms and theories. In developing this thesis, she uses literary approach, that is by applying the theory of characterization. Besides she also uses the psychological theory on personality and adolescence to support her discussion. The theory of characterization is used to analyze Bernard's character, while the psychological theory is used to understand the process of Bernard's personality development.

1.7. Organization of the Study

The writer divides this thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, scope and limitation, methodology and also organization of the study. The review of related literature will be discussed in the second chapter. The next chapter is the analysis which consists of the process of Bernard's development in his personality. Then the last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis. The appendix is put after the conclusion, as the last part of the thesis.