

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Edward Morgan Forster, **known** as E. M. Forster, was born on the New Year day of **1879** in London. He is one of the most important English writers and considered as one of the finest English novelists **of** his generation and of this century, especially after his work, A Passage to India, was published (Gardner **397**). Forster, a long-lived novelist, died in Coventry, England on June 7, 1970. He won many awards during his life, and he was given the Order of Merit by Queen Elizabeth II in **1969**, one year before he died (Becky Bradley, “Howards End by E.M. Forster” - <http://www.nhmccd.edu/contracts/lrc/kc/forster.htm>).

E. M. Forster is well known as a short story writer, novelist, and essayist. Though he did not write many short stories, his short stories influenced his idea in writing his novels. “The Road from Colonus” (1902) is one of his best short

stories. “The Celestial Omnibus and Other Stories” (1911) and “The Eternal Moment” (1928). “The Life to Come” (1972) is one of his short stories is published after his death.

Besides as a short story writer, Forster is also known as an essayist. His works are “Alexandria: A History and a Guide” (1922), “Pharos and Pharillon” (1923), “Abinger Harvest” (1936), “Two Cheers for Democracy” (1951), “The Hill of Devi” (1953) - an account of his sojourn in India and the real basis for Passage to India, and “Marianne Thornton” (1956). One of his famous essay books is Aspect of the Novel (1927). However, he is **known as** a novelist though he begins his career in fiction **as** a writer **of** short stories (Gardner 399).

During his life, he wrote six novels. Where Angels Fear to Tread was published in 1905. The Longest Journey (1907) is his own autobiographical work; A Room with a View (1908) is comedy **of** manners, and it is contrasting English conventionality with the colorfulness and vitality of Italian life; Howards End (1910) is the most considerable one; A Passage to India (1924) is considered as the best novel, and the last is Maurice (1971) which was published after his death. Some **of** his novels are adapted into movie, namely Howards End, A Room with a View, and Maurice.

E.M. Forster is also considered as a modernist, a liberal humanist novelist from whom the essence of fiction lay in its concern with manners, moral, and human values (Bradbury 176). He achieves one magnificent Modernist work, Howards End. That is why he is concerned more about human relation. He gets it from the influence of the Philosopher G. E. Moore’s *Principia Ethica*: “By far

the most valuable things...are...the pleasures of human intercourse” (Bradbury 171). It means that in this world, human relation is in the highest position.

People should be more concerned with human relation because, as a matter **of** fact, they need each other to live with. That is why Forster expresses his thought in writing his novels which are based on personal relationship.

Forster believes that one cannot live without others. Someone cannot live in this world by himself because someone also needs others in order to survive. In *so* doing, he should live in harmony with others. Thus, in his works, Forster promotes that people should live in harmony with others (Martin 8). People also must see the reality that it is reasonable and rational thinking must be used in order to survive in this world. It **is** one **of** his ideas that people cannot make decisions based on their feelings only. Instead, they must realize their connections with the others, and consider what and how other people **think**.

In his writing, Forster celebrates the importance **of** beauty, personal relations, and the quest for harmony **as** the themes **of** his novels (KirkPatrick 585). In his opinion, personal relation is the standard of life, **as** he describes in his novel, Howards End (Bradbury 115). In other words, Forster tries to write that people should consider other people in order to live in this world, so it can create the balance of life. People cannot insist their own opinion towards other people because they have their own will. If people cannot understand each other, they cannot live in harmony. Relationship with others is an important thing because a human is a social being, as Erich Fromm said -- one important is the fact that men cannot live without some sort **of** co-operation with others (Fromm 35).

Howards End is Forster's fourth novel, and according to Lionel Trilling, it is regarded as his most mature novel and his masterpiece because the author explains about human personality and human relationship very well (Bhullar 47). It is a really good story, because Forster is the master of storytelling, and gives a strong ending (Robert Ebert, "Howards End" (http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1992/05/754038.html)). It establishes Forster's reputation with a larger public.

Forster implies that people need to connect so that they *can* help each other in order to survive (Stevenson 95). It **has** a deep meaning that if people want to integrate their life and cooperate with others, it will break the thick wall among them. **As** seen in Howards End, Margaret realizes that she needs others to live in this world. She also needs to consider others' opinion and cannot judge others with her own perception. Margaret knows that she cannot depend on her own feeling to judge others or take action. Therefore, in Howards End, Margaret wants to develop her characters in order to live with other people in harmony.

Besides, the writer is also interested in analyzing Howards End because it is based on Forster's own experiences, for instance Howards End is the name of a house in London where he has spent his happiest childhood years (Stevenson 95). Besides, Forster reveals the characters in his novel, Howards End, the Schlegels and the Wilcoxes, from his own ancestors' name. The Wilcoxes were of his father's maternal side, the Thortons. They are men of action and enterprise who make their fortune from industry and overseas trade. Forster's mother was a Whichelo. This is where the Schegels come from. The Whichelos are lovers of

art and literature, and it gives him the enjoyment of aesthetic experiences (Becky Bradley, “Howards End by E.M Forster - <http://www.nhmccd.edu/contracts/lrc/kc/forster.htm>). Because of the reason above, the writer **is** interested in analyzing his works.

Forster reveals his message through Margaret’s character trait. In her mind, she directly wants to give her hand if she sees others need help. She does not consider others’ opinion about her action, and also she never thinks that some people may have a hidden purpose in doing something. Therefore, Forster uses Wilcox’s family to open Margaret’s eyes in seeing the fact of the world. Men and women are to achieve a satisfactory life, they need to keep contact with others people (Britannica Electronic Encyclopedia, “Howards End” <http://www.britannica.com/bcom/eb/article/5/0,5716,35555+1+34919,00.html?query=emforster>).

Forster expresses his idea that people need others in order to survive through the characters in his novel, Howards End. No one can keep his mind that he can do something as he wants without seeing others’ opinion or desires. People may not judge others based on their own perception. That is why Forster wants to say that people should accept others in order to live in this world.

The main character, Margaret Schlegel, **is** a person who does not **know** how to behave properly in the society. Because her mother has passed away, Margaret has to arrange her family’s household by herself. It shapes her to have a strong will. She does not take others’ opinion into consideration. It means that she does her action based on her own thought. Besides, Margaret uses her mood

and emotion more in deciding the action she is going to take. The time she sees that she wants to do something, she directly does it without thinking further. Yet, Margaret finds many difficulties when she applies her opinion and idea to other people. There are so many people suffering because of her, such as Leonard Bast, a poor person, and Helen Schlegel as Margaret's sister. Therefore, Margaret realizes that sometimes she should not always see others from her point of view. She must consider others' opinion. Living in her **own** thought does not give a good thing for her after a lot of things happen in her life. She understands that people have weaknesses and strength. She cannot demand them **to be** perfect or to be like she wants. After Margaret experiences many things during her life, she realizes that she cannot live by herself. She cannot insist others to obey her rule because other people have their **own** opinion and desires. Hence, Margaret wants to develop her characters in order to accomplish her understanding about life.

The writer is interested in choosing the development of Margaret Schlegel's character that bring a realization of her weakness because this novel can move the reader's understanding that live is incomplete without others. People should accept other's will or opinion, and human relation is the most important in living in this world.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze how Margaret undergoes development of her character.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this thesis to prove that Margaret's characters develops through the conflicts.

1.4 Importance of the Study

Since the writer focuses on the character development, the thesis writer hopes that the readers will learn that people's character may develop from time to time **as** they interact with their surrounding. Through Margaret's character development, the readers may see a good example of a woman who has undergone a long process and series of experiences that develop her character traits. Hopefully, the writer will also be aware that in developing his character, a person needs the other people to enrich and to broaden his mind.

The writer hopes that the reader will learn that bitter experiences and conflicts do not always bring into bad condition, but it also brings people to realize about themselves and develop their character. As famous proverbs state that "experiences is a good teacher". Moreover, it will arise readers' eagerness to learn Forster's works, especially Howards End as Forster's masterpiece. And the writer also hopes that the readers of this thesis will have more knowledge about Forster, the greatest English writer.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this thesis is character development. Because she only discusses Margaret's character development, the writer limits her discussion only

on Margaret Schlegel, the main character of Howards End. The writer focuses on Margaret's character trait, and discusses the conflicts that Margaret experiences which lead into character development.

1.6 Methodology

In writing this thesis, the writer will do the library research. She will collect all the data related to E.M. Forster and his work, Howards End. The main source in this analysis is Howards End, published by Penguin **Books** Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, **1941**. She is going to use literary approach in her analysis. She employs characterization and conflict as the tools to analyze the characters. The writer chooses characterization because Margaret Schlegel is the main character in this novel to be studied. To know deeper about Margaret's personality, characterization is absolutely needed in this study.

The conflict of the play would be a part **of** the discussion because **from** the conflicts with other characters, Margaret gets precious experiences which helps to explain her character development.

1.7 Organization

In organizing her thesis, the writer arranges it into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction. It introduces background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, importance **of** the study, scope and limitation, methodology, and organization of the study. In chapter **II**, the writer will present review of related literature which includes literary theories, namely

characterization and conflicts. Then, in chapter III, the writer starts to analyze Margaret's character traits, her conflicts with others, and her character development of her realization of her mistake. Next, she closes her thesis with the conclusion in chapter IV.