

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The thesis writer chooses a Russian author named Fyodor Dostoyevsky instead of an English novelist because even though he is not English, he is considered as a great and famous writer. His works are widely read and studied not only in Russia but also abroad, such as USA, France, Germany, Japan and Britain. A lot of his works are translated; as a result, a lot of people read his works in their native languages. His works, also, appear on the syllabuses of English Departments and Schools of European Studies in British University (Jones 1-2). Besides, Dostoyevsky with Crime and Punishment and Brother Karamazov like

Leo Tolstoy with War and Peace acquired the status of an English novelist by adoption. Dostoyevsky's works have now been equalized with other English novelists for his works are praised in depicting the significant vision of the twentieth-century man's life (Jones 1). He is also considered good in understanding human mental process and writing it on his works. He is equalized to Shakespeare in understanding the matter above (114).

Other reason of choosing Dostoyevsky is because the thesis writer is impressed by Dostoyevsky's consistency in writing literary works even in his worst time of life. On his return to St Petersburg in December 1859, he faced debt and epileptic attacks. In 1864, his situation became worse. His first wife and his brother passed away. His main source of income, which was the Journal Time, was closed by government. Surprisingly, it was during his worst years, he began to produce great works for which he is so widely known: Notes From Underground, Crime and Punishment, The Brother Karamazov (Jones 5-7). The thesis writer appreciates him for even he is dealing with difficult situations, he is still able to produce great works of literature.

Furthermore, she chooses Dostoyevsky because he has experienced a changing in his life. During his early years as a writer, Russia was facing rebellion from a circle of progressive Russia intellectuals named Petrashevsky's circle, which demanded the abolition of serfdom and the freedom for literature (Yermilov 19). Petrashevsky's circle was much influenced by socialist theories (Lindstrom 182). Dostoyevsky's membership on the Petrashevsky's circle had brought him into Siberia's prison and later his experience in Siberia's prison had changed his point of view. At first he believed that socialist could bring good

toward man's life. His novel entitled The Landlady, which was produced on his early years as a writer, was much influenced by socialist's idea (Jones 29).

However, In Siberia's prison, he saw that "evil existed ineradicably in the soul of man, to be dislodged neither by science, nor enlightenment, nor reason"

(Lindstrom 191). He did not condemn the socialist's idea but when he was released from prison he had lost faith in human nature itself and in man's ability to rebuild life by his own effort through his reason and will power (Yermilov 9).

As compensation, he turned to religion and arrived at Christian's love teaching, which he was skeptical about it before, to be a way to achieve good (Jones 29; 43). Therefore, it is clearly seen that there is a changing within him as Jones mentions "Dostoyevsky of 1840s is not Dostoyevsky of 1860s and 1870s" (31).

He then underwent some processes that led him to his changing.

His experience in Siberia has influenced in the making of his heroes, particularly the hero in Crime and Punishment named Raskolnikov. Dostoyevsky himself mentions that the experience is an important thing to him as he says

In order to write a novel one must first of all acquire one or several strong impressions which the author's heart has actually experienced.

This is the task of the poet. From this impression are developed a theme, a plan, a harmonious whole. This is the task of the artist, although artist and poet assist each other in both tasks (Jones 11).

Dostoyevsky's experience can be seen through Raskolnikov. Similar with him, Raskolnikov experiences a changing in his life. Raskolnikov's changing is also

much influenced by Christ commandment “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” that represented by Sonia (Jones 61) and his mental suffering (Griffiths 99). Dostoyevsky himself said to his brother that the idea to write Crime and Punishment appeared when he was lying on his bunk in prison, at time of his great mental suffering and self analysis (12).

Among Dostoyevsky’s works, the writer chooses Crime and Punishment as the subject of study because it is one of the famous novels in the world literature. It has been translated into other languages besides English and has brought Dostoyevsky’s name to be heard not only in Russia, but also outside Russia (Dostoyevsky 16). Also, Crime and Punishment is his best novel as Guernsey mentions “it was believed by many that Crime and Punishment was his supreme novel” (440). The novel is considered as the hallmark of Dostoyevsky’s genius in revealing the startling contradiction in men’s soul and personalities (Hornstein 137). Dostoyevsky himself admits that this novel will bring his name to be heard by the world as he mentions “the novel,” he concluded prophetically, “will finally establish my name as a writer” (12).

Other reason of choosing Crime and Punishment is because she is interested in the novel’s topic that explores character development in relation to a problem of struggle of good and evil in the heart of man. The thesis writer considers that the matter is the oldest human’s problem and exists everlastingly. In Crime and Punishment, through the life of its main character named Raskolnikov, Dostoyevsky explores the side of evil, the side in which the self is engaged in a struggle to gain power and recognition at the expense of other people, a struggle to run from passivity and to seek compensation for humiliations, enters into his

personalities. Dostoyevsky also explores the way man can find his way back to the good through the acceptance of punishment and through love to other which is gained by a contact with other people (Griffiths 96-7).

In Crime and Punishment, Dostoyevsky talks much about character development. Dostoyevsky reveals how Raskolnikov's character traits develop after passing some processes. Putting Raskolnikov in certain situations, Dostoyevsky lets some of Raskolnikov's character traits appear more in the surface and they have led Raskolnikov to commit a murder. After Raskolnikov undergoes suffering that is caused by his mental punishment, there is a shift within Raskolnikov. Dostoyevsky himself has mentioned Raskolnikov's suffering to his editor, Katkov, as he said:

even the murderer never under suspicion, nor indeed can there be any suspicion against him, but the whole psychological process of the crime unfolds itself. The murderer suddenly confronted by insoluble problem, and hitherto undreamt of feeling begins to torment him.

Divine truth and justice and the law are triumphant in the end (13).

Besides the punishment, Sonia's love influences him in his character development as a critic mentions "Sonia's function is to help redeem Raskolnikov" (Roberts 72). Therefore, since Raskolnikov's character development does not happen suddenly but it happens after he undergoes some processes; the thesis writer is then curious to know the process that is passed by Raskolnikov, which brings to his character development later.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Considering what she has written previously, she thus wants to know how Raskolnikov's characters develop from the beginning until the end of the story.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In the thesis, the thesis writer is going to analyze how Raskolnikov's characters develop from the beginning until the end of the story.

1.4 Importance of the Study

The topic of the thesis is about character development. It is important as the readers may get the understanding of human character. Man's character such as arrogance will only lead man to the side of his evil and cause destruction and suffering. In Crime and Punishment, it can be seen that man's arrogance has led a person to commit an act of murder and brought him to unbearable suffering. Also, Crime and Punishment shows that running from problem will never settle the problem itself but it will create the new problem. While, man's character such as compassion will bring important effect to others man's life. Love to others, a kind of love that represented by Sonia, is one of important matters in man's life. In this egoistical world, love to others is very rare. Hence, it plays an important role. Moreover, it may help people change his behavior. In Crime and Punishment, readers can clearly see love to others that represented by Sonia help Raskolnikov change his characters.

Secondly, the study of this thesis is important to consider other Dostoyevsky's works in order to be studied and read for he is a great and famous

writer. As Gallagher mentions that readers will have moral encounters with Dostoyevsky's characters since he usually leaves readers questioning his or her own values concerning the topic of his novels. Dostoyevsky does not give his readers an answer through his characters but he gives a question to be a mused. That is why Tolstoy cannot bear to call him a real artist because he is able to give his readers a deeper question about life (<http://www.philosophy.ucdavis.edu/phil151/NOV28.LEC.HTM>).

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of the discussion of the thesis is the study of the character development and the limitation is on the character development of Raskolnikov, the main character in Crime and Punishment. Other characters will be mentioned in the analysis when they help showing Raskolnikov's character development.

1.6 Methodology

In analyzing Raskolnikov's character development, the thesis writer does a library research. She collects primary and secondary data. The primary data that she is going to use is the novel Crime and Punishment published by Penguin Classic Book in Great Britain in 1966.

She uses literary approach such as the literary theories—the theory of characterization and the theory of conflict—in order to find out Raskolnikov's character development and critics on Crime and Punishment to help the writer easy to understand and to analyze the topic she has chosen that is Raskolnikov's character development.

1.7 Organization of the Thesis.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains the introduction, which contains the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the importance of the study, the scope and limitation, the methodology and the organization of the thesis.

The second chapter contains review of the related literature, which contains theories that is used to analyze this thesis; they are literary theories, which are the theory of characterization and the theory of conflicts.

The third chapter contains the analysis of the thesis, which is divided into three sub chapters: The Process of the Development of Raskolnikov's Character from an Isolated Man to a Sociable Man, The Process of the Development of Raskolnikov's Character from an Arrogant Man to a Humble Man and The Process of the Development of Raskolnikov's Character from a Coward Man to a Brave Man. The fourth chapter contains the conclusion of the thesis. In the next chapter, readers may find Review of Related Literature.

1.1 Background of the Study.

A. Reason for choosing Russian literature.

A.1 Many Student of English Literature in Petra chooses Western Literature as the subject of their thesis.

A.2 Russian literature has many great writers with their works of literature.

A.1.1 Gogol's achievement.

A.1.2 Turgenev's works are translated not only in English but also in France and German.

A.1.3 Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy's achievement.

A.1.4 Chekhov's achievement.

B. Reason for choosing Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

B.1 Dostoyevsky is a famous and great writer.

B.1.1 His works are studied not only in Russia but also in abroad.

B.1.2 His works are translated into many language.

B.1.3 He require the status of English novelist by adoption.

B.1.4 He is equalized with other great writers.

B.2 Dostoyevsky's concerning in writing the life and development of solitary man.

B.3 Dostoyevsky's experience.

B.3.1 His experience as a solitary man in Siberia adds a plus point to him as a great writer.

B.3.1.1 He can give a vivid and real picture the life of a solitary man.

B.3.1.1.1 Crime and Punishment, which write about solitary man, brings his name to be heard by the world.

B.3.1.2 His experience distinguishes him from other writers who may write the same concern.

C. Reason for choosing Crime and Punishment.

C.1 It is one of the world's famous novel.

C.1.1 It brings Dostoyevsky's name to be heard by the world.

C.2 It is Dostoyevsky's supreme novel.

C.2.1 It is considered as the hallmark of Dostoyevsky's genius.

C.3 The novel gives picture of the life and development of solitary man.

D. Reason for choosing the topic.

D.1 The writer is interested how Raskolnikov's punishment s leads him to his character developing.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

A. What Raskolnikov's characters are before he gets punishments, which is his mental punishments and his inner and outer conflict and whether his characters develop or not at the end after he undergoes his punishments.

1.3 Purpose of the Study.

- A. To analyze Raskolnikov's characters.
- B. To analyze the effect of his crime; this is his punishment.
- C. To analyze Raskolnikov's character developing.

1.4 Importance of the Study.

- A. The reader will be interested more to study and read Dostoyevsky's works.
- B. The reader learns something that there lies a harsh punishment for those who do not take into consideration of his conscience.
- C. The reader see punishment and suffering in other perspective, which is helping them to be mature.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

- A. To analyze Raskolnikov's character traits only
- B. To analyze the effect of his crime.
- C. To analyze Raskolnikov's character developing

1.6 Methodology.

- A. Crime and Punishment will be used as a primary data.
- B. Critics on Crime and Punishment, Literary theories and Psychological theory will be used as secondary data.