

3. THE FACTORS THAT CAUSE THE FOUR CHOSEN CHARACTERS TO COMMIT THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

This chapter consists of four independent parts which are divided based on the number of characters analyzed. Those parts are about Rebecca Sharp, Amelia Sedley, George Osborne, and Rawdon Crawley. In each part, there is an analysis on each character. Rebecca Sharp is discussed more thoroughly than the other characters since Vanity Fair is the story of her life.

In this analysis, I use the help of the literary theory of characterization as the main tool and the concept of Seven Deadly Sins to find out the factors why they commit the sins. Besides, I also use the historical background of the society at the time Vanity Fair was written. The latter one is also important in order to help me understand the condition where those chosen characters live.

3.1 Rebecca Sharp

In this part, I discuss the sins that Rebecca commits as well as the factors why she does them. To understand why Rebecca commits the sins, I should first look at her background such as her early life with her family, and also her early environment at school.

Rebecca is not of the wealthy family. Rebecca's parents are not like the wealthy people that have reputable jobs. Rebecca's biological mother is just a common housewife who is always beaten by Rebecca's father when he gets drunk. Rebecca's stepmother is also only a dancer – a job that is not considered as reputable among wealthy people. Her father is only an ordinary artist that gets a position as a drawing teacher in Chiswick Mall. However, her father is never ashamed of becoming an artist. He is always proud of his condition. After the death of his wife, Rebecca's father drinks more heavily, which causes him a lot of debt and finally brings him to his death. Before he dies, he has written a letter to the principal of Chiswick Mall to accept Rebecca. Thus, in this way, Rebecca is admitted to the Chiswick Mall School.

Her first appearance in the world of Vanity Fair is when she is still very young. At this period of time, Rebecca, like any other girls at her age, has to go to a special school for girls in order to learn a lot of things about being a lady. Since

Chiswick Mall is the most famous and reliable school for girls at that time, this indirectly shows that Chiswick Mall is also a school for rich people only.

Being admitted to that famous and reliable school does not mean happiness and honor for Rebecca. For her, to be inside Chiswick Mall is worse than to be outside Chiswick Mall, that is, to be in the real world. This is due to the habit and all the activities she has to do daily. She feels that "... the lessons, the walks, which were arranged with a conventional regularity, oppressed her almost beyond endurance; and she looked back to the freedom and the beggary of the old studio in Soho..." (p.17). Rebecca is not used to doing those lady-like activities and when she finds herself in those activities, she does not like them at all. As a result, she misses the time when she is still with her father in Soho. For her, being with her father and listening to "his conversation was a thousand time more agreeable to her than the talk of such of her own sex" (pp. 17 – 18). With her father she feels she is not being controlled and thus, free.

The quotation above shows that Rebecca thinks that what girls at her age do or talk is simply unnecessary and wasting time. Girls of that day have to go to that special school because they have to prepare themselves for the genteel society they will face when they pass the school. In that kind of school, girls are taught how to behave in front of other people, how to dance or do artistic activities, such as knitting, and are also taught school subjects like Geography, Mathematics, and so on. All of these are important in order to get themselves husbands. Thus, I believe, when the girls meet and talk, they may only talk about the kinds of husbands they want to have or perhaps about the dresses they wear, which will easily bore Rebecca. On the other hand, with her father, she talks and listens to many issues about daily lives and the happenings around them, which are of course far more real and more exciting. She also meets and talks with different kinds of people when she is with her father. This may indirectly teach her how to behave and communicate with other people. No wonder she always thinks that she is "a thousand times cleverer" (p. 18) than the other girls. This kind of thinking proves how very proud she is of herself that she does not bother to try to mingle with the girls.

This pride can also be seen when "...Miss Sharp advanced in a very unconcerned manner, and said in French, and with a perfect accent, 'Mademoiselle, je viens vous faire mes adieux.' Miss Pinkerton did not understand French; she only directed those who did; ..." (p.12). She knows that Miss Pinkerton, the school principal, cannot speak French, but still she greets her in French. It is obvious that Rebecca is very proud of her special ability in speaking French that she does not even care to pay a little respect to those who cannot do so. In addition, Rebecca's simple action also shows how pride has put its power on her, that is, by making her arrogant for she has that special skill.

Moreover, the wordings that Thackeray uses in the above quotation also indicates that pride dwells in Rebecca. The word "unconcerned" which Thackeray uses to describe her manner strengthens the fact that she proudly considers herself equal to the principal. Even when Miss Pinkerton gives Rebecca her hand to be shaken, she only "folded her own hands with a very frigid smile" (p.12). She does not bother to shake hands with Miss Pinkerton or even give an appreciative smile. All she gives to her is just coldness and unfriendliness. This shows that Rebecca does not show great interest in her school principal. She dares to show her dignity and disregard her principal.

Her being impolite, I assume, may happen because she has a special desire to be respected. Since she was a child, she has never been respected properly as she is not rich. Thus, in this occasion, she may suddenly realize that she has got the chance of being respected right in front of her nose and she is willing to get it. Furthermore, she may do this action because she knows that Miss Pinkerton herself actually does not like her, so she does not bother to act politely. In addition, she may also do this action because she feels that her achievements during her stay until the time she leaves the house are simply because of her ability. She realizes that she is smart and thus she can easily do things perfectly.

Based on this occasion, I conclude that the factors why Rebecca Sharp is proud are her father, who influences her to be proud of her condition, and her environments, which make her despise them. Moreover, she has a very huge self-confidence and dignity because of her ability and smartness.

Later when she has brought herself into the genteel society, she still shows that she is a very proud woman. In a party, which is full of wealthy people, she sees a gentleman that she knows very well. When she sees him being entertained by a lady, a thought comes to her mind, “That woman looks stupid and ill-humoured ...I am sure she can’t amuse him. No, he must be bored by her – he never was by me” (p. 657). Since she has pride in herself, Rebecca is always confident and sure that she is much better than any other women, especially in entertaining men. In other words, the confidence and sureness she has in herself has made her even prouder of herself.

Even after her husband, Rawdon Crawley, leaves her, she still shows that she is a very proud woman. She boasts that she is “the truest wife” (p.663) that has ever lived. She does not want to admit that she has done wrong to her husband. She insists that she is true and honest. Again the factor of self-confidence brings her to commit the sin of pride, the mother of all sins. She does not control her pride very well; she just lets her pride control her. Since the first time she appeared, she has shown that she is very proud of herself. She feels that she is much better than any other girls in the house. As a result, she always looks down upon others and praises herself highly that she can do anything better than anyone else.

As the conclusion, I can say that there are two factors, which make Rebecca commit the sin of pride. First, they are the environments where she lives, where she gets different treatments either from her father or the other girls in the boarding house. When she is with her father, she feels very proud because her father loves her and treats her as a free human being. The women and the other girls look down upon her because she is poor; still, she is proud because she knows that she is smarter than they are. Thus, her self-confidence that she is better than they are is the second factor that makes her a proud woman.

The next sin that Rebecca commits while living in the world of Vanity Fair is envy. When she is admitted to Chiswick Mall because of her father’s demand, she finds out directly that the other girls’ attitudes toward the rich are different from those towards the poor. This obvious difference is not an easy condition to cope with, and on an occasion, the difference really gets on Rebecca’s nerves.

“What airs that girl gives herself, because she is an Earl’s grand -daughter. How they cringe and bow to that Creole, because of her hundred thousand pounds. I am a thousand times cleverer and more charming ...I am as well - bred as the Earl’s grand -daughter ...and yet every one passes me by here”.
(Thackeray, 1997, p. 18).

Rebecca utters the above quotation when she sees some girls treat a particular girl; in this case the Earl’s granddaughter respectfully because she is rich. Rebecca herself actually longs to get the same treatment from the other girls. As a result, when she sees how different the other girls treat her and the Earl’s granddaughter, she becomes envious. She assumes that she also deserves the same treatment as what the Earl’s granddaughter gets since she can also be considered to be as noble as the Earl’s granddaughter for the ability and the beauty she has. Therefore, she dares to state herself as equal to the Earl’s granddaughter. This incident shows how the sin of envy has come into Rebecca’s heart since she desires to compete for the treatment she longs for. In this way, the sin of envy has added to the sin of pride.

From all the girls that ignore Rebecca at school, there is only one girl named Amelia Sedley who befriends Rebecca and brings Rebecca to her home to stay for some nights before Rebecca does her duty as a governess in a reputable family. The time Rebecca steps her feet in Amelia’s house, she openly shows how she is envious with Amelia’s present condition. She feels that Amelia is indeed a lucky girl for she has “kind, rich and affectionate parents” (p. 20) that can always give her all her needs. While, on the other hand, she never really has the kind of parents Amelia has. Moreover, she also feels that Amelia is lucky to have a brother since it means that Amelia has someone to share problems with, unlike Rebecca. She has to keep her problems to herself. All of Amelia’s lucky conditions have made Rebecca feel uneasy because she does not have a happy family. Only her father accompanies her but he dies leaving her nothing. While Amelia has everything she needs from her family. As a result, Rebecca is determined to make her life the same as Amelia’s or even better.

“I am alone in the world..while that little pink -faced chit Amelia ..has ten thousand pounds and an established secure..Well, let’s see if..some days or

the other I cannot show Miss Amelia my real superiority over her..it will be a fine day when I can take my place above her in the world". (Thackeray, 1997, p. 87).

Her desire to have exactly what Amelia has or even better shows that Rebecca has committed the sin of envy.

In her social life with others, often times she shows her envy to others through her words and actions. This happens mainly because as a poor woman, Rebecca cannot have every single thing that she wants. Thus, it can be concluded that the factor why she becomes envious is her own poor condition. She is not happy with her pitiful condition that she is envious towards other people who have better conditions than hers.

Therefore, when Rebecca knows that Amelia's rich brother is an available bachelor, she sees it as a chance to make him as a stepping ladder to get what she ever wants. Thus, Rebecca thinks, "if Mr. Joseph Sedley is rich and unmarried, why should I not marry him?" (p. 21). This whole situation indirectly shows the determination in her heart to get the condition she envies.

Later, even after she has successfully entered the life of the upper class because she is married to Rawdon Crawley, Rebecca still shows that envy rules her heart. Her envy is directed towards Lady Jane, Rebecca's sister-in-law. Lady Jane is married to Sir Pitt Crawley, Rebecca's husband's brother. As someone who is fond of the genteel society, Rebecca sees Lady Jane as the key to her success in the genteel world. However, the better condition that Lady Jane owns brings Rebecca a second thought. She feels bothered with how lucky Lady Jane is for she has the qualities that Rebecca actually wants. "That sort of goodness and simplicity which Lady Jane possessed, annoyed ...Becky, and it was impossible for her at times not to show, or to let the other divine her scorn" (p. 459).

From the quotation above, it can be concluded that Rebecca is envious to her rival, in this case Lady Jane, for she has all qualities needed to be in the genteel society, while Rebecca actually does not really have all of them. As a result, Rebecca desires to have them; though, she still thinks that smartness is the most important element a person must have. It is because without it, a person cannot

communicate well with others. Based on the contradictory Rebecca has in her heart, she sometimes disregards the qualities Lady Jane has.

As a conclusion of the discussion above, I can say that the factor that makes Rebecca guilty for the sin of Envy is her poor condition. She lacks many things in her life while others have them abundantly. She feels this is unfair and she covets. She becomes envious of the wealthy people and wants to get even with or better than them.

The next sin Rebecca commits is Avarice. Her greed is due to the fact that she is a poor girl who does not have many beautiful things so that she longs for them. When she gets them, she still thinks what she has is not enough, and she always wants more. She wants to have them but she does not have money. Therefore, she covets for money. This can be seen from the time she is at school. At that time, Miss Pinkerton knows that Rebecca has the ability of speaking French fluently and playing the piano elegantly and beautifully. In her effort to save money from hiring a piano teacher, Miss Pinkerton asks Rebecca to help her assist the young pupils in the house. However, to the surprise of the school principal, Rebecca Sharp boldly refuses the offer. She says, "I am here to speak French with the children ...not to teach them music and save money for you. Give me money, and I will teach them" (p. 18). Looking back to the history how Rebecca gets admitted in Chiswick Mall, she is supposed to behave nicer than what she has done. She gets into the reputable school, merely because her father begs the school principal to admit Rebecca in the school. If it were not that way, Rebecca would never be in the school. Thus, when the school principal asks her to help save money for the school, Rebecca is supposed to respond nicely, instead of being so cold and bold. Therefore, it is clear that Rebecca is a type of woman who likes money very much. She does all her activities merely because there is money awaiting her.

Rebecca's life changes the time she meets Rawdon Crawley. After she marries him, she becomes Mrs. Crawley. This new title means a lot to her since Rawdon comes from a well-known wealthy family. As a result, Rebecca will automatically be known everywhere. The title means even better to her when

Rawdon becomes a kind of man-of-honour after the war ends. Everybody who knows Rawdon Crawley also knows his wife, Rebecca Crawley.

Because of this, Rebecca's life becomes better. Lots of people recognize her and want to know her further. She gets a lot of guests from the upper class people. They all like Rebecca because she is beautiful and smart. She can fit in very well with those people because she is able to converse with them. Since these people like her, they often give Rebecca a lot of presents, especially jewelry.

This jewelry becomes Rebecca's target in her life. She loves it and she does not think of sharing it with others, even with her own husband. When her husband is in jail for unclear reasons, he sends her a letter to come with some money to release him. He also tells Rebecca to "take my ticker and such of your things as you can spare" (p. 534) so that Rebecca is able to release him. "Three hours, he calculated, would be the utmost time required, before Becky should arrive and open his prison doors; ...But the day passed away and no messenger returned, - no Becky" (p. 534). Rawdon has waited for so long, but his wife does not show up to the prison. After some days, there is only a letter saying that she cannot come to the prison because she has a terrible headache. She even states that she has asked someone to lend her money, but the person has refused. While her real reason is because she is very unwilling to be separated from the jewelry she possesses. Her statement about suffering a headache is also a lie as when Rawdon finally comes home, he can hear "laughter within - laughter and singing" (p. 537) from his room. The truth is Rebecca does not go to the jail to release her husband because she is busy entertaining another man, Lord Steyne.

"Becky was singing a snatch of the song of the night before; a hoarse voice shouted 'Brava! Brava!' - it was Lord Steyne's. Steyne was hanging over the sofa on which Becky sat ...He had her hand in his, and was bowing over it to kiss it...". (Thackeray, 1997, p. 537).

Lord Steyne is Rebecca's money supplier. Actually, Lord Steyne gives Rebecca money in order to be used to pay her debt. Nevertheless, Rebecca uses most of it for her own needs. She buys valuable things, which can be sold again and also keeps some part of the money for herself.

Based on the analysis above, I can say that the factor why Rebecca is guilty for the sin of Avarice, or Greed, is because she is money-oriented and materialistic. It is proved from the way she loves money and all her things and the unwillingness to share her valuable things with others who also need them, even to her own husband.

Another sin Rebecca commits is Wrath. After getting married to Rawdon Crawley for some time, Rebecca gets pregnant and gives birth to a son, her only child. However, Rebecca is not interested in her only child. From the beginning, she is not fond of her child. Her goal in life is to reach a reputable, respectable and stable life in a fine society, which is Vanity Fair. With the presence of this child, she has to alter her plan a little bit.

In fact, deep in Rebecca's heart, she is disappointed with her life. Truly she has got a husband and a nice place to live, but she still wants more. She wants attentions not only from her husband but also from rich people around her. She knows she can charm them and get some gifts from them. She may have a kind of worry if her guests know she has got a child, they may not come to see her again. Therefore, she thinks her child hinders her to mingle with the society. For her, little Rawdon is an annoying brat and she does not want to be bothered by him. She does not even seem to like the fact that she is the mother of an unhealthy child. This condition in a way gives Rebecca the feeling that there is nothing about this child she can be proud of. Meanwhile she is actually a very proud woman. Therefore, she is upset with her own son and this is manifested in her actions that show her ignorance and hatred.

On one occasion where a bowl drops on his head, little Rawdon is about to cry, but when his father warns him not "to wake mamma", little Rawdon directly "bit his lips, clenched his hands and didn't cry a bit" (p. 381). This shows that little Rawdon is afraid of his mother for if she wakes up from her sleep because of his cry, she will surely be furious. Therefore, he does not dare to cry or laugh too loud lest his voice will bother his mother.

Actually little Rawdon adores his mother very much for she is very pretty, smells good and looks like a princess. Yet, when he comes near her and tries to get her attention, she shuns him and tries to get rid of him. Her dislike towards the

child is seen when she finds out that little Rawdon is eavesdropping just to hear her voice.

‘One day when he was standing at the landing -place, ...attracted by the sound of his mother’s voice, ...the drawing -room door opened suddenly, discovered the little spy, ...His mother came out and struck him violently a couple of boxes on the ear’. (Thackeray, 1997, p. 448).

From the incident above, I can conclude that Rebecca is very bothered with her only child because he might disturb her relationship with her guests. She is in the middle of singing elegantly for other people when little Rawdon wishes to hear Rebecca’s sweet voice and songs. As his mother dislikes him very much, instead of giving a hug, she boxes his ears. Her anger to her son in an overreacting way shows that inside she feels insecure and she feels angry with that. Obviously the factor why Rebecca easily gets angry and shows dislike towards the child is her ambition to be accepted by the upper class people.

Lust is also the sin that Rebecca commits. After Rebecca gets married to Rawdon, she lives in a small town called Brompton with her husband. Although she lives in a small town, it does not mean that Rebecca has forgotten all her desires. She tries hard to earn her desires. She uses the well-known family name, Crawley, to get people about her door.

Every night she holds a party to invite people to come to her house. Those people are all rich. When they come there, Rebecca will give them food and drink. Moreover, she also gives them some entertainment. She sings, dances, or even discusses some things with her guests. Most of the guests are men. While she entertains them, usually she asks her husband, Rawdon to play billiards or cards with some of the guests. In that way, they get some money to fulfill their needs.

Since Rebecca is indeed a very smart and beautiful woman, a lot of those male guests get interested in her. Rebecca herself does not bother to limit her attitudes when she entertains the men although Rawdon is around.

‘Rawdon,’ said Becky ... ‘I must have a sheep -dog.’

‘I mark the trick,’ Rawdon gravely said.

‘I mean a *moral* shepherd’s dog,’ said Becky, laughing, and looking up at Lord Steyne.

‘Dear little innocent lamb, you want one,’ said the Marquis; and his jaw thrust out, and he began to grin hideously, his little eyes leering towards Rebecca. (Thackeray, 1997, pp. 378 – 379).

When Rebecca tells Rawdon that she wants a dog to watch over her, he knows that Rebecca is joking about him. This can be seen on how sad Rawdon responds to her request. Since she was very well known among the male world, nobody pays attention to Rawdon. Everybody will always regard Rebecca better than they regard Rawdon. Rebecca herself, in any occasion, does not try to show better respect to her husband. From this small incident, it can be concluded that actually Rebecca underestimates her husband in front of other guests only to get her desires.

Moreover, it is clear from the short conversation above that Rebecca is not acting like a true married woman. The way she laughs and the way she looks at her guests are not the way a reputable woman will do. Rebecca laughs and speaks very loudly and freely, instead of gently. This kind of temptation gets a response from one of her guests, Lord Steyne. The word ‘hideous’ and ‘leering’ that Thackeray uses to describe Lord Steyne’s manner indicates that he gets interested in Rebecca. The interest here is not the ordinary interest to be a friend as those two words suggest lust or passionate feelings. Lord Steyne is one loyal guest among the guests that Rebecca has that often visits Rebecca even when she is alone at daytime. Rebecca herself is also grateful welcoming this guest. She even dances, sings and discusses a lot of issues with him. Moreover, Lord Steyne himself even invites Rebecca alone to his house and, of course, Rebecca pleasantly accepts the invitation.

Another event that shows Rebecca’s indecent manner as a wife is when she tells Rawdon not to ‘stay and stupefy yourself at home tonight, my dear, ...Some men are coming who will only bore you. I would not ask them, but you know it is for your good...’ (p. 383). It is night already when Rebecca asks her husband to leave the house. As a good wife, she is not supposed to do that, especially when there are male guests, instead of female ones, coming to her house. She is supposed to have her husband by her side although her husband is bored by the men. It is obvious that she enjoys the company of other men but her husband’s.

In another occasion, Rebecca sings, dances, and acts in front of Lord Steyne, Rebecca's money supplier, and other people. She is a part of a classical show. After she finishes her performance, which is beautiful, Lord Steyne gives her an applause with full of spirit; the loudest among the others. Rebecca, in return, takes Lord Steyne's flowers and presses "them to her heart with the air of a consummate comedian" (p. 519). This action makes Lord Steyne "frantic with delight" (p. 519). Although they do not do vulgar actions in front of everybody, that simple action is enough to show that Rebecca is in a way flattering Lord Steyne.

Besides fooling around with Lord Steyne, Rebecca also fools around with Rawdon's brother, Sir Pitt Crawley. She tries to attract him by being understanding and accompanying him when he reads some important documents. She usually gives her opinion about the matter that Sir Pitt is reading and they get into a discussion. "Rebecca listened to Pitt, she talked to him, she sang to him, she coaxed him, and cuddled him, so that he found himself more and more glad every day to get back ...to the blazing fire in Curzon Street..." (p.445).

However, when they are alone, Rebecca not only talks or makes some discussions with him, but also entertains him in the way a mature woman entertains a mature man. This can be seen from the word "coax", which means to flatter someone gently, and the word "cuddle", which means to hug affectionately. As a married woman, Rebecca does not show she is really a loyal wife, since following her lust she speaks and acts intimately to a man who is her husband's brother.

Rebecca also flirts with Amelia's husband, George Osborne. She attracts him by being very sweet to him when they are together. She jokes with him and, in an occasion, she dances with him in front of his wife, Amelia Sedley. This is obvious that besides lust, Rebecca is also guilty from other sins such as greed since she wants more than one man in her life, envy since she does not like other women get better husbands than hers, and pride since she thinks she is the most beautiful, attractive and intelligent woman compared to others.

As a conclusion, I think the factor that makes Rebecca commit the sin of lust is her ambition. She has an ambition to be in the genteel society because of her

poverty when she was young. At that time, nobody pays attention to her. They even underestimate and reject her. Therefore, she enjoys being the center of attraction and attention in a crowd of people where she can dance, sing and tell stories. Besides, to be in the genteel society needs money and she can get it from her guests so that she is able to buy all things she needs. In addition, she also lets herself commit the sin of lust because she realizes that she is very beautiful and intelligent and thus, she is sure that all men will like her.

The last sin that Rebecca commits is Gluttony. It is not that Rebecca is a type of woman who likes eating very much, it is more on the way she consumes other things beside food. Rebecca is very concerned with her appearance; thus, she takes care of her body very well. This particular action she does in order to get herself acknowledged by other people. Since she is very proud of herself, she is sure that everybody will like her and will be happy to be around her. As a result, she often conducts parties at her little residence. She even tries hard to get herself to some parties (Thackeray, 1997, p. 525).

The indirect quotation above clearly shows how Rebecca indulges herself in all the upper class people's activities more than necessary. She spends a lot of money she gets from her guests to make herself more and more beautiful while actually she is beautiful already. Besides, she also holds a lot of parties and goes to parties every night. It is normal for people to hold parties in order to have a social gathering with friends or old folks they have not met for a long time. However, it is excessive for a person to hold a lot of parties in one day. Thus, I can say that Rebecca's sin of pride has been doubled by her sin of gluttony, which is caused by her desire to be acknowledged by other people, especially by those from the upper class.

3.2 Amelia Sedley

In this part, the discussion will be focused on the sins that the other female character, that is, Amelia Sedley, commits.

Amelia is the daughter of a successful London merchant. She is a pretty and gentle girl. She is also a very sensitive girl who sometimes cries over silly matters like 'a dead canary -bird; or over a mouse, that the cat had haply seized upon; or

over the end of a novel, were it ever so stupid” (p. 11). All girls in Chiswick Mall like her very much. They like being around Amelia for she is very gentle and very kind. She also cares about everybody in the boarding house. Based on the way Thackeray describes her nature, it can be clearly concluded that Amelia is one of the girls that have undergone the Victorian education system very well. In other words, she is truly the typical Victorian woman that men will seek for.

It can be clearly seen from Amelia that the only purpose of parents those days sending their daughters to a special school, like Chiswick Mall, is to get their daughters husbands. By sending their daughters to that special school, their daughters have to learn a lot of things, like Geography, History, Art, Manner and other important subjects. By learning all of those things, the girls are expected to be able to communicate with the men smoothly. Moreover, they are also expected to be able to behave politely and gently when they are introduced to their opposite sex. All of those things are important as they are supposed to show their suitors that they are good women and good future wives for the suitors. Due to the fact that finding husbands is the sole purpose after they get out of the school, most women at that time are not prepared for the real world situation that might befall them, that is, poverty.

The time Amelia gets out of Chiswick Mall and goes into the real world, she thinks that the world is “a new, fresh, brilliant world, with all the bloom upon it” (p. 19). Based on how Thackeray describes what Amelia has in mind the minute she sees the world outside Chiswick Mall, I can say that Amelia is still very innocent. She may think that she will only face happiness when she lives in the real world. She does not even have a second thought that something bad may come to her. This is once again due to the fact that she learns all things but knowledge on poverty when she is at school. Furthermore, since Amelia is also a type of woman who is very romantic, she is romantic in all her moves. She likes daydreaming very much. She sometimes thinks about how beautiful and perfect her future will be with the person she loves; at the other time, she thinks about someone that has gone away and how sorry she is for that condition.

As a naive, young girl, Amelia Sedley is not ready when she finds out that a catastrophe has visited her family. In just a flick of a finger, her family goes

beneath the earth. Her father, Mr. Sedley, finds some financial problems at his workplace and he is not able to solve the problems. As a result of that, Mr. Sedley becomes bankrupt. When he is in that state, nobody wants to help him, not even the person that he has ever helped, Mr. Osborne.

The bankruptcy experienced by her family has in a way influenced Amelia's most important personal matter. It has influenced her romantic relationship with George Osborne, the son of the man who does not want to help her father. When Amelia's father is bankrupt, automatically, Mr. Osborne cancels the long engagement both families have settled. Mr. Osborne does not want to have poor Amelia as his daughter-in-law. He prefers to have a rich woman for George. However, with the help and the influence of George's friend, Mr. Dobbin, Amelia and George finally get married. In other words, Amelia gets married to George in her poor condition and without the consent of their fathers.

As the result of this marriage, George Osborne is cut off his father's will. His father will not give him any money. That is why Amelia and George then move to a small town and they have to live thriftily. After some time then George's father gave George his last portion, which is not very much and George directly cashes the cheque. He then divides the money and gives some part of it to Amelia. George orders Amelia to go with her mother to have some fun. Thus, when George offers her the money, she accepts it and gives 'herself a little treat, obedient to her husband's orders...'(p. 259). She buys herself and her mother a lot of knick-knack the money can buy. She is also in full delight of enjoying her stay in town there. She is not aware of the situation around her, that there will be a war soon. All she knows is that she has to obey whatever her husband says since she is one of the typical good Victorian wives, who always obey what their husbands say.

Moreover, she also does her action of spending all the money George gives her because she still has her old desire of enjoying pretty and fancy things. She used to live fancily and she still feels that way, though she knows that her family is no longer a rich family. Yet, it seems to be difficult for her to release herself from the old condition. Thus, when she has the chance to buy a lot of fancy things she always adores, she buys them without thinking of her present condition. Her

action of adorning herself with those fancy things, which are actually not very much needed for someone in her situation, is a form of avarice.

Another sin that Amelia commits is the sin of envy. This happens when she has a reunion with her old friend from Chiswick Mall, Rebecca Sharp. She meets Rebecca again when she and her husband visit Brussels. She is very happy when she sees Rebecca again after a very long time. In this way Amelia can have someone to talk to when George is away. George himself also feels happy with the fact that Amelia has another friend but him to accompany her.

However, after some days being together with Rebecca, Amelia starts to behave differently. She is no longer warm and friendly when she speaks with Rebecca. Often times she even avoids meeting or talking to Rebecca. This all happens because Amelia starts to feel bothered with the existence of Rebecca around her. She realizes that Rebecca is much prettier than she is. She is also aware that Rebecca is much clever and livelier than she is. As a result of all of those thoughts, she considers herself as “a foolish creature” that is “not suitable for George” who is “so clever and so brilliant” (p. 240). In addition, Amelia also starts to realize that her husband looks more cheerful when he talks with Rebecca than when he talks with her. Because of these, Amelia starts to consider Rebecca as her rival. Amelia wants to be like Rebecca who is cheerful and energetic. She wants to be like Rebecca so that her husband likes and loves her even more. She does not want to be a dull woman. She is bothered with the fact that Rebecca can attract George better than she does. All of these thoughts considering Rebecca have made Amelia committing the sin of envy. She lets those inferior feelings overpower her that she is busy fretting rather than trying to make herself better by finding out her good qualities.

The factor that makes her commit the sin of envy is her own upbringing as a Victorian woman. As a gentle woman, she cannot force herself to act a bit noisy so that she looks a lot cheerful. She also cannot speak as cleverly as Rebecca. Therefore, depressed because of her shortcoming, Amelia feels envious to Rebecca who is more carefree.

Unlike Rebecca, Amelia is not an active girl. She does not do a single meaningful action with her life. It seems that all knowledge she gets from her

school back in Chiswick Mall has no use at all. She does not live the present time by doing some activities that girls usually do, like knitting or cooking. She fancies living in her imagination and the past. She does not care about other people around her. This action is obvious when George Osborne has gone to the war. During the absence of her husband, Amelia only sits for hours by the windows from where she bids him good-bye (p. 301). She also does not have any appetite to eat. All she does is waiting and dreaming about the day George comes back from the war and they will live happily together. All of her meaningless actions indirectly show that Amelia is actually a lazy bum. Therefore, she can be said as committing another sin from the seven sins, that is, sloth, which is often regarded as an action connected not only to being lazy, but also apathetic (Cline, 2004, paragraph 1). Someone who is apathetic means that he/she no longer cares about doing whatever activities that he/she is supposed to do to others or to God.

Amelia Sedley has spent half of her lifetime being dependent on other people. During that period of time, she has never once done something meaningful. She has wasted most of her time doing or thinking about unimportant matters. She also likes clinging to the past memories she has. The factor that makes her do this sin is again her upbringing as a Victorian woman whose environment prepares everything for her so that she needs not do anything. No gentle women in her society have ever done meaningful activities or even jobs. Thus, she follows this ladylike type of living and becomes a sloth.

During her stay in Chiswick Mall, Amelia is Rebecca's only friend; however, unlike Rebecca, Amelia is more inexperienced than Rebecca. Her being inexperienced does not mean she is the humblest person on earth. She herself, like Rebecca, has pride in herself. Her pride emerges on an occasion where George has passed away because of the war. After George leaves her for good, Amelia gives birth to her only child, George, named after his father. Since Amelia's family's present condition is not getting better, she faces a lot of problems with the birth of little George. However, she does not show anyone that she actually has a lot of problems. She keeps all of them to herself. She wants to handle all of the problems by herself. She wants to show that even though her husband has passed away, she is still able to take care of her only child well.

When little George is ill, Amelia's mother, Mrs. Sedley, wants to help Amelia take care of the child. She wants to show her affection as a good and kind grandmother. Therefore, when Amelia is away, she gets into little George's room and checks little George's health. She also brings some medicine that may help cure little George from his illness. When she is about to give little George the medicine, Amelia sees it. She suddenly grabs little George from her mother and tells her mother that she "will not have the baby poisoned" (p. 388). She is indeed ungrateful for she accuses her mother of trying to poison her baby. This very incident between Amelia and her mother proves that not only does Amelia underestimate her mother but also overestimate herself. It means that she is very proud of herself. She thinks that she knows better than her mother in taking care of her son while actually she is not as experienced as her mother.

Another occasion that shows how Amelia is very proud of her state is when her father-in-law offers her some help. Knowing that Amelia is in a poor condition, Mr. Osborne, the father-in-law, offers Amelia some money that she can use to better her family's condition. Yet, the requirement of having the money is to give in little George to him. Still obsessed by Pride, Amelia refuses the advantageous offer. She only thinks of herself, not about her mother and father's life. She only thinks that little George is the only memory that George, her husband, has left for her. They barely have any money to live with, but Amelia is acting selfishly. She has the ability to alter the condition into a better one, but because of her pride, she refuses the offer.

The factor that makes Amelia commit the mother of all sins, pride, is the pressure she has inside as a mother. She wants to show that after her husband is dead, she is capable of being a good mother. Although actually Amelia does not have the ability to do so, her pride has made her stiff and firm in her decision regarding her son.

3.3 George Osborne

George Osborne is the most handsome character in this novel. This is clear from the way Thackeray describes him. Besides being a handsome man, he is also a lucky man. He has the chance of going to good schools and of tasting good life.

This is all due to the kindness that Mr. Sedley, Amelia's father, has to George's father. Mr. Sedley is the person that pays most of the expenses George needs for going to all reputable schools. The friendship those fathers have results in George being Amelia's future husband.

However, although George is a handsome and wealthy man, he does not possess the quality of being a true gentleman. This is clear when he meets Amelia's friend, Rebecca Sharp. When he sees her for the first time, his reaction is quite gentleman and friendly. He speaks and acts warmly to Rebecca since she is Amelia's closest friend. Yet, after he senses that Rebecca is putting her cap on Amelia's brother, Joseph Sedley, he has a new way of thinking about Rebecca.

‘Who's this little schoolgirl that is ogling and making love to him? Hang it, the family's low enough already, without *her*. A governess is all very well, but I'd rather have a lady for my sister-in-law. ...I've proper pride, and know my own station: let her know hers’. (Thackeray, 1997, p. 60).

He thinks that Rebecca should look at herself in the mirror first before she dares to like someone above her station. This is all because Rebecca is only a governess. Rebecca's state as a governess has caused George not to allow her to be near him. The fact that Rebecca has the will to marry Joseph bothers him to the utmost. He cannot bear the idea of having a governess as her sister-in-law. For him, the marriage of Joseph and a governess will diminish the Sedleys' quality of being a respectable family; thus, it is better that Rebecca does not marry Joseph. George's way of thinking has in a way indicated that George is a snob who is very proud of his family's reputation.

His arrogance continues after he gets married to Amelia. He does not have any job; he spends most of his time playing cards with Rawdon and bets some money. Sometimes when he is lucky, he gets some money. Most of the time; however, he loses. Since he has a lot of pride in himself, he never stops gambling, even when he is in short supply of money. ‘Bah! The world was before him. His luck might change at cards, and there was a deal of spending in two thousand pounds’ (p. 259). His confidence that he can win some money shows that he overestimates himself. This condition blinds him so that he considers he has

plenty of money. He does not want to think that in reality he is in a state of touching poverty.

The factor that makes George commit the sin of pride is the basic education he has in his family, in this case, from his father. As the son of a rich family who always lives in a good condition, he often looks down upon other people who are in a lower state than he is. Besides, the pride or the overconfidence in himself that comes from seeing himself far better than the others and also from thinking that nothing bad will happen to him has blinded his eyes and put his family in misery.

In his lifetime, George is a very fashionable man. He always wants to impress everybody with his good appearance. He buys a lot of things to make him look good. When he is interested in something, even though he does not really need it, he follows his greed and gets it. “And I daresay he would have bought something very handsome for Amelia; only, getting off the coach in Fleet Street, he was attracted by a handsome shirt – pin in a jeweller’s window, which he could not resist...” (p. 118). Thinking only about his intention, he forgets his first goal, he even forgets his lover, Amelia. Actually George has borrowed some money from Dobbin to amuse Amelia with some presents. Yet, he uses the money to buy something he likes, which is not really needed.

Based on this incident, I can state that the factor that makes George commit the sin of avarice is his habit as a rich boy. He is used to living luxuriously and always gets whatever he wants. This condition leads him to want more and more things. He has the opinion that he deserves fancy things and is craving for more.

As a young man of a wealthy family, obviously George has a good and comfortable life. This is especially because he is the only male child in the family. In the society where George lives, having a son is indeed a blessing since the son can continue the reputation of the family. Only males can go to war and when they come back alive and have good positions in the army, everybody will look up on them and respect their family names. As a result, George gets whatever facility he wants or dreams of in his family.

“My guineas are as good as theirs, George, my boy ...Call on Mr. Chopper ... he’ll have something for you”. (Thackeray, 1997, p. 124).

“George ...visited Mr. Chopper ...received from that gentleman a document which he exchanged ...for a whole pocketful of money”. (Thackeray, 1997, p. 125).

The quotations above show that it is easy for George to get the money he wants. Whenever he needs money, he only has to directly go to his father's bank clerk and asks for a sum of money. His father also never checks how much money he asks. Because of this easiness, George never occupies himself in other activities but his army issue. After he gets married, he knows that he cannot ask for money from his father anymore; however, he is too lazy to find any job. Instead, he drowns himself in gambling since he is not used to working. By doing so, he often hopes that he will get a lot of money. This is due to the easiness that he used to have and gambling is one good way to get easy money.

As a conclusion, I can see clearly that the factor why George is guilty of the sin of sloth is his former condition as a rich man. Taken care of by his father, he needs not raise his hands to do anything. In addition, he enjoys the privilege and money that he thinks will last forever. Therefore, he becomes lazy and never thinks of looking for jobs to earn money for living.

After getting married secretly to Amelia, both George and Amelia leave their hometown and move to a smaller town. Unexpectedly, when they arrive there and are trying to find lodging, they meet old and new friends, Rebecca and Rawdon. After that meeting, they spend most of their time together. Amelia is close with Rebecca and Rawdon asks George to gamble almost every night.

In these regular meetings, George always meets Rebecca. Due to the conversations they sometimes have during those meetings, George starts to enjoy meeting Rebecca. His interest in Rebecca becomes clearer on a visit to a play with his wife, Amelia. “At the end of the act George was out of the box in a moment, and he was even going to pay his respects to Rebecca in her *loge*” (p.279). This quotation shows that George does not take Amelia with him when he pays a visit to Rebecca. It means that he has lust for Rebecca. He even thinks of some plans about what to do to Rebecca in his desire to please her (p. 281).

When his friend, William Dobbin, warns him about Rebecca's sneaky action, George claims that Rebecca is “the nicest little woman in England” and that

Dobbin is not “a man of the world” (p. 282). He even praises Rebecca’s shoulders in front of Amelia. In addition to that, he criticizes Amelia for not having a bouquet. He seems not to care about Amelia, for when “another woman was laughing or sneering at her expense, he was not angry” (p. 283). This proves that George has been intoxicated by Rebecca’s charm. He accepts Rebecca’s invitation to dine in her house. He even buys Rebecca a clock for a present because Rebecca does not have one.

The night before George marches to the war field, they have a party. George leaves Amelia sitting alone while he enjoys himself among the crowd. When he sees that Rebecca is coming towards the place where Amelia is seated, he directly goes back there. Instead of asking Amelia, he asks Rebecca to dance with him. Then, to prove that his lust for Rebecca controls him, George slips a letter of elopement into Rebecca’s hand.

Owing to George’s actions, it is undoubtedly clear that the factor why George is guilty for the sin of lust is his disappointment with his wife. Amelia is indeed nice, kind and gentle; the dream woman of all Victorian men. However, the quality that Amelia has does not make George feel enjoyable being around her for a long time. It is possible that Amelia’s gentility has driven him into boredom. Amelia is pretty, but she is neither smart nor lively. Thus, when George meets Rebecca in a different situation, he suddenly thinks that he has been wrong in choosing the woman that becomes his lifetime partner. He needs a woman like Rebecca that can make him smile and can talk with him about a lot of things, not a quiet but kind woman like Amelia.

3.4 Rawdon Crawley

Rawdon is a gentleman that comes from a well-off family, the Crawleys. He even gets his name from the name of “the Prince of Wales’ friend” (p. 65). This means that the Crawleys is indeed a reputable and well-known family at that time. As the member of a well-off family, Rawdon indirectly receives all the good and comfortable things he ever needs. He is provided with good life and also good education. He goes to reputable schools as well in order to make himself into a fine gentleman. However, during his lifetime as a bachelor, he does not really

make use of his time for the education. All he does during that time is proudly showing off his wealth and his ability as a man. In that way, he finds a lot of enemies wherever he is. He always fights here and there. He also does not study very well. Thus, sending him to school is completely a waste.

He misbehaves because he is very proud of his respectable family. Besides, he is certain that every wrong or bad deed he does will not harm him. His aunt, Miss Crawley, always takes care of the mess he has made. ‘Silly, romantic Miss Crawley, ...always used to pay his debts after his duels...’ (p. 92). This happens since Miss Crawley considers Rawdon as her most favourite nephew. She will do everything for Rawdon’s future. She is in fact the person who sends Rawdon to reputable schools and pays for the school fees as well.

From his behavior, I conclude that the factor why he commits the sin of pride is his environment or his family that gives him everything he needs that he thinks he is better than other people are and can disregard them. Because of his kind aunt, he has become a very proud person who is ignorant since he always does whatever he likes without considering the consequences of his deeds.

However, this condition does not linger long. When he decides to get married to Rebecca Sharp, he has indirectly signed the letter of poverty. His aunt, Miss Crawley, does not consent his marriage with Rebecca; though, Miss Sharp is one of her favourites too. As a result, Rawdon has started to try to depend on whatever ability he has got in order to survive his life. He gambles since that is the only skill of getting money he knows. Even at this time of poverty, he still shows that he has pride since he is very certain that he is better than any other men and is sure that he can get a lot of money.

Some time after Rawdon is married to Rebecca, a lot of people start to stop looking on him. Most people turn their attention to his wife since she is beautiful, energetic and smart. Because of this, there are a lot of bad rumors about his wife. Some of his old friends tell him to watch Rebecca very closely as it seems that she is involved romantically with one of her guests.

The rumors have of course angered Rawdon because he does not want to lose Rebecca. This does not mean that he still loves Rebecca. This only proves that as a proud man he feels disgraced to have an unfaithful wife. Therefore, when

Rawdon comes home from jail and sees Rebecca alone with Lord Steyne, at that instant, Rawdon hits Lord Steyne.

He also acts quite violently to Rebecca and asks her to prove that she is innocent by showing him all her trinkets. When Rawdon discovers that Rebecca has a lot of jewels he believes that the rumors are true and becomes very angry. Knowing that Rebecca has refused to sell them to help him get out of jail, in his wrath, he takes all the trinkets away and leaves Rebecca nothing. In fury, Rawdon even plans to murder Lord Steyne.

Although he does not murder Lord Steyne, still, he is guilty for the sin of wrath. The factor that makes him do this sin is his incapability to take care of Rebecca so that he cannot control her. Should he be able to provide Rebecca with all things she needs, the affairs will not happen and he still can be proud of himself. Therefore, since he cannot be angry with himself, as compensation he lets his anger flow to people around him that he acts violently to his wife and leaves without the intention of coming back.

The last sin that Rawdon commits is the sin of Avarice. As someone of the well-off family, it is obvious that Rawdon is used to living luxuriously and comfortably. This kind of way of living requires a lot of money. Since Rawdon is used to living in this kind of life, he is used to asking for money or having a lot of it. Thus, wherever he goes and whatever he does, he always puts money as his orientation. He loves gambling very much and he does not really care whether people whom he asks to gamble with have money or not. He only wants to get more and more out of other people (Thackeray, 1997, p. 165).

Based on his action, I can draw a conclusion that Rawdon is guilty for the sin of Avarice. The only factor that makes him do the action is because of the condition where he is used to living in.

In conclusion, after analyzing the four chosen characters, I can tell that the main factor that makes Rebecca Sharp, Amelia Sedley, George Osborne and Rawdon Crawley commit some of the Seven Deadly Sins is the environment where they live in. Other factors that make them commit the sin are their families and their education backgrounds.