

1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the thesis writer explains the reason why she chooses William Golding and his works Lord of the Flies. She will also include the statement of the problem and the purpose of writing this thesis, the importance of the study, the scope and limitation, and also the methods the writer uses to analyze the problem.

1.1 Background of the Study

The thesis writer is interested in analyzing a novel because of its uniqueness as a fiction. This is due to the fact that a novel portrays imaginative people and events as if they are in the actual world. The imaginative people are wholly real to the novelist because he can see their actions and hears their voices. As a matter of fact, he can also feel their pain and share their joy. When he is successful, they become also real to the readers because the novel takes them into the lives of other people (Havighurst, 1968: p.561). A novel is a long prose narrative. Its length allows the novelist to present the full world he has chosen to describe where the many sides of the characters, personalities can be examined more thoroughly than in all the kinds of literary form, such as, short story, poem, play, and nonfiction (Havighurst, 1968: p.562). Therefore the writer is more interested to take a novel for her thesis than the other literary forms.

The writer is interested in William Golding because he was a school-master, lecturer, actor, sailor, musician and because of his fabulous reputation as a famous British critic novelist and short story. His experience as a school-master enables him to present school boys in Lord of the Flies. Among contemporary British novelists, he is regarded as on top of the list. For this reason, too, Frank Kermode stated that Golding has been considered as “the most important practicing novelist in English.” (Kostelanetz, 1964: p.366). This suggests that Golding is a different writer

that he states the idea of his book directly. This is proved as he receives the Nobel Prize for Literature for his novel which the perspicuity of realistic narrative art and the diversity and also universality of myth. Because of Golding's involvement in war is other significance in forming his view on human beings in his novels. He also believes that man can improve himself by improving society and doing away with all social evil. However, in Lord of the Flies Golding's concerns is about the nature of the evil as demonstrated by the boys in the island. He concludes that the evil action that the boys commit is inherent in human nature and can be controlled by social moral and rationality. In Lord of the Flies, Golding draws upon a great deal of religious symbolism updated to conform to more contemporary ideas of human psychology.

Furthermore, the thesis writer chooses the topic because in Lord of the Flies, Golding uses the main male character, Ralph who easily changes in his character and who develops indirectly. This is very unique that someone easily changes in character because naturally, human does not easily changes in his character traits. However, through some factors Ralph changes in his character trait and develops.

The thesis writer chooses Lord of the Flies is because the story in Lord of the Flies is very intriguing. It makes the readers feel eager because Golding puts the school boys experience in something wild situation where the place and the condition make the school boys unable to stay. Besides as a religious man, Golding believes that some people are saints, like Ralph. However, he wants to emphasize that finally he is defeated by more savage people. He is a writer who attacks the belief that human beings are naturally good and innocent. He believes that they are defective from birth (Coles, 1986: p.71). Furthermore, in Lord of the Flies he concludes that "the power – hungry self-assertion and the overweening individualism are the source of evil and violence. Golding shows that he has a very deep sight and sharp writing when it deals with the basis of human beings (Gyllensten, 1993:p. 23). Moreover, after Golding joins The Second World War, he changes in his outlook after discovering the capability of human being to kill others (Frangsmyr, 1993:p. 23). He joined the Royal Navy as a lieutenant (Cliff, 1964:p. 35). The war and his service

affect his writing so much particularly in Lord of the Flies (Medcalf, 1987:p. 66). He realizes the cruelty of war so that he admits “anyone moved through those years without understanding that man produces evil as a bee produces honey, must have been blind or wrong in the head” (Frangsmyr, 1993:p. 23).

As well as his novel and his early collection of poems, he also published a play which is entitled “The Brass Butterfly” in 1958 and his two collections of essays which are entitled “The Hot gates” in 1965 and “A Moving Target” in 1982.

(<http://www.lesontutor.com/ci4.html>).

The second reason that the writer is interested in the novel Lord of the Flies is because besides Golding uses the pig’s skull which is called Lord of the Flies to symbolize the evil in human life (Boyd, 1954:p. 8). The writer thinks that the novel is very interesting because he puts several boys who experience the wild things on the isolated island without adult supervision so she can see how people are easily influenced.

The thesis writer focuses on the protagonist, Ralph because the thesis writer finds out that there are factors which make him change and makes the main male character develop. Ralph’s condition on the isolated island is described as unable “to control his environment nor his desires” (Whitley, 1970:p. 18).

In Golding’s imaginative world, “all is not in the world of mankind, and all is not black. Man has two characters – the ability to murder is one, belief in God the other. Innocence is not entirely lost....” (Frangsmyr, 1993:p. 24). According to Frangsmyr, he indicates that Golding “often saw the abstract qualities of human nature” like good and evil, gleaned from his early reading manifested in the sometimes unrestrained, destructive egotism of his schoolmates”.

In Lord of the Flies, the thesis writer sees the problem of human disintegration that can be revealed through the experience of the main character. In the novel, the problem experienced by society is represented by the schoolboys (Cliff, 1964:p.5). Golding himself considers his book as an effort “to trace the defects in society back to the defects of human nature” (5). The writer enjoys how the story shows the matter, that how the youngest and the most innocent human strives for power. Besides, the writer sees of how some factors influences the main character’s

personality and how he undergoes a process and makes him develops. Ralph who is the protagonist in Lord of the Flies is the only boy who survives from the wilderness of the isolated island. In this novel, the writer is interested in discussing the process that leads the protagonist (Ralph) to the development of his character.

In the first part of the novel, all of the boys make plans to organize themselves into a little society. Ralph the main character- before he gets stranded in the isolated island, is a cowardly, irresponsible, and childish boy but soon after he is chosen as the leader by the other boys, he takes the initiative and tell the other boys to do some efforts to be rescued such as building shelters and making fire on the top of the mountain so that the smoke can be seen if a ship comes along. However, this situation creates conflict between Ralph and Jack. Ralph is chosen as the leader however, his friend, Jack, wants to be the leader. Later on, in the island Jack surprisingly prefers to commit a very aggressive behavior, consequently, Ralph wants to keep himself to stay alive from his aggressive friend, Jack. This conflict gradually makes Ralph's character changes and develops. He becomes independent, responsible and also brave to take decision and face the problems that occur in the island.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Considering the significance of Ralph's character traits development, the writer is curious to know how Ralph changes and develops in his character and whether there are factors that make him change and develop.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Through this study, the writer wants to show that Ralph undergoes a process and changes through some factors.

1.4 Importance of the Study

The thesis writer finds out that many young boys are innocent, they always act in a childish way sometimes they are also not independent, cowardly and also irresponsible. Some young boys always do as what they like. Therefore, through Lord of the Flies, the thesis writer hopes that the readers can see that friendship, disagreement and argument and the condition where the boys live can change them.

Moreover, the thesis writer also hopes that this thesis will be useful for the readers especially the students of the faculty of English literature to know more about one of Golding's novels and also may broaden their knowledge about one of the intellectual British critic novelist and short story in order to get a better understanding of his novels and appreciate them.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In the novel, Lord of the Flies, there are three characters that can be discussed, but the thesis writer's scope of the discussion is on the process and the factors of Ralph who changes and develops. Ralph as the main male character in the novel undergoes a change into a positive way.

The thesis writer focuses and confines her analysis on Ralph because he is the character who has an important role in the novel. The thesis writer makes use of literary devices such as characterization, conflict and setting. Other characters such as Piggy, Jack, will also be mentioned to support the analysis in the process of Ralph's change in his character.

1.6 Methodology

In writing her thesis, first, the writer carry outs the library research to find some data about William Golding, uses the internet, and read books from the library in order to find some information, such as article, critics and essays about his novels that are related to Lord of the Flies and its topic.

Furthermore, the thesis writer uses literary approach for her analysis. In this literary approach, she uses the literary theories; they are characterization to reveal Ralph's feeling, thoughts, actions in relation with his changes, conflict in order to analyze the desires, hopes and his rivalry with Jack as the possible reasons of his changes, and setting in order to analyze the place where he lives that make his character changes into develop. These theories are important as the devices to analyze the reasons that change Ralph, the main male character.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction, which consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the importance of the study, scope and limitation, the methodology and the organization of the study. Chapter two consists of the related literature including the theories on characterization, conflict and setting which are used for the analysis. Chapter three consists of the analysis on the process of the main character's traits development and the factors that make him develop which are: friendship with his friend Piggy, rivalry and also the environment that he is in. And the last, chapter four is the conclusion of the analysis.