

Chapter IV

Conclusion

In this study about Helen Pendennis's way in showing her love toward Arthur Pendennis in William Makepeace Thackeray's Pendennis, the thesis writer analyzes what Helen Pendennis does to Arthur Pendennis in order to show her love to him. Besides, the writer also analyzes how it affects Arthur Pendennis's life. It is proved in the analysis that in showing her care and love to her son, Helen Pendennis exercises firmlove and also softlove to her son, and because of that they give some negative and also positive effects in the life of her son.

Helen Pendennis tries to make sure that her son will have a good life with an ideal girl as his wife. The thesis writer finds that Helen Pendennis uses firmlove in trying to control her son's life. She thinks that a man should have a

wife from the same class as he is and also has the same or younger age than he does, otherwise he will get a miserable life with his wife. Besides, she always thinks that a man should live his life in a good or appropriate way. And in order to make Arthur Pendennis, her son, to have a better life, she has made up her mind that her son should marry Laura Bell, her ward, the suitable girl or woman for Arthur. When Arthur has made a wrong choice in choosing a future wife for his life, she always tries to make Arthur understand or tries to keep Arthur away from that girl, even though sometimes Arthur feels hurt and angry toward his mother because of what his mother has done to him.

However, Helen also uses softlove in handling Arthur. When Arthur stubbornly refuses his mother's and his uncle's advice, she lets him do what he wants to do. These two ways of showing her love to Arthur bring about conflicts between them. Arthur Pendennis, facing these conflicts with his mother, gets two kinds of effects in his life.

His first conflict with his mother is about his future wife. Arthur has already had a girlfriend, Emily Costigan, but Helen wants him to marry Laura Bell, her ward. Broken with Emily, he becomes a miserable person. He becomes very sick, feels hopeless, and wants to die because of his broken heart, and he also wants to kill Emily Costigan, the person who has made him miserable. Besides, he also becomes more introvert than before.

The second conflict with his mother is about how he lives his life. Arthur has been wrongly accused in London as the London's Don Juan, and has many relations with girls, especially with a low-class girl Fanny Bolton.

Helen Pendennis gets the false news about Arthur's condition in London from Arthur's friend, Sam Huxter. Therefore, she goes to London, moves Arthur to Richmond, and separates Arthur from Fanny.

He gets positive effects from his second conflict with his mother. He becomes a conscious person, a change from a stubborn person into a better person. He comes to realize and sees that the ideal wife he always searches for is Laura Bell, the girl that Helen Pendennis wishes him to marry someday. Besides, he also becomes extrovert and wiser in facing all of his problems and making decisions in his life.

The thesis writer, from this thesis, gets a good lesson about a mother's way in showing her love to her children. Sometimes children feel mad with their mother if she tries to interfere in her children's life, who are already grown up. It is because the children think that they can stand on their own feet and make their own decisions. However, sometimes they cannot do it because they are still inexperienced. The mother knows more about her children, and also about the world that her children will enter. Because of that, she wants to prepare her children to be fit, and useful for the society so that they can live happily. In achieving that goal, sometimes she interferes in her children's life. Therefore,

understanding about her good wish for her children, they should listen to their mother's advice so that the mother and her children could have a good relationship.