

CHAPTER III

The Female Characters' Experience of Illusions and Disillusionment in "The Garden Party", "Her First Ball", "Bliss" and "Miss Brill"

As the writer has mentioned in the previous chapter, disillusionment refers to the state or condition of someone whose pleasant but mistaken beliefs are destroyed (Longman, 247). People may have pleasant but mistaken beliefs about something or someone, known as illusion. Because of illusion, people may regard their lives as beautiful and pleasant. Unfortunately, people who live in illusion, can be disillusioned from their pleasant but mistaken belief to the disagreeable reality. Katherine Mansfield, one of modern writers, has elevated the experience of disillusionment in her stories that the thesis writer is going to analyze: "The Garden Party", "Her First Ball", "Bliss" and "Miss Brill". In these stories Katherine Mansfield portrays the experience of the female characters as women who are deluded by their illusory world and

mistaken beliefs. Through a certain moment in their live, their pleasant illusions are destroyed. To reveal the experience of disillusionment in these stories, the writer will emphasize the analysis on the character of the female characters, the female characters' incidents with other characters, and the setting of the stories which reveal the characters' experience of disillusionment.

3.1 The Innocence Characterstic of the Female Characters which Lead Them into Disillusionment

The characterization of the female characters in these four stories determines their experience of disillusionment. To reveal the experience of disillusionment, Katherine Mansfield presents her female characters with significant characteristic. Although the female characters she chooses are various in ages and status, they have significant characteristic which cause them to undergo similar experience. Laura comes from big family in upper class family. Meanwhile, Leila in "Her First Ball" is a timid and shy girl who lives in a lonely country home up to her age. The other characters, Bertha Young and Miss Brill are adult. However, they also come from different background. Bertha Young is a young housewife who lives in a rich family, meanwhile Miss Brill is an old spinster who lives alone in a dark and narrow apartment. However, as women, they are depicted as innocent and naïve. Laura in "The Garden Party" and

Leila in "Her First Ball" are girls who start to move from their innocence to a more mature girls who learn new facts of life. Meanwhile, Bertha Young in "Bliss" and Miss Brill in "Miss Brill" are depicted as two adults who still possess the characteristic of being innocent. Because of their innocence, they are also easily deluded by their own illusion or mistaken belief created by the pleasant situation. Therefore, they become people who are unaware of the reality. Laura is deluded by the happiness she gets in the garden party and is unaware either of the condition of the poor people who live below her house and of the class distinction between the rich and the poor. Similar to Laura, Leila feels excessive happiness because of the first ball she attends and believes that the ball promises her eternal happiness. The other two adult characters are also easily absorbed in their illusionary world. Bertha Young, the happy wife in "Bliss", thinks that life in her thirties is full of contentedness and satisfaction. Meanwhile, Miss Brill, an old spinster in the last story, is deluded by the happiness in the park, in which she thinks that she is an "actress" who play her role every Sunday in the park with other people.

Regardless of different ages and status, the main characters in these four stories have similar characteristic which is shown by their innocence. As the writer has mentioned in the previous chapter, an innocent person refers to a person who knows nothing of evil or wrong or foolishly simple. Moreover, according to Postman, an innocent person is someone who is

protected and shielded from certain kind of information (Postman,99). The female characters in these stories, are also depicted as innocent women. Laura, the teenage girl in "The Garden Party", is depicted as an innocent girl who has her own ideals about life. Since she grows up in an upper class family who always experience happiness, she has no knowledge about the condition of the poor people who live below her house. Moreover, the society where Laura lives imposes class distinction between the upper class people and the lower class people. However, as an innocent girl, Laura is not aware of this distinction and feels that all people have the same status. Up to her age, Laura is protected and shielded from the reality outside her house. Therefore, she is also unaware of the condition of the poor people who live below her house. Since she has never dealt with those people, she does not know their real condition. The prove that she has anything to do with people from lower class can be seen when she has to deal with the workmen, people from the lower class who arrange the marquee for the garden party in Laura's house. Laura's attitude toward the workmen shows that she is not used to dealing with a person coming from the lower class:

'Good morning,' she said, copying her mother's voice. But that sounded so fearfully affected that she was ashamed, and

stammered like a little girl, 'Oh-er-have you come - is it about the marquee?' (66).

In dealing with the workmen, Laura tries to immitate her mother's attitude toward people from lower class society. However, since she is not used to doing it, she feels awkward in adopting her mother's attitude. Moreover, she is also not used to hearing the language which the workmen use to speak to her. When a workman suggest the place that will give "a bang slap in the eye", she is wondering whether it is quite respectful for a workman to talk to her using such a word (67). For the workman, the words are common. However, for such a naïve girl like Laura, his words seem rude and cannot be understood.

As an innocent girl, Laura is deluded from seeing the real condition of the poor people who live below her house. In this story, Laura's unawareness of the reality is also caused by the happiness she is experiencing while preparing for the garden party. The garden party gives Laura momentary happiness which causes her to be unaware of the condition of the poor people. At the end of the story, when Laura is going to the little cottage where the family of the dead carter dwell, she is still under the influence of the happiness she gets from the garden party:

Here she was going down the hill to somewhere where a man lay dead, and she could not realize it. Why couldn't she? She stopped a minute. And it seemed to her that kisses, tinkling spoons, laughter, the smell of crushed grass were somehow inside her. She had no room for anything else. How strange! She looked up at the pale sky and all she thought was, "yes, it was the most successful party.

Laura's happiness because of the garden party causes her to be absorbed by her own illusion. Her illusion, in turns, causes her to be unaware of the reality. Her heart is filled with the happiness she experiences from the garden party. Therefore, she starts to forget about her plan of visiting the dead carter's family in the little cottage where the poor people live. Her innocence and her happiness because of the garden party have deluded her to see the real condition of poor people.

Similar to Laura, Leila in "Her First Ball" also has a nature of being an innocent girl. In addition, her existence as a lonely girl who lives in a quiet and isolated country home, has caused her to be a naïve girl who knows nothing of the outer world. Her appearance as an innocent girl can be seen in her attitude when she goes to the ball for the first time in her life. Up to her age, Leila lives in a quiet and lonely country home. Therefore, her experience in the ball with her city cousins has opened

Leila's narrow world. However, since she has never gone to the ball before, her attitude looks different from her city cousins. She shows excessive happiness on her way to the ball. She tries not to smile too much and she tries not to care, but every single thing is so new and exciting to her (192). Unconsciously, Leila starts to be deluded with the outward glamorous atmosphere of the ball. Since she is an innocent girl, she knows nothing of evil or wrong. Since she is deluded by the beauty of the ball, she thinks that all the people in the ball are lovely:

Dark girls, fair girls, were patting their hair, tying ribbons again, tucking handkerchief down the fronts of their bodices, smoothing marble - white gloves. And because they were all laughing, it seemed to Leila that they were all lovely (194).

Leila does not realize that the people she meets in the ball are actually not lovely as she thinks. However, the atmosphere of the ball has caused her to see everything as beautiful and pleasant.

As an innocent girl who is deluded by her happiness, Leila has changed from a shy little girl to be a girl who feels a rush of joy (195). She looks to the dancing ballroom with a full adoration of someone who has never come to that place before and she thinks that all she sees and experiences as "simply heavenly" (195). Moreover, she believes that

through the ball, she thought that her life has changed and she will get eternal happiness:

It seemed to her that she had never known what the night was like before. Up till now it had been dark, silent, beautifully very often-oh,yes-but mournful somehow. Solemn. And now it would never be like that again - it had opened dazzling bright (199)

Through Leila's thought, the writer perceives that Leila believes her future will be "dazzling bright" after she comes to the ball. She starts to forget her quiet and lonely world of country home and to be deluded by the short or momentary happiness of the ball. However, as a naïve girl, Leila thinks that the ball would give her eternal happiness . She even lays her future happiness on the ball which she delights

As a matter of fact, the nature of being innocent is not only possessed by children or teenage girls like Laura and Leila who start to move from their innocence to experience or from unawareness to awareness of the reality of their outside world. The adults, Bertha Young and Miss Brill, are also depicted as innocent women who are easily deluded by their own illusionary world.

In "Bliss", Bertha Young is portrayed as a thirty-year old woman who experiences the feeling of bliss or excessive happiness because she has achieved everything that a married woman wants to have. She has a perfect husband, an adorable baby, and famous friends. The title of the story, "Bliss", refers to Bertha's great happiness of being a contented housewife. And yet, her excessive happiness has caused her to act like a child:

Although Bertha Young was thirty, she still had moments like this when she wanted to run instead of walk, to take dancing steps on and off the pavement, to bowl a hoop, to throw something up in the air and catch it again, or to stand still and laugh at-nothing-at nothing, simply (238).

Her nature of being a child when she is happy reflects that she is innocent and unaware of her own existence. As an innocent woman, Bertha is described as a woman who is unaware of evil or wrong. As Leila who perceives that people she meets in the ball are beautiful and lovely, Bertha Young also perceives that the people she knows are good. It is her unawareness that has caused her to be easily attracted by a woman named Pearl Fulton:

What Miss Fulton did, Bertha didn't know. They had met at the club and Bertha had fallen in love with beautiful women who had something strange about them (241).

Miss Fulton's appearance, which has an air of mystery, has attracted Bertha. Although she knows nothing of Miss Fulton's background, because of her happiness, she insists on inviting her to dinner. Bertha's preference to have Miss Fulton as a friend shows that she is a naïve person who is not aware of evil or wrong about people. Since she is attracted by Miss Fulton's appearance, she has no reason of not having Miss Fulton to become her friend. Miss Fulton's appearance has attracted her and has caused her to feel a strong affinity to take her to her house.

In addition, Bertha Young is also depicted as an innocent wife. As a wife, she adores her husband faithfully and believes that they love each other. She appreciates her husband more than everything. Therefore, when Harry, her husband, gives an appraisal for the soufflé she has made, she almost could weep with childlike pleasure (246). Bertha Young's unawareness to her husband's attitude toward Miss Fulton also shows that she is an innocent wife. Bertha believes that Harry's attitude toward Miss Fulton throughout dinner only suggests that her husband is not really attracted by Miss Fulton. Bertha Young's act of inviting Miss Fulton

as a friend and Bertha's deep adoration toward her husband show that she is innocent. Bertha does not realize that because of her innocence she will be brought into seeing painful reality. Another example of Bertha's unawareness of her husband's attractiveness toward Miss Fulton can be noticed when she lets him accompany Miss Fulton into the hall:

Miss Fulton moved towards the hall and Bertha was following when Harry almost pushed past. "Let me help you." Bertha knew that he was repenting his rudeness - she let him go. What a boy he was in some ways - so impulsive - so - simple (250).

Bertha's unawareness of her husband attitude at the end of dinner shows that she is an innocent wife. She knows nothing of evil or wrong in her husband's air of attraction toward Miss Fulton. Bertha's innocence also leads her to live in her own illusion or ideals about her marriage life. Since she is not aware of the reality, she believes that she has everything in her married life. Therefore, she experiences the feeling of bliss or excessive happiness throughout the story. On the way to her house, Bertha feels a blissful feeling that "burned in her bosom and sending out a little shower of sparks into every particle, into every finger and toe" (Shape and Substance, 238). When she looks on herself in the mirror, she

also overcomes with happiness. Through the reflection of the mirror, Bertha is described as a woman who is "radiant with smiling, trembling lips, with big, dark eyes and an air of listening, waiting for something (239)". Through Bertha's expression, the writer notices that Bertha feels excessive happiness because she believes that something pleasant will happen to add her contentedness in life. Actually, the reflection of the mirror also shows the irony that Bertha should accept at the end of the story. However, she does not realize that she will lose all her blissful feeling when she witnesses a disagreeable scene at the end of the story. Her excessive happiness still surrounds her at the time she enters the nursery and holds her baby. Her blissful feeling comes to the peak when she sees the pear tree in her garden. The tall, slender pear tree in fullest, richest bloom has attracted Bertha that she also perceives "the lovely pear tree with its wide-open blossom as a symbol of her own life (242)". As the tree stands tall, slender and blooming, Bertha Young also thinks that her life is also beautiful and perfect as the pear tree:

Really - she had everything. She was young. Harry and she were as much in love as ever, and they were really good pals. She had an adorable baby. They didn't have to worry about money. They had this satisfactory house and garden. And friends - modern, thrilling friends, writers and painters and

poets or people keen on social questions - just the kind of friends they wanted (243).

As a matter of fact, Bertha's life is really perfect and contented. She does not have to be worried since she has everything. However, since she is too naïve and she is deluded by her excessive happiness, she does not realize about the painful reality concerning her husband's relationship with Miss Fulton, her new friend.

In a similar way, Miss Brill also shows a characteristic of being innocent. Usually, an old person may be perceived as a mature or grown up person since she has experienced a lot of things throughout her life. However, in "Miss Brill", Katherine Mansfield presents an old woman who still has nature of being innocent and unaware of the fact that she is actually old and lonely. Different from the three characters above, Miss Brill's character is revealed through her own feeling and thinking. Throughout the story, she neither talks nor speaks to anyone. Although she comes to the park every Sunday, she is not engaged in conversation with the other characters. Rather, she has her own world, her illusionary world, in which she regards herself as an "actress" and the park is the stage where she plays her part every Sunday. As an old woman, Miss Brill also has significant characteristic of listening to other people's conversation and watching their action in the park. The prove that Miss

Brill is unaware with her own condition can be seen through her comment toward the old people who sit on benches and green chairs in front of her:

Other people sat on benches and green chairs; but they were nearly always the same, Sunday after Sunday, and Miss Brill had often noticed - there was something funny about nearly all of them. They were odd, silent, nearly all old, and from the way they stared, they looked as though they'd just come from dark little rooms or even-even cupboards (186-187).

Actually the condition of the people Miss Brill had observed resembles her own condition. As a matter of fact, the one who is odd, silent, old, and isolated is Miss Brill. Although she is in the park, she does not talk to anyone. She actually lives as lonely and isolated old maid in her dark and narrow apartment, which is similar to a cupboard.

Without her awareness, Miss Brill is deluded by her own illusion that the park is a kind of stage and the people in the park is the performers, including her. The pleasant situation in the park really supports Miss Brill in creating an illusionary world. The sound of the music from the band and the people with their various actions have caused her to be deluded:

The tune lifted, lifted, the light shone; and it seemed to Miss Brill that in another moment all of them, all of the whole company, would begin singing. The young ones, the laughing ones who come together, they would begin and the men's voices, very resolute and brave, would join them. And then she too and the others on the benches - they would come in a kind of accompaniment (190).

As the music lifted, Miss Brill's happiness is also heightened. Moreover, in her illusion, she thinks that she would be an actress (188) whose existence is needed every Sunday in the park. As an "actress", she feels that her life is meaningful and needed by others. Therefore, she is happy with her illusionary world and she is not aware of her own condition.

Through these four female characters; Laura, Leila, Miss Brill, and Bertha Young, the writer finds that their characterization as innocence women support their experience of being disillusioned from their illusions or mistaken beliefs. Since they are innocence, they are easily deluded when they are faced by pleasant situation. Eventually, their illusion and mistaken beliefs, which they have in their state of innocence, will be destroyed by the conflicts they have with the other characters.

3.2 Female Characters' Incidents with Other Characters Reveal Their Experience of Disillusionment

Besides by means of character, incidents between the female characters and the other characters becomes the mean to reveal the experience of disillusionment. In "The Garden Party", Laura's conflict with her sister and mother and her encounter with the dead carter has disillusioned her from her mistaken belief about death and reveal to her the real condition of poor people. Leila, a naïve girl in "Her First Ball", is disillusioned by a comment of an old fat man who disrupts Leila's illusion of her first dancing party. In "Bliss", the action of Bertha's husband and her friend, Pearl Fulton in front of her eyes, had caused her to be disillusioned from her excessive happiness because of her perfect marriage. Miss Brill, who imagines that she is an actress, has to accept the comment of young couple that she is actually old and unwanted.

By analyzing these four stories, the writer notices that the incidents which disillusioned the female characters can be divided into two results of disillusionment – the incidents which lead them to see the reality of their outer world and the incidents which lead them to become aware of the reality of their own existence. In "The Garden Party" and "Her First Ball", the incidents between the female characters and the other characters are concerning the unveiling of the reality of the outer world. Laura's conflicts with her sister and mother show that her ideal or

mistaken belief about death is opposed by her mother and sister. Meanwhile, Leila's conflict with the old fat man shows that her illusion is destroyed with the reality that the fat man has given to her. Besides conflict between the main female character and the other character, the experience of disillusionment is revealed through the incidents between the main female characters and the other characters. Laura starts to learn new fact about death after she encounters the dead carter's serene face.

In contrast, the incidents which the adults of the other two stories experience is the unveiling of Bertha and Miss Brill's own existence. Bertha Young in "Bliss" is awakened from her illusion after unconsciously notices her husband's action toward Miss Fulton. Miss Brill also unaccidentally hears two young lovers' conversation and she begins to aware that she is actually old and unwanted.

Laura's conflict with her sister and mother has caused her to realize the distinction between the upper class people and the lower class people. The first conflict she experiences with her sister, Jose, starts when she learns the news of a dead carter. As the writer had described in characterization, Laura is portrayed as a naïve girl. As an innocent girl, she looks different from the other member of her family. As a girl who is raised up in a rich family, she does not know exactly the condition of the poor people below her house. As a result, the news of the death of a person who lives in the poor cottages below her house means something

horrible and painful to her. Therefore, the news of death has caused her to urge to stop the party. She asks her sister to stop the band since she thinks that the sound will disturb the poor carter's family. However, Jose perceives Laura's idea as being extravagant and absurd. She also sharply criticizes Laura as "leading strenuous life if she stops a band from playing every time someone has an accident (77)."

As a matter of fact, the conflict between Laura and her sister is similar to the conflict between Laura and her mother. In her innocent mind, Laura thinks that her mother would support her idea of cancelling the party. She thinks that as a good neighbour, her family has to be concerned with the suffering of the dead carter's family by delaying the party. Laura's idea shows her innocence of the class distinction between the upper class and the lower class. However, to Laura's astonishment, her mother reacts in the same way as her sister has done earlier. Moreover, her mother comments that Laura's idea is absurd and not using common sense. Moreover, her mother also gives comment which open Laura's eyes on the class distinction between the rich and the poor. Through Laura's conflict, the writer notes that Laura's mistaken belief about death and her idea of postponing the party is opposed by their own family. As innocent girl, Laura tends to use her emotion rather than perceiving the problem as it really is. Through the conflict with her mother and sister, Laura becomes aware of the class distinction imposed by her family that

there is a deep gap between the upper class people and the lower class people. Therefore, according to her sister and mother, the problem of the poor people has no relationship with the garden party they have arranged.

Besides the external conflicts with her sister and mother which reveals the distinction between the rich and the poor, Laura's encounter with the dead carter has awakened her from her mistaken belief about death. As the writer described before, as an innocent girl, Laura has never seen or heard about death before. Therefore, she feels shocked when she hears the news of death in the mid of her happiness she will experience in her garden party. However, her coming to the little cottage after the party ends has changed her mistaken belief about death. At first, she thought that death means something horrible and painful. Moreover, her experience of entering into the dead carter's house and seeing the death carter in his bed, her mistaken belief is destroyed:

There lay a young man, fast asleep – sleeping so soundly, so deeply, that he was far, far away from them both. Oh, so remote, so peaceful. He was dreaming... What did garden parties and baskets and lace frocks matter to him? He was far from all those things. He was wonderful, beautiful. While

they were laughing and while the band was playing, this marvel had come to the lane. Happy...happy (86)

The sight of the dead carter has awakened Laura from her mistaken belief. As an innocent girl, she thinks that a little gift from the garden party will make the family of the dead carter happy. Moreover, she thinks that she will see the horrible and painful condition of someone who is dead. However, her experience has disillusioned her from her mistaken belief and led her to see the other side of death. Death, which Laura perceives, is not horrible and painful as she has thought. Death means eternal happiness compared to the garden party which she has had a while earlier. Through her experience, Laura is led from the stage of innocence to a more mature girl who is able to understand death as one of the realities.

In "Her First Ball", Leila's illusion about the happy dancing party is destroyed by her acquaintance with an old fat man in the dancing room. The appearance of the old fat man is significant in this story since he is the only old person among the young people. First, he appears when the couples compare the program with each other and the old man compares his program with Leila. However, he disappears again when the band starts playing (196). Secondly, he appears to Leila after she has danced with two young men. At that time, his appearance is more significant. He

looks shabby, his waistcoat is creased, and there is a button off his glove and his coat looks as if it is dusty with French chalk (199). As an antagonist character, he is placed in this story to reveal the reality of the dancing party to Leila. Through the encounter between Leila and the old man, Leila's illusion of eternal happiness she gets from the ball is gone. As the writer has described in the characterization, Leila's innocence has caused her to be excited when she is attending the ball for the first time. She thinks that her life has changed from a silent and solitary life in the country to a dazzling and beautiful life of the ball. As a young girl, she thinks that she is in the beginning of her happiness (199). However, the comment of the old fat man when he is dancing with her, has disillusioned her:

"You cannot hope to last anything like as long as that. No-o," said the old fat man," long before that you'll be sitting up there on the stage, looking on, in your nice black velvet. And these pretty arms will have turned into little short fat ones. And you'll smile away like the poor old dears up there, and point to your daughter, and tell the elderly lady next to you how some dreadful man tried to kiss her at the club ball(200).

Compared to Leila, who is attending the ball for the first time, the old man is more experienced than she is. Therefore, he can tell her that the reality of the ball is not as beautiful and pleasant as she thinks. As Leila chats with her fat old dancing partner, she learns a depressing fact about her future. Her first dance, as the old man points out, is the beginning of her last. After the dancing are finished, Leila would find no happiness anymore. Like the old women who sit watching on the stage, she will also join the masses of women from whom youth and life is over. This fact shows to Leila that when she gets old, she cannot enjoy the ball anymore. Moreover, he also states that the people in the ball are not kind and lovely people as Leila has perceived in the beginning of the dancing party since there are also some dreadful men who try to kiss the girls. The old man's comment about the reality of the dancing party has awakened Leila from her illusion and led her to experience conflict between illusion and reality. On the one hand, she starts to believe the old man's words and wants to come back to her country home. On the other hand, she is not willing to leave the happiness she gets from the ball. However, she finally ignores the reality and absorbs the happiness of the ball again.

All of the incidents experienced by Laura in "The Garden Party" and Leila in "Her First Ball" are obvious since they are revealed clearly through the conversation between the main characters and the other characters, whereas in "Bliss" and "Miss Brill", the main characters

experience disillusionment after they see or hear other characters' action and words. Therefore, they are not directly involved in the conflicts with the other characters. However, their encounter with the other characters in these two stories help Bertha Young and Miss Brill to wake from their illusionary world. Bertha Young, an innocent wife, is disillusioned from her dreams of having a successful married life. However, through the action of her husband and her new friend, she is awakened from her illusion that she has no perfect husband as she has thought. A critic said that Katherine Mansfield has stated that to enter into a relationship with another person is to be victimized by the one most loved, most trusted (Zinman, 457). In "Bliss", the thesis writer notices that the one who destroys Bertha's happiness is the ones who are considered to close to her; her own husband and her friend. As a matter of fact, Harry is depicted as a perfect husband. In addition, Bertha also thinks that they are perfect couple since they love each other. She also thinks they are perfect couple as revealed in her thought that Harry and she is as much in love as ever, and they get on together splendidly and are really good pals (243). Bertha also thinks that she knows her husband more than others do. Therefore, she believes that her husband is faithful to her. Her firmness that her husband is not interested in Miss Fulton can be seen from Harry's attitude toward Miss Fulton when she sees Harry offers a cigarette to her:

Miss Fulton sank into the lowest, deepest chair and Harry handed round the cigarettes. From the way he stood in front of her, shaking the silver box and saying abruptly: "Egyptian? Turkish? Virginian? They're all mixed up." Bertha realized that she - Miss Fulton not only bored him; he really disliked her (248).

Bertha thinks that Harry dislikes Miss Fulton's appearance. Therefore, she is not aware that Harry is actually interested in Miss Fulton. However, what Bertha sees at the end of dinner has destroyed her illusion that she has everything every woman wants to have. Actually, her husband is not as faithful as she has thought and her friend is not as good as she believes. Disillusionment happens when Bertha sees with her own eyes about the affair between her husband and her friend:

And she saw...Harry with Miss Fulton's coat in his arms and Miss Fulton with her back turned to him and her head bent. He tossed the coat away, put his hands on her shoulders and turned her violently to him. His lips said, "I adore you," and Miss Fulton laid her moonbeam fingers on his cheeks and smiled her sleepy smile...he whispered, "tomorrow", and with her eyelids Miss Fulton said "yes" (250).

Compared to Laura and Leila's experiences of disillusionment, Bertha Young's disillusionment occurs because she accidentally notice her husband when he accompanies Miss Fulton to wait for a taxi in front of the house. Bertha also accidentally hears that her husband makes a date with Miss Fulton. Although she does not directly have conflict with her husband, the experience of seeing her husband's relationship with her friends has violated her illusion.

Similar to Bertha's experience, Miss Brill is awakened from her illusion by hearing the comment of a young couple who sits beside her. Miss Brill, an old spinster, has significant characteristic besides her innocence. Instead of being aware of her existence, she likes to give comment about other people's action around her. Her habit of listening to other's conversation or seeing other's action finally leads her into disillusionment, especially after she hears the comment of two young people:

"No, not now," said the girl. "Not here, I can't"

"But, why" Because of that stupid old thing at the end there?"

asked the boy.

"Why does she come here at all-who wants her? Why doesn't she keep her silly old mug at home?"

The young couple's words have straightforwardly unveil Miss Brill's illusionary world. Through their conversation that Miss Brill hears, she is aware that she is actually old and unwanted. She is not an actress and she also has no part in the park. She is just an old maid who lives in a dark and narrow apartment. The young couple's comment has caused Miss Brill to get out from her illusion and to realize about her own condition.

Through the analysis on the female characters' experience of disillusionment, the writer finds out that they are disillusioned from their pleasant but mistaken belief through the incidents they have with other characters. As a matter of fact, the incident can be seen as conflict in Laura and Leila have experienced. Her sister and mother directly confront Laura's idea. Meanwhile, Leila is directly confronted with the old fat man. Other main female characters experience disillusionment through incidents of seeing or hearing other characters' action, as Bertha, Miss Brill, and Laura have experienced. Besides experiencing conflict directly with her sister and mother, Laura also experiences disillusionment after seeing the dead man's serene face in the little cottage. Whereas Bertha realizes that her condition is not as perfect as she has thought after seeing her husband's affair with her new friend, Miss Fulton. Meanwhile, Miss Brill is disillusioned from her momentary happiness because of the painful remark she overhears from the young couple who sits beside her.

Through the analysis of the female characters' incidents with other characters, the writer finds out that the female characters experience transformation from their illusion or mistaken beliefs to the world of reality. The existence of the other characters in each stories lead the main character into disillusionment. While Laura, Leila, Bertha Young and Miss Brill live in their illusionary world, Laura's mother and sister, the old man in "Her First Ball", Bertha Young's husband and her friend, and the young couple in "Miss Brill" take side in the reality. Their existence in the stories destroy the main female characters' illusion or mistaken beliefs.

In addition, the incidents between the female characters and the antagonists lead to disillusionment which result on disappointment. In "Her First Ball" Leila is disappointed after she learns that the ball does not give eternal happiness to her. The adults in the other stories also feel disappointed since they realize that their condition is not as good and contented as they think. The only positive reaction toward disillusionment comes from Laura. Her encounter with the dead carter has transformed her from a naïve girl who is afraid of death to a more mature girl who can accept death as a reality of life.

3.3 The Settings of the Stories Convey the Emotional Mood of the Female Characters Before and After Disillusionment

After analyzing characterization and incidents which reveal the female characters experience of being unveiled from their illusion and mistaken beliefs, the thesis writer will continue to analyze the setting of these four stories. As the writer has stated, setting in reference to a work of literature includes time and place of the story. It functions as a background of a story. Besides functioning as the background, sometimes a setting also has important function of conveying the characters' emotional mood. In this case, the emotional mood refers to the state of one's feeling or mind at a particular time (Oxford Learner Dictionary,). As the writer has analyzed in the characterization and conflict, the thesis writer perceives that the characters experience disillusionment. As women who are disillusioned from their false and mistaken beliefs, the female characters show different emotional mood before and after their experience. When they still live in pleasant situation, they seem to live in illusionary world. They feel happy and excited because they thought that the world is a beautiful and pleasant place to live in. In contrast, when they are brought from pleasant situation and being disillusioned, they are faced with the reality which is disagreeable and unpleasant. Therefore, they feel disappointed and sad. In this case, the involvement of two

contrasting settings in each story to reveal the emotional mood of the female characters show the mood of the female characters in the state of illusion and when they are disillusioned.

Katherine Mansfield's stories, including those which are being analyzed in this thesis, are rich of significant details of settings which affect the theme of these stories. The settings in each of the stories functions not just as a background but also as a tool to create atmosphere which support the character's experience of disillusionment. Through the incidents between the female characters and the antagonists, the thesis writer finds out that the female characters experience transformation between illusion and reality. Therefore, in each stories the author provides two contradictory settings which reveal the female characters' transformation from the world of illusion to the world of reality. On the one hand, the settings of the garden party, the ball, Bertha's garden and the park gives a beautiful and pleasant atmosphere in which the female characters live happily in their illusionary world. On the other hand, the little cottage, Leila's country home, the hall where Bertha witnesses the betrayal of her husband and her friend, and the dark and narrow apartment where Miss Brill lives are portrayed as disagreeable, dark, gloomy and solitary places. These settings refer to the reality which actually have to be accepted by them.

First of all, the settings in "The Garden Party", "Her First Ball", "Bliss" and "Miss Brill" resembles the contrasting scene between the characters' illusionary world and the world of reality. Laura, an innocent girl in "The Garden Party" lives between the illusionary world of the garden party and the reality of the little cottage, the place where poor people live. Similar to Laura, as a girl who is transferred from innocence to experience, Leila also lives within two contradictory world - the world of reality of the dark and lonely country home and the illusionary world of the ball. The other female characters in "Bliss" and "Miss Brill" also experience conflict between illusion and reality that can be seen from the setting. Bertha Young lives in her illusionary world when she sees the pear tree in her garden. Meanwhile, she is brought into reality when she sees the disagreeable scene between her husband and her new friend in the hall. Lastly, Miss Brill's dark and narrow apartment where she lives alone represent the reality that she is actually lonely and isolated. In contrast, the park she goes every Sunday represents her illusionary world in which she dreams of becoming an "actress".

The garden party, the dancing room, the park, and Bertha's garden are settings which show that the female characters live in illusion. Katherine Mansfield portrayed those settings so beautifully that affect the main characters to be deluded. In the beginning of "The Garden Party", the author portrays an atmosphere of an ideal and perfect weather to hold

a garden party (65). Moreover, the party itself is so full of perfect things, beautiful flowers, delicious food, lovely people that cause Laura to be unaware of the situation outside the garden party. Like the garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve knows nothing of evil and wrong, Laura is also unaware of the existence of class distinction between the rich and the poor. She perceives that the world she lives as beautiful and perfect as the garden party gives to her.

Similar to the garden party, the dancing room also becomes a setting which represent Leila's illusionary world. As a naïve girl, who is for the first time going to the ball, the atmosphere of the ball makes her absorbed by illusion. As a place that represents Leila in her state of happiness, the ball is portrayed so beautifully and glamorously that Leila is deceived by it:

The road was bright on either side with moving fan - like lights, and on the pavement gay couples seemed to float through the air, little satin shoes chased each other like birds (193).

Moreover, Leila is so fascinated by the golden floor, the azaleas, the lanterns, the stage and the band in a corner that she perceives everything as "simply heavenly " (195). Therefore, she unconsciously is sunk into

excessive happiness because of her illusion of the beautiful and pleasant dancing party.

In "Miss Brill", the setting which reveals Miss Brill's feeling when she lives in her illusion is a park called Jardin Publiques. Similar to the atmosphere of the garden party, the perfect atmosphere of Sunday afternoon is described at the beginning of the story. The weather when Miss Brill decides to go to the Jardin Publiques is shown as "brilliantly fine, the blue sky powdered with gold and great spots of light like white wine splashed over the Jardin Publiques" (185). This Sunday in which the author chooses to reveal Miss Brill's experience of disillusionment is also different from other Sunday when Miss Brill usually goes to the park:

There were a number of people out this afternoon, far more than last Sunday. And the band sounded louder and gayer. That was because the Season had begun. For although the band played all the year round on Sundays, out of season it was never the same (185).

The atmosphere in the park, which is different from the other Sunday, has aroused Miss Brill's emotional mood. She becomes excessively happy and overwhelmed with her feeling. The band and the people with all of their various actions have helped her to create in her own mind an illusion

of a stage where all people perform their act. In this stage, Miss Brill also perceives herself as an actress who has a role to perform every Sunday in the park (188). The situation in the park has deceived Miss Brill from the reality of her existence as lonely and unwanted old maid.

The pear tree in Bertha Young's garden also shows that Bertha is happy as a woman who lives in illusionary world. The tall, slender and blossoming pear tree has fascinated Bertha so much that she perceives it as the symbol of herself (*Shape and Substance*, 242). The beautiful and glamorous appearance of the pear tree causes her to perceive herself as a perfect and contented housewife. When she perceives the pear tree, the feeling of bliss or excessive happiness come into her inner being.

Besides settings which heighten an illusionary world in the female characters' experience, Katherine Mansfield also creates contrasting settings, the settings that show the female characters' emotional mood after the experience of disillusionment. These settings also show the real condition of the female characters in reality. The little cottage, the country home, the hall where Bertha notices the betrayal of her beloved husband and friend, and Miss Brill's dark and narrow apartment, show that the female characters cannot avoid their existence in reality.

The little cottage where the poor people live in "The Garden Party" shows a real condition of the poor people that Laura is unaware before. There is a contrasting atmosphere between the atmosphere of the garden

party and the atmosphere of the little cottage when Laura decides to see the dead carter in the little cottage. The atmosphere of the party is full of happiness whereas the atmosphere of the little cottage is disagreeable - dark, smoky, and gloomy. The place where Laura lives and the place where the poor people dwell also show the contrasting distinction between the upper class and the lower class. Laura's house is located on top of the hill while the little cottages are in a lane to themselves at the very bottom of a steep rise that led up to the house (77). The contrasting atmosphere between Laura's illusion and the reality is revealed at the time Laura steps out from her garden. At that time, "the prefect afternoon slowly ripened, slowly faded, slowly its petal closed" (81). Here, the atmosphere is changed from bright to dark, from happy to a disagreeable condition:

It was just growing dusky as Laura shut the garden gates. A big dog ran by like a shadow. The road gleamed white, and down below in the hollow, the little cottages were in deep shade (83).

The time when Laura steps out of her garden resembles Laura's change from her illusion of the garden party to the reality of the condition of poor people that she is unaware before. Laura's emotional mood is changed as

the setting of the story moves from the beautiful and pleasant garden party into disagreeable and unpleasant little cottages. In the little cottage, Laura starts to realize that her appearance is different from the other people. At that time, she eagerly wants to retreat to her pleasant home. However, she cannot resist the force that encourages her to come forward into the death carter's cottage. However, the changing situation from the garden party to the little cottage helps Laura to be mature and to realize the condition of the outer world.

In "Her First Ball", Leila first experiences transformation from the reality to the illusionary world as portrayed from her moving from the dark and quiet country home to the lively and glamorous ball. The atmosphere of the country home, which is dark, silent and mournful (199) shows that Leila's life is also dark and solitary. At home, she neither has friends nor neighbors since her neighbors are fifteen miles away (192). The darkness and quietness of her house also make her shy. The ball she attends has the opposite atmosphere from her country home. If her home is dark and mournful, the ball has opened "dazzling bright" to her (199). The situation of the ball has changed her from her "rush of longing" she has when she sits on her veranda of her country home to a "rush of joy so sweet that it is hard to bear alone" (195). The ball has created an illusionary world to Leila that the world of the ball she lives in is beautiful and promises eternal happiness for a young woman like her.

Bertha Young in "Bliss" also lives between illusion and reality as shown in the settings of this story. The pear tree, which stands in the midst of Bertha's garden, represent the world of illusion or the happiness Bertha experiences since she thinks that she has everything in her thirties. However, Bertha does not realize that in the garden she does not only see the pear tree but also two cats - "a grey cat, dragging its belly, creep across the lawn and a black one, its shadow, trail after" (242). The last scene she sees, is actually the foreshadowing of disillusionment that she has to accept. The scene of two cats represents the scene in the hall in which she witnesses the betrayal of her husband and her new friend whom she adores. Therefore, the setting, unconsciously shows that Bertha is actually not a happy and contented wife. The scene in the setting also unveils Bertha's own condition that although her life is as rich and contented as the pear tree, she is actually lonely and deceived.

The changing atmosphere between the atmosphere in the park and the atmosphere in Miss Brill's apartment shows the changing of Miss Brill's illusionary world to her life in reality. In illusionary world, which is represented by the park's festivity, Miss Brill thinks that she is not old, lonely and unwanted. She perceives herself as an "actress" along with the other people in the park. On the contrary, the dark and narrow apartment in which Miss Brill lives represents the reality of her existence. In her little and dark apartment, which is similar to a cupboard rather than a nice

apartment (191), Miss Brill is actually a lonely and isolated old maid. In the park, she can be excited and joyful because the sound of music and the various people seems to create some kind of scene in which she is also involved inside the drama of life. However, her coming back to the dark and narrow apartment has caused her to be disappointed since her apartment represents her condition as lonely and old maid.

Through the analysis on the settings of these four stories, the writer finds out how the settings convey the characters' emotional mood before and after the experience of disillusionment. When they still live in illusion, they feel happy and pleasant as seen from the beautiful and pleasant settings of the garden party, the dancing ballroom, the garden where the pear tree stands proudly, and the Jardin Publiques. However, the experience of disillusionment, as seen from the incidents they have with the antagonists have changed them to be disappointed and sad since they are delivered to see the reality either of the outer world or their own existence