

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter tries to answer the statement of the problem. The first part is to describe the character of Huckleberry Finn as the main character and the second is to explore the existence of Huckleberry Finn in the novel.

3.1. The Character and Characterization of Huckleberry Finn

Huckleberry Finn becomes the main character in this novel since he is always mentioned in the story. He also becomes the object of the story. From the beginning, he has a big role to build this story up. From the previous chapter, it has explained about the character in the novel. Depend on the types of character in fictional literature, Huckleberry Finn as the main character in the story belongs into major character which is sometimes called a protagonist. This type of character is explained in the previous chapter that major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. The protagonist may not always be admirable (e.g. an anti-hero); nevertheless s/he must command involvement on the part of the reader, or better yet, empathy.

This type of character is also the same with the character of Huckleberry Finn that becomes an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme and also the command involvement on the part of empathy in the story. It can be seen in the beginning of the story, Huckleberry Finn shows an impolite act to someone who is older than him like Miss Watson and also when Huckleberry Finn wants to smoke in the house. Below is the quotation:

After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers, and I was in a sweat to find out all about him; but by and by she let it out that Moses had been dead a considerable long time; so then I didn't care no more about him, because I don't take no stock in dead people (Twain 2).

From the quotation, we can know the impolite act of Huckleberry Finn as a boy to someone else who is older than him. He didn't care any more when Miss Watson tried to teach him a book about Moses and the Bulrushers.

Pretty soon I wanted to smoke, and asked the widow to let me. But she wouldn't. She said it was a mean practice and wasn't clean, and I must try to not do it any more. That is just the way with some people. They get down on a thing when they don't know nothing about it. Here she was a-bothering about Moses, which was no kin to her, and no use to anybody, being gone, you see, yet finding a power of fault with me for doing a thing that had some good in it. And she took snuff, too; of course that was all right, because she done it herself (Twain 2).

From that quotation, we can see Huckleberry Finn wants to smoke at home but Miss Watson does not allow him. He feels bothered by Miss Watson because he didn't allow smoking at home and Miss Watson still learns him about Moses.

Besides having an impolite act to someone else who is older than him, Huckleberry Finn is also a naughty boy. It can be seen as the researcher said before when Huckleberry Finn is playing together with his best friend Tom Sawyer and join the robber gang. We can see the quotations below:

because even though he is still a child but his playing is dangerous for someone else.

Then at the time when Huckleberry Finn really wants to feel freedom from his boredom life which is under the rules of Widow Douglas and also his drunken Pap Finn. The quotations below:

So he watched out for me one day in the spring, and caughted me, and took me up the river about three mile in a skiff, and crossed over to the Illinois shore where it was woody and there warn't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the timber was so thick you couldn't find it if you didn't know where it was (Twain 25).

That quotation shows the beginning of Pap Finn caught Huckleberry Finn to bring him away from Widow Douglas. But Huckleberry Finn didn't want it, what he wants is being freedom from Widow Douglas and also Pap Finn. So that, on the way Pap Finn bring him away, Huckleberry Finn tried hard to escape from his Pap Finn which is like in the quotation below:

He got to going away so much, too, and locking me in. Once he locked me in and was gone three days. It was dreadful lonesome. I judged he had got drowned, and I wasn't ever going to get out any more. I was scared. I made up my mind I would fix up some way to leave there. I had tried to get out of that cabin many a time, but I couldn't find no way (Twain 26).

This shook me up considerable, because I didn't want to go back to the widow's any more and be so cramped up and sivilized, as they called it (Twain 27).

From the quotations, we can know that Huckleberry Finn didn't want to live together with his Pap Finn so that he really tried hard to escape himself from his Pap. But he also didn't want to go back again to live with Widow Douglas. Because he didn't want to live under the rules of someone else. He wants to being free from all the pressure given by Pap Finn and Widow Douglas.

Huckleberry Finn has an impolite act and being a naughty boy because he feels a lonely life in Widow Douglas's home all the time. He wants to feels freedom in his life. Huckleberry Finn did like that because he wants to show his identity that being as a child, all he wants is only doing what he wants without being under the rules of someone else.

Even though Huckleberry Finn shows his identity as a child with impolite act and become a naughty boy, but there were also a progress of Huckleberry Finn who became a good boy. It can be seen at some points when Huckleberry Finn begins to feel empathy to Jim who is being Miss Watson's slave and his heroic act to help Jim. Those some points were showed in the quotations below:

Then I says:

“How do you come to be here, Jim, and how'd you get here?”

He looked pretty uneasy, and didn't say nothing for a minute. Then he says:

“Maybe I better not tell.”

“Now, old Jim, you’re a free man again, and I bet you won’t ever be a slave no more.”

“En a mighty good job it wuz, too, Huck. It ‘uz planned beautiful, en it ‘uz done beautiful; en dey ain’t *nobody* kin git up a plan dat’s mo’ mixed-up en splendid den what dat one wuz.”

We was all glad as we could be, but Tom was the gladdest of all because he had a bullet in the calf of his leg (Twain 277).

From that quotation, we can see the heroic action when Huckleberry Finn helped by his friend Tom Sawyer did the escaping plan for the nigger Jim. Finally, the nigger Jim being a free man and not under slavery again. Even though after escaping Jim, Huckleberry Finn’s friend named Tom Sawyer had a bullet in his leg.

We can imagine how heroic was Huckleberry Finn in this case during the plans of escaping Jim. But Huckleberry Finn didn’t do it alone; he was accompanied by his best friend who likes an adventure like this named Tom Sawyer. Both of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer are still child but their actions when help Jim to escape himself are really astonishing.

After knowing the character of Huckleberry Finn in the story, now the researcher analyzed the characterization of Huckleberry Finn in the story. As we know in the previous chapter about the characterization which is described as the author simply presents the characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind what they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character’s inner

thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events (Abrams 33). Characterization has two types there are direct and indirect characterizations.

In this story the characterization of Huckleberry Finn belongs to the indirect characterization. Because as we know about the explanation of indirect characterization is when the author shows the character in action, and lets the reader interpret what these actions reveal about the character. It also occurs when the narrative reveals a character's trait/s implicitly, through his or her speech, behavior, thoughts, appearance, and so on. In the story the narrator shows the character of Huckleberry Finn by his behavior and actions in the story. After that the researcher tried to interpret the character from those behavior and actions which delivered by the narrator in the story.

3.2. The Existence of Huckleberry Finn

It has been explained in the previous chapter that existentialism is a philosophy that emphasizes the individual existence, freedom and choice. As we know existentialism believes that individuals are entirely free and must take personal responsibility for them. It can be seen in the character of Huckleberry Finn as the main character in the story. The existentialism here was shown by Huckleberry Finn's actions in the story. There are many concepts of human existence by Jean Paul Sartre that applies in the story such as freedom, choice, responsibility and humanity. Those concepts of human existence were suitable with Huckleberry Finn's actions in the story to prove the existential side of him in the story.

From those quotations, we can know that Huckleberry Finn really want to join this gang to playing together with his friends. Because by joining a robber group, Huckleberry could feel a freedom like playing with no rules like in the Widow Douglas's house. So that he ignores the danger of the game and also the oath of the gang if it was denied. Beside that he also makes Miss Watson being his assurance to join this robber gang. Huckleberry Finn also said that he could feel freedom whenever he was playing together with his best friend Tom Sawyer. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and she said not by a considerable sight. I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together. (Twain 3).

Besides under the rules given in Widow Douglas's home, he also wants to be free from his Pap Finn. So that, Huckleberry Finn wants to get freedom where he can do everything he want without being under the rules of someone else.

Well, *wasn't* he mad? He said he would show who was Huck Finn's boss. So he watched out for me one day in the spring, and caught me, and took me up the river about three mile in a skiff, and crossed over to the Illinois shore where it was woody and there warn't no houses but an old log hut in a place where the timber was so thick you couldn't find it if you didn't know where it was (Twain 25).

In that quotation, we can see how Pap Finn wants to bring Huckleberry Finn to live together with him so that Huckleberry Finn could be obedient on him and not on Widow Douglas. But Huckleberry didn't agree with it. It makes Pap Finn got

sky looks ever so deep when you lay down on your back in the moonshine; I never knowed it before (Twain 37).

From the quotations, we can know how Huckleberry Finn enjoys his freedom. He can do what he wants in there like he can smoke his pipe and enjoy the beautiful views which he can't do it before. But Huckleberry Finn didn't stay in there for a long time. So that he will go to somewhere to continue his way to get another freedom that he wants. He continues to Jackson's Island. Because he knows that Jackson's Island was a place anybody won't go there. The quotation below:

All right; I can stop anywhere I want to. Jackson's Island is good enough for me; I know that island pretty well, and nobody ever comes there. And then I can paddle over to town nights, and slink around and pick up things I want. Jackson's Island's the place (Twain 36).

From the quotation, we can know why Huckleberry Finn chooses Jackson's Island become his run away destination. It is because this Island is never visited by anybody. So that, he thought his Pap Finn and Widow Douglas won't hunt and catch him here. But the reality reversed, because Huckleberry Finn noticed if there was Pap Finn near Jackson's Island who comes to hunted him.

Most everybody was on the boat. Pap, and Judge Thatcher, and Bessie Thatcher, and Jo Harper, and Tom Sawyer, and his old Aunt Polly, and Sid and Mary, and plenty more. Everybody was talking about the murder, but the captain broke in and says:

Because Huckleberry Finn thought that he and Jim have the same purpose which to get a freedom. It makes Huckleberry Finn wants to help Jim to be free from his slavery.

Jim said it made him all over trembly and feverish to be so close to freedom. Well, I can tell you it made me all over trembly and feverish, too, to hear him, because I begun to get it through my head that he *was* most free—and who was to blame for it? Why, *me*. I couldn't get that out of my conscience, no how nor no way. It got to troubling me so I couldn't rest; (Twain 91)

From the quotation, we can know Huckleberry Finn have been thought hard of how the way to make Jim create his dream being a real free man. But Huckleberry Finn also didn't want to break the law because of helping the run away of slave. Huckleberry Finn confused of what is the decision that he must take for Jim.

I tried to make out to myself that I warn't to blame, because I didn't run Jim off from his rightful owner; but it warn't no use, conscience up and says, every time, "But you knowed he was running for his freedom, and you could a paddled ashore and told somebody." That was so— I couldn't get around that noway. That was where it pinched. Conscience says to me, "What had poor Miss Watson done to you that you could see her nigger go off right under your eyes and never say one single word? (Twain 91)

I got to feeling so mean and so miserable I most wished I was dead
(Twain 91).

From the quotations, Huckleberry Finn shows his dilemma cause of thinking the freedom for Jim. He feels dilemma because he didn't want to breaking the law of the run away slave from his legal owner but at the other side Jim also became his friend since they have the same purpose. Finally, Huckleberry Finn can take a decision of his confusion about Jim.

Thinks I, this is what comes of my not thinking. Here was this nigger, which I had as good as helped to run away, coming right out flat-footed and saying he would steal his children—children that belonged to a man I didn't even know; a man that hadn't ever done me no harm
(Twain 92).

In that quotation, Huckleberry Finn wants to make Jim being freedom not only because he was being a friend for him but also he felt pity after Jim told him about Jim's daughter he didn't see for a long time. So that Huckleberry Finn really wants to help Jim being a real free man forever.

Huckleberry Finn did many ways to make Jim's freedom become true. In this case Huckleberry Finn was not alone; there was Tom Sawyer who also wants to helps him for Jim's escapes till Jim become a real free man forever. There were some ways that show how difficult Huckleberry Finn and his best friend Tom Sawyer struggle to get the freedom for Jim.

Jim's the prisoner. All right—I'm glad we found it out detective fashion;

I wouldn't give shucks for any other way. Now you work your mind, and study out a plan to steal Jim, and I will study out one, too; and we'll take the one we like the best." (Twain 234)

"My plan is this," I says. "We can easy find out if it's Jim in there. Then get up my canoe tomorrow night, and fetch my raft over from the island. Then the first dark night that comes steal the key out of the old man's britches after he goes to bed, and shove off down the river on the raft with Jim, hiding daytimes and running nights, the way me and Jim used to do before (Twain 235).

From the quotations, it shows that both Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer brainstorm ways to try any plans to make Jim escaped soon. But their plans didn't success quickly, they failed again and again. But they won't give up to help Jim.

We see it warn't no use; we got to go and fetch Jim So he raised up his bed and slid the chain off of the bed-leg, and wrapt it round and round his neck, and we crawled out through our hole and down there, and Jim and me laid into that grindstone and walked her along like nothing; and Tom superintended. He could out-superintend any boy I ever see. He knowed how to do everything.

Our hole was pretty big, but it warn't big enough to get the grindstone through; but Jim he took the pick and soon made it big enough (Twain 263).

