

CHAPTER III

SOCIAL TRADITION IN “THE LOTTERY AND FAMILY VALUES IN “CHARLES” BY SHIRLEY JACKSON’S SHORT STORIES

In this chapter, the researcher analyzes social tradition in “The Lottery and family values in “Charles” by Shirley Jackson. Here, the researcher explains the relevant data according to the problems stated in the first chapter. The data is taken from the paragraphs and from the conversation among the characters in both short stories.

For the first part, the researcher analyzes the social tradition that happens in “The Lottery” short story. The second part, the researcher analyzes social tradition that happens in “Charles” short story and the last problem, the researcher analyzes the function of social tradition in “The Lottery” and family values in “Charles” towards the society in the story. All those problems are analyzed based on Sociological Approach.

3.1 Social tradition in Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery”.

“The Lottery” is one of the short stories written by Shirley Jackson.

This short story tells about an annual ritual that happens in a village. The ritual is called a lottery. The first paragraph of the short story tells the time of the lottery.

“The morning of June 27th was clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day; the flowers were blossoming

profusely and the grass was richly green. The people of the village began to gather in the square, between the post office and the bank, around ten o'clock; in some towns there were so many people that the lottery took two days and had to be started on June 2th. but in this village, where there were only about three hundred people, the whole lottery took less than two hours, so it could begin at ten o'clock in the morning and still be through in time to allow the villagers to get home for noon dinner. (1)

The above quotation explains that the lottery happens in summer. It is in the morning of June 27th. The lottery starts at ten o'clock and takes two hours to finish. It is an obligation for every people of the village to follow it.

As the village's annual event, the lottery itself becomes social tradition of the village. It is because the lottery is representing the social contract, the social norms, and the social hierarchies of the village. The lottery represents the social contract because it has been held for very long time. It is expressed by Old Man Warner who is the oldest man of the village: "Seventy-seventh year I been in the lottery," Old Man Warner said as he went through the crowd. "Seventy-seventh time." (4).

The quotation proves that even it is not stated, but the people of the village agree to have it every year for seventy seven times. It means that there is such an unwritten contract between the people to keep the lottery happens every year.

The lottery also represents the norm of the villagers because it demands every villager to join the event: “The children assembled first, of course. ... Soon the men began to gather. ... The women, wearing faded house dresses and sweaters, came shortly after their menfolk. ...” (1). The lottery is also believed to bring peace and prosperity if it is done properly. Old Man Warner said that he used to hear a saying about ‘lottery in June, corn be heavy soon’ (3). It means that the people of the village believe that if they do the lottery, they will get good harvest from their corn fields.

the lottery also represents hierarchy of the village. The lottery is always conducted by the same person from time to time. He is Mr. Summers:

The lottery was conducted—as were the square dances, the teen club, the Halloween program—by Mr. Summers. Who had time and energy to devote to civic activities. He was a round-faced, jovial man and he ran the coal business, and people were sorry for him. Because he had no children and his wife was a scold. When he arrived in the square, carrying the black wooden box, there was a murmur of conversation among the villagers, and he waved and called. "Little late today, folks." The postmaster, Mr. Graves, followed him, carrying a three-legged stool, and the stool was put in the center of the square and Mr. Summers set the black box down on it. ...” (1).

stones in both hands, and she said, gasping for breath. "I ca't run at all. You'll have to go ahead and I'll catch up with you." The children had stones already. And someone gave little Davy Hutchinson a few pebbles." (7).

Tessie Hutchinson was in the center of a cleared space by now, and she held her hands out desperately as the villagers moved on her. "It isn't fair," she said. A stone hit her on the side of the head. Old Man Warner was saying, "Come on, come on, everyone." Steve Adams was in the front of the crowd of villagers, with Mrs. Graves beside him. "It isn't fair, it is't right," Mrs. Hutchinson screamed, and then they were upon her. (7).

The quotations above signify that social tradition may make a wrong action become a right one, and so it is with the lottery. A murder is wrong and forbidden to do, but in the name of social tradition it becomes an ordinary thing to maintain the tritadon in a society.

the lottery became a tradition that has been on the run for years with the norms and beliefs that have been set. It makes most village people believe in the tradition of lottery. However, there are also people who do not agree with this tradition, arguing that the tradition will only hurt the innocent people and the way to do it is an act of sadism or cruelty.

Thus, in every act made will have an effect on anyone who did. In the tradition of lottery, there are also negative and positive effects felt by the people living in the village.

In “The Lottery”, there was an annual tradition that to some people this tradition does not make sense. As Mrs. Hutchinson who feels that tradition is not fair.

Other than Mrs. Hutchinson, there is almost nobody who is brave to say that the lottery tradition is not fair. The village people just keep saying nothing whether they agree or disagree with the tradition. It is shown by the following quotation:

Mr. Summers spoke frequently to the villagers about making a new box, but no one liked to upset even as much tradition as was represented by the black box. There was a story that the present box had been made with some pieces of the box that had preceded it, the one that had been constructed when the first people settled down to make a village here. (1)

The quotation above describes when Mr. Summer explains about his plan of renewing the lottery’s box, but the citizen is only silent. They are doing this because they are afraid to disapprove this tradition that has been held since the first settling of the village.

So, from the above quotation, it is known that all of citizen respect and obey to this tradition. It is because they think that by holding on to this tradition, they will be assigned to luck. They belief that by doing this tradition their harvest will be good and abundant. If they do not do the traditional they will face bad luck and could even fail the harvest. This

Besides Mr. Adam, there is one citizen who did not approve the lottery, she is Mrs. Hutchinson. She was a housewife. From the beginning she did not agree with the tradition so that she always comes too late for the reason that she would forget this day, when the tradition will be held. And this is becoming the talk of the other citizen. In fact, they know that Mrs. Hutchinson had come too late in purpose.

“Just as Mr. Summers finally left off talking and turned to the assembled villagers, Mrs. Hutchinson came hurriedly along the path to the square, her sweater thrown over her shoulders, and slid into place in the back of the crowd. “Clean forgot what day it was,” she said to Mrs. Delacroix, who stood next to her, and they both laughed softly. “Thought my old man was out back stacking wood,” Mrs. Hutchinson went on. “and then I looked out the window and the kids was gone, and then I remembered it was the twentyseventh and came a running.” She dried her hands on her apron, and Mrs. Delacroix said, “You're in time, though. They're still talking away up there”. (2)

In the quotation above, it potrays Mrs. Hutchinson came late to the lottery's tradition. It is an expression or action from her that she did not approve of that tradition, but she covered it with the excuse that she forgot that today the lottery tradition will be conducted.

Mrs. Hutchinson is increasingly tensed when there are just three people left to open the lottery in their hands, and one of them is her

husband, Mr. Hutchison: “Suddenly, all the women Began to speak at once, saving. “Who is it ?,” “Who's got it ?,” “Is it the Dunbars ?,” “Is it the Watsons?” Then the voices Began to say, “It’s Hutchinson. It’s Bill” “Bill Hutchinson’s got it.” ... (5). She immediately felt that this was not fair. She feels this is just an engineering. Mrs. Hutchinson protests to Mr. Summer as the leader of lottery Tradition, to shuffle over and give her husband time to choose again.

“People began to look around to see the Hutchinsons. Bill Hutchinson was standing quiet, staring down at the paper in his hand. Suddenly. Tessie Hutchinson shouted to Mr. Summers. “You didn’t give him time enough to take any paper he wanted. I saw you. It wasn't fair!” . “Be a good sport, Tessie”. Mrs. Delacroix called, and Mrs. Graves said, “All of us took the same chance”. “Shut up, Tessie,” Bill Hutchinson said”. (5).

But the norm is still norm, because the rules have been set and approved, the tradition is still running even though there are some who protest. Tradition still to be continued, because who disagree with their traditions and anyway only a minority of the lower classes, so the protest or advice do not affect the action of tradition. As Mr. Adam and Mrs. Hutcinson who felt that the tradition is not fair, because it contains elements of coercion and torture.

But the tradition is continued, so who gets the black dot on the paper then all family members are entitled to vote and take the paper back in the

black box that already contains paper and one of them will get the black dot. So the head of the family who assigned the black dot will have a chance to be a winner in the tradition of the Lottery. But Mrs. Hutchinson was worried, because by getting black dot, then one family member will become a victim in the tradition this year.

The anxiety of Mrs. Hutchinson is increasing when only she has not opened the paper, while other family members are already open, and the paper they hold is a blank paper. So, most likely the black dot is in her hand. All of the views of citizens were on Mrs. Hutchinson, they were ready to pelt him with stones in their hands. After Mrs. Hutchinson opened it, the black dot is indeed in her. directly Mrs. Hutchinson ran screaming that this is unfair, it's unfair, but all citizens still to throwing the stones to her.

The regulation used in the lottery tradition is that the winner will get a very cruel punishment. The punishment is stoning to death, which is done by all citizen in the village. They threw small stones to the person chosen in the tradition of lottery to death.

“Although the villagers had forgotten the ritual and lost the original black box, they still remembered to use stones. The pile of stones the boys had made earlier was ready; there were stones on the ground with the blowing scraps of paper that had come out of the box Delacroix selected a stone so large she had to pick it up with

not. From her reaction, it implies that Laurie's mother really holds the norms that whoever does wrong should be punished.

That is one reason Laurie creates imaginary character named Charles. It is to cover up his mistakes that are often done at his school. Laurie did such a thing because he wanted to avoid the punishment that will be given to him if his parents know he had done bad thing at school. Therefore, when her mother asked Laurie, about Charles' naughtyness, he turned back and told her that the errors Charles did made all students stay to watch him getting punished by her teacher:

“You know what Charles did?” he demanded, following me through the door. “Charles yelled so in school they sent a boy in from first grade to tell the teacher she had to make Charles keep quiet, and so Charles had to stay after school. And so all the children stayed to watch him.” (2).

The quotation above illustrates that Laurie had understood about the norm in his family. By saying about punishment that is given by the teacher to Charles, and the other classmates stay to see Charles, it is as an example to the others not to do things like that. This is also as a warning for others. This also signifies that the rules at school also represent the norm about getting punishment for doing bad thing. With the norm in force in the family and at school made Laurie thinks to create the imaginary character named Charles to cover the mistakes that he often does so that he won't be punished.

Laurie has known about the norm and rule implied in his family. So, he lied by using a fake character to hide anything about his naughty behavior in his school. Listening to Laurie's story every day, Laurie's mother starts to feel worry and wants to meet Laurie's teacher as soon as possible, to ask something about Charles. However, when Laurie's mother asks about Charles to Laurie's teacher, she said that there is not any student named Charles in the kindergarden: "Charles?" she said. "We don't have any Charles in the kindergarten." (4). This illustrates that Charles is just a character created by Laurie's imagination. and not the real character.

He did it because he did not want to follow the norm in his family and school. Although it is not stated directly, the norms and values in his family and school is implied that a kid should have good attitude. And if he did not do that, he would get the punishment. However, Laurie does not agree with the norms. But he also does not want to be punished if he breaks the norms. So, he creates a new character that can save himself from his parents's punishment.

But as the rule that happen in the story have effect to the member of family, so the effect of family values in this story is that a person may be forced to lie in order to follow the norm. It happens with Laurie. He needs to lie to his parents about his bad behavior to save himself from getting punishment. He lied to his parents about Charles. Laurie always tells the

“On Saturday I remarked to my husband, “Do you think kindergarten is too unsettling for Laurie? All this toughness, and bad grammar, and this Charles boy sounds like such a bad influence.” (2)

With the above statement, it proves that Laurie’s parents feel worried towards his development. They began to observe any existing development in Laurie, because the environment can affect behavior in children, and at the age of Laurie is still very easy to be affected with small things like that. so both Laurie’s parents wanted to meet the parents of Charles. They are curious as to whether parents who have children that bad: “It’ll be all right,” my husband said reassuringly. “Bound to be people like Charles in the world. Might as well meet them now as later.” (2)

Laurie’s parents are not just curious and wanted to meet both Charles’ parents alone, but Laurie’s mother also wanted to see Laurie’s teacher at the time, but her husband said that soon there will be a meeting of parents in their children's school, so he suggests to go to the parent-Teachers meeting only.

“Monday night was the first Parent-Teachers meeting, and only the fact that the baby had a cold kept me from going; I wanted passionately to meet Charles’s mother. On Tuesday Laurie remarked suddenly, “Our teacher had a friend come to see her in school today.” (3)

With these actions it is clear that Laurie’s parents were very curious about the little boy who is always told by Laurie. The curiosity was

increasing when in the third week Laurie said that on this day Charles obey the teacher, helping teachers and some other good action. This makes Laurie's parents felt kind of strange, what actually happened to Charles.

During the third and fourth weeks it looked like a reformation in Charles; Laurie reported grimly at lunch on Thursday of the third week, "Charles was so good today the teacher gave him an apple." "What?" I said, and my husband added warily, "You mean Charles?". "Charles," Laurie said. "He gave the crayons around and he picked up the books afterward and the teacher said he was her helper." (3)

The conversation above describes that Laurie's parents increasingly feel curious and eager to meet Charles. There are a lot of the question in their head. They want to ask Charles' parents and Laurie's teacher, so Laurie's parent can not wait to attend the parent-teacher meeting. So by the time the meeting held, Laurie's mother began looking for a figure who ever is told by Laurie However, she could not find a figure which is the same as it had been told by Laurie. And finally Laurie's mother meet Laurie's teacher. Laurie's mother directly asked about the little boy named Charles, Laurie's classmate:

"Laurie usually adjusts very quickly," I said. "I suppose this time it's Charles's influence.". "Charles?". "Yes," I said, laughing, "you must have your hands full in that kindergarten, with Charles." (4)

family. But besides that, there are rules that set by the family, the norm is the boy must be a good boy. Laurie's mother do this to make the character of Laurie from childhood to profess being a good boy. But Laurie is a naughty child, so he lied to cover up his mistake. By telling the imagination character named Charles. "Charles?" She said. "We do not have any Charles in the kindergarten." (5). This proves that there is no name Charles at school.

But in the third week, Laurie told, that Charles did a good thing today. This indicates that Laurie would change the attitude that during this time he did so by explaining little by little to a child then the child aka understood by itself, and this is proven, that Laurie had known what rule is being applied in the home and family.

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in a group or custom will be deal with the norm or values. So the function of family values in "Charles" is make discipline and afraid to do something wrong, because family values in "Charles" is a boy must be a good boy. so it make a child can learn which one is a good and which one is a bad to do.