

3.1 Victor Frankenstein's Characterization

There are two kinds of characterization, Direct and Indirect Characterization. Direct characterization, author attempted to show the character's characterization directly by using his word. While indirect characterization, author try to makes reader understand about characterization using character personality, how the character build a dialogue and how the character has an effect towards another character inside the novel.

3.1.1 Direct Characterization

A. Genius and Intelligent Man

Direct characterization not only can be seen from brief description, but also from the other characters think about certain someone. And it happen in this novel, which is Victor Frankenstein being described by the other characters.

As a good student of science, Victor often get a praise from his professor. One of it is what M.Krempe said about him. according to M.Krempe, Victor is modest yet he has a good quality of young man. M.Krempe is Victor professor; he knows how Victor behaviour from Victor's ability. According to M.Krempe, Victor has a good quality because he knows that Victor has an excellent sense of knowledge of science. Victor Frankenstein is also a modest young man which according to M.Krempe, Victor resemblance him when he was younger.

M. Krempe with warmth, ‘every instant that you have wasted on those books is utterly and entirely lost. You have burdened your memory with exploded systems and useless names. Good God! In what desert land have you lived, where no one was kind enough to inform you that these fancies which you have so greedily imbibed are a thousand years old and as musty as they are ancient? I little expected, in this enlightened and scientific age, to find a disciple of Albertus Magnus and Paracelsus. My dear sir, you must begin your studies entirely anew.’ (43)

Even M.Krempe already told what is wrong by Victor’s knowledge; Victor cannot accept that and continue to learn. He believes that he has possessed by science. a science theory which he believes. And he believe himself that he has a natural talent to do a science project.

“There only remained a resolution to return to my ancient studies and to devote myself to a science for which I believed myself to possess a natural talent

It can be concluded that the quotation and explanation above shows how Victor behave in his life. He has a strong willingness, although he is kind and nice man, when it comes to his ambition, he may change himself into someone else which he does not think about his surroundings. He left his friend, father and his closest relation to fulfilling his obsession

3.2 Victor Frankenstein’s Existentialism

Based on the existentialism theory by Soren Kierkegaard in previous chapter, Kierkegaard divided Existentialism into three phases that is *Aesthetical stages*,

to remain a day confined to the inn. In this house I chanced to find a volume of the works of Cornelius Agrippa. I opened it with apathy; the theory which he attempts to demonstrate and the wonderful facts which he relates soon changed this feeling into enthusiasm. A new light seemed to dawn upon my mind, and bounding with joy” (34)

After finding the scientist work of Cornelius Agrippa, Victor becomes more interest to science. It leads his obsession grow bigger. Victor’s father already stated that Victor should not waste a time to read Agrippa’s science. But his father only explains that point without further explanation about Agrippa’s theory. It makes Victor more and more curious about science. And it leads him into a big ambition which comes as the result of his boredom and his thinking which is only lead by his emotion without thinking that it would destroy him later.

“If, instead of this remark, my father had taken the pains to explain to me that the principles of Agrippa had been entirely exploded and that a modern system of science had been introduced which possessed much greater powers than the ancient, because the powers of the latter were chimerical, while those of the former were real and practical, under such circumstances I should certainly have thrown Agrippa aside and have contented my imagination, warmed as it was, by returning with greater ardour to my former studies. It is even possible that the train of my ideas would never have received the fatal impulse that led to my ruin. But the cursory glance my father had taken of my volume by no means assured me that he was acquainted with its contents, and I continued to read with the greatest avidity. When I returned home my first care was to procure the whole works of this author, and afterwards of Paracelsus and Albertus Magnus. I read and studied the wild fancies of these writers with delight; they appeared to me treasures known to few besides myself. I have described myself as always having been imbued with a fervent longing to penetrate the secrets of nature” (35)

After he read many book of science, Victor started to have a big imagination that science will make him into a better person. Without anyone to lean on, Victor with his child imagination and blindness started to get thirsty over knowledge. Victor's father is not a scientific person; therefore no one can teach Victor what is right and what is wrong about science. He started to have his own perception of science.

“My father was not scientific, and I was left to struggle with a child's blindness, added to a student's thirst for knowledge. Under the guidance of my new preceptors I entered with the greatest diligence into the search of the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life; but the latter soon obtained my undivided attention. (36)”

Not only about science. Victor thought that science is not enough. Yet, all his writer whom Victor believes is also talking about supernatural element because they are all the ancient writers. Thus, Victor tried to wider his knowledge into supernatural knowledge that is talked about ghost and spirit. He does not know that is not good to read about this without anyone to guide him.

“Nor were these my only visions. The raising of ghosts or devils was a promise liberally accorded by my favourite authors, the fulfillment of which I most eagerly sought; and if my incantations were always unsuccessful, I attributed the failure rather to my own inexperience and mistake than to a want of skill or fidelity in my instructors. And thus for a time I was occupied by exploded systems, mingling, like an unadept, a thousand contradictory theories and floundering desperately in a very slough of multifarious knowledge, guided by an ardent imagination and childish reasoning, till an accident again changed the current of my ideas. (36)”

Unfortunately, Victor experience some confusing moment, where he wants to analyse the law of electricity, eventually the theories he learned from many genius scientist has different explanation. Victor feels like all the great researcher of natural philosophy does not astonish enough for him. And learning all those theories will throw him into fatality. Victor thought it will be useless to learned about that theories. Therefore, he decided to give up of science.

“.....Cornelius Agrippa, Albertus Magnus, and Paracelsus, the lords of my imagination; but by some fatality the overthrow of these men disinclined me to pursue my accustomed studies. It seemed to me as if nothing would or could ever be known.....I at once gave up my former occupations, set down natural history and all its progeny as a deformed and abortive creation, and entertained the greatest disdain for a would-be science which could never even step within the threshold of real knowledge.” (37-38)

But after his mother passed away, Victor started to move to Ingolstadt and starting to study in higher level. Here, Victor met some professors which make his obsession of science back again.

“The next morning I delivered my letters of introduction and paid a visit to some of the principal professors. Chance—or rather the evil influence, the Angel of Destruction, which asserted omnipotent sway over me from the moment I turned my reluctant steps from my father’s door—led me first to M. Krempe, professor of natural philosophy. He was an uncouth man, but deeply imbued in the secrets of his science. (43)”

After meeting the professor from his university, Victor starts to interest in chemistry which has a big role in science. He was starting to read science book over and over again. And asking to his professor about what he does not know.

“From this day natural philosophy, and particularly chemistry, in the most comprehensive sense of the term, became nearly my sole occupation. I read with ardour those works, so full of genius and discrimination, which modern inquirers have written on these subjects. I attended the lectures and cultivated the acquaintance of the men of science of the university, and I found even in M. Krempe a great deal of sound sense and real information, combined, it is true, with a repulsive physiognomy and manners, but not on that account the less valuable.”

His interest over science became an obsession. He feels like he knows every construction of human being over science. He wants to create a creature which is similar with human because he feels he can do that with all the knowledge he already learned in his whole life.

“I doubted at first whether I should attempt the creation of a being like myself, or one of simpler organization; but my imagination was too much exalted by my first success to permit me to doubt of my ability to give life to an animal as complete and wonderful as man”

The paragraph above said that Victor has too much imagination because his first work of science has been successful. It leads Victor to be greedier with his ability. And he decided to create a creature which is in it process, it causes many things happen in Victors life. Besides, when Victor has already meet professor Waldman, he felt obsessed by what M.Waldman done, he obsessed over M.Waldman science experiment and M.Waldman ancient studies of science. Victor started to have a hallucination and imagination about making new experiment of science which can make him become stronger. Aesthetical stage of person occurs when human only

“I trembled excessively; I could not endure to think of, and far less to allude to, the occurrences of the preceding night. I walked with a quick pace, and we soon arrived at my college. I then reflected, and the thought made me shiver, that the creature whom I had left in my apartment might still be there, alive and walking about. I dreaded to behold this monster, but I feared still more that Henry should see him.”(63)

And because of this, Victor Aesthetical stages ended here and continue into the next stage which is ethical stages

3.2.2 Ethical Stages

Kierkegaard described an ethical stages is where human leave his satisfaction or his temporary desire and starting to accepting all obligations (Hardiman 253) . at this stage, individual can control and identify himself. Mean that in this stage, an individual starting to have his conscious back. In Ethical stage, human starting to have his “free choice” that human can begin his free consciously choice.

Because at this stage human can have his conscious choice, therefore human can control himself even he can control his ambition. He is starting to have himself in reality and concrete option under rational consideration. Kierkegaard stated that in ethical stage, human have attempted to achieve a moral value though human being is still trapped inside himself and is still being immanent.

place where he left the unfinished monster he made. He asked his friend to check the apartment where he leaves the monster. And the monster has gone. It means that the monster is alive and wandering around somewhere. Here, Victor still did not realize which one is the wrong point he has made.

The movement from ethical stage to religious stage of human is because he is already experienced something which at the end he decided to reflect himself and bring back himself toward the nature. In Ethical stage, Victor does not realize that he has already making the monster become devil. It happen when the monster started to kill his family one by one starting from his little cousin William, in this case, no one knows who the murderer of an innocent child like William is. But there is a false defendant. Everyone said that Justine is the killer of William, whereas actually Justine did not do that. That's how one by one of her family come to be a murderer victim.

After realize that it has been to years after he releasing a monster and listening to the explanation of Justine who was false accused to be murderer. Victor understands that the killer of his family is not anyone else but a monster he created. Victor tried to looking for a way to solve this. Suddenly, the monster appears in front of him.

“As I said this I suddenly beheld the figure of a man, at some distance, advancing towards me with superhuman speed. He bounded over the crevices in the ice, among which I had walked with caution; his stature, also, as he approached, seemed to exceed that of man. I was troubled; a mist came over

Victor is eventually realize that his ambition lead him become a human which against the nature. He realizes that he should not be someone who needs a perfection by creating immortality. He is living in miserable because he against what he should not be. He should not conquer the secret of nature. He realizes that he should not obsessed to much by science, he should not learn about supernatural knowledge and he should not feels that he can create a human being like God. After he realizes everything and he realizes that only God can create a human. Victor stops his ambition and his journey and he die in peace after telling his story to Walton. Thus, Walton can get a lesson from his life journey.

“.....the dashing of the waterfalls around spoke of a power mighty as Omnipotence—and I ceased to fear or to bend before any being less almighty than that which had created and ruled the elements, here displayed in their most terrific guise.”

When Victor Frankenstein stated about omnipotence and the almighty, It really shows how Victor believe about the existence of “the almighty”. And this is one important point of being religious. A statement when Victor said that he should not fear or bend toward any being less than the almighty which had created and ruled the element. It is the moment when Victor reach his absolute religious stages before he come to die, and the story come to an end with Victor dead on his way of regretting himself.

