

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

Marginalizing certain groups repeatedly in society can cause some actions against it. This condition happens toward Marie Josephine de Tascer de la Pagerie, the main female character in the *Ambition and Desire* novel written by Kate William. Josephine lives during France Revolution in which the woman at that time places in different caste from men. The woman restriction and the less of consideration for their right put woman in inequality. Josephine who faces this condition tries to fight for her right as a wife on private property. In the previous chapter, it has already been discussed that feminism is one of woman exertions to get equality with man within society, including the social status, woman right and in economic field.

Moreover, this chapter is intentionally discussed to answer each number of research questions offer in this study. The analysis focuses on Josephine character in the Kate William novel entitled *Ambition and Desire the dangerous life of Josephine Bonaparte* and her struggle to get her prosperity toward her husband. She is the first empress in French who has marvelous wealth. The further analysis will be explained as this following description below:

3.1. Josephine's Character and Characterization.

Character is an object that has forceful role in the developing element of story. It is the way the author describes and gives soul for their characters which is usually called as characterization. This analysis takes Josephine as the subject by identifying her characterization in her action, conversation, behavior, physical appearance and her surrounding illustration.

3.1.1. Inexperienced

Marie-Joséphine de Tascher de La Pagerie or well known as Josephine Bonaparte is the clan of blue-blood born at Martinique in 1763. This girl lives in cloisters Island which is wealthy of plantation harvest. In future, she becomes the first empress in France. Josephine is characterized as lack of sophistication woman in her personality.

Inexperienced is predicated for someone who has less of knowledge. This condition can lead someone looks clumsy in front of public. There are many factors that bring somebody has lack of sophistication inside themselves. In Josephine character, her lack of sophistication personality is comes from her innocent.

Person with innocent usually feels optimist that their surroundings are lovely, kind and fair. Without having their own experiences or knowledge about what will they face later. Thus, they are easy to believe in someone else without suspiciousness. Naive, romantic and dreamers are common characteristics that

indicate this personality. Those are depicted within Josephine character and lead her as lack of sophistication woman. It is seen from statement below:

“La Pagerie had been poor preparation for the cruelty of Marie-Josèphe’s new world. Parisian ladies discussed the philosophy of Montesquieu or the labyrinthine politics at court. Marie- Josèphe—who had never seen an opera, knew nothing of poetry, and could not comment on art— was out of her depth. At dances, she was shy and awkward, and people laughed at her behind their hands”. (William 158)

The condition above happens when Josephine and Alexandre is invited to the noble party as a new couple. Josephine is the one who look strange in her new world which is totally different from her home in Martinique. Every lady in ballroom is starting to talk about philosophy of Montesquieu or the cruel politic at court whereas Josephine almost knows nothing about the politics problem within this country because her homeland was far away from Paris.

The statement above also shows that Josephine is deficient in art thus she cannot comment the opera shows or poetry. She is also bad in dancing that makes everyone laugh at her silently. It is proof that Josephine is indicates as lack of sophistications or lack of worldly experiences characters.

“She refused to give in to sadness. Full of the joie de vivre of youth, she reminded herself that she was married to a handsome man her school friends would envy. She was eager to see fashionable society and be a good wife to her husband. Every day she waited excitedly for her invitation to court, since it was customary for aristocratic brides to be introduced to the queen”. (William 159)

However, Josephine is still pretending that everything will be alright. It is shown clearly on narration above. Even though everyone is laughing at her manner and sees her as world less woman, she is still eager to see fashionable society and be good wife for her husband. Later, Josephine’s lack of sophistication character awakes her consciousness that she must

“As an adult, Josephine traded on her reputation as seductive—but the other characteristics were true of her as well. She had scant discipline as a child. While she was running wild on the grounds of La Pagerie, her future friends in France were strictly educated in chilly houses, dressed in stiff frills for show, always told to sit up straight, and kept to a rigid timetable of lessons and a diet of plain food” (William 67).

As in the statement above, the young Josephine has lacked on having a discipline education from her parents. When her friends in similar age have already known about how to be discipline on dressing, diet and manage their personality, a young Josephine still plays in plantation yard with her maids. This condition leads her as a messy personality. Generally, France nobility family believed that discipline is a key term for regularity in good attitude, especially for a girl who comes from wealth family. It also becomes measuring for other nobility family to keep the girl as daughter in law.

People also can identify Josephine’s rebellious characters by her psychical appearances. She always looks untidy in dressing, clumsy in attitude, and has course in manner. It definitely appears in young Josephine performance. As in the statement below:

“Yeyette barely understood fashion, and she was ill at ease with the heavy brocade gowns and elaborates coiffeurs she was expected to wear. She looked like a child in her mother’s clothes” (William 139)

The statement above describes when she comes to meet Alexandre for the first time. In Alexandre opinion, Josephine looks like a child in her mother’s clothes which means that the way she dresses up is terrible enough then makes her look messy and out of date.

Ambitious is also depicted clearly within Josephine character. This character comes along with suffers she faces after getting failure in her first marriage. It is also the way to get consideration from people in her surroundings. Precisely, having an ambition means a person eagerly desires on achieving or obtaining success either in power, wealth or other specific goals. This is what Josephine has faced in her life. She is eager to reach her power, wealth and statues.

Before Josephine divorces with Vicomte Alexandre de Beauharnais she becomes a prisoner in Revolution era. Her husband is suspected as enemy for the state. Thus, it makes her also following as a prisoner soon. No longer after this terrible condition happens, she releases from the prison innocently. But, her husband still arrest to be investigated. Life without husband leads Josephine to keep alive by herself. It is difficult for a woman in post Revolution era to survive without clear status in society. It is shown in statement below:

“Marie-Josèphe needed to join the circles of those with money in the post-Terror world—the moneylenders, the arms profiteers, the bankers, and the men of the political elite” (William 408)

Those statements show Josephine’s future that plans to get a wealthy man and ensures her life for a several times. She is ambitious to get a better life with someone who brings benefits for her. She plans to have closed friend from the moneylenders, the arms profiteers, the bankers, or the men who works in the political elite.

history, she is married at fourteen years old with the future king in France by motive as political interest to strengthen the unstable alliance between France and the Austrian Empire. When she was crowned as a queen, people are sympathizing by her personality and beauty. However, slowly the people hate Marie Antoinette's attitude easily and call her as *L'Autrichienne* means improvidence woman from Austria. In seven years her diplomatic marriage life's leading her to welfares herself by abusing her power to acquire expensive jewelry, diamond and some precious stones.

She orders four new pairs of shoes a week and three yards of ribbons every day. Until Versailles being labyrinth of the jewel in the French crown. Ironically, those much money comes to taxes from the sugar island of the Caribbean. It is resulted in an increase in government taxes to the average French.

Those notorious event is motivating Josephine to renewing her social status in society. Josephine, who already faces her unhappy married with Viccomtte Alexandre de Beauharnais eagerly to changes her destiny to be someone who has power. In her second married with Napoleon Bonaparte, she proof that she can being more glamour than Marie Antoinette. After her marriage with the French Emperor left for several times she is begining plan to rebuild her old house in plantation island Martinique.

“In January 1800, the two young architects Charles Percier and Pierre-François Léonard Fontaine were called upon “to rebuild a badly constructed house which is falling into ruin and which was only built for a very ordinary person.” Percier and Fontaine kept a detailed notebook in which they recorded the modifications. This invaluable document gives a sense of the scale. Entire sections of the house were demolished and

Inequality status between Men and Woman becomes miserable issue in France during the eighteenth century. In social aspect it seems clearly by divided the French society into classes. The first class places by the Clergy who no need to pay any tax because their responsibility to manage churches and educational institution of Frances. The Clergy life's full of luxurious and extravagances because people respect on their statue in society. The second classes places by the people who has noble's statues. This class involves a bourgeois and intelligences people. In third classes are belonging to common people who uneducated enough or life's in poor conditions. The labor, slave who places in this circle faces suffers every time.

An inequality term is including the differences between male and female valuable in society. During this time, woman usually located as the second place that is in the first places dominates by man. Woman was bounded by sex. A couple who has female baby feels regret and worrying about her futures. It is also happens in Josephine life's. As statement below:

“Rose-Claire’s husband, Joseph de Tascher de La Pagerie, desired a boy who one day might gain greatness for his line. Her family wished for a boy to take over the land. As a girl, Marie-Josèphe was not valuable, intended at best for an early marriage to one of the local landowners and life as a busy matron to half a dozen children.(William 39)

The statement below happens when Josephine mother, Rose-Claire announce her husband Joseph-Gaspard that their first child is a girl. He feels disappointed for having a girl. In her father though a girl only creates new burdens for his family. Not valuable and cannot make earn for them.

depressed and homeless. No longer, her aunty accommodated Josephine with Eugene and Hortense to join her to Paris.

Rose-Claire, Josephine's mother ask her to come back home in Martinique, promising her family will receive her happily but she refuse it with respect. Josephine is already making decision to continue her life in Paris and to struggling to get prosperity. Josephine is already facing similar problem that happens to women in this era either in Paris or Martinique. It is losing right on private property. Woman does not have authority for inheritance. Besides, they are marrying with someone who has statues toward the people such as marquis or noble.

The way Josephine to get self-independence on private property right can be seen clearly as follow:

1.3.1. Marrying the Empress Napoleon

Josephine's great victory begins when she was coronation as an Empress in Frances. She becomes an influential woman in a whole Frances at that time. The day before she was crowned as a queen, Josephine begged to the pope for private audiences. She attempts to persuade him for allowing herself to marry Napoleon legally; both government and religion view. In French's society, it indeed that marriage by civil is more famous than in the form of religion. Josephine who already faces failure with her first husband learns to get better in her second marriage with Napoleon by taking an oath in front of God and the

district. She plans to renovate that old house as a marvelous one. Later, Malmaison has functions as their primarily home for all honors guest entrances. Though she already spends much cost to decorate that space. Nevertheless, the Emperor always follows Josephine granted for glamour's item. It can be shown by statement below:

“Josephine spent thousands on the salon, the dining room, the gallery, and the billiard room on the ground floor. The architects remodeled them along classical lines with stucco columns and decorative panels, the best means of display for statues stolen from Italy. They created a music room, which Josephine decorated with her incredible collection of art”. (William,994)

The narration above tells us that Josephine's desire on luxurious things is true. She combines her sense of art with the entire glamorous item to decorate her house. It gives details attention starting from the dining room until the ground floor. The dining room is also equipped with the heat system to keep warm in cold weather. Josephine is already known as the queen with highest sense of art work. Thus, in her new house she decorates with her incredible collection of art.

Slowly, Josephine finds a new way to get her own right on private property. It is by doing her hobbies to collect classic and limit the stuffs from other countries to comply her desire. Sometimes, she is insisting Napoleon softly for granting her wish. It is proven when Napoleon cannot refuse his wife wishes for having larger land to plant many exotics flower over there. This makes them have a luxurious small palace in Malmaison.