

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is one of the ways which one can know all of the aspects of life in the entire world without roaming the earth first. Readers are able to know those aspects of life through the number of the authors and the literary works that they ever read. As what Robert DiYanni said that stories do more than entertain, they instruct readers by showing them many things about the world they had not known before reading them (2). Shortly, literature can be used to express someone's thoughts, feelings, and experience in life.

There are many kinds of literary works, such as novel, drama, poetry, and short story. According to Edgar and Henry, literature may be classified into four categories or genres: prose fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction prose. Usually the first three are classified as imaginative literature: mythes, parables, romances, novel, short story (2-3). Each of those genres in literature is different each other, for instance; the essence of prose is narration, while poetry is in rhyme and rhythm, then drama is in its dialog and action. The literary works present in the world with its features, literary work is an encyclopedic which contains of portrayal of life, many different kinds of human reality are depicted there. The human reality can be based on the society around the author in different place and different time. So, there will be many different experiences that readers will get by reading a novel. Robert DiYanni states that through reading a wide variety of

stories readers can enter many different imaginative worlds in the process enlarging and deepening reader's perception of the world (3-4). Due to those reasons, this thesis wants to serve one of the great experiences in the world which exists in a novel.

This study is particularly interested in William Somerset Maugham's novel because he is one of the famous British playwrights, novelists, and short story writers. William Somerset Maugham who was born on January 25th, 1874 has attained great renown first as a dramatist, then as the author of entertaining and carefully crafted short stories and novel during his sixty-five years' career. Maugham also received the greatest recognition for his short fiction and became a preeminent short story writer in the 1920s (Anne Marie Hacht 1047-1048). Almost all of his books are successes in bringing the new color of literary world. Even, Maugham with his works can influence the other writer, such as George Orwell, he said that Maugham, whom he 'admired immensely for his power of telling a story straightforwardly and without frills,' was the modern writer who had most influenced him. (www.csmonitor.com).

By choosing Maugham's novel then the decision making why *Liza of Lambeth* is taken among the other Maugham's works because there is still few number of thesis which analyze this novel. Most of people only know about Maugham's masterpiece that is '*Of Human Bondage*' (1915), a semiautobiographical novel that deals with a life of the main character, *Philip Carey*. Plenty of Maugham's works have earned great accolades just as many continue to be read, reread, and discussed. Among them, *Of Human Bondage*,

stands out as his best (Anne Marie Hacht 1049). So, this thesis hopefully is able to give a different color among the number of the thesis which takes Maugham's works.

Maugham wrote *Liza of Lambeth* when he was 23, at that time he was practicing as a doctor in the slum of Lambeth. *Liza of Lambeth* was not made from his experience, but it was written through his observation when he worked in Lambeth. The surprising one, when *Liza of Lambeth* was published in 1897, the same year he got his medical degree, it was sold out rapidly and soon Maugham got more offers to write, even he abandoned his diploma and began to spend his time by writing. *Liza of Lambeth* was a Maugham's reason to choose a full time writer than being a doctor (Stevenson 60). In other word, the success of *Liza of Lambeth* became a turning point of his life to be a more successful writer. It implied that it was the minor success of this novel that convinced Maugham to write for a living. He quickly became a wealthy man and important figure in society. William Somerset Maugham was at various times the most famous, successful and wealthiest living writer of the first half of the 20th century (www.questia.com).

This novel tells about Liza Kemp, an 18-year-old factory worker, one of the prettiest girls and also illustrious enough in Vere street, Lambeth. She lived with her widowed inebriate mother only. Liza had a close friend named Sally who worked in the same local factory with her. There was also Tom, a young honest boy who loves Liza madly. Tom tried to attract Liza's interest by showing his effort to get her love. He never gave up to get Liza's love even when Tom tried to

ask Liza to accompany him in August Bank Holiday, Liza just regards him as her friend. At the same time, Liza was attracted to Jim, a 40-year-old man who had had a wife and also five children. Though at the first time Liza tried to avoid him considering that he had had a big family but the climax of her feeling was after August Bank Holiday. Formerly they had no bravery to come out together, but later many people around them knew their clandestine affair. At the end of the story, Liza had been bullied by Jim's wife until her condition was getting worst and finally she died.

The way how Maugham brought this story is unique. Start from the language which is not too difficult to understand all of the meaning in the story even though he used *cockney* dialogues in his novel. *Cockney* is a false rhymes brought about by London pronunciation, like time and name: time/nime (Cuddon 143). Nevertheless, it is not merely makes the reader feels difficult because by reading the context of the sentence, the reader will know the meaning soon. Some of the characterizations in using *cockney* are the change of original spelling to 'i', (e.g. the changes 'get' to 'git'). Then, drop the 'H' sound as a marker of emphasis, (e.g. the change 'have' to 'ave') (www.slideworld.com).

'You're abaht right there, ole gal,' said Polly. 'My word, 'Arry', if you **'ave** any more I'll **git** a divorce, that I will.' (5).

In addition, this story is quite short, thus the process to comprehend the story becomes more pleasantly. Then, for its content of the novel, Maugham took love as a grand theme for his first novel. It is known that love is a universal theme, every inch of the human's life will not apart from love whether love from human to human, from human to nature, animal, plants, and so on. Therefore, love

has much uniqueness, it is also never stale to write, so all of people will be interested to discuss it. Through *Liza of Lambeth* Maugham tried to explain the moral value beautifully and he revealed love which had a sense of tragic where finally the major character died because of her fault in loving a married man.

The doctor opened one of Liza's eyes and touched it, then he laid on her breast the hand he had been holding, and drew the sheet over her head. Jim turned away with a look of intense weariness on his face, and the two women began weeping silently. The darkness was sinking before the day, and a dim, grey light came through the window. The lamp spluttered out. (103-104)

The other interesting thing which underlies the writing process of this thesis is Liza's relationship with Jim and Tom. Liza as a young girl who was admired for her beauty had attracted some of people in her neighborhood, especially Jim and Tom.

It was a young girl of about eighteen, with dark eyes, and an enormous fringe, puffed-out and curled and frizzed, covering her whole forehead from side to side, and coming down to meet her eyebrows. She was dressed in brilliant violet, with great lappets of velvet, and she had on her head an enormous black hat covered with feathers. (5-6)

There is a part which shows Jim and Tom's effort to attract Liza. The kinds of their effort have the same part with another case about two male characters' efforts to attain self-actualization as depicted in two Edith Wharton's novels entitled *The Age of Innocence* and *Ethan Frome*, which is done by Elshin Imelda with the thesis' title "A Study of the Main Male Characters Efforts to Attain Self-Actualization As Seen in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* and *Ethan Frome*". The similarity is those four male characters above make some efforts to get what they want, but they are fail in their struggle. Here is showed

Jim's effort to attract Liza. Even, from their first meeting, Liza felt ashamed and tried to know who Jim was.

'Say, Tom, 'oo are them new folk as 'as come into the street? It's a big chap with a brown beard.'

'D' you mean the bloke as kissed yer this afternoon?'

Liza blushed again. (12)

Besides, Maugham also wrote Tom's effort to get Liza, although Liza rejects him.

'Liza, will you 'ave me? I'll make yer a good 'usband, Liza, swop me bob, I will; an' yer know I'm not a drinkin' sort. Liza, will yer marry me?'

'Na, Tom,' she answered quietly.

'Oh, Liza, won't you 'ave me?' (13)

This is the part which is planned to analyze, it is known that a person who create an effort in reaching thon's dream will be success later. Uniquely, what Maugham had written in this novel is not like usual. Both Jim and Tom had showed their struggle to get Liza, but they had their own way in showing the efforts to have her. As a result, Jim was more successful than Tom, even though at the end of the story, Liza had died. It shows that people who make serious effort in their life is not guaranteed a success later.

Considering the explanation above, this thesis tries to find out an unstated idea from the author by analyzing the characterization of each character first and it will be a guidance to know the quality of the men character's struggle in their effort to get Liza's love.

1.2. Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the problems will be formulated as follows:

1.2.1. How are Liza, Jim, and Tom characterized in *Liza of Lambeth*?

1.2.2. How are Jim and Tom's quality of struggle depicted in *Liza of Lambeth*?

1.3. Objective of Study

Dealing with the statement of problems above, this study has an objective of finding out:

1.3.1. The characterization of Liza, Jim, and Tom.

1.3.2. The description of quality of struggle of Jim and Tom.

1.4. Scope and Limitation

To avoid a broad discussion, this study is focused on Liza, Jim, and Tom's characterization. Henceforth, the analysis of the characterization is the beginning to provide the idea that will suggest how this study will be carried on further in existentialism and deconstruction in the story. Moreover, it is necessary to use the psychoanalysis theory and the interpersonal attraction theory to support the data analysis. It is also important to limit this study in the interaction between the two male characters. This study also uses some other minor characters in the story to reveal the two male's characters in the story.

1.5. Significance of Study

By reading this study it is expected that the reader will enrich the knowledge of the portrait of some different kinds of struggle which may ever done by them. Besides, the reader will be able to appreciate the literary work itself as a human's work which serves another side of human's life, especially Maugham's literary work.

On the other hand, the reader can explore some information from this study and get more understanding about that. At last, this study can be considered as a contribution to the literary study especially for students in English Letter Department in State University of Islamic Studies Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

1.6. Method of the Study

This chapter discusses how the research is conducted. It involves four main sub chapters consisting of research design, source of data, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis.

1.6.1. Research Design

To answer the problems of the study, the research uses the library research or it is called as qualitative research. Laurence Neuman says that it (library research) is also called qualitative research in which the data are in the form of text, written words, phrases or symbol; it is not concerned with any number (72). This study uses *Liza of Lambeth* a novel written by William Somerset Maugham. Thus, through qualitative method this study wants to get a valid description about the quality of struggle between the two male characters in the novel that are Jim

and Tom. Based on the problems above, this study uses the theory of characterization as a literary tool, and also uses existentialism, psychoanalysis, and deconstruction theory.

1.6.2. Source of Data

The main source of data for this analysis is the novel of William Somerset Maugham entitled *Liza of Lambeth*. This research analyze the phrases and sentences which related to the quality of struggle by the men's character through characterization, existentialism, psychoanalysis, and deconstruction theory.

1.6.3. Procedure of Data Collection

Since data are the most important aspects in conducting a research, so data must be collected effectively. Procedure of data collection is one of the research methods' parts which explain how the data are collected to support the research. In collecting data for the research which based on the qualitative method, steps of data collecting are as follows:

1.6.3.1. Preparing *Liza of Lambeth* novel as the main data.

1.6.3.2. Collecting the data from the novel by comprehending reading to get the accurate data.

1.6.3.3. Selecting the related references that supported the data collection.

1.6.4. Procedure of Data Analysis

The data which have been collected will be analyzed using literary theory. This research is library based. In presenting the analysis, this research mainly uses descriptive-analytical method. The research follows the following steps:

1.6.4.1. Reading the novel many times to get the best understanding on the whole

story.

1.6.4.2. Selecting and collecting data in form of narration and conversation from the novel related to the problem.

1.6.4.3. Analyzing the data collected dealing with the statement of problems.

1.6.4.4. Drawing conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

1.7.1. Interpersonal Attraction : A favorable attitude toward, or feeling of liking for, another person.

1.7.2. Quality : How good something.

1.7.3. Relationship : A strong, deep, or close association or acquaintance between two or more people that may range in duration from brief to enduring.