

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **CONCLUSION**

Having analysed the novel *Miss Lulu Bett*, I come to a conclusion that Zona Gale has presented the story interestingly. She presents real-life characteristics of American women in the 1920s, who were seeking for their acknowledgement of their existence, through her protagonist, Lulu Bett. American women's condition in 1920s was not easy, most of them never left the house; they stayed at home and did domestic chores like cooking, cleaning the house, and taking care of kids ("Women's Role 1920s"). Gale presents such condition through the portrayal of Lulu Bett.

Zona Gale portrays Lulu Bett as a dependent person. She is portrayed as financially dependent on her brother-in-law. Besides that she is also perceived by her family as a woman who is not strong enough to work outside the house and unable to support herself financially, so she has to stay at her brother-in-law's

house and does all the house work. She is completely dependent on her brother-in-law's family.

Moreover, Lulu is portrayed as a passive and self-conscious person. Her being passive makes her do nothing to oppose the family's unfair treatment. To make matters worse, she does not have the acknowledgement about her existence at that house but she gets bad treatment from the family, especially from her dominating and controlling brother-in-law, Dwight Deacon who often teases Lulu about her status of being unmarried and regards her as an insignificant person and makes her always feel nervous and embarrassed about herself.

Later in the novel, Lulu Bett's characteristics develop especially with the coming of Ninian, Dwight Deacon's brother. Ninian treats Lulu positively. The way he treats Lulu is totally different from Dwight's treatment towards her. Ninian's acknowledgement about Lulu's existence has affected Lulu's personality. Lulu Bett becomes a confident person. Lulu is confident in doing the things that she believes in; and she can reveal her thought towards others. Furthermore, despite her separation from Ninian, Lulu is portrayed to be persistent and independent. Her being persistent is shown when she repeatedly asks Dwight Deacon to clarify her status after her separation from Ninian. Her being independent can be seen at the end of the novel when she decides to support her life by applying for a job. Besides, she independently decides to marry Cornish and leaves Dwight Deacon's house.

From the discussion above, I believe that Gale's purpose in portraying Lulu Bett is to show that the acknowledgement of women's existence was an important issue at that time. Lulu develops into a better person after she gets

acknowledgements from Ninian. Through the protagonist of the novel, Lulu Bett, Zona Gale gives a clear picture of American women in the 1920s. American women's condition in the 1920s where most of them were frustrated due to lack of opportunities ("Women's Role 1920s") finally became better after they were given fair treatment and acknowledgement through the Voting Right. They were then more confident to do things and tended to continue doing what they believed in. Moreover, most of them became independent in their life which means that they were no longer dependent on other people ("Women in the 1920s"). The Voting Rights was a proof that they have already got fair treatment and acknowledgement about their existence in the society which makes them to be a better person.

Zona Gale's purpose is also applicable to women's present condition. I myself believe that the acknowledgement of women's existence is an important thing nowadays. Women need the acknowledgement for their existence and for what they have done for themselves or for the society. Moreover, I also believe that the acknowledgement can help women develop their potential and personality in life. In my opinion, being acknowledged means that women will be more respected as human being and as they really are in the society.

Through the analysis above, I can conclude that Zona Gale is a great novelist due to the fact that she succeeds not only in making realistic story but also in creating such a character that make the story become relevant and exciting to read. It is not surprising that Zona Gale's *Miss Lulu Bett* got the Pulitzer Prize in 1920 and turned out to be one of Gale's most famous works.