

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions from my analysis of theme through the portrayal of contrasting characters in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* in the previous chapter. This novel is a story about the Dashwoods family which focuses on two sisters of the Dashwoods, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. Elinor and Marianne have contrasting characteristics. Elinor is described as someone who is very logical and rational. On the other hand, her sister, Marianne is described as someone who is very sentimental. However, both of them experience many things that improve their life.

The first protagonist I analyse is Elinor Dashwood. Elinor is a reasonable person. She always tried to think further than anyone else. She advises her mother not to buy an expensive house because they may not have enough fortune left for their living in the future.

She also tries to find proofs first before believing in something. For example, when there is a rumour about Marianne and Willoughby's engagement, she tries to ask her mother about the rumour first before believing it. However, she is not really expressive about her feelings. She keeps everything by herself and rarely shows it to other people. Even her sister, Marianne, who is very close

to her, has a hard time to understand her feelings. This characteristic gives herself quite difficult times. Fortunately, she starts to realize that she needs to share and express her feelings to people to understand her feelings better. She is finally able to open up her feelings to Marianne and Edward, the man she loves. She is also able to express what she really feels to people around her. From the elaboration above, I conclude that Elinor's characteristics are prudent, rational and self-restrained. At the end of the story, she develops new characteristics from self-restrained into expressive.

The second protagonist I analysed is Marianne Dashwood. Marianne is a very emotional person and she expresses her feelings very well. She always says everything she has in her mind and never hesitates to show her feelings. When she falls in love with Willoughby, everyone says that they can see her feelings clearly. Also, when she feels sad and miserable after Willoughby leaves her, she does not hesitate to show her sad feelings. Marianne is also strongly influenced by her emotions in doing or deciding something. After Willoughby rejects her, she asks Elinor to leave the party and go home the day after. From that event, we can see that she is strongly influenced by her emotions when she does or decides something. She also does not think about how her decision may bring certain consequences. After the rejection, Marianne falls terribly sick and fortunately recovers from her sickness after some time. Eventually, her sickness has made her realize that she has been imprudent all this time. She promises to her sister, Elinor, that she will be more concern about her family and people around her. Because of that, she is able to see good in people, especially Colonel Brandon, who truly loves her. She is finally able to accept his love and lives happily with him. From the explanation above, I conclude that Marianne's

characteristics are expressive, imprudent, and sentimental. At the end of the story, she develops new characteristic from impulsive into rational.

After analysing the two protagonists I conclude that the theme of the novel is "In life, one has to be able to find the balance between one's reason and emotion in order to have a better understanding about oneself and others." I get the theme from how Elinor and Marianne finally manage to balance their reason and emotion at the end of the novel, so they can solve their problems and find their own happiness.

After analysing the novel, I personally think that Jane Austen is a great author. In spite of being the first novel she had written, *Sense and Sensibility* has proved her ability in creating such vivid and detailed characters. The characters, Elinor and Marianne, have left deep impression to the readers. Austen has also successfully delivered her message through both of them. The theme of balancing reason and emotion can be seen clearly when reading this novel. Elinor, who is very reasonable and Marianne, who is very emotional at the beginning of the story, finally realize that they have to balance their reason and emotion in order to be able to understand themselves and others better. I believe that the theme is also everlasting because it is still applicable to our life today.

In this novel, I personally like Elinor's characteristics more. Elinor is able to think carefully before doing or decide something. She is also doing her best not to harm other people with her decisions or actions. Even though her self-restrained characteristic has troubled her in some ways, she is able to realize it and has been successfully developed herself to be more open and expressive about her feelings. I also agree with the theme of the novel. I believe that balancing reason and emotion is important in our life. If someone is too extreme on one side, it will be difficult to think or decide the right thing. By balancing

reason and emotion, I believe that we will be able to make a right decision which will bring a good effect to ourselves and other people.

