

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the novel, the present writer concludes that the theme in Frances Hodgson Burnett's Secret Garden is One can be influenced to have a better characteristic by one's surroundings if one has a will to change and one can influence another if he or she has a will to change.

In reality, many people face this kind of situation. They are in the surroundings which can influence them to have a better characteristic or a bad one. Some of them have a will to change and some do not. In this novel, the present writer introduces a girl called Mary who is unwanted by her parents and who has to stay with her uncle in Misselthwaite Manor.

The present writer sees that not everybody who is in Mary's position has a will to change and the surrounding is not always favourable in making someone's bad characteristic change into a good one. But, Mary is influenced to have a better characteristic by Martha's good characteristics; besides, Mary has a strong will to change herself.

The influences caused by Martha and Dickon toward Mary in Secret Garden bring a lot of changes. Mary learns and thinks how to be humble, how she needs other people's help to experience new things in her life from them. Mary

has to adjust herself as soon as she arrives at her uncle's house in Misselthwaite Manor because no one has ever taught her how to behave. However, Mary cannot have a better characteristic if she is not ready to change herself.

All that happens in Misselthwaite Manor makes Mary feel much better than before when she was in India. As a young girl, Mary really loves to experience something new which is very natural for a girl in Mary's age. She begins to feel what she has never felt before and she finds her own way to get happiness in her life, and Mary learns to be responsible for herself.

There are several events in which Mary gives good influences. This happens when she meets Colin, her cousin. She begins to affect other people to be better. In this case, the present writer sees that Mary is learning how to give attention to people, as in her age, a young girl usually tends to be selfish. But Mary is so nice as giving Colin some encouragement. She gives her time to be a friend of a boy who does not have hope in his life and shares lots of her new experience with him; moreover, Colin has a will to change and begins to live happily.

The present writer has the opinion that it is true when people let negative thoughts rule in their mind, these will cause bad effect on their body and soul. But when people let their positive thoughts rule in their mind, they will turn them into better people. And Mary has long been living in her negative thoughts until she finds Martha and Dickon who have opened her eyes about living in happiness, joy and face positive ways in life.

After seeing the facts above, the present writer concludes that this novel is the most enduring work of Burnett for she is able to portray someone who lives in

the surroundings which can influence her to have a better characteristic. This novel gives the readers an example that how important it is for people to have other people who can encourage them to live better.

The present writer believes that one can be influenced by one's surrounding. If he or she has a will to change. Therefore, people have to face every little things which happen in their lives with a positive open mind, and their lives can be a good example to others who do not have hope in their lives.