

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

The Spell by Alan Hollinghurst is a novel concerned with the story of a gay and this novel is describe about the gay lifestyles and all the conflicts that occur within them especially inner conflicts which are connected to love story.

From this literary work, the author Hollinghurst tries to present inner conflicts experienced by the four main characters of the novel: Alex, Justin, Robin, and Danny. Each of the characters faces different inner conflicts and each brings out different insights which the author tries to present to the readers. I conclude that every inner conflict that occurs in this novel is concerned with romance between these four gay men. Besides, the inner conflicts presented here are caused by the unusual relationship between them which enables the inner conflicts to be presented clearly.

However, the most dominant literary element that is shown here is the inner conflicts that occur within each main character in this novel. Hollinghurst as the author can reveal the inner conflicts that are experienced by the main characters clearly. He can also reveal every emotion that occurs within each main character so the readers can feel and know how the main characters' feeling in every inner conflict they experience.

His purpose of presenting inner conflicts

clearly in every major character is to make readers understand that being a gay does not mean their being very different from straight people. The only difference between them is just sexual orientation.

Alex, one of the main characters, experiences his inner conflicts for a long time. He is represented as the most apprehensive character. Alex never gains happiness in his life. I conclude that in resolving his inner conflicts, Alex always thinks about all the risks that might happen because he does not want to make a wrong decision which can make him suffer although at last Alex still has to face his failure.

Justin as the protagonist in this novel also experiences inner conflicts in his life but it does not last for a long time and he is the only character in this novel that never feels sadness or experiences a very difficult inner conflict in his life. I conclude that every inner conflict experienced by Justin is caused by his selfishness and his bad habit that he can not be faithful with only one man. Moreover, I also find that his inner conflicts are mainly connected with his being confused in his romance. The way Justin resolves his inner conflict in his relationship with Alex is so selfish. After his meeting with Robin, he chooses to end their relationship and makes a new relationship with Robin. But later when he faces his inner conflicts in his relationship with Robin, he tries to take a right decision as good as he can so it will not hurt other people.

Robin faces the hardest inner conflict in his life when he realizes that he has sexual identity crisis although he already has a pregnant girlfriend. It happens at the beginning of the story but it does not last for a long time because later he chooses to be a gay for the rest of his life. Having read the novel, I conclude that the second inner conflict of Robin is caused by his weaknesses as human being who is easily seduced and his fright to confess his mistake. The way Justin resolves his inner conflict also

represents his weaknesses. On the other hand, Justin is an honest person because he also dares to confess his mistake to Justin.

Danny as the last main character faces his inner conflict that I conclude is caused by his immaturity. It happens when he is not ready to settle down in his relationship with Alex. His inner conflict last for a long time because not long after he becomes Alex's lover, he feels that Alex is boring and during that time, Danny begins to think about his feeling to Alex, and at the end of the story he arrives at the decision to break up with Alex. Danny also feels a little bit uncomfortable with gay's habit but he himself realizes that he is a gay, and the habit belongs to gay community. Later, Danny chooses to let himself to be more familiar with gay's habit. In resolving his inner conflicts, Danny always consider about other's feeling. He tries as best as he can to minimize all the pain that is caused by his decision especially if he knows that it will hurt other people.

All the inner conflicts that occur in this novel, more less are quite influenced by the place and the time that becomes the setting in this novel because both of them are important to enable Hollinghurst to reveal the inner conflicts clearly. This novel takes place in London and Dorset in early 90s. Both of the places are in England. At that time, being a gay was no longer regarded as something terrible. Especially in a big city like London, being a gay has become a part of life styles and people are not bothered by the presence of this community. These gays can hold any event anytime they want and they are not ashamed to show their identity as gays.

The inner conflicts in this novel focus on the desire and each conflict in unusual relationship between four gay men who are the main characters in this novel. Above all, Hollinghurst's purpose in revealing these inner conflicts in gay life is to make readers

aware that every man has his own choice in life and to choose the best one for life is not easy because sometimes both of the choices are good but sometimes both of them are bad.

From the presentation of all the inner conflicts presented through the main characters in this novel, I conclude that the author tries to bring up the societal diversity in the community of England and the liaison they encounters about relationship. After reading this novel I also arrive at the conclusion that all inner conflicts that occur within each major character in this novel are related with some weaknesses of human being such as self-doubting in Alex, unfaithfulness in Justin and Robin, and selfishness in Danny. On the other hand, this novel also reveals some good side of human being such as surviving to escape from the past, honesty, and courage to follow conscience.

Having studied the novel and the inner conflicts that occur, I obtain some moral values concerning how to maintain a relationship. I would like to apply some particular values which are useful in relationship. Specifically, through Robin - who betrayed Justin and he can be seduced easily just because of his loneliness- and through Justin – who throws Alex away because he is tempted by Robin -, I realize that sometimes bad times can happen in any relationship and we need to strengthen our faith so that we can maintain our relationship without hurting other's feeling. In addition, through Alex, who struggles so as to escape from his past, I find out that keeping failure from the past is useless because it would lead us to losing confidence and being doubtful.