

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature is a part of human culture, which portrays a small-scale of human life and the interactions. Laurence Perrine in Story and Structure divides literature into two categories, 'Escape literature...written purely for entertainment-to help us pass the time agreeably and interpretive literature... written to broaden and deepen and sharpen our awareness of life.' (Perrine, 1974: 4) Referring to an author's purpose of writing, an interpretive literature is written to sharpen the readers' awareness of life and to enhance the readers' understanding of human interaction.

Human interaction is enriched by not only similarities, but also by differences. The causes of these differences are very various seen from different cultural, financial, and educational backgrounds. Since people cannot always resolve their differences well, and when the differences cannot be resolved well; the differences often can lead people to a conflict. Laurence Perrine defines that conflict is '...a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills.' (Perrine, 1974: 43)

One of the interpretive literatures that portrays human interaction in English literature is a novel by D.H. Lawrence, Sons and Lovers. The novel tells about the conflicts of a collier family interaction in England. Many critics consider Sons and Lovers ‘...a landmark in the history of English novel.’ (Champion, 1989: 40) After reading the novel and acknowledging the conflicts in Sons and Lovers, I consider the novel and the conflicts worth being analyzed.

I will analyze the conflicts experienced by the major characters. I notice that the novel is full of conflicts to analyze. One from the three types of conflict is social conflict that Perrine defines as a conflict between ‘...man against man.’ (Perrine, 1974: 43) The social conflicts occurred are between a husband and his wife in a family. The interaction between the couple is often filled with social conflicts because of the husband’s drinking problem and he often commits violent action when he is intoxicated with alcohol.

Later, in this novel the parents’ social conflicts affect their first and second sons’ adulthood. These social conflicts have caused their sons to suffer from inner conflicts. Inner conflict or psychological conflict is another type of conflict that Perrine defines as a conflict between ‘...man against himself.’ (Perrine, 1974: 43) The psychological conflicts of their sons are related to a condition in the psychological development of their childhood. Sigmund Freud, an Austrian psychiatrist and also known as the father of psychoanalysis, states this childhood psychological development as the psychosexual development. The condition in the development, according to Sigmund Freud, is Oedipus complex ‘the erotic feeling of a son towards his mother accompanied by rivalry, fear, and hostility towards their father.’ (Corsini, 2002: 662)

Sigmund Freud's theory of Oedipus complex included in the thesis is just to show the psychological condition of the major characters; nevertheless, it will not be applied as an approach to the thesis. I also find that by analyzing the conflicts of the novel by focusing on the major characters, the readers are hoped to be able to understand more about human interaction.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. What are the conflicts experienced by the major characters?
2. What are the causes of these conflicts?
3. What are the resolutions to these conflicts?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To show the conflicts experienced by the major characters in Sons and Lovers.
2. To show the causes of these conflicts.
3. To show the resolutions to these conflicts.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of research I use is library research. First, I read D.H. Lawrence's novel, Sons and Lovers. Then, I read reference books, which are relevant to this thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis begins with the Preface and the Abstract. I divide the thesis into three chapters. It begins with the Introduction Chapter One, consisting of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, I will analyze the conflicts experienced by the major characters in the literary work I choose. Afterwards, I conclude my analysis in the third chapter. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix, consisting of the Biography of D.H. Lawrence and the Synopsis of Sons and Lovers.