

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having read and analysed the novel, the present writer arrives at a conclusion that there are three major characters in The Battle for Christabel who are portrayed with some purposes by the author of the novel. The three major characters are Rowena, Isobel and Mrs. Blake.

In Margaret Forster's The Battle for Christabel, the present writer finds out that the setting of time in the novel is in 1991 and at that time liberalism and racism are social issues that still influence some of Londoners.

The present writer realizes that all characters in the novel are created by relating with the condition at that time. First major character is Rowena. She is the protagonist in this novel. Rowena is a second child of Mrs. Blake and she is portrayed as a working class person and she also described as a person who hates school very much. Although Rowena takes the course in nursery care in London, she faces the difficulty in getting a proper job because she does not have good knowledge. Moreover, Rowena is described as a person who cannot be relied on. She does not have something special to be proud of either because of those conditions, her mother does not really care about her and the relation between

Rowena and her mother is not so good. Fortunately, Rowena has a best friend, Isobel. The good relationship between Rowena and Isobel makes both of them hide nothing from each other.

In addition, Rowena likes taking advantages from others. Rowena is also described as a stubborn person, who never listens to others' advice especially when she has a great desire to have a baby without having a husband first. She does not want the baby's father because she does not want to share her baby with others and she considers black men only a breeding machine. Based on the fact above, the present writer can see that Rowena is a racist and liberal woman and she never thinks twice before doing something; as a result, she makes her own daughter suffer after her death. The present writer finds another fact that Rowena is a round character because her characteristics change after she has a baby. Rowena becomes a responsible mother for her daughter.

After giving her analysis about the portrayal of Rowena, the present writer is of the opinion that Forster has some purposes in creating Rowena. First, she wants to make the readers realize that someone must have good educational background to get a proper job for a better life; furthermore, the readers can learn that we need to think twice about something we want to do, so that we will not make others suffer because of our mistakes. On top of that, through Rowena's characteristics, Forster wants to show that sometimes problems can make someone more mature.

The present writer concludes that Isobel is a friend of Rowena and also the narrator in this novel who tells all the stories and describes all the major characters in the novel. The present writer believes Isobel is an objective person

because she always describes someone with accurate prove; furthermore, from the way she describes Rowena both from the bad side and the good side, the present writer is convinced that she is an objective person.

Isobel states that she is better than Rowena in the way that she is more educated and valuable than Rowena. Even though the present writer agrees with that statement, she finds another fact that Isobel also has some negative sides in her life because she experiences abortion twice. Isobel does abortion twice because she thinks that she is unprepared to be a mother and she is afraid that she cannot be a good mother but it is not because she does not like children. However, Isobel has a great love for Christabel, Rowena's daughter, and she wants to become a foster mother for Christabel. The present writer notices that Isobel feels guilty about Rowena's death and she always remembers Rowena's last request to her before she dies, that is to take care her daughter if something happens when she gives birth for Christabel. That is why Isobel tries hard to face all the battle to get Christabel in order to adopt her. In facing the battle, Isobel faces everything calmly. She does not have bad temperament. It emphasizes that she has a maturity of mind. The present writer finds another fact that Isobel is a round character because in the beginning, she does not want to have children but at the end of the story she becomes a person who is ready to have children.

In the present writer's opinion, Forster creates Isobel to show that someone must have a maturity of mind in order to face all his or her problems. Furthermore, Forster wants to give the message to the readers that we have to be a sturdy person in facing our problem, although in the end we must fail, but at least we have tried our best and because of our efforts, we can be proud of ourselves.

The present writer arrives at the last conclusion towards Mrs. Blake. She is an old woman around seventy. She is the mother of Camilla and Rowena. She is portrayed as a bad mother because she does not give equal love to both of her daughters. She loves her first daughter, Camilla, more than her second daughter, Rowena. The present writer notices that Mrs. Blake does not love Rowena until her death; therefore, she does not want a good funeral for his daughter and she does not want to take care of the grave of her daughter. In addition, she is also described as someone who still believes in myth. She believes that someone's attitude can be influenced by the condition of her birth. She links this myth with the condition when Rowena is born. According to Mrs. Blake, Rowena becomes a stubborn person because she was born during a storm.

Moreover, Mrs. Blake is also described as a racist and materialistic woman. She does not have any black friends, she even forbids her daughter to have any relation with a black man and she always gives her good impression to someone who has a good economic status. The present writer also finds that Mrs. Blake is a selfish person. She usually forces everyone to do what she wants. On top of that, Mrs. Blake is also described as a temperamental person. She is always in a conflict with other people when she is resolving some problems and she cannot control herself when she is angry.

In the present writer's opinion, Mrs. Blake tries to get Christabel only because she wants to keep her pride. She feels ashamed because her daughter has a baby without its father; moreover, the baby's father is a black man. Therefore, Mrs. Blake wants to get Christabel in order to avoid the gossip about her family because she does not want other people to know the black side of her family. It

shows that Mrs. Blake is a person who has a high pride. At the end of the conclusion of Mrs. Blake, the present writer notices that Mrs. Blake is a flat character because her characteristic does not change at all.

The present writer is of the opinion that Forster creates Mrs. Blake to show that nowadays, such kind of mother can still be found in our life. It is very common that a mother usually wants her daughter to get a better life by looking for a man who has a good fortune in order to make her daughter live happily. In addition, the readers can learn that sometimes we are blinded by our pride; as a result, we become selfish and can hurt other people.

By reading the novel, the present writer gets a lot of lessons that can guide her in undergoing her life. For that particular reason, the present writer considers Margaret Forster's The Battle for Christabel to be worth reading and analyse.