

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After reading and analysing the protagonist of the novel, I see how the author, Harry Sinclair Lewis, gives a clear portrayal of the protagonist in every chapter of the novel from what the protagonist feels and needs to solve the problem, thoroughly. It is how H. Sinclair Lewis portrays the protagonist, George Follansbee Babbitt that makes this novel worth reading and analysing. Sinclair Lewis obviously has successfully depicted the protagonist from his conformity at his work place to pursue true happiness in spite of his success. In this respect, he has helped me to reveal the theme through the protagonist's portrayal with clear descriptions of the protagonist and the changes along with the events happening to the protagonist throughout the novel. And the theme has been stated in the previous chapter that theme of the novel is that happiness is not to be found at work with conformity but it is to be found at home.

I discover that Babbitt shows the powerlessness of individual so much so that inhabitants are overwhelmed by systems, organizations, and other malevolent forces, which prevents them from aspiring to move higher for the reason that the society

holds the culture dominantly in aspect of the life in the 1920s. Culture is in command of the society and the inhabitants are being trapped in the circumstance. Therefore, they are beyond their awareness and beyond their control since the strength of principles have been imposed within the society's mindset.

In addition, I also find in the novel Babbitt, the prevailing society has affected on a middle-class businessman like the protagonist namely, George Follansbee Babbitt. It makes Babbitt seem little and in the end renders him powerless, even while he worships his city with religious devotion. Principally, Babbitt is in awe of the emerging power in his city, in case its potential is used to vitalize the inhabitants. However, accordingly, Babbitt, who names himself as a realtor, quests after a more fulfilling existence; yet, does not know how to attain it owing to his following the society's judgments. Eventually, Babbitt does not gain his happiness after his conformity at the work place; however, he is aware that his happiness is at home.

Consequently, I find that Babbitt is illustrated as a life-like character and possessing the mixture of good and bad qualities that human beings possess. He gives a picture of contradiction, and likable character that amuses the readers through his sometimes contradictory actions and speeches. Babbitt is successful but fails. He has commitment but he also has trouble. He commits mistakes but makes amends before it is too late. As a result, he tries to struggle against the society command; yet, he fails to rebel. But at least, in the end he discovers his happiness through the sincere loving given at home which make him feel life is more meaningful.

I am of the opinion that George F. Babbitt is both the product and a victim of a culture of conspicuous consumption. As a part of the inhabitants, Babbitt is under

the rule of the society owing to the powerlessness of him where culture stands up in living. And even though he has fitted in the society order; to be prosperous and achieve reputation, satirically he is desperate because he acts as someone else. Therefore, his life is getting boring and hollow but later he realizes what he needs exactly is to be himself. So, I am of the opinion that having wealth and status do not bestow one to have happiness because, in the pursuit of happiness, both physical and mental needs must be provided at the same time.

Having discussed the portrayal of the protagonist, George Follansbee Babbitt, Sinclair Lewis tries to portray the life of the society. Lewis gives a clear description about the character and what his attitudes have accomplished in his living. Finally, I believe that Sinclair Lewis hopes that his readers try to achieve their desires based on their true-selves in order to gain a worthy life.