

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would review the social and inner conflicts of the protagonist in the novel, and draw a conclusion. Having read the novel and analyzed the social and inner conflicts of the young governess in Henry James' The Turn of the Screw, I am of the opinion that the young governess, as the protagonist of the novel has experienced social and inner conflicts because of her perceptions, which are different from the other members in the house. These different perceptions cause the young governess to have dilemmas that affect her life in the house. The protagonist's inner conflict concerning her romantic feeling towards her master shows that the young governess' is naïve, sensitive and emotionally volatile. These characteristics result in social conflicts between her and the members of the house. Her feeling toward her master has affected her duty as a governess, because she is aware that she is only an employee to her master, yet she hopes to express her love and admiration toward him. She is aware that relationships between employees and employers are difficult to realize; thus she decides to keep her feeling to herself. At first, she has a good impression about the children. She even loves them. Yet, in the end the children become the root of her conflicts in the house. The children are also the reason why the governess experiences difficulty in socializing with the resident of the house, such as Mrs. Grose.

The conflicts between the young governess with Mrs. Grose, Flora and Miles indicate that there are different perceptions in the house about the ghosts, which is why the young governess and the residents cannot get along with each other. Thus, I am of the opinion that social conflicts in life might arise from disagreements between people, so they should think of a way to reach agreement for the purpose of getting along with each other. It is normal to have disagreements, yet, we have to listen to each other and not be selfish.

The social conflicts concerning the apparition of ghost that the young governess has experienced show that the society has an important role in deciding what is considered logical and what is considered illogical. Edmund Wilson, the famous critic says that the young governess who tells the story from her point of view is a neurotic case of sex repression, and the ghosts are not real at all, but merely the young governess' hallucination (Parkinson). However, another critic states that the ghosts are real, "the apparition had straight, good features' and his appearance is described in detail, when we look back, we find that the master's appearance has never been described at all, we have merely been told that he was handsome" (Cole).

The inner conflicts concerning the apparitions of the ghost show that the society also has an important role on someone's perception. Upon reading this novel, I am of the same opinion with Cole who states that the ghosts are real, as there are many supporting facts included in the novel. I am in agreement with Cole who thinks that the book is fiction that involves real ghosts.

I am of the opinion that Henry James as the author succeeds in creating a ghost story that triggers social and inner conflicts of the protagonist. Henry James is

successful in showing the conflicts from the young governess' point of view and in persuading the readers to take the young governess' position, which is the key for me to understand the novel, even though not all the conflicts are solved. I also conclude that the young governess as the protagonist conveys the spirit of freedom of thinking. Even though the society has limited her freedom of thinking, she continues to express her thoughts, despite the consequences of being considered insane by the society.