

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

The negative characteristics of Meredith Johnson make assumption that Michael Crichton is an anti-feminist. Meredith's negative characteristics are seen as ruining the image of women workers because the way she succeeds in getting a top level position is regarded immoral. Moreover, the readers are made unsympathetic toward her, which is proven when women speakers give their reaction by saying that this novel is "just a vilification toward women worker". That is why Crichton is accused as an anti-feminist.

On the other hand, when I try to analyze this story thoroughly, I find that Michael Crichton is not an anti-feminist. His novel actually tells about women workers' struggle which is represented by Meredith Johnson. Her characteristics can be seen as the reflection of the spirit of a woman worker to be in the top position. Where many women are pushed to become good housewives, she dares to express what she really wants in her life. Her characteristics are contradictory to women characteristics in reality which is seen as submissive and easy to be influenced.

Meredith shows that women should not give up and be submissive to the system in society which treats them unfairly; that is why she chooses to

manipulate in order to cope with the unfair system. Maybe she will be stuck in her position as sales executive because the company does not give her opportunity to show her ability to lead a company. Men already underestimate women and I think not only underestimate but they cannot accept if they must report to a female boss who is regarded as second gender.

Meredith is a portrayal of women who strive for equality between men and women. Through this novel I get a new understanding of women's struggle in the workplace where it is difficult to find a way to compete with men workers. Women face many obstacles when they try to be equal with men; there are so many risks for women to develop as men. These obstacles make women sometimes develop negative traits and consequently they are trapped in crime but it is because they cannot find other ways to cope with the unfair patriarchal system.

This is also what Meredith feels. She feels that the system makes her trapped in a difficult position to choose the way which can help her to get the position she wants. Digicom, a big company dominated by male employees, makes Meredith use cunning ways and be trapped in crime.

Crichton shows that the position of women in society has been changed. They are not merely housewives but they can become career women. However, they must be careful with the unfair system because in reality there is still inequality between men and women. Men still does not want to be defeated by women, because they think it a shame if they must be led by a woman. I believe if the readers read this novel carefully and thoroughly, they can see the form of unfairness in the company which undermine women workers, and they find it difficult to deal with this unfairness

and to criticize each other, as Crichton has said, which has been included in the Background of the Study : “So they were pleased that a book did it for them”.

Through Meredith as the main character, Crichton also shows that actually the inequality in the company can ruin the company itself because women can take advantage of their position as women who usually become victims of sexual harassment. Women can do sexual harassment toward man workers to get the position they want as Meredith does in this novel. Meredith cannot be blamed for taking advantage of her position as a woman, because this is how she copes with the unfair system. This proves that the patriarchal system nowadays not only can weaken women’s position but it can be a weapon for women to defend themselves.

Through this novel, women workers can take many lessons to face the company which still discriminates women in the workplace. They should not give up but try to find a way to cope with the system which discriminates them so they can reach their professional life and show their ability as a woman in the world of men.