

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Someone's characteristics can change and develop if he lives in a new environment which is different from the one he has before. For example, a person who is genial can change into a bitter person because he lives in a new environment in which the people are bitter. Maybe the change will not happen automatically. At first the person is still a genial person but, sooner or later if the other people in the new environment are still bitter to him, he will end up being bitter to other people as well.

There are two factors that change someone's characteristics. The first is internal factor, and the second is external factor. The internal factor is the biological factor that is brought since the person was born but this is very possible to change and develop.

The combination of biology and society is what makes us what we are and do what we do. Biology guides our responses to stimuli, based on thousands of generations of ancestors surviving because of their responses. Our social

structures dictate restrictions and alliterations in how we carry out our biological responses. (Taflinger)

The external factor is a factor that comes from the environment where he lives, such as the treatments from other people to him, or from the bad or good experiences that he gets.

All people have completely unique behavioral traits, likes and dislikes, and habits that make them who they are. This uniqueness comes not only from biological factors, such as temperament, but is also developed from experiences, such as a person's sense of individuality, or a combination of both environmental and biological factors, such as personality. (Mental Health)

The changes of one's characteristics may also deal with the process of maturity and adolescence. Adolescence is an experience all adults have gone through, and involved many changes. In the process of growing up one experiences and tries to understand the world around him/her, although sometimes the process ends up with the lost of one's innocence. "Adolescence is a transitional period of development between youth and maturity. It represents a complex and sometimes disturbing psychological transition, accompanying the requirement for the accepted social behavior of the particular adult culture". (Stuart)

Elizabeth Bowen has written many books. Bowen's novels deal with the process of the changes of someone's characteristics that is caused by the environment and the process of growing up. The Death of the Heart is the most interesting of Elizabeth Bowen's novels because the story is much or less connected with her own life and she

also writes this book in such an interesting way which makes us as the readers feel involved in the story. “Her novel The Death of the Heart is cited as a book among the one hundred best language books of the twentieth century by the editorial board of the Modern Library”. (Gale)

I would like to focus on the protagonist and her actions. A protagonist is the leading character around whom conflicts and events revolve in a literary work, “A protagonist is a principal character in a literary work, a leading actor, character, or participant in a literary work”. (Webster)

Since character is the most prominent aspect of the novel, I decided to focus on that very aspect in my thesis. Through the analysis of the protagonist, I can unfold the reason behind her changes, which is mainly caused by the other characters around her.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In order to analyze this novel, I state the problem as follows:

1. What are the characteristics of the protagonist?
2. What changes of characteristic are experienced by the character?
3. What is the cause of the changes?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The study is carried out in order:

1. To show the characteristics of the protagonist.
2. To show the changes experienced by the character.
3. To show the cause of the changes

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

I use library research in writing the thesis. Firstly, I read the novel. Secondly, I choose the prominent literary aspect of the novel to be analyzed. Thirdly, I search for the references from the internet, which can support the analysis and furthermore can help me on writing my thesis. Finally, I draw some conclusion about what I have analyzed.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide my thesis into three chapters. In the first chapter, I present the Introduction, which contains 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 the second chapter I analyze the Portrayal of the Protagonist in Elizabeth Bowen's The Death of the Heart. Later in the third chapter, I draw my Conclusion of my analysis.

The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contains the Synopsis of the Novel and the Biography of the Author.