CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the portrayal of the protagonist in Elizabeth Bowen's <u>The Death</u> of the Heart I would like to draw my conclusion that one's characteristics are greatly influenced by the environment where she lives. The personal characteristic that she has had before maybe still there, but if the environment influence her, then her characteristics will change even very different from which she has before. The change of the characteristics happens in order to struggle for themselves in a certain environment.

The maturity process also deals with the changing of characteristics which is influenced by the environment. In the maturity process, a teenager will try to find about how to live in the adult world. A teenager will be confused to face the adult world which is very different from their childhood. In the process of maturity, a teenager should be guided by the adult. Their parents or their family must help their child in order not to make them confused in facing adult world.

Portia, an innocent-sixteen-years-old adolescent experiences many changes of her

characteristic. She is a girl who is full of spirit, happiness, and love. In the process of maturity, she must face a lot of difficulties. As an innocent girl, she is shocked by the reality that the adult world is full of hypocrisy. She is required to make adjustment because she lives in a small town but later she has to live in a big city like London where most of the people are arrogant with a high-class life and full of hypocrisy. As an innocent and inexperienced girl, she is unprepared to face the real world with the people who full of deception.

Portia tries hard to fit in and to be accepted by the adult, in this case from the only family that she has after her parents die. She hopes that she will be accepted by her halfbrother and his wife. But, her efforts are useless because she is still being rejected and abandoned by them.

Portia is confused about the condition of life in an adult world. The adults often betray each other. She is also confused because the adults always criticize and blame her. She wants someone give her guidance, save and accompany her to face the harshness of the adult world.

As an innocent she is too easy to trust people. She has no suspicions toward other people, although they are new for her. She does not know that the people use her innocence as to play her.

Her innocence brings her into trouble. Preserving her innocence in the adult world is an impossible thing. The adults will do anything including lie, and betray the others in order to gain what they want. If she still keeps her innocence, she will be beaten and pushed by the adults. Realizing that, she conforms to be a person like the adults around her. She feels that there is no use to be an innocent. She starts being the adult who is full of phoniness, cold, and cynic in order not to hurt by anyone anymore.

In the maturity process Portia gets a lot of harshness. She tries to be accepted in an adult world. She gets through the maturity process without guidance. She struggles herself. She finds a lot of hypocrisy of the adults. She feels that the adult is cruel and betrays each other. Her dreams to get a warm family, love, and be accepted as an adult are not come true.

The adult world brings her the disappointments. That makes Portia change from the teenage girl who is full of dreams, desire, cheerfulness; and naïve innocent girl into a cold and cynical woman. The environment when she is in the maturity process makes her characteristics change very different from the characteristics which she has before.