

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I will review the portrayal of the protagonist in the novel and draw some conclusion. I find that Clarice Starling as the protagonist has characteristics which affect all of her actions that she does and also the outcome of her problem. She is a persistent woman. Her persistency helps her when everybody would probably give up. She uses it to give her strength, and do not stop until she solves the problem. For example, when Starling is decide to try with everything she has to save Catherine Martin even though everything that she has done is ruined, and Starling was on the edge of getting recycled for her study.

Then Clarice is also portrayed so intelligently that her colleagues not only acknowledge it but also proves it by using her intelligence in solving the case and saves Catherine Martin from becoming Jame Gumb's victims. Starling proves it when she is trying to find Jame Gumb's motive in one of his victims. She sees that there are quite clear patterns for her to see, especially when she finds out from Dr. Lecter that actually Jame Gumb does not see woman as an ordinary man

usually does. His motive is finally revealed when Starling finds out that Jame Gumb is a skilled sewer and a transvestite.

Impatience is one of Starling's characteristics that do not change from the beginning. Her impatience is seen as the negative characteristics, yet it helps her in the progress of the characterization that she makes. For many times that she looks impatient, especially when she finds a clue that can lead her to find the killer. Yet in other perspective, we see that this negative characteristic is the one that makes her always conscious and alert all the time. Being impatient unconsciously helps her finish the tasks assigned to her and her life problem as soon as possible, in which means she needs to rescue Catherine Martin before Jame Gumb kills her.

Afterwards, Harris portrays Starling as a traumatic person. She is traumatized by the incident of her father's death. This characteristic is very crucial in the progress of the story. Starling's traumatic experience is the barrier that holds her back from doing anything that she can accomplish in her life.

The purpose of the author in this story is to tell us especially as the readers that we need to introspect ourselves and find our weaknesses, afterward accept it, deal with it and in the end win over it. The author realizes that it is not easy to deal with something if one is afraid of it. Yet, the author also conveys that one should determine one's own fate and realize that actually we already have what it takes to deal our trauma. Since everyone's trauma cannot be the same and everyone's characteristics are different, we just need to realize it and knows how to use our ability in the right time, and right place. One will never be free if one cannot face one's biggest fear and win over it.

Besides that, I also find a unique fact that the author portrays Starling, as the female major character, lives in a world with male-domination where woman are seen as the weak and undependable. Nowadays, gender discrimination still exists in the society. That is the reason why it is hard for a woman to survive in a male dominated world. And yet, in the story even the weak one, as long as they try hard to achieve something, they can reach their goals in life and everything. Once again the author proves that anyone can make a difference as long as one tries hard and uses our intelligence.

I see that such character as Clarice Starling also can be seen in our real life because some people in the real life have experienced trauma. A trauma is not something new to every human. I am sure we all have experienced a traumatic experience. And yet, it is up to us to decide whether the trauma will last forever. It can be a part of our lives which can makes us stronger or destroy us. In Starling's case, is all about losing someone that we love. Starling has experienced how her father died, and how her mother left her, but she still managed to fight back and released herself. For some people these experiences can be such devastating for their lives. The fear of losing your loved ones is something that can be seen as a trauma just like what Starling has had. It only has one solution, for we should face what we are afraid of bravely, intelligently, and persistently until we win.

Based on the reasons above, I conclude that Thomas Harris is successful in portraying the protagonist. The story becomes relevant and exciting to read, because Starling was portrayed in such a way that the reader can understand how she feels, what she thinks, and the most important thing give us some lessons of life about how to handle your fear and trauma in the correct ways. It is not

surprising that The Silence of the Lambs becomes one of the best novels of the century, especially in its genre, thriller novel. Starling can bring us the suspense in every action that she makes.