

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After completing the analysis of the protagonist in The Road by Cormac McCarthy, I would like to draw a conclusion. The Road is set in a post apocalyptic situation, in which people have to struggle hard to survive. In my opinion, it is a lot more difficult when we are put in a horrible situation, because not only that we have to struggle for ourselves, but we also have to save the ones we love. In the novel, I believe that the success of the father in saving his young son is supported by all of his characteristics. It can be seen in how the father faces all obstacles that he finds during the bleak journey. In relevance with all of his characteristics, I conclude that the theme of the novel is “In a difficult situation, one should struggle hard for the sake of the loved one.”

In The Road by Cormac McCarthy, the father is portrayed as a positive-thinking, resourceful, brave, persevere, loving and also responsible man. During their journey, his main concern is only to save his son’s life. Although in the end

the father dies because of his sickness, he succeeds in saving the life of his son. In the end, having brought his son to the South, his son is taken by a man who has a wife and two children on his own. Thus, I conclude that in struggling to defend one's beloved ones, all of the protagonist's characteristics are needed.

Having finished reading the novel, there are many things that I have got, not only the illustration about how the situation of a post apocalyptic that is full of disasters and starvation that turn to cannibalism, but also the knowledge about the best way that I may do in the same situation, even though there is no assurance that it will happen to me. Another thing that I have got is something that related to love and affection of parents, represented by the father, to their children.

The inspiration for The Road came to Cormac McCarthy during his visit El Paso, Texas with his son about four years prior. He was imagining what the city might look like in the future and then he pictured "fires on hill" and thought about his son. In my opinion, it is possible that Cormac McCarthy places himself in a post apocalyptic situation and he contemplates on what he will do to save his son's life if he and his son have to face the same situation. In this case, I can see that actually people especially parents, perhaps have fear about the reality of a difficult situation in the future, but for all parents, who is represented by Cormac McCarthy, their biggest fear is how they can save their beloved children, and the best thing that they can do to defend their beloved ones in the same situation. Another fear is maybe when they cannot accompany their children in facing difficult situations and bad things will happen to them. Thus, I also conclude that not only in a post apocalyptic situation but also in other difficult situations, the important thing is not about ourselves but other people, especially one's beloved

ones. This novel also shows that the only thing that one has to be concerned about is how to keep struggling for one's beloved ones, and I believe that the father's characteristics are needed.

Through the analysis of the protagonist, I find some moral lessons. Firstly, as a father, one needs to be responsible and to love his family. It is his duty as the head of the family. In the novel, the father decides to take care and accompany his son in a post apocalyptic situation by himself. Through his decision, the father has proven himself as a responsible father. He has proven that although the situation has worsened, he takes his duty as a father and by doing such thing; he shows that by being responsible, someone can survive in every situation.

Secondly, someone needs to be positive-thinking in every situation in his life, even in the most difficult ones, such as what the father faces in the novel. The father always has positive thoughts that he and his son will be safe. Although his son often thinks that they will not survive, the father always encourages his son that they will survive.

Thirdly, as a human being, one should persevere in any situation and one should not give up easily in facing all obstacles in life. In the novel, the father never gives up, even in his hardest condition. He always faces all situations with courage and he never gives up. He always lives his life with perseverance. In the end, he shows that by having perseverance, he can overcome the difficulties.

Above all, in my opinion, the theme through the protagonist characters in The Road is suitable in representing love and affection to the beloved ones because the novel clearly describes the struggle of the father to defend his son's life.

The theme here is also a moral message to the readers about the importance of love and affection from other people, especially parents because with their valuable love and affection, everything is possible, especially in difficult situations. Moreover, through the analysis of the characteristics of the protagonist, the readers are also taught to be optimistic, to never give up, to be responsible, to be loving, to have perseverance and to be resourceful in any difficult situation.