

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to present the conclusion of my analysis of the novel entitled *The Fall*. After I read and analyze the novel, I come to a conclusion that this novel gives the readers a description about a man who has been living a false life, and how it leads to his downfall. In this novel it is clear that the protagonist tries to get recognition from the society; later on we learn of his downfall, which is triggered by his remorse over what happened at the Seine.

First, I would like to conclude my analysis on Clamence's characteristics. Clamence's first characteristic is proud. Clamence brags about his ability to show that he is better and more important than others. It gives him a sense of security, thinking that he is better and more important than others. This is evident when Clamence consistently shows his pride about his abilities. When he says that he can sniff the victim, he also wants to show his ability in analyzing a case. Nobody can truly know a case if they do not make an investigation first. This is connected to his profession as a lawyer, when he wants to make himself hailed as a great lawyer. Because of his profession, at that time people truly respect him. This idea

makes Clamence unwilling to be equated with others, especially his fellow lawyers. We can see from his words that he likes living above other people. Clamence states this is the case as he does not want people to know about his real life, which is worse than the life of people in that era.

Furthermore, I find that his pride has triggered him to be pretentious in front of the society. Clamence pretends to be a good and polite person who is willing to help others in order to gain good credit from the society and to refrain himself and his profession from people's negative prejudice. He wants to cover his true characteristics, although he himself is reluctant to always appear to be a good man. Some of the examples of his being pretentious can be seen when he helps a blind old man cross the street. He does this just because he wants to be recognized by the society when people see his good deed. The same pretentious idea also applies when he persuades a motorcyclist to pull over, with a polite tone, and also when he accompanies his friend who is dying.

Clamence is also portrayed as a judgmental person. He likes to judge others, without knowing the truth about them. For example, he judges a man in a bar named Mexico City just from his appearance. He also states his personal opinions on the Parisians and the Dutch. This is evidence showing his thought that he is better than others.

In the middle of the story, after he fails to save a woman's life when she is trying to commit suicide, Clamence comes to a realization that he is wrong. Pretending that nothing has happened becomes the starting point of his remorse. He feels guilty, not just because he does not save the woman, but also because he

pretends that nothing happened to the woman. As a result, he decides to do whatever he likes and to show his true personality. He becomes ignorant and pessimistic. I think Clamence cannot stand living in his pretense any longer, and his failure of saving the woman from falling into the Seine always haunts him. He realizes that his fake good attitude is useless anymore.

I believe that the characteristics of Clamence are in line with the idea of Absurdism. According to Absurdism, life is meaningless. All that people search for in this world is considered to be nothing because their last point in life is death. This thought may affect a human to think that life is useless, and is not worthy. Consequently, people will not find a meaning of life if their basic idea of humanity is wrong because they are never satisfied about anything. They will keep searching for something, even though they do not know whether that something is real or not. In the case of the protagonist, he leads a false life. In the end, however, he finds and believes that all the things he has done are meaningless, they are really nothing. Camus also argues that everyone has their own mistakes, whether he realizes it or not. In Clamence's case, he fails not only to save the woman from killing herself; but also he is guilty because he pretends that nothing happened.

Based on my findings, I find that the portrayal of the protagonist in the novel is realistic. I deem that Clamence can be seen as a representation of many people who like wearing a mask to cover their mistakes and their incapability. I believe that people who are proud of themselves like to cover their weaknesses, while people who are pretentious like to pretend to be good in the society. If they fail to do so, they will become stressful, which will lead to their downfall. This kind of people tends to think that their mistakes, which haunt them, can turn them

into nothing and lead them into a gloomy world. If the condition happens it will affect the characteristics of the people itself. The gloomy feelings, along with remorse, can make people start to think that their life in this world is not meaningful anymore.