

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading the novel and discussing the portrayal of the major characters in The House of The Lord by Barry Dickins, I find that Barry Dickins brings the issues about perception of role model and maturity. A role model is a figure who is expected to have high-quality traits, such as physically good, having good attitude and behavior that people adore. Maturity here explains how the two major characters respond to their life experience.

The two major characters in the novel have their own figure of role model. Bertie Warble, one of the major characters who narrates the story, has a perception that a role model should be perfect. He rejects Keith and Doug Hurdle, his church members, to be his role models because they have flaws. They are conceited and slightly persons. He also used to make his father and his teachers his role model. When they show their imperfections, again, Bertie searches for other role models but he never finds the perfect role model because there is no perfect human in this world. The other major character, Johnny Rigos, also has a priest figure as his role

model but when he feels disappointed, he learns that his life is not all about finding a role model and he decides to serve other people by doing good deeds.

Dickins' description of Bertie's characteristics are immature, talkative, dependent, diligent, intelligent, religious, observant and he loves his father. His characteristics that change are quiet, independent, irreligious, alcoholic and he hates his father and in the end of the story he becomes mature while his characteristics that do not change are diligent, intelligent and observant. While Johnny's characteristics are described by the author as kind-hearted, naive, thoughtful, religious and forgiving. After the bad experience, Johnny turns into an unforgiving person to the priest and he experiences a change in his sexual orientation while the other characteristics do not change throughout the novel.

Such characteristics are realistic and likely to be found in real life because the two major characters as different persons will also have different perception and different response towards life experiences. Bertie as a person who is grown up as a spoilt child and immature, responds to his traumatic experience in a negative manner, while Johnny, who is independent and thoughtful, keeps living his life and still thinks positively.

I find that the author presents Bertie Warble's character as a round and dynamic character. At the beginning of the story, Bertie is portrayed as an immature and dependent person. He always thinks like a child and tries to get anything that he wants. These characteristics are triggered by his parents who spoil him. After leaving his home, he becomes an independent person because he lives alone and he has to take care of himself. His acquaintance with Johnny makes Bertie find Johnny as another role model. Their meeting has caused some

changes in Bertie's characteristics; he becomes more mature in thoughts and selfless because he does not think about himself anymore. He forgives his father and asks for an apology from Jane, his fiancée for leaving her during her early pregnancy period.

The author also presents Johnny Rigos' character as a round and dynamic character. The bad experience does not change his character to be a bad person but helps him to be more mature. He still helps others. Even though he is imperfect as a human, regarding his sexual orientation, Johnny becomes a role model for people around him, especially for Bertie.

This novel is interesting to be analysed and the most significant issue here is the characters themselves. I think the title of this novel, The House of The Lord, represents the meaning of the church. The church itself is not about the building but about the community who does religious activity. Bertie finds Johnny as a church because of Johnny's good deeds. Bertie even regards him as similar to Jesus.

Bertie Warble, together with Johnny Rigos as the two major characters has naïve perception of role models and expects perfection from their role models. They depend on their role models to lead their life but when they feel disappointed, their experiences teach them to be more mature. I believe the author's purpose of creating such major characters is to show how people always try to find and get perfection in their life but there is no perfect human in this life and from that imperfection the readers can gain a better comprehension of life.