

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

For my thesis, I would like to analyse and compare two novels; the first is Lady Chatterley's Lover, written by D.H. Lawrence and the second one is Oscar and Lucinda, written by Peter Carey. The analysis elaborates the portrayal of the female characters and contains the aspect of psychological oppression as an issue which influences the characteristics of the female characters.

The reason I choose Lady Chatterley's Lover is that the author is a controversial novelist, especially in the writing of Lady Chatterley's Lover, for his bravery and ability to write about the detail of his characters' sexual life. "The author of more than 40 books, he was one of the most influential and controversial novelists of the twentieth-century. It was frank discussion of sexual matters and life situations that won the novelist literary notoriety." (Leonard).

Lady Chatterley's Lover is the last novel of D.H. Lawrence. In comparison with his other books, such as Women in Love or The Rainbow, which is actually his masterpiece; Lady Chatterley's Lover ranks higher that "nobody concerned with the novel in our century can afford not to read it - Lawrence Durrell" ("Lady Chatterley's Lover"). It becomes a controversy in the literary world because it is

thought to be an obscene novel. Moreover, many countries have banned the publicity of the novel because of its explicit story related to sexual matters and the use of indecent words which are unusual at that time.

In Lady Chatterley's Lover, I find that the female character lives under psychological oppression as a result of her husband's impotence and his over protective behaviour towards the female character's life. The female character is portrayed not to be allowed to do anything based on her decision without her husband's permit. The novel also shows us that men intentionally or unintentionally underestimate women's behaviour or their way of thinking. It adds the oppression in the female character's life and consequently, the psychological oppression shapes the woman's characteristics.

As a comparison, I choose Oscar and Lucinda because Peter Carey, as the author, wins many awards for his works so that many critics think that "we have a great novelist living on the planet with us, and his name is Peter Carey - Los Angeles Times Book Review" (Rabb). He also has such a good ability in storytelling that we, as the readers, cannot wait to finish the story and could also create the characters as if they really exist. "[*Oscar & Lucinda*] is very, very hard to put down. There are many pleasures to be had here, chief among them the author's gift for telling, fascinating, entertaining stories.... - Washington Times" (Rabb). Oscar and Lucinda wins The Booker Prize in 1988. The novel is also made to be a movie presented by Fox Searchlight Pictures and becomes a major motion picture.

In Oscar and Lucinda, I find another example of psychological oppression felt by the female character which is caused by men's underestimation. In the former book, Lady Chatterley's Lover, the oppression is shown in Connie's

marriage life while in Oscar and Lucinda, it is shown in Lucinda's working life. Lucinda must conceal her identity as the owner of a glass factory in an attempt to avoid being underestimated by her employees and business colleagues because it is common that men do not appreciate women in business life. We know that working life is dominated by men; as a result, women who become the owners or heads of a company, will not be well appreciated.

From the portrayal of the female characters in Lady Chatterley's Lover and Oscar and Lucinda, I find that the issue of psychological oppression influences the characteristics of the female characters in both novels. The situation makes me realise that the circumstance does not only happen in the story of both novels but also in reality.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In order to analyse the novel, I state the problems as follow:

1. How are the female characters portrayed in Lady Chatterley's Lover and Oscar and Lucinda?
2. What are the authors' purposes in creating such characters in their novels?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study is written to show:

1. How the female characters are portrayed in Lady Chatterley's Lover and Oscar and Lucinda.

2. What the authors' purposes are in creating such characters in their novels.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I use formalism as the approach in analysing the novels. The analysis is about the portrayal of the female characters in both novels with the issue of psychological oppression.

The method I use is the library research. I start by reading the primary texts, which are Lady Chatterley's Lover and Oscar and Lucinda. I obtain some references and resources from the Internet and theory books. I use them to support the analysis in writing the thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I divide the thesis into four chapters. In the first chapter, I present the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Methods of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. In the second and third chapters, I analyse the female characters with the issue of psychological oppression in Lady Chatterley's Lover and Oscar and Lucinda. In the fourth chapter, I come to the conclusion of my analysis. The thesis is ended by the Bibliography and Appendices.