CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I am going to draw a conclusion from the analysis in the previous chapter. From the analysis, I can see that it revolves around the lives of two women, and both female major characters are from different social backgrounds. Becky Sharp comes from a lower-class that makes her feels dissatisfied with her life and makes her become a social climber. Meanwhile, Amelia Sedley, comes from a wealthy family, but later she turns to being poor. There are three social conflicts experienced by Becky Sharp and two social conflicts are experienced by Amelia Sedley.

Becky Sharp is a very ambitious woman who comes from a lower-class family and her conflicts are all related to her efforts to achieve a higher social status. Her conflicts are triggered by her ambition to have a lot of money. Becky does anything to get whatever she wants, even though she knows the consequences. The first conflict is between Becky Sharp and Mrs. Bute Crawley concerning a competition to get a fortune, which is not resolved because neither Mrs. Bute nor Becky agrees with each other. The second social conflict is between Becky Sharp and Crawleys' servants concerning the servants' envy towards

17

Becky, which is resolved because the Crawleys' servants finally agree with Becky. The third social conflict is between Becky Sharp and Rawdon Crawley, her husband, concerning their different lifestyles, which is not resolved because Becky and Rawdon are still of different opinions. Some of Becky Sharp's conflicts are not resolved because Becky does not want to change her mind and still holds on to her opinion. The reason why she keeps to her opinion because in Victorian era, people with a lot of money will be respected by other people and they can control the lower-class people.

Amelia Sedley used to be rich but due to the bankruptcy, she becomes a poor woman. She experiences two social conflicts with the Osbornes and her own husband because they consider her to be inferior to them. The first conflict between Amelia Sedley and the Osbornes concerning Mr. John Osborne's refusal to George's marriage with Amelia is not resolved because both Amelia and the Osbornes still disagree with each other. The second conflict between Amelia Sedley and George Osborne concerning George's attitude towards Jos Sedley, Amelia's brother, is also not resolved because Amelia still disagrees with George even though she decides to let her husband treat her brother rudely. All of Amelia Sedley's conflicts are not resolved because Amelia still keeps to her opinion. She keeps her opinion is connect to the fact that she used to be a rich girl but she turns into poor and she is not used to be treated as the poor that is why she experiences conflict.

There are similarities and differences on social conflicts experienced by Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley. Both of the female major characters' conflicts are emphasis on social status and wealth. Also, both of the major female

18

characters experience social conflicts because they believe that they have the same rights with those in the high-class society, even though they are from lower-class. Different with Amelia, Becky is successful in getting her ambition of being in the high-class society because she is more persistent and she is a social climber; thus, she experiences conflict, whereas Amelia is not successful in placing herself in the high-class society because she used to be rich and then she turns poor; thus, she experiences conflicts. Moreover, Amelia is more submissive compared to Becky. These two different characteristics result in different ways of facing the conflicts.

Through the female major characters' social conflicts in the novel, I find that people are selfish and materialistic. In addition, through Becky and Amelia's conflicts, the conflicts they had are revolves around social status and money. I think nowadays, the conflicts of Becky Sharp and Amelia Sedley happen to some of people.

In my opinion, Thackeray is successful to convey his brilliant ideas in this novel regarding high-class people in England. I may also conclude that through this novel, Thackeray wants to criticize the attitudes of lower-class and high-class people in Victorian era; that social status is very important to get a respectable reputation and to be accepted in the society, especially in high-class society.

I believe that Becky Sharp's and Amelia Sedley's conflicts represent social life in England, especially in London, in which social status becomes a prominent cause of social conflicts. From their story, the readers will realize that how selfishness corrupt their morality. In this novel, I am of the opinion that

19

Thackeray describes Victorian era as the era when people see social classes as the most important matter, especially in London, which is the setting of the novel. Thackeray describes high-class people as a group of people who let money control them. For example, to get more money, most of them do gambling until they get into debts, and then they are broke. I think Thackeray wants to show how money and social status mattered a lot in Victorian period that people thought they were entitled to do anything with money as their sole consideration. Thus, I believe Thackeray wants to make the readers to see that having a lot of money does not guarantee one to get happiness.