

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After having analyzed both social and inner conflicts in Digging to America, I can conclude that Anne Tyler is a good writer due to the fact she already succeeds not only in producing a good story that make me as the reader feel eager to read her novel, but also in creating the social and inner conflicts in the story that makes this novel becomes more interesting for me to read. In this chapter, I would review the social and inner conflicts of the protagonist in the novel, and draw a conclusion. Having read the novel and analyzed the social and inner conflicts of the protagonist in Anne Tyler's Digging to America, I am of the opinion that Maryam Yazdan, the protagonist of the novel has experienced social and inner conflicts, because she cannot adjust with the American culture although she has already lived there for 35 years. As a result, Maryam experiences some dilemmas that affect her life.

Maryam as the protagonist of this novel experiences four social conflicts. She has conflicts with her son, Sami; her daughter-in-law, Ziba; and also with her

American friend Bitsy. The first social conflict is between Maryam and Sami concerning Maryam's objection towards Sami's lifestyle, which is unresolved because Sami and Maryam still disagree with each other. The second social conflict is between Maryam and Bitsy concerning Maryam's rejection of the love offered by Bitsy's father, Dave. This conflict is unresolved because both of them still disagree with each other. The third social conflict is between Maryam and Ziba concerning different opinion regarding pregnancy and this conflict is unresolved because both of them still disagree with each other. The fourth social conflict is also between Maryam and Ziba concerning Maryam's objection towards Ziba's way of dressing Susan, which is unresolved because both of them still keep to their own opinion.

Maryam also experiences two inner conflicts. The first inner conflict concerns Maryam's citizenship, whether she has to choose to keep her Iranian nationality or change her nationality into American. This conflict is resolved as she finally decides to be an American citizen. The second inner conflict concerns Maryam's decision whether to marry Dave or not. This inner conflict is finally resolved as she agrees to marry with Dave.

Most of the elements of social and inner conflicts in Anne Tyler's Digging to America are interesting so as to make the readers feel eager as well as question about how Maryam as the protagonist would resolve the conflicts in the end. In the story in Digging to America, the protagonist's life is relevant to real life. Most of people who live in America are immigrants from other countries, just like Maryam Yazdan. Most immigrants are from the United Kingdom, China, and Vietnam. Many of them have difficulties in adjusting with the American culture,

and it is also difficult for them because most of them are considered to be inferior than the Americans. Thus, it becomes difficult for the immigrants to feel at home in America, which is the case of Maryam Yazdan.

In my opinion, one has to be able to adjust oneself in a foreign country, and they have to accept other cultures. Living in another country does not necessarily mean forgetting about one's own culture and manner. However, I understand how Maryam feels. All of her family members are from Iran and she was born in Iran. According to her, Iran is the one place that she knows. For me, it must be a difficult to feel comfortable in a foreign country, because there are many differences between American and Iranian cultures. American people are more open, but Iranian people are more introverted. Americans are straightforward, but Iranians always try to be polite whenever they speak.

However, if I place myself in Maryam's position, I will not make the same decision as hers. Conflicts may happen due to different cultures. One has to be open-minded about everything, so that one may become a better person. Even though I disagree with Maryam, I believe that everyone has freedom to choose what to think. What one can do to cope with differences is to feel comfortable with oneself. We have to be open with others. Accepting other cultures does not mean forgetting about one's own culture.

I am of the opinion that Anne Tyler as the writer succeeds in creating a great character in the story that experiences both social and inner conflicts. For me, Anne Tyler manages to show the conflicts from an Iranian's point of view

and to persuade the readers to feel what Maryam feels, which makes me like the story even more.