CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing the characteristics of the protagonist in Coelho’s The Zahir in the previous chapter, I come to the following findings. Before his wife disappears, the protagonist is selfish. He only thinks about his own interest. Besides, he is a pessimistic person. He not only loses his wife but he also thinks that he cannot be a good person, a loving person or a good writer as his wife always wants him to be. The protagonist is also a dishonest husband. He always has affairs with other women. He also pretends as if he were really interested in whatever his wife has said to him. Although he has a dream to be a good writer, he is still lacking of self-confidence whether he can write a useful and good book or not.

After his wife disappears, the characteristics of the protagonist change for the better. Now, he becomes a realistic person who cannot live without his wife. He decides to look for his wife as he tries to do his best to prove to his wife that he can change.

Furthermore, the protagonist becomes realistic when he realizes that he cannot erase Esther, the Zahir, from his mind. He is obsessed by the Zahir. Now he becomes confident with what he does because his readers can accept his work. Moreover, he
becomes insightful. When he begins to write, he realizes that he needs someone to live with and is capable of saying that he really loves his wife. In his mission to look for his wife, he shows his wisdom to his wife through his book. Besides, he finds his true identity after Mikhail, a Kazakh, has given him a lot of valuable things, like knowledge and advice. Later on, he becomes an understanding person after he realizes that he must go forward to reach his happiness. Finally, he knows about love and becomes a loving and appreciative person.

From the development of the protagonist’s characteristics throughout the story, I find out that before the protagonist’s wife disappears, the protagonist had a bad attitude until his wife decided to leave him without trace. But after the protagonist’s wife disappears, his character changes. In fact, he is a round character because his characteristics continue to develop and make him a lifelike character. In terms of the characterization techniques, the author has used speech, character as seen by another and reaction. Yet, the most frequently used technique is speech.

After analyzing this novel, I realize that Coelho wants us to be the observers and relate the problems presented in the novel to our life. In this novel, the author writes about life, sex, love, religion, marriage and God, as well as how he faces the reality of life, how he sees marriage and how the protagonist realizes that he loves someone more than himself for the first time in his life. Sometimes, it occurs to many of us that we always ask the question whether we are happy or not. This can happen because people usually keep themselves busy with their job without considering their happiness, and this is the reason why people always feel unhappy in their life. The author tries to remind the
readers that we should start realizing the happiness we have been given and learn to appreciate it as to live a better life with a better self.