CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After taking the story of the novel into account, the present writer is of the opinion that Booth Tarkington is successful in portraying the major characters and giving the contrasting result from the influence of the Industrial Revolution on the major characters’ lives because he can describe it clearly.

Throughout the novel, the present writer finds that the major characters are portrayed in contrast. George, who is one of the major characters, is portrayed as a fashionable, good-looking, lazy, extravagant, and shallow-minded person. On the other hand, Eugene Morgan is portrayed as an unfashionable, ugly, hardworking, simple, and broad-minded man. The present writer thinks that Tarkington gives the contrasting portrayal to fit with their social status, where George comes from the upper class, while Eugene Morgan comes from the middle class.

There is a connection between the portrayal and the background of the major characters’ lives. George grows as an extravagant and fashionable person because he
is rich. George is also spoiled by his family and all these things make him lazy and does not respect others. George represents people at that time that does not use the Industrial Revolution as an opportunity to develop his family business and he does not realize that this thing will give the negative effect toward the Ambersons’ prosperity.

On the other hand, Eugene Morgan grows in the middle class and this condition gives him the opportunity to appreciate others and live a simple life, so that is why the author portrays him as a hard worker. His unfashionable style also reflects his simple life. Eugene Morgan represents the chance of the status elevation through proper speculation and investment. Accompanied by his hardworking personality, he shows that a hard working machine owner during that time would prosper and rise in his social status. It means that he represents people at that time who use the Industrial Revolution as the opportunity to develop their business.

The industrialization is a continuous thing and we cannot stop it because there are many people who always create something new for the people’s lives. Hardworking people who are speculative and have broader minds can use this opportunity to do a business as an investment. The present writer assumes that until now almost all the machine owners still have power and get prosperity by running their business.

The present writer finds that nowadays there are people who have the same characteristics with George and Eugene Morgan. It is possible that people who usually live in wealth do not want to work hard and spend the time lazily. They turn
to be people who do not care about work or anything because they feel that without working they can still be prosperous, but they do not realize that this will give a negative effect on their lives. This thing clearly reflects George’s portrayal through this novel.

While it is possible for people who live in a simple way to be rich then because of their efforts to make a better life by working hard and trying to be speculative in facing the world’s development. Life is unpredictable and as a human being the only thing we want to do is to try to prepare everything well in order to get a better life. The present writer finds that Eugene Morgan reflected as a well prepared person and can adapt to the situation, so he can get a better life.

The present writer is of the opinion that the author’s purpose in writing this novel is to show that not all the effect of development give a positive effect on people’s lives, it can make it worse. It depends on how we prepare and anticipate the events, just what happen in the Industrial Revolution. By showing the contrasting portrayal of George and Eugene Morgan during the Industrial Revolution, it shows that someone can get a better life, while someone else loses his wealth during the Industrial Revolution. The author also seems to suggest to the reader that the world always turns around and we will never know what will happen next; it reflects George’s and Eugene Morgan’s lives. Growing up in a wealthy family does not guarantee that we will always be rich. We have to work hard and try to be an active person in facing the real world.