

CHAPTER VI

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6.1. Summary

In reading a story, we may react emotionally to the characters and what happens to them. We will react thoughtfully to them. We act as if the story were real, it is because the author has been skillful in putting it together. The characters can not be separated with the plot since plot is fundamental to narrative art and neither is the character. They affect each other. Henry James was concerned with this issue when he asked, "What is character but the determination of incident ? What is incident but the illustration of character ?" In this general and theoretical sense, plot includes not only physical but metaphysical action -- that is, the intellectual and emotional responses of characters. (McKenzie, 1978 : 31).

Conflict can be found in every literary work because conflict is a motor of a story. In serious fiction, there are both external and internal conflict. External conflict concerns the struggles of protagonist

against an objectified antagonist such as another individual, the setting, fate, or combination of all three forces (McKenzie, 1978 : 31). If the conflict is also internal, as it is in most of the stories, the action takes place at another level -- within the mind of the character who is torn frequently between contrasting loyalties and ways of life or between two aspects of the self, usually one that is " idealized " and one that is " real " (McKenzie, 1978 : 31).

In Albert Camus' The Stranger, there are two kinds of conflicts, external and internal conflicts. The main character of The Stranger, Meursault, was an easy man. He did not want to be complicated with the problems that he faced. Because of his way of thinking that was different from people around him, he was in conflict with them because they did not know what Meursault had in mind. For the first time, they did not show it, but at last, at the court, they stated their opinion about Meursault. They stated that they did not understand Meursault at all. First, they confused why Meursault sent his mother to the Home for age. Second, they did not understand why Meursault did not weep for his mother's death. And because of this, they considered Meursault as an undevoted child. It seemed unfair for Meursault since the court was hold to judge him for killing the Arab, not

for his ignorance toward his mother. It did not relate at all. But, the court had other opinion. They thought if Meursault had a heart to discard his own mother to the Home, it meant that Meursault also had a heart to kill the Arab. And because of this, Meursault was given a death sentence by the jury.

Although Meursault did not care about what people thought about him, he was still care about the situation around him. He paid attention to little things around him that was considered unimportant by other people such as the wet towel at his office, hot weather and the situation of the prison where he stayed to wait his execution. Besides that, Meursault also cared about other people's feelings in certain situation. That is why he sometimes asked himself what he had done was right or wrong although at last he decided what was right according to him. And because he followed his own way of thinking, at last he found his identity and he was happy to know the meaning of his life.

6.2. Suggestion

After reading Camus' novel, The Stranger, the writer feels that the life is not as easy as it looks. It is so hard, particularly if we live in a society, so what we do should also be related with other people. If we are in clash with them, we will have a problem. Not only that, in this life, we also wondered whether we have done the right things or not. That is why we should think twice before we do something. It means that we have a conflict with ourselves. It is not easy too, to solve the problems we faced. We need our own principle to decide the best decision we make.

In this case, the writer suggests that everybody should have a basic principle of life. The writer thinks that it is very important to have a basic principle to defend our life. It does not mean that we defend our principle to fight with other people. We use it as a consideration when we want to make decision. Like Meursault, because of his belief, he knows what he is and he is happy to find his identity.

Another suggestion is that the older people such as parents or teachers should encourage their children to solve their own problems. For example, if a child or a student has a problem, the parents or the teacher do

not solve the problems for them. Just try to give suggestions about the problems and ask them to decide what is the best for them. It may train them to believe in themselves.

Those are the suggestions from the writer to face this life. The writer also hopes that this thesis will be useful for the readers.

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