

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature are stories created and told or written or acted out in purpose of conveying the author's emotions and his thoughts of the world to entertain, and teach; broaden the mind of readers. Literature makes readers put themselves in others' shoes. Stories, difficulties and the struggles from different places, times, cultures, philosophies and religion show readers other perspective and knowledge, though it may not happen or have never happened. By reading literature, readers go around the world and learn all sorts of things without leaving home. It lets readers leave their current problems and lets them know that they are not the only ones in the world facing problems and lets them learn of the ways that one could or should not do to solve a problem.

There are three genres of literature—prose, poetry and drama, and each one reflect, or represent an idea (fact or fiction) of the author (Kennedy, 1983; Roberts & Jacobs, 1989). Out of those genres this study discusses a fictional novel called “Lord of the Flies” by William Golding, one of the entertaining yet educational literary works.

“Lord of the Flies” is telling about a group of stranded boys on an island after an evacuation caused by a nuclear incident. They were evacuated by plane when later the plane crashed on an island. After the crash, the pilot was nowhere to be found and the boys found themselves alone on an island with no adults. Everything went well at first but later on with no adults around everything went

haywire. The lack of civilization, adults and the comforts of home made them desperate and willing to do anything to survive, making them turn savage and even hunt down a friend.

The controversial part of “Lord of the Flies”, also what makes it so famous, is how William Golding show what man and the society become when their everyday comforts are taken away. The reflection on man and the society when cut off from everyday comfort is depicted through the life of the group of boys in the story. With no guidance from adults, no shelter and no appliances or tools, they are driven back to their natural basic instincts to survive, following the way a warrior thinks (Baldassarro, 2003).

“Lord of the Flies” is a favourite read for young adults because of its rebellion theme. In America, it is one of the widely banned books because some adults and schools consider its contents to depict man as nothing more than animals, to be full of violence, vile language, and racism and to be against religion (Baldassarro, 2003). The writer agrees to Baldassarro’s (2003) opinion that the people who ban this book are hypocrites.

Another factor also besides the writer’s love of reading novels is her interest in human behaviour which made her decide to analyse “Lord of the Flies”. In real life, if people do get cut off from everyday comforts because of a disaster of some sort, the writer believes that the outcome will resemble the one in “Lord of the Flies”: Some people will get lost while some try to still be civilized and all of these people will turn against each other. The outcome above and those people are all depicted in the story as the young boys struggling to stay alive. This is

what made this book so interesting to the writer. What interests the writer even more are the characters and their relationship in “Lord of the Flies”. The characters separates themselves in groups; it started with the leaders and the followers at first, and then it changed to two groups, each with their own leaders and different opinions and their followers. The writer decided to analyse a character because he himself and his actions were the most intriguing part of the story. There are several characters in the Lord of the Flies that can be analysed however, after reading, the writer decided to analyse the main character, Ralph, for the writer believes that he was the only one to change positively in that kind of situation.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

There are only two questions asked by the writer for the reason that the scope of her study is small. The purpose of this study is to find and analyze the character development of Ralph, the main character in William Golding’s novel “The Lord of the Flies”. The matter under discussion is narrowed further into two specific subjects—the character trait development of Ralph and the triggering factors. Accordingly, the statements of the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the development of the main character’s character traits?
2. What factors support the development of the main character’s character traits?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In general, the study is about the character traits development of the main character in “Lord of the Flies” by William Golding. In accordance with the problem statements, there are two objectives of carrying out this study. They are to find out the main character’s character trait development and to see what factors causes the main character to become the person that he is in the end.

By solving the problem statements is to help readers to be able to understand and learn more the character traits development of the main character and its triggering factors in the novel. On the whole, this study is carried out in the hope to help readers understand William Goldings “Lord of the Flies” better and learn more deeply from the novel and the main character.

1.4 Significance of the study

As the writer wrote at the start that literature are stories created to entertain and teach, she also expects that besides getting entertainment, readers also learn about different things, places, and cultures, from different times, philosophies and religion. In other words, this study will enrich the reader’s insight.

The writer hopes that readers develop their understanding on someone’s character traits development in real life. Other than that from this study, the writer would particularly like readers to see and learn how Ralph’s (the main character) will to survive is so strong that it changes him, even with the absence of adults.

The writer also hopes that this study may be of help to fellow students as a reference for future studies relating to character development. Additionally,

perhaps after reading this study, students who haven't read *Lord of the Flies* might be intrigued to read it.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

According to Abrams, there are four critical theories that can be used to analyse a literature. Three explains the relationship between the work and the artist (expressive theory) or the universe (mimetic theory) or the audience (pragmatic theory) while the last explains the work itself with no ties to other things (objective theory). When analysing a character from a book, one analyses an element of fiction from the work. From what the writer analyses, it can be seen that she will use the objective theory as a guide in analysing the literature. In the objective theory where only the work itself with no attachment whatsoever to other things, to analyse the literature what must be analysed is not only one of the elements of fiction but all of it, such as; setting, plot, character and theme (Abrams, 1953).

To interpret the data found for the setting and characters, the writer uses the formalistic technique, where she, the writer herself interpret by analysing the resource of language used to convey meaning. In analysing the plot, she will also use the formalistic techniques with the addition of the plot structure theory as guide. For the theme, the writer uses the formalistic technique and the biographical technique, where the author's background is taken into account when analysing the theme (DiYanni, 2001).

To answer the problem statements, other than using the formalistic technique to determine his original character traits and his developed character

traits, the writer needs more guides that help her understand deeper of the character traits development of the main character and its factors of change. In order to do so, the writer uses several theories of behaviour, such as; Maslow's Hierarchy of human needs, and Bandura's social cognitive theory. Each of these theories helps the writer explain the situation of the main character—his motivations and the factors of character traits development.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

The scope and limitation of this study is only the analysis of the development of the main character's character traits and the factors. The writer also limits her use of theories—critical theories: objective theory, interpreting techniques: formalistic and biographic technique and Behaviourism theories: Maslow's Hierarchy of human needs and Bandura's social cognitive theory—used as guides in carrying out the study.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Characters : Character is a copy of a real person with the good and bad features of being human in a story (Roberts & Jacobs, 1989). Characters in this study refer to the people in the story of “Lord of the Flies” novel.

Main character : The character that story revolves around which makes him the focus of the story. The character in this study, which is the main character of “Lord of

the Flies” novel written by William Golding, is Ralph, one of the children who were stranded on an island.

Character Trait Development : One’s qualities such as courtesy, honesty, kindness and responsibility.

Character Traits : The development of one’s qualities because of some influencing factors either internal or external or both.

Lord of the Flies : A novel written by William Golding about children stranded on an island with no adults. The novel tells that man will back to his basic nature in order to survive when cut off from everyday’s comfort (Boyd 1990; Baldassarro, 2003).