

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers information about how the researcher formulates the idea of the research until finally finds her research questions and objectives.

1.1 Background of the Study

A character in literature would always have its own significances to the story. In other words, it is definitely designed by author for particular reasons or qualities and these would seem to be unique to them. A character can be best defined as a person, animal, or thing which is responsible for the thoughts and action within a story, poem, or other literary works. According to Birkert (1993: 47) in "Literature the Involving Canon", character is an imagined person in a story whom we know from the work we read on the page". Thus, each character that can be found in literary work has its own roles in story in which the character would have its own impact to the development of the story.

Furthermore, author would describe a character using characterization. Jones argues that characterization is a depicting of a clear image of a person and it means the real description of the characters participating in the story through their action (1968: 84). From the expert's explanation stated above, it could be known that characterization is the way to explain how the character inside a particular story is, including his thought and manner. In other words, it is the way authors convey information about their characters. In addition, characterization can be considered as a significant part of making story compelling and good characterization would offer readers such a strong sense of characters'

personalities and complexities; it would make characters become vivid, alive, and also believable.

Juana, in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, is a female character who holds such a strong characterization in the story and thus this character can be taken as a good example. *The Pearl* is about the story of a pearl diver family who finds 'the pearl of the world' after their son has been stung by scorpion. This pearl is considered to be able to make much money if they sell it. Starting from that very moment, the story develops. As portrayed in the story, the husband, Kino, holds the control over anything. His wife, Juana, seems to be powerless and the only thing she could do is following Kino's order as her husband. Once Juana disobeys Kino and makes him mad, he even gets slapped for that. This accident happens after Juana attempts to sell the pearl as she thinks bad things would happen if the pearl stays too long. However, in this this novel, although she seems to be powerless, Juana depicts the characterizations that could actually be considered as the quality of women. In other words, Juana seems to show some qualities of women that can actually be put as consideration that women can be treated better, considering also that these aspects hold influences to the family in the story.

One of qualities of women portrayed by Juana in the story that can also be considered as the aspect that women should not be that way inferior to men, as depicted in the story, is 'strong and protective'. What it is meant by 'strong and protective' here is that in the very beginning of the story, it can even be witnessed that Juana possesses such a strong self. The fact that she is capable of taking care of the family, including serving food for the family and also taking a good care of

her child without even complaining for such a tiredness caused by her work as Kino's wife can be taken as one example of qualities possessed by Juana that can be put into consideration. In other words, it is shown in the story that while other wives keep complaining about their condition of being a wife in that particular era, Juana does not show any significant complain as the love to her family has driven her to do so. In short, it can be assumed that this one quality portrayed by Juana in the story is capable of offering the idea that woman is not that inferior compared to men, especially when it comes to take care of family. This results Kino to be thankful by then and admits that he is not supposed to be claiming that he is the one to decide things without even considering the very existence of Juana as his wife, as she also possesses the quality that can be considered to be as strong as his. In short, this particular quality of Juana does influence the way Kino views his wife.

Furthermore, In Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, there are still other qualities portrayed by Juana's characterizations in which the qualities also have impact in developing its main character, Kino. Therefore, this research is aimed to show those woman qualities portrayed by Juana and find its influences to her husband and also the main character, Kino in the Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. Character and characterization theory are applied because they have the relation with the quality of women. Moreover, the focus of this thesis is the portrayal of woman qualities and their influences toward Kino.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

In this research, the problem analyzed are as follow:

1. What are the qualities of woman portrayed in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* through Juana as its main female character?
2. How do these qualities of woman, as portrayed in Juana influence Kino's character development in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the background of the study and the statement of the problem, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the qualities of woman portrayed in the main female character, Juana, in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*,
2. To explain the influences of woman qualities portrayed by Juana to Kino's character development in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*.

1.4 Scope of the Problem

John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* is a literary work which can actually be analyzed by using more than one approaches. John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* can be analyzed by using A New Historicism approach by considering a significant aspect; the period when the author lived and wrote the work. However, this research will only focus on analyzing the quality of woman as characterization in the work's main female character, Juana and the influences of Juana's quality to her husband, Kino. Related to the objectives of this research, A New Criticism approach is used to analyze the data. It is used A New Criticism approach by also

considering that the analyzed data has no relation with things outside the text but the text itself.

1.5 Significances of the Research

The research is expected to give more contribution to the following groups of people:

1. To Students of English Literature Study Program

The students of English Literature Study program through the analysis conducted in this research are expected to gain more understanding about the quality of woman, especially in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*.

2. To Other Researchers

The findings of this research are expected to be comparative study for other researches to get additional references for their studies, particularly about quality of woman which can give impact to herself and the family.