

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The existence of puritanism cannot be separated from the attitude of people in their interaction within society. People attitudes towards others influence their behaviors which may vary as each person has different personality.

In this present study, the writer uses social psychological theory to approach the problem on the novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter* where the behavior of some characters reflect the existence of puritanism.

The background of characters's behavior on *The Scarlet Letter* leads to the various behavioral patterns. The description of characters' life experiences in *The Scarlet Letter* show their background of their action. Through the background of characters, some factors which influence the personality of characters such as : unfair treatment, dissatisfaction, hypocrisy can be detected as they are portrayed in the main character Hester Prynne and those who are closely related to her namely, Roger Chillingworth and Arthur Dimmesdale.

The background of Hester Prynne as a young woman with passionate nature leads her to be set up on public shame for committing adultery. Second, Roger Chillingworth, the real husband of hester prynne is blinded with vengeance, to find out the fellow sinner of Hester Prynne. The last is Arthur Dimmesdale, the background of Arthur Dimmesdale as Clergyman who has commitment to his congregation leads him to hide himself from his sinfulness. He does not confess publicly that he is the fellow sinner of Hester Prynne's evildoing.

Thus , it can be concluded that the aspects of puritanism such as : relationship, religion, community and punishment in the puritan community of Boston in 17th century is the background of the characters behavioral patterns. It means that the background of characters action are also influenced by the aspects of puritanism above.

In treatment with the sinner, in this case Hester Prynne, some of characters' behavior in *The Scarlet Letter*, namely John Wilson, Roger Chillingworth, Arthur Dimmesdale and Governor Bellingham clearly reflect puritanism as shown in their unfair treatment towards Hester Prynne. For example, John wilson's utterance that the letter on Hester Prynne's breast is her badge of her shame for committing adultery. Moreover Roger Chillingworth says that Hester Prynne proper to wear the letter "A" on her breast to suffer her sin, he also says that the letter proper to be engraved upon her tombstone when she died. The last is Gover Bellingham, he says toward Hester Prynne that he will take off Hester Prynne's child from her hand because, he is afraid that the child will grow to be another Hester Prynne when she adult. He doubts that Hester Prynne can teach the child to be good Christian.

Finally, *The Scarlet Letter* vividly illustrates puritan's society mistreatment towards a person who is considered as a sinner. The author seems to imply a message that puritan theology as rigid and inflexible. He suggest that when religion built upon legalism and chastisement without compassion, it becomes a prison of guilt of believers instead of being a means to help restore sinner.

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