CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Theories on Character

Character is one of the important parts of a story. In this chapter, the writer tries to give some explanations about character. **Character** is a person or animal that takes part in a story, whether he plays in a drama or in a story. That character gives some colors for the story. The story can be interesting because of them. Character in a story is made up by an author, but sometimes an author takes them up from true story. In a drama, a character is played by one that has already been chosen by the author. That person must do his/her best to play that character. An author creates his/her names, action or appearance except when it is a real story. The followings are the opinion from the experts about character:

> "A **Character** is some one in a literary work who has some sort of identity, which is made up by appearance, action, name and (possibly) thoughts going on in the head." (Gill, 1995, p. 127)

Besides, Kennedy put forth his opinion about character such as follows:

> "A **Character** is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story – although that simple definition may admit to a few exception."(Kennedy, 1991,p.97)

In a story or drama, there are **main** character and **minor** character(s). **Main** character is the actor or the actress who has an important role in a story or drama. **Minor** character is the actor or the actress who takes the minor role of the story. He is only a supporter because he/she doesn't play the main role. He or she may help a story

or drama become more attractive. We can see later in chapter 3, the analysis of Uncle Tom's Cabin, the main character is Tom and the minor Characters are Eva, Mr. Shelby, Mr. St. Clare and so on.

Apart from that, the writer will give the explanation about the classification of character more clear. People think that character can be divided into protagonist and antagonist. It is very simple to differentiate between antagonist and protagonist. Antagonist is the actor or actress who has bad, cruel character; and he/she, usually, finds fault to everything. Protagonist is the actor or actress who has a nice personality, kindness. About this classification, we can read it from the expert theory.

> "**Protagonists** are people in the central character in the conflict whether a sympathetic or an unsympathetic person; **antagonists** are the forces arranged against him, whether persons, things, conventions of society or traits of his own character." (Perrine, 1988, p.41)

For example, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, Tom is classified as protagonist. Because he is a kind man and generous person. But Legree, Tom's Mas'r is the antagonist in this story. He is very cruel. He always gives some maltreatment to the slaves. Marie St.Claire is also an antagonist. She hates black people. She doesn't care about people's problem. She thinks herself only.

But the experts divide character more clear than we just know. To borrow the useful terms of the English novelist E.M. Forster, there are flat and round, it depends on the author to describe one character.

Flat characters tend to stay the same throughout the story. According to the opinion of Forster (1927), **Static or Flat Character** is actor or actress whose nature does not develop from the beginning until the end of the story.

According to the opinion of Hoffman and Murphy (1988):

> "A **Flat Character** is constructed round a single idea or quality in addition, the undergo no change or development. A **flat character** has only one outstanding trait or feature, or at most a few distinguishing marks."(p 40-41)

Round character can change or grow. On the other hand, Forster (1927) says, **round character** is where the nature of the actor or the actress develops and can more develop until the end of the story.

> "A **Round character**, however, present us with more facets – that is, their authors portray them in greater depth and in more generous detail. Such a round character may appear to us only as he appears to the other character in the story. If their views of him differ, we will see him from more than one side." (Kennedy, 1991, p. 48)

In Uncle Tom's Cabin, Tom's character in this story doesn't develop or change. From the beginning he is a generous person, and until the end of the story he is still a generous person. So, We can conclude that Tom is a flat character.

In a story the author always separates the actor or the actress into flat or round character. It is the way to make the story not boring. Perhaps the author makes one character into flat because if his/her nature changes, a story is not interesting anymore. Round character -this certain character- can change, perhaps it changes because of the environment or some behavior that influence him or her. He or she can change into bad person or good person. But it seems that round character is more interesting than flat character.

2.2. Theories on Personality Traits

In 2.1 the writer explains character is a person or animal in a story or drama. But character may also mean the actor or the actress is doing, thinking, what he/she is looking like. It can be said a **personality traits** (distinguishing quality of a person) or **the nature** of the actor or the actress.

> "A character's personality traits may be revealed through actions, dialogue or thoughts."(Kirzsner, 2000, p.93)

Based on the opinion of Kirzsner (2000):

> "Character is a fictional representative of a person – usually (but not necessarily) a psychologically realistic depiction." (p. 93)

The actor and the actress of a story have different personality traits. That differences make a story become interesting. As a main character, he/she often has good personality. The readers are often attracted by them. He or she usually is a kind-hearted, generous, an honest and the like. Minor character has a variety in his/her nature. Some of them have nice personality traits, some others have bad character. It is the author who usually creates the actor's personality traits. The way the author shows their personality traits, gives effects for the readers. If the readers can easily catch the actor's nature, there is no more challenge for the readers to continue that story or novel. It is better for an author to make their nature indistinctly to recognize. It makes the readers want to know more about the story. And they will read that story until the end.

> "Should a character behave in a sudden and unexpected way, seeming to deny what we have been told about his nature or personality, we trust that he had a reason and that sooner or later we will discover it." (Kennedy, 1991. p.47)

From the explanations, it is expected that the readers will understand about character and are able to relate his/her nature with his/her physical appearance, attitude, behavior and point of view. It is very important to understand it because in chapter 3, the writer will analyze the actor's and the actress's personality traits.

2.3. Slavery

Slavery is a condition where people who have power, in this case white people, oppress the weak people (Negroes) without human feelings. Black people have been employed by white people but they never get their salary. They are slaves for white people. White people are very rude to them. Black people have been tortured. Most of them died because of that maltreatment. But now, we can still find slavery in any place. For example, a servant has been tortured by her Mas'r. She never gets her payment too. This problem still happens probably because they think, they have control over their servant. A different race, education or religion are the things that can be the cause of that problem. But a person who likes torturing others, maybe has psychological problem. The followings are the opinion of the experts about slavery:

> "Slavery describes a wide variety of conditions where by one person subordinates another, usually by the exercise of physical coercion, and exerts some proprietorship, either legally or customarily, from the earliest times to the present." (Knight, 1995, p. 19)

According to the opinion of Knight (1995), slavery has occurred because of another person has been enslaved for two reasons: First, for peoples whose fault in their environment or for warriors that lost, dead in war as their punishment; second, as a real maltreatment for men and women as slaves. Slavery as a normal part of human activity was accepted by organized religion and every type of society until the late 18th century,

when European philosophers like Montesquieu start to announce and write fight the rules. Finally slavery was defied in every where.

Slavery is the problem of Uncle Tom's Cabin. During the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) slavery was not only in America but also in Africa, Greece, Europe and so on. Knight (1995) in his book says:

> " Slave in United States history, those states that permitted Negro slavery. The term usually is limited to the southern slave holding states in the decades preceding the Civil war. At that time the status of slavery in the new states being created out of the federal territories was of major political importance. In 1860 there were 15 slave states : Alabama, Arkansas, Lousiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee. Texas and Virginia." (Knight, 1995, p.18)

Knight (1995) says again in his book:

> " The American slave was viewed not only as a unit of potential labor but also as commercial asset. A direct connection existed between the translatic slave trade and the growth and prosperity of the individual American Plantation colonies." (Knight, 1995, p.21)

2.4. The Influence of Parents' Attitude toward their children

Parents give important influence to their children. Children will follow what their parents have thought. Especially mother, she must take care of children's physical needs because father has other tasks. If young children have felt some bad attitudes from their parents, it makes them change in their behavior. As parents, they must not underestimate their children. They must give much attention and teach them good lesson for their age. For example, in chapter 3, we can see later that Eva, as a minor character needs her mother. Marie, Eva's mother never gives enough attention to her. She merely cares of

herself. It is not good for Eva because Eva feels that her mother hates her, doesn't care and doesn't love her. We can read the theories about this problem from these experts' point of view:

> "Since most children are egocentric, it is not surprising that their concepts of "Parents" are based mainly on how their parents treat them, especially in the areas of discipline, nurturance, and recreation. Parents are "good", for example, if they help the children, but "bad" if they frustrate them." (Hurlock, 1978, p.509).

Then to follow, Hurlock (1978) says in his psychology:

> "Young children usually think of "Mother" as a person who does things for them, who take cares of their physical needs, who gives them affection and attention, who is almost always happy and in good humor, who tolerates, and who comes to their aid in times of trouble." (Hurlock, 1978, p.510)