

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In the nineteenth century, American writers, including Nathaniel Hawthorne, were influenced by the European Romantic movement. The characteristics of the movement, which began in Germany at the beginning of the eighteenth century, included an interest in the power of the individual; an obsession with extreme experiences, including fear, love, and horror; an interest in nature and natural landscapes; and an emphasis on the importance of everyday events (<http://www.sparknotes.com>). American Romantics in the early nineteenth century tended to celebrate the American landscape and emphasize the idea of the sublime, which glorified their beautiful home country. They also created the concept of an American Romantic hero, who often lived alone in the wilderness, close to the land, such as Hawthorne's *Young Goodman Brown*.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, who has born in Salem, Massachusetts, July 8, 1804, belongs to the great American writers. He wrote many short stories, poems and also novels. Some of them have become great works, such as: *Young Goodman Brown*, *The Minister's Black Veil*, *The Birthmark*, *The Artist of the Beautiful*, *The Scarlet Letter* and soon. His works mostly express ancient experience of American puritan society which was traditionally tied by the strict puritan dogma. In this case, we can refer to what Bradley writes about him:

To understand Hawthorne the readers must set aside an attractive legend As a writer, he set out quite concisely to exploit his antiquarian enthusiasm and his understanding of the colonial history of New England (1962: 466).

Hawthorne lived in the nineteenth century, when the United States has been independent, free from the English colonialization. The country declared its independence in 1776. He was born around twenty eight years later, and automatically he never experienced the colonial period. Nevertheless his works, as the quotation states, exploit old times of New England society in the colonial period. The story in *Young Goodman Brown* took place in the early settlement at Salem, a village in Massachusetts in the seventeenth century. Now Salem is a city. At the time early settlers were Puritans who came from England to get religious freedom. But the puritan dogma was so strict that they mostly viewed this world as “a vale of tears’. Life in this world was gloomy, drab, rude and was not interesting.

In *Young Goodman Brown*, Hawthorne references three dark events from the Puritans’ history: the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, the Puritan intolerance of the Quakers, and King Philip’s War. During the Salem Witch Trials, one of the most nightmarish episodes in Puritan history, the Salem villagers killed twenty-five innocent people who were accused of being witches. The witch hunts often involved accusations based on revenge and jealousy. It was the dark age of England.

All of the characteristics of Puritanism appear in Hawthorne’s works, so that a critic named Frederick Crews comments on them as follows:

The drabness of Puritan times appears in Hawthorne’s fiction not merely as a want of diversity and humour, but as an oppressive starvation of life which could not fail to cause miserable distortions of the moral nature (1996: 29).

Furthermore, Crews says that Hawthorne’s interest in history is very clear. The themes that deal with puritan gloom or drabness like guilt, inhibition, suppression etc are “everywhere in his fiction, from his earliest to his unfinished romances” (1996: 29).

However, the writer is interested in the psychological aspects of the fiction, particularly the ones which were experienced by the major character of the fiction, namely Young Goodman Brown. So far, many studies have been focused on religious aspect of puritan, such as: "Man's Fall and subsequent growth toward redemption", "an admonition and a gift which are timeless", etc. Nevertheless, as some critics said that Hawthorne's characters are actually a manifestation of psychological complex, as Henry James comments:

I would insist that Henry James was originally right in saying that Hawthorne "cared for the deeper psychology", and his works after glimpses of the whole deep mystery of man's soul and conscience (in Frederick Crews, 1996: 16).

So, it is clear that a psychological study can be carried out in the analysis of the fiction. In the study, the main focus is centered on the major character's behaviors, such as what he said and what he did. By analyzing the observable behaviors, the writer can come the mental state or psychological state of the main character's of the fiction. In this case, by psychological of literature, is the psychological study of psychological types and laws present within the works of literature (Wellek, 1947: 75). So this thesis studies the behaviors of the main character by basing on certain psychological type.

The psychological type explored in this thesis is the psychology of anxiety. Anxiety is a psychological and physiological state characterized by cognitive, somatic, emotional, and behavioral components. These components combine to create an unpleasant feeling that is typically associated with uneasiness, apprehension, fear, or worry. Anxiety is a generalized mood condition that can often occur without an identifiable triggering stimulus. As such, it is distinguished from fear, which occurs in the presence of an observed threat. Additionally, fear is related

to the specific behaviors of escape and avoidance, whereas anxiety is the result of threats that are perceived to be uncontrollable or unavoidable (Levitt, 1967:9).

Young Goodman Brown tells about Goodman Brown, a young resident of Salem and the story's protagonist. Goodman Brown is a good Christian who has married Faith. He is very proud of his family's history of reputation in the community as 'good men'. His curiosity, however, leads him to accept an invitation from a mysterious traveler to observe an evil ceremony in middle of the forest.

In order to fully understand the character of Young Goodman Brown, the reader must first understand the era he comes from. Although Hawthorne does not state directly whether or not the plot of this story takes place in Salem in the seventeenth century, his references to other characters clearly imply it does. His references to Martha Carrier, Martha Cory, and Sarah Cloyse, all women hanged as witches in 1692; as well as his reference to King William who ruled England from 1650-1702 tell of this horrid time where people killed, tortured, burned, executed and suspected that everyone from their sister to their neighbor might be in contact with the devil. As a result of this environment of suspicion and paranoia Goodman might have felt as though his dream was in reality a lack of faith on his part. He may have felt so guilty for experiencing this dream that he thought he, as well as the people in his life were guilty of coexisting with the devil.

"Young Goodman Brown" fits into a subgenre of American Romanticism: the gothic or dark romance. Novels and stories of this type feature vivid descriptions of morbid or gloomy events, coupled with emotional or psychological torment. The dark Romantics joined the Romantic movement's emphasis on emotion and extremity with a gothic sensibility, hoping to create stories that would move readers

to fear and question their surroundings. Edgar Allen Poe, who wrote “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839) and “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843), was probably the most famous of the writers to work in the American dark Romantic genre. Goodman Brown’s encounter with the devil and battle with the evil within himself are both classic elements of a dark Romance.

At the beginning of the story, Goodman Brown believes in the goodness of his father and grandfather, until the old man, likely the devil, tells him that he knew them both. Goodman Brown believes in the Christian nature of Goody Cloyse, the minister, and Deacon Gookin, until the devil shows him that Goody Cloyse is a witch and the other two are his followers. Finally, he believes that Faith is pure and good, until the devil reveals at the ceremony that Faith, too, is corruptible. These reveals Goodman Brown’s lack of true religion, his belief is easy to shake, as well as of the good and evil sides of human nature.

Through Goodman Brown’s awakening to the evil nature of those around him, Hawthorne comments on what he sees as the hidden corruption of Puritan society. Goodman Brown believes in the public professions of faith made by his father and the elders of his church and in the societal structures that are built upon that faith. Hawthorne suggests, however, that behind the public face of godliness, the Puritans’ actions were not always Christian. The devil in the story says that he was present when Brown’s father and grandfather whipped Quakers and set fire to Indian villages, making it clear that the story of the founding of New England has a dark side that religion fails to explain. The very fact that Goodman Brown is willing to visit the forest when he has an idea of what will happen there is an indication of the corruptibility and evil at the heart of even the most faithful Puritan.

It can be said that anxiety of Goodman Brown characterizes the fiction. Anxiety is an unpleasant feeling state, clearly distinguishable from other emotional states and having psychological concomitants (Levitt, 1967). There is an uncomfortable feeling in Goodman Brown, so that he always feels anxious.

In the end of the story, Goodman Brown is destroyed by his own anxiety. He lived a miserable life as a result of the guilt he felt for embarking on a dark journey in his dreams. He is always anxious and suspicious to everyone and a lack of trust for individuals in his community.

The use of the theory of anxiety is based on reasonable arguments, because most of Young Goodman's behavior in the whole story is characterized by the phenomena of anxiety or fear. For example we can see it in an event, after he was parted with his wife in an evening, in his journey to somewhere in the woods. He was troubled by a feeling of anxiety about his wife's safety at home, where he thought:

"Poor little faith!" thought he, for his heart smote him. "What a wretch am I to leave her on such an errand! She talks of dreams, too. Methought as she spoke there was trouble in her face, as if a dream had warned her what work is to be done tonight. But no, no: it would kill her to think it. Well, she's a blessed angel on earth; and after this night I'll cling to her skirts and follow her to heaven" (YGMB: 469).

Young Goodman Brown's anxiety about his wife is also seen in an event after he met a stranger in the woods. He refused to go further because he remembered Faith at home, who was alone. Whereas, the stranger asked him to go far. Brown's rejection can be read as follows:

"Friend," said he, stubbornly, "my mind is made up. Not another step will I budge on this errand. What if a wretched old woman do choose to go to the devil when I thought she was going to heaven: is that my reason why I should quit my dear faith and go after her?" (YGMB:473)

In the quotation, we can know the feeling of Young Goodman Brown toward his wife. He was afraid if the old wretched woman would come to her, while he was on his way to meet the old woman. So, he was anxious thinking of it. He wanted to go back and stop his journey. Young Goodman Brown's anxiety also appears when he saw Faith among the devilish people in the forest, so that he shouted:

“Faith !” shouted Goodman Brown, in a voice of agony and desperation, and the echoes of the forest mocked him, crying, “Faith! Faith!” as if bewildered wretches were seeking her all through the wilderness.

The cry of grief, rage and terror was yet piercing the night, when the unhappy husband held his breath for a response. There was a scream, drowned immediately in a louder murmur of voices, fading into far-off laughter, as the dark clouds swept away, leaving the clear and silent sky above Goodman Brown (YGMB: 410)

From the moment he steps into the forest, Goodman Brown voices his fear of the wilderness, seeing the forest as a place where no good is possible. In this he echoes the dominant point of view of seventeenth-century Puritans, who believed that the wild New World was something to fear and then dominate. Goodman Brown, like other Puritans, associates the forest with the wild “Indians” and sees one hiding behind every tree. He believes that the devil could easily be present in such a place and he eventually sees the devil himself, just as he had expected. He considers it a matter of family honor that his forefathers would never have walked in the forest for pleasure, and he is upset when the devil tells him that this was not the case. He himself is ashamed to be seen walking in the forest and hides when Goody Cloyse, the minister, and Deacon Gookin pass. The forest is characterized as devilish, frightening, and dark, and Goodman Brown is comfortable in it only after he has given in to evil.

The examples are enough to say that anxiety characterizes the fiction, although other examples of anxiety. The examples show that there was uncomfortable feeling

in the major character, so that he felt anxious. And according to the theory of anxiety, the source of it is for example danger which comes from external environment, so that an individual feels threatened. In this context Levitt says:

A danger signal felt and perceived by the conscious portion of the personality. It is produced by a threat from within the personality ... with or without stimulation from external situations (1967: 5)

Because there is a danger, an individual feels unpleasant, threatened etc. the result is an unpleasant emotional state in this mind. Levitt further says that almost everyone agrees that anxiety is an unpleasant feelings state, clearly distinguishable from other emotional states and having psychological concomitants (1967: 6)

The writer of the thesis thinks that Young Goodman Brown felt unpleasant or threatened because he always thought of his wife who was left alone at home. It seems there was a danger which was felt by Goodman Brown. That is why his thought, acts, speech, etc show the phenomena of anxiety or the unpleasant feeling state. Even the writer finds that almost all of his thought, speeches in the fiction reflect the unpleasant feeling state. These phenomena stimulate her to analyze the major character's psychological state on the basis of anxiety. To the purpose, she chooses the title of her thesis that says: "*Anxiety as Experienced by Young Goodman Brown in a Fiction 'Young Goodman Brown' by Nathaniel Hawthorne: Psychological Approach*".

B. Limitation of the Research

In this thesis, the writer limits the analysis to the following:

1. The character of the fiction that is analyzed is the main character, namely Young Goodman Brown. It means that he becomes the focus of the study. The others

are needed in analysis as they have a relationship to the topic that is Young Goodman Brown's anxiety.

2. The analysis of the major character uses psychology. In this thesis, the writer uses anxiety. The theory of anxiety is taken from Eugene E. Levitt's *The Psychology of Anxiety*, published in 1967 by The Bobbs-Merrill Publisher.

C. Statements of Problem

To focus the object of the study or analysis, it is important to state a formula of problem.

1. How Goodman Brown's anxiety is reflected in the fiction?
2. What factors cause Goodman Brown's anxiety?
3. How does he respond to his anxiety?

D. Objectives of the Research

1. The General Objectives

To describe Goodman Brown's anxiety through analysis of plot, characters, setting, theme, tone and style. Besides, this research also analyzes the fiction through psychological and sociological approaches.

2. The Specific Objectives
 - a. To describe how Goodman Brown's anxiety is reflected in the fiction.
 - b. To describe the factors cause Goodman Brown's anxiety.
 - c. To describe how he responds to his anxiety.

E. Benefits of the Research

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study will support the theory that literary works can be analyzed by means of psychology. It represents the phenomena of anxiety on the Goodman Brown's character.

2. Practical Benefits

Practically, the result of the research will help the readers and other researchers to understand the fiction Young Goodman Brown through psychological approach.

F. Research Methods

In this section the writer will talk about the subject of the study, the form of the study, the types of data and the technique of analysis.

1. The Subject of the Study

The subject of the research is the fiction Young Goodman Brown written by Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1843. The tale first appeared in the April issue of New England Magazine and was later included in Hawthorne's popular short story collection, Mosses from an Old Manse, in 1846.

2. The Form of the Study

In conducting the research, the writer uses a descriptive study, particularly library study. By means of this study, the writer will found how the structural elements make a single unity.

3. The Methods of the Study

Literary study belongs to descriptive study. By means of this study, the writer will find how the structural elements make a single unity. It is done by collecting the data, and then analyzing and interpreting them on the basis of certain criteria, namely the characteristics of anxiety.

In this thesis, the standard criteria deal with the characteristics of anxiety namely; (1) repression, (2) projection, (3) denial, (4) avoidance, and (5) somatization. By means of the characteristics, the writer of this thesis is going to analyze and interpret the fiction *Young Goodman Brown*.

4. The Types of Data

There are two types of data namely:

a. The Primary Data

The data include the fiction itself that covers; the narration, the dialogues of the characters, and the events. They become the primary data for the analysis.

b. The Secondary Data

This type of data includes the information about the fiction.

5. The Approaches of the Research

In order to analyze the fiction, the researcher uses psychological, sociological and structural approaches. The researcher analyzes anxiety of the main character through extrinsic and intrinsic aspects of the fiction. Therefore what the writer of the thesis does on studying Nathaniel Hawthorne's story, through psychological approach is a reflection of her understanding when she has finished reading it. She observes that there is a sense of anxiety in the

fiction. To confirm the idea, she then makes a study by basing on determined criteria of anxiety.

This approach is selected carefully after the writer has considered some factors. For example, she has considered the characteristics of the hero of the fiction, the conflict with he has etc. By considering them she makes up her mind to choose psychological approach or method of analysis.

6. Data Validation

The data collected by the researcher must be validated. The data validity is checked by triangulation technique. Triangulation is the technique of checking the validity of data by using ‘things’ outside the data as comparing things to the data (Moleong, 2007:331).

For the purpose, the writer then uses the other writing like *The Sins of the Fathers: Hawthorne’s Psychological Themes* by Frederic Crews which is a book that deals with the comments on *Hawthorne’s Young Goodman Brown* and his other works. Besides that, the writer of the thesis also uses *Social Psychology* by Hubert Bonner to support her analysis on the anxiety. By means of this way there is check and recheck of data in the analysis or in other words the first data will be controlled by the second or the third data from different sources.

7. Technique of Analysis

The technique of analysis includes the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *Young Goodman Brown*. The intrinsic elements are plot, characters, setting, theme, tone and styles. While the extrinsic elements are the social condition when *Young Goodman Brown* was created and psychological condition of the author.

8. Procedure of Analysis

The procedure or steps which are taken in the analysis are as follows:

- a. Analyzing the plot of the story considering: the beginning, the middle and the ending.
- b. Analyzing the characters of the story include physical and psychological.
- c. Analyzing the settings include geographical and cultural.
- d. Analyzing the theme that becomes the focus of the story.
- e. Analyzing the tone and style include irony, hyperbole and so on.

9. Rationale

Based on the theoretical background above, the writer of the thesis thinks that Young Goodman Brown felt unpleasant or threatened because he always thought of his wife who was left alone at home. It seems there was a danger which was felt by Goodman Brown. That is why his thought, speech, etc show the phenomena of anxiety or the unpleasant feeling state. Even the writer finds that almost all of his thought, speeches in the fiction reflect the unpleasant feeling state. These phenomena stimulate her to analyze the major character's psychological state on the basis of anxiety.

10. Hypothesis

Based on the related theories explained above, the writer proposes the following research hypotheses: "Young Goodman Brown's thought, acts, and speeches reflect his anxiety".

G. Thesis Organization

The thesis is organized as Chapter I contains Introduction, including Background of the Research, Limitation of the Research, Statements of the Problem, Objectives of the Research, Benefits of the Research, Research Methodology, and Thesis Organization. Chapter II contains Underlying Theories, while Chapter III is Elements of *Young Goodman Brown*. Chapter IV is Psychological Analysis of *Young Goodman Brown*, Chapter V consists of Sociological Analysis of Young Goodman Brown, and Chapter VI is Conclusion, Pedagogical Implication, and Suggestions.