

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the art of discovering something extraordinary about ordinary people, and saying with ordinary words something extraordinary (Boris Pasternak). Etymologically, the Latin word “litteratura” is derived from “littera” (letter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing. (Clarer, 2004)

Literature is composition that tells a story, dramatizes a situation, expresses emotions, analyzes and advocates ideas and it helps us grow personally and intellectually. Literature provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding and literature makes us human.

Some kind of fiction is literature and some are not. Some literature is fictional and some is not. Literature, in the sense of a set of works of assured and unalterable value, distinguished by certain shared inherent properties, does not exist (Clarer, 2004). Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, “literature” is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to work of the creative imagination including work of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

In the novel *Endless Night* by Agatha Christie (1967), Michael Rogers, a footloose, narrates the story. He has a close relationship with his friend, Rudolf Santonix, a famous but ailing architect with an interest in one day building a house for Michael. While walking along a village road, Michael meets Fenella “Ellie” Guteman, a wealthy heiress, who yearns for a life outside of her judgmental and pompous inner circle of relatives and advisers. In the first when they meet, in the casuarinas forest in Gipsy’s Acre Ellie was surprised because Michael arrived there suddenly. Then they discussed about

the Gipsy's Acre. Gipsy's acre has a bad reputation place, but Ellie looks so interested with the Gipsy's Acre. She wants to build one house at there with the beautiful view. When Ellie and Michael are walking along the forest, she meets with Mrs.Lee, she is a fortuneteller. She is an elderly gipsy who tells Ellie to leave the village or fate will curse her.

Day by day they form a romantic relationship and then they decide to marry. Excited by the prospect of their new life, Ellie is able to fund the building of gipsy's acre, their modern home near the place where they meet. Michael requests Santonix to build the house, to which he agrees. Ellie and Michael comes across locals, such as Major Phillipot, the village "God", Claudia Hardcastle, a woman who shares Ellie's love of horse riding. Matter about Miss.Lee is made worse when Ellie's attractive secretary or companion Greta Anderson is invited to stay at the house, only to be vigorously disliked by Michael who gets into a heated argument with her.

Ellie begins to become more suspicious of the dangers of Gipsy's Acre and more frightened of Miss Lee's increasing hostility toward her. Then, having been missed for several hours after embarking on a routine morning horse ride, Ellie's dead body is found in the woods. It is thought that a combination of a heart condition and a sudden problem with the horse is to blame. Michael visits Rudolf Santonix in the hospital as he is close to death. Santonix, in a flurry of word, screams "why didn't you go the other way?" before dead in front of Michael. A now melancholy Michael has to travel to America to receive the inheritance of Ellie's will, which she bequeathed to him. While in America, Michael receives a letter from the village, which tells him that the boddies of Miss Lee and Claudia Hardcastle had been discovered, suggesting that Ellie's death was not an accident.

Upon returning to the village, the true nature of Michael's intent is revealed. He had meet Greta in Germany before meeting Ellie, and they had instantly fallen in love. Greedy for the good life, they devised a plan in which

Michael would marry Ellie to gain her inheritance, then murder her and marry Greta. Michael murdered Ellie by poisoning the allergy capsule she took before riding her horse. The slow acting cyanide killed her during the ride. He also had paid Miss Lee to frighten Ellie to throw suspicion on the old Gipsy, Michael eliminated her as a witness by pushing her into a quarry. The death of Claudia was an accident. She had borrowed Ellie's allergy medicine to be able to ride her horse and she had died in the same way. Santonix had guessed Michael's intents previously, and his seemingly random outburst was in anger that Michael killed Ellie rather than living happily with her.

Even as Michael and Greta celebrate their triumph, Michael begins to break down in remorse and revulsion. He tells Greta of his vision of Ellie while on the road to Gipsy's Acre. Infuriated when Greta scolds him for his sudden weakness, he is further enraged by the prospect of now living with Greta and Without Ellie. He viciously strangles Greta to died. At the end of the novel, Michael meekly is await his fate as villagers discover Greta's murder and local officials investigate him in his home. Overall, he does that just to get what he wants. He doesn't care about the consequences.

Endless Night novel is a crime fiction novel by Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club on 30 October 1967 and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company the following year. Based on the background above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled **Ambition reflected in Agatha Christie's Endless Night Novel (1967): Psychoanalytic Criticism.**

B. Problem Statement

1. How the ambition of Michael Rogers is reflected in Agatha Christie's *Endless Night* (1967)?
2. What is the cause and effect of the ambition toward the major character Michael Rogers?

C. Limitation of the study

The writer focuses on the research in analyzing the ambition toward character Michael Rogers at *Endless Night* novel (1967) on psychoanalytic criticism proposed by Sigmund Freud.

D. Objective of the study

Conducting the research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To analyze ambition reflected in Agatha Christie's *Endless Night* novel based on psychoanalytic criticism.
2. To describe the cause and effect of the ambition toward the major character Michael Rogers in *Endless Night* novel.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher expected a lot that the research which investigates the issue: ambition toward character Michael Rogers in this *Endless Night* novel bears many benefits. The benefits of this study will be differentiated in to two benefits:

Theoretical benefit

1. The result of the study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can be also as a reference for other researchers who want to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on this *Endless Night* novel.

2. Practical benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the writer in many things, general researcher, and for another students where have been the same interest in literary study on the literature from psychoanalytic criticism.

F. Theoretical Application

In this research, the writer performed the theories of developmental psychological as basic term to analysis the novel. The writer transformed information using several sources and different research conducted with the character. This theory is able to be applied in the novel entitled *Endless Night*. To apply theory, the writer arranges some step, as follows:

1. Finding the position of Michael's role and characteristic consideration of Michael in Agatha Christie's *Endless Night* novel.
2. Identify the ambition in the story of *Endless Night* novel which is reflected in the position of Michael, Michael's role, and characteristic consideration of Michael.

G. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of ambition reflected in Agatha Christie's *Endless Night* novel (1967) is follows:

Chapter I introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, and research paper organization.

Chapter II concerns with underlying theory, which elaborates the notion of psychoanalytic theory, notion of ambition and theoretical application.

Chapter III comprises of the research method of the novel.

Chapter IV describes the psychoanalytic analysis.

Chapter V elaborates conclusion and suggestion.