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Analysis of Amir's Characterizations and His Regret in Novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to find out how Amir's characterization undergoes a transformation, marked by a profound sense of guilt toward his servant, as he reflects on the reasons behind his regret. This research is descriptive qualitative where the data in this study is novel "*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini". This study takes data from two characters as a main focus of this novel from monologue and dialogue. The characters that are packaged beautifully by the author attract readers to know how the story of each character looks. The data were analyzed with following steps such as analyzing the data, compiling, defining, and classifying the data to find out why Amir's characteristics tends to feel guilty. The result of the research is Amir's characterizations that he is a good and smart boy. However, several external and internal factors change him to be a selfish boy and a liar. The reason why he feels guilty is when he lets his servant and also his best friend Hassan gets hurt by three bad boys at the end of the kite race. This can be a lesson for parents and teachers not to charge children with something they do not like. Moreover, every child has each ability and expertise, so that children can grow up to be good and talented children as well as good characteristics are important and good values.

Keywords: novel, characterization, regret

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Introduction

As a product of human culture, literature includes values which are applied in society. Literary activity is mainly aimed at improving the mind, the imagination and the expression. Good literary work must educate, entertain and act as a source of knowledge and values (Ifianti, 2020). Moreover, literature also provides life experiences which are relevant to surroundings. One of literature works chosen for this research is novel, "*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini". According to Ade (2008) literature is permanent expressions in both written and spoken words, especially in pleasing accepted patterns or forms. Literature as an aspect of language appreciation is used as a medium to explore language to make it more aesthetic and meaningful.

Novel includes literary work which describes human life. In making a novel, imagination plays an important role in making an interesting novel, so that it can lead the reader to follow the atmosphere in the story. The situation of the story has to build up the emotion of the reader to make the reader get addicted to read more and want to know more (Lughu, 2019). In this novel, the author also includes the background of his life when working. Therefore, a novel can be used as a place to express what he feels such as about love, sadness, regret, and sacrifice (Patmarinanta, 2016).

In this research, why the researcher chooses novel *The Kite Runner* because it becomes international best seller, as well as it is sold over million copies and is translated in 42 different languages. This novel also becomes best seller 2 years in New York. *The kite runner* is the first Afghan novel written in English. This book has won various awards around the world and has become a bestseller through-out 2005. Khaled Hosseini is a doctor from California, perhaps he is the only Afghan writer to write in English. His first novel successfully attracts worldwide attention. This novel is one of many novels that potentially gives positive effects.

Characterization is how the author describes the characters, so the reader knows about the characters traits and personality. In this novel, characterization has greatly influenced the content of the story, as what the readers can value. It is significant as well how the writer brings the characters in every incident in the story, in personality or gesture which is also known about characterization. Moreover, the writer succeeds in creating a good character or even looks unattractive to the readers because it is considered unclear (Nursafira,2019).

In this novel, the writer can bring the character to get through many hurdles and problems in various situations. Not only the writer can convey messages from the characters but also the writer gives rises to reactions from readers whether they are happy or sad, so the researcher analysed more in that area. This study also analysed the regret from the main character "Amir" to his friendship. This novel tells more about how the main character can solve his fault that happened when he was child. Therefore, it makes him feel so guilty and visible all over day after the incident.

Studies on this topic has been conducted in various contexts, in English Foreign Language (EFL), Matondang (2020) studies "An analysis of the major themes in Khaled Hosseini's novel "The Kite Runner"". His works also focuses on the similar novels and also discusses the main character. However, this research aims specifically to identify and describe the analysis process of the main themes in the novel, as well as in the novel. This novel reaches area of a story of redemption in which a boy takes the easy path, and pays for it, until he can finally become a man and correct his mistakes.

Patmarenanta (2016) studied about "A Study on Characterization of the Main Character in "*The Fault in Our Stars*"" this study also used novel and characterization. This research focuses on the personalities of Hazel and August, the main characters of the novel. The result of this previous study is in line with the research problem in which it further explores the major theme of this study novel. In this study the writer wants to limit the problem on the main character's characterization of this novel. However, none of the study reached the area of characterization and his regret that is suitable with Indonesian context in society.

The Kite Runner is worth works that make the reader know how to become good again, how to delete the wrong past and replace it in future. This research is important for all the readers, since page by page there are many experiences that should be known such as ambition, true friendship, love, guilt, honor, fear, and redemption. Therefore, based on previous elaboration towards the beyond significance of a character brings the writer investigate how Amir's characterizations in the novel of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini are and why Amir feels guilty in his life in the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Methods

This research used a qualitative descriptive method. This study is to analyze the characteristics of the main character, and to find out the mistakes of the main character that makes him feel guilty towards his co-star. Therefore, this study uses a qualitative descriptive method because the data collection is needed in order to describe the existing condition.

This novel can be categorized as one of the most successful literary works. It became an international best seller as soon as it was published 2003, sold over a million copies and was translated in many different languages. It was shortlisted for the magnificent exhibition in 2003 and it also becomes best seller 2 years in New York.

In this research, the writer takes two sources to conduct this research, those are primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the main reference, it is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Secondary data is the references that is used to support the main reference, it is article and book that is relevant with the study.

Data collection method for this study is through analysing the novel. The researcher uses analysis data to know Amir's characterization and how to know it is by reading the whole of novel that tells everything about Amir. The steps in collecting data are as follow:

1. Reading the novel
2. Reading the similar source that is relevant with this research
3. Focusing on Amir's characterization and his regret
4. Taking a note the data that have been read and the data are:
    - Characterization known from conversation or the author description usually called direct characterization and indirect characterization
    - The regret known from conflict in the story and the main character reaction after incident

After collecting data the researcher analyses data to find out the characterizations of Amir and also the regret. The way to analyse data are as follow:

1. Classifying the data by underlining the sentences
2. Analysing the data:
    - Reading the data or sentences in the novel
    - Specifying what the characterization in that sentence

- Finding the direct characterization by reading the novel, then underlining the sentence and analyzing it immediately
- Finding the indirect characterization by reading novel over and over, to ensure that the sentences being analyzed are correct

- Specifying what Amir's regret
  - Finding the personal conflict between the main character and his friendship.
  - Analyzing what the guilt which make the regret happened
  - The regret can find not far from the guilt incident

Result and Discussion

A. Direct Characterizations

1. Characterization through appearance

Characterization does not only show the cloth or money, but also show from home, home appliances, profession and so on. His characterization can be seen only from direct characterization which leads in expressed meaning.

In the beginning of the novel, Amir's family was described as rich and famous family in Kabul. The richness was shown by the description of ornaments in Baba and Amirs' home that were very expensive and pretty. Moreover, the fame was described by the use of expression "*everyone agrees*" to refer to the people in Wazir Akbar Khan district agreeing the richness of Baba. This can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*Everyone agrees that my father, my Baba had built the most beautiful house in the Wazir Akbar Khan district*". *In the inside of Amir's home there are a broad entryway flanked by rosebushes led to the sprawling house of marble floors and wide windows. Intricate mosaic tiles, covered the floors of the four bathrooms. Gold-stitched tapestries, a crystal chandelier hung from the vaulted ceiling.*"

After opening an orphanage designed by Baba himself. It turns out that there are some people who doubt Baba's ability in business. Because people thought Baba would be more like his father who liked to study law. Furthermore, Baba proved that he was not only successful in running his business, but he could also be the richest merchant in Kabul. Baba and Rahim Khan built a very successful carpet export business, two pharmacies and a restaurant.

"Baba and Rahim Khan built a wildly successful carpet-exporting business, two pharmacies, and restaurant."

Through speech, as like the name, so the researcher can know the sentences from the main character speech. In this characterization can be seen direct characterization which leads in expressed meaning and indirect characterization leads in implied meaning.

a) Selfish

The day of inauguration speech is before Baba's orphanage. Baba invites Amir to go with him by the Gargha lake, he also asks Amir to take Hassan, but he lies to Baba that Hassan is busy and has to finish his work soon, because Amir wants all baba's attention given to him, he wants baba follows him only, so he lied, this can be seen in the text bellow:

"Baba took me to Gargha Lake, a few miles north of Kabul. He asked me to fetch Hassan too, but I lied and told him Hassan had the runs. I wanted Baba all to myself."

b) Inferior

In the midst of Baba's advice on sin, Amir remembered Baba's story, when Baba was 6 years old there was a thief who broke into his room in the middle of the night. Amir's grandfather confronted the thief, but he was stabbed by the thief and he died. Amir knew all about Baba from someone else, Rahim Khan, not from Baba himself. Here he felt he could not be friends with Baba's story and he was not relied as his son. This can be seen in the text below:

"I was always learning things about Baba from other people."

Amir always takes the opportunity to see Baba, seeing and cheering Amir doubted whether to cheer to see Amir win or fail. Amir also guessed Baba's expression from a distance, whether Baba was surprised that Amir's kite kept flying in the sky and hoping that Baba would be proud to have Amir. This can be seen in the quote bellow:

"My eyes kept wandering over to Baba, bundled up in his wool sweater. Was he surprised I had lasted as long as I had?"

When there were only two kites left in the sky, and one of them belonged to Amir. Amir flew the kite high above the opponent's kite, desperately trying to escape Amir's trick, but it was clear that Amir would not let that happen. Everyone shouted to cut the kite rope

that Amir had trapped. Everyone shouted for Amir and hoped that there would be Baba's voice, who was happy to know that Amir had survived that far.

c) Guilty

When Amir arrived at the market a few blocks later there was a mosque, he heard the call to prayer (Adzan). Hassan remembered never leaving prayer, even though when he was playing with Amir, he would leave Amir and immediately purify. Then follow the congregation to pray. Amir felt guilty that Hassan had to catch the kite, so he could not attend the congregational prayers. This can be seen in the quote bellow:

"He was going to miss prayer tonight, though, because of me."

Baba did not understand what Ali meant that it was impossible to stay at Baba's house, he said. Then Ali apologized to refuse Baba's request, because he had packed his things to go. Baba kept begging Ali not to go, Baba also corrected whether he did not give Ali any kindness that he wanted to leave suddenly. However, Ali was also the same as Baba, he would still go, it was his decision. Amir saw the deep pain on Ali's flat face, he did not expect to bring such deep pain before his eyes. Baba wanted to know what reason made Ali want to leave, but Ali was the same as Hassan covered it all.

2. Characterization through dialogue

Knowing the meaning of events is through dialogue, and by analyzing the conversation between the main player and the co-star. In this characterization can be seen direct characterization = Expressed meaning and indirect characterization = implied meaning.

a) Kind (Hassan)

Hassan got the last broken blue kite during the tournament, but Assef and his friends run into Hassan. Assef and his friends corner Hassan, frightening Hassan. Because of Hassan's behavior the other day, Assef felt humiliated by a Hazara child. Assef will get his revenge right away. Assef said "I will forgive you, but all nothing is free." Assef wants the blue kite Hassan found to be given to him as payment for Assef's revenge. But with fear, Hassan shook his head because Amir won the tournament, and he brought the kite for Amir. Assef is getting more and more furious while explaining that Amir is only using him, there is no opinion that he is just a servant. However, Hassan denied that Amir had considered him a good friend, with a scared face. But Assef grabbed the kite, and at once Hassan bent down, picked up a rock. Assef stepped back and said "last chance Hazara!". Hassan ignored Assef's words. Then

Hassan replied "Whatever" by holding out his hand that was holding the stone. Hassan was very loyal to his master and friend. Until whatever happened to him, he accepted, in order to protect Amir's rights. Maybe until his life he will still protect and be loyal to Amir. It can be seen in the dialog bellow:

Hassan: "Amir agha won the tournament and I ran this kite for him. I ran it fairly. This is his kite."

Assef: "A loyal Hazara. Loyal as dog."

b) Curious

Amir was curious about Soraya's old story, and he asked Baba about it. But Baba refused because he thought the discussion was like gossip. Amir is still curious about what has happened to Soraya, Baba teases him by saying why ask about it, and Amir just wants to know the answer. However, Baba still does not believe it by telling him really if he just wants to know, Amir shyly tells Baba to tell what Baba knows. Baba tells about Soraya's kindness but unfortunately no man intends to make her a life partner. Baba says it is not fair to her but the actions of a few days even if only one day will change everything. Amir immediately understood Baba's words and of course he tried to accept whatever had happened to the woman Amir loved. It can be seen in the dialog bellow:

Amir: "Wasn't there some story floating around about Taheri's daughter?"

Baba: "you know me, talk turns to gossip and I walk away."

Amir: "But there was, wasn't there?"

3. Characterization through action

Knowing the characterization through whatever the main character doing. From action we can directly see what the person's nature is, whether he is a sincere, kind or caring person. In this characterization can be seen only for direct characterization = Expressed meaning.

a) Merciful

One day, Amir and Hassan were walking from Amir' s father house to cinema Zainab for a new Iranian movie, taking the shortcut through the military barracks near Istiqlal Middle school. Baba had forbidden us to take that shortcut, but he was in Pakistan with Rahim Khan at the time. Amir and Hassan disobeyed Baba's message, and they continued on their way. When they reached the dirty field, a group of soldiers called Hassan and talked about his

mother, who was a naughty woman. He shouts at Hassan he is enjoying his mother he says. After the film started in the dark Hassan wept bitterly. Amir could not bear to see him, he put his arm around Hassan, then Hassan leaned on Amir's shoulder. Amir shows his love and pity. This can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*Tears were sliding down his cheeks. I reached across my seat, slung my arm around him, pulled him close. He rested his head on my shoulder.*"

b) Curious and smart

When Amir had read the book about the Pashtun and Hazara ethnicity he found it painful for the Hazara ethnicity, because he wanted to know more deeply, he asked his teacher about it. It also Indicates that he is responsive and wants to know more about everything. This can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*After class, I showed the book to my teacher and pointed to the chapter on Hazarah.*"

4. Characterization through reaction

a) Selfish

Ali asked for his final request that Baba could give him a ride all the way to the bus station, but Baba forbade him to do so and snapped at him hoping Ali would not leave. Ali replied with an apology and said that Baba has no right to forbid him, because he is no longer working for Baba. Baba asked where they were going to live with his lips trembling with grief, Ali said that he was going to Hazarajat and Baba already knew that there was Ali's cousin. Then Amir saw something that scared him. Baba cried, so unfortunately, he told Ali and Hassan because Ali had been living with Baba since childhood, until they had children. Baba could only say a very weak plea, his face was so scared of losing, but Ali still walked towards the car. Amir really cannot forget how Baba begged Ali, how much he caused pain to everyone. It can be seen in the quote bellow:

> "*Then I saw Baba do something I had never seen him do before: he cried. It scared me a little, seeing a grown man sob. Father was not supposed to cry. "Please," Baba was saying, but Ali had already turned to the door, Hassan trailing him. I'll never forget way Baba said that, the pain in his plea, the fear.*"

b) Guilty

After trying out the gift car from Baba, and parking the car in front of the house. Suddenly Baba turned his face to Amir saying that Baba hoped Hassan was with them. Amir felt a steel hand gripping his neck after Baba mentioned Hassan, remembering his little friend who had gone somewhere, guilt immediately floated in his mind. Tearing his neck so that it was difficult for Amir to breathe. It can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*Then Baba rolled his head toward me. "I wish Hassan had been with us today," he said. A pair of steel hands closed around my windpipe at the sound of Hassan's name. I rolled down the window. Waited for the steel hands to loosen their grip.*"

B. Indirect Characterizations

1. Characterization through speech

Through speech, as like the name, so the researcher can know the sentences from the main character speech. In this characterization can be seen direct characterization = Expressed meaning and indirect characterization = implied meaning.

a) Selfish

When Amir and Baba were about to go to lake Ghargha, Baba told Amir to take Hassan. However, Amir lied to his father when his father wanted to take Hassan to Ghargha Lake, but he instead said that Hassan had to complete his task. And the answer is in this sentence. Here it is quite clear that Amir was jealous of Baba's treatment of Hassan that he had never felt before. Moreover, this incident seemed to compare Hassan and Amir who was the greatest. Naturally, he was 8 years old and Amir was jealous and he lied to his father. This can be seen in the quote bellow:

> "*Hassan and I were skimming stones and Hassan made his stone skip eight times. The most I managed was five. Baba was there, watching, and patted Hassan on the back. Even put his arm around his shoulder.*"

In the middle of Amir's conversation with Baba about sin, he remembers a time when he had to eat by himself because Baba did not come home until evening. Amir was annoyed at not being noticed because Baba always took care of the construction site. In fact, he often ate dinner by himself because Baba was not home yet. Therefore, from that he was annoyed and cursed the orphans who were in his father's orphanage, this can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*I already heated all the kids he was building the orphanage for; sometimes I wished they'd all died along with their parents.*"

b) Inferior

Amir is persons who always assumes himself as a person with low importance and quality. Only because of his feelings he thought that Baba hated him, because of his image that he had killed his mother while giving birth to him, which was actually an unavoidable fate, and Amir always blamed himself. Next, he said "at least I am turning out a little more like Baba", but the truth is not the least. He felt that he was not as strong as Baba, he could only read and write at home, unlike other children, tough and able to face all problems like a real man. Indeed, at that time Baba's view was, a man must be strong, brave like Baba, who can beat a bear. This can be seen in the text bellow:

> *"I always felt like Baba hated me little. After all, I had killed his beloved wife, his beautiful princess, hadn't I? The least I could have done was to have had the decency to have turned out a little more like him, but I hadn't turned out like him."*

c) Guilty

Amir is annoyed that Hassan keeps trying to rekindle their relationship. Hassan offers to go to the market to buy *naan* together, saying that today is very sunny so it is suitable for a trip together. Hoping that Amir is excited and wants to go with him, Amir refused and tells him to gone alone. Hassan was a little desperate so he slightly knocked his head on the door of Amir's room. Hassan said if there was something wrong with him that Amir would not talk to him, and asked which mistake he had so he could correct it. Amir said that Hassan had no mistakes, Hassan was not sure of that, then he urged Amir again, finally he was annoyed and yelled at him, telling Hassan not to disturb his life anymore. Amir said that with his eyes closed, a sign that he was holding back those cruel words did not come out in his mouth but he required it. Amir hopes that these cruel words are answered by Hassan, by breaking down Amir's door and scolding him, Amir feels that this behavior will relieve his guilt for Hassan a little. But sincere and kind Hassan would not do that, when Amir opened the door he no longer saw Hassan there, he had gone according to what Amir said. Amir felt more and more guilty. He threw himself on the bed and buried his head in the pillow, he could not take it anymore, he cried because of Hassan's sincerity and because of his mistakes. However, being close to Hassan made Amir even more short of breath remembering his mistake on Hassan. Therefore, he confirmed the planned activities alone without Hassan being involved. But the

more he turned away from Hassan the more he found a sign of Hassan's loyalty. Hassan always prepared Amir's needs without being asked. Even before the appointed hour, so that Hassan did not disturb Amir with his presence, as Amir requested. It can be seen in the text bellow:

> *"I wished he would give it right back to me, break the door open and tell me off it would have made things easier, better. But he didn't do anything like that, and when I opened the door minutes later, he wasn't there. I fell on my bed, buried my head under the pillow, and cried."*

The following week Amir felt a little relieved that he had started school. The school and the line up assignments was her outlet for a moment to get rid of her guilt and loneliness. Baba led him up the dirty road to the school gate. Amir should feel proud because he got out of Baba's black Mustang of course it made Amir's friends jealous. But at that moment what Amir felt was shame on Baba and emptiness. At that time Baba left Amir without saying goodbye. Amir was devastated by Baba's silence, indeed because of Amir's own fault, but it was too painful, because according to Amir what was asked about wanting to change servants was a normal question. It can be seen in the text bellow:

> *"I should have been beaming with pride when he dropped me off the old me would have but all I could muster was a mild form of embarrassment. That and emptiness. Baba drove away without saying good-bye."*

2. Characterization through dialogue

Knowing the meaning of events is through dialogue, and by analyzing the conversation between the main player and the co-star in this characterization can be seen direct characterization and indirect characterization. In this characterization can be seen direct characterization = Expressed meaning and indirect characterization = implied meaning.

a) Smart

When Amir was upstairs, in Baba's study, he said what he had learned at school that drinking alcohol was a big sin. In his study Baba was pouring whiskey, Baba listened to Amir nod and took a sip of his drink. At that time Baba saw Amir seemed to be thinking about what he had learned at school. Then Baba on him lap and wanted to explain something related to Amir's teacher. And told Amir that between the lessons he received from school and the things he learned in real life seemed to confuse him. However, Amir was curious and said that

if his teacher's words were true, was his father also a sinner. Baba realized that his son wanted to know his opinion on sin, and he was. But first Baba wanted Amir to understand that he would never again learn from that bearded idiot. Immediately Amir gives the right response, by what Baba meant was Mullah Fatiullah Khan's teacher, because Baba would explain himself what the word sin meant according to his father. The dialogue proves that Amir is a child who has good emotional intelligence. It can be seen in the dialog bellow:

Baba: "Then I'll tell you, Baba said, "but first understand this understand it now,

Amir: you'll never learn anything of value from those bearded idiots."

Amir: "You mean Mullah Fatiullah Khan?"

After school Amir and Hassan met, Amir took a book to tell Hassan and climbed the hill next to Baba's land. When Amir read a story and there was a word that Hassan did not know the meaning of, he immediately asked Amir what the word meant. But Amir was even very happy when Hassan did not understand the word, because he could make fun of and ridicule his ignorance. Amir gave the answer, which was the same as the word smart or clever, and he gave an example of the sentence "Hassan is an imbecile". Hassan blushed at that. And because Amir felt guilty for making fun of Hassan, he would give Hassan his old clothes or his broken toys, because his jokes were not too hurtful according to Amir. It can be seen in the dialog bellow:

Hassan: "What does the word mean?"

Amir: "Which one?"

Hassan: "Imbecile"

Amir: "You don't know what it means?" I said grinning.

Hassan: "Nay, Amir agha."

Amir: "But it's such common word!"

Hassan: "Still, I don't know it."

b) Guilty

Every winter all districts in Kabul hold kite fighting tournaments. The day of the tournament was the most eagerly awaited moment for the boys living in Kabul. And according to Amir, Hassan is one of the greatest kite chasers. Amir always saw Hassan always heading right where a kite fell, even before the kite fell. And the winter came Amir and Hassan chased a kite, Amir followed where Hassan ran. It turned out that Hassan had chosen a different

direction than the direction the kite was flying, and Amir felt a little disbelief at what Hassan said, that his kite would land exactly where he had stopped waiting, eating mulberry fruit. He convinced Amir that he was right Hassan also felt that he had never lied to Amir. However, Amir's words seemed to doubt Hassan when in fact Amir was only joking at him a little, because Amir also knew that Hassan would never lie to him. Hearing this, Hassan immediately responded by saying that he would eat soil instead of lying. Once more and again Amir doubted it. What was really surprising was that Hassan said, if that was what Amir ordered, he would eat the land for real. Hearing that, Amir regretted that he had joked at Hassan who was sincere and never lied with his words. It can be seen in the dialog bellow:

Amir: "How can you know?"

Hassan: "Would I ever lie to you, Amir agha?"

Amir: "I don't know. Would you?"

Hassan: "I'd sooner eat dirt"

3. Characterization through reaction

a) Regret

In the middle of eating together, Baba was still talking about Amir's success in the tournament yesterday. Enlivened by another Baba's brothers congratulating Amir, the atmosphere became busy discussing Amir's victory. Hearing that he was always being praised by his father, his uncle and aunt, Amir would certainly feel happy. But no, when Kaka Faruq patted Amir with pride. What Amir felt was different from his previous image, he felt like he was stabbed by a knife in his eyes when the brothers of Baba were proud. All because of the incident in the dead-end alley, he really felt guilty and could not accept that he was a true winner, at the expense of his own best friend. He witnessed how the bad boys hurt his best friend. It can be seen in the text bellow:

"*Kaka Faruq patted my back with his clean hand. I felt like sticking a knife in my eye*"

b) Worry

After checking at Doctor, Amir was only given information that there were suspicious stains on Baba's lungs, of course Amir felt that he had not heard enough information that could not be confirmed. Therefore, he agreed to the Doctor's suggestion to do a CAT scan. After two weeks later, no one from the hospital gave the results of the CAT scan. Amir's anger

explodes for not getting Baba's scan right away. He went to the hospital to bid for the time that was being stretched, he was really worried about Baba's health, but the hospital did not cooperate properly. It should not be wrong if Amir was furious because it involved Baba's life, the life of his only family, the person Amir loves. It can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*Two weeks passed and no one called. And when I called them, they told me they'd lose the referral. Was I sure I had turned it in? They said they would call in another three weeks. I raised hell and bargained the three weeks down to one for the CAT scan, two to see the doctor.*"

Amir and Baba went to another doctor to read the CAT scan, the doctor's name was Dr. Amani. He is from Iran and this is with Baba's approval, The doctor will need a week to get Baba's lung sample for Pathology purposes. Amir is really sad and feels lonely, he hopes that Soraya will strengthen him. Moreover, it turns out that Baba's disease has many types of names, while the type of Baba's disease is called *Oat Cell Carcinoma,* advanced lung cancer. This disease is impossible to operate on Baba asked the remaining time and the doctor replied, the only way to prolong the time is chemotherapy. Baba understood and he was adamant not to want chemotherapy. Amir tries to get Baba to do chemotherapy, but his efforts are in vain. It can be seen in the text bellow:

> "*It turned out that, like Satan, cancer had many names. Baba's was called "Oat Cell Carcinoma." Advanced. Inoperable. Baba asked Dr. Amani for a prognosis. Dr. Amani bit his lip, used the word "grave." There is chemotherapy, of course," he said. "But it would only be palliative.*""

Characterization is how the author describes the character so that the reader can know the nature or behavior of the character. Characteristics can also be seen from appearance, physical depiction, during dialogue, or what has been written by the author. To know more about the definition of characters, the writer cites the opinion of an expert such as (Abrams 1999) said in the following as: Character is the person in a dramatic of narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that expressed in what they say the dialogue what they do the action.

There are two divisions in characterizations, such as direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization is, when the author has explained how the characteristics of the character are. Like "*He is very polite when he walks in front of his teacher*"

the example beside is a direct characterization, because the author has already mentioned that the characteristics of the character are "polite". For indirect characterization, usually need to be analyzed first to find out how the characteristics of the meant character are. Such as "*When the teacher scolds him, he just stays silent*" the example beside needs to analyze first. It is the silence paying attention, ignoring, or even harboring anger.

Amir's characteristics are classified as good if he did not have a selfish and timid nature at that time, maybe the regret experienced would not have happened. According to (Reams 2015) Characterization can be defined as any action by the author or taking place within a work that is used to give description of a character. In general, it is divided into direct characterization (expressed meaning) and indirect characterization (implied meaning). Because he defends of the truth. Amir is a boy who is not like usual. He prefers to stay at home, read books and write stories. It made his father quite disappointed because he expected his son to be tough like him, like boys in general. But because of his hobby of reading, it is not surprising that he became one of the smartest in his school. Then why did Amir feel so bad for his servant Hassan. In that dead alley Assef has cornered Hassan dan Amir realized he had one last chance to help Hassan. He could pick up Hassan, defend him like Hassan used to him. Accepting whatever might happen to him is significant, but Amir's regrets began, he preferred to run away.

Amir felt that he was a coward, he was too afraid of Assef, of what Assef might do to him. Amir is afraid of getting hurt. Remembering what Assef said he had told Hassan. "Nothing is free in this world," said Assef. Amir thought Hassan was the price he had to pay, a lamb to be sacrificed, to get Baba's heart. He thought again, does Hassan deserve to be his victim? Then he continued, he is just a Hazara child, of course this is appropriate for Hazara. Thoughts that would lead him to regret, he would be haunted by that guilt. Amir was really scared. He hoped that the events he saw would never happen. Amir returned to the lonely market, stopped in front of the stall and leaned back, standing there, he was panting and he was swamped by winter sweat.

Novel is a prose fiction that contains the character's life from the beginning to the end (Hasby 2019). The story is supposed to entertain the reader. However, the experiences and life problems are usually the important points in the story, fictions must remain as an interesting story, remains as a coherent structure building, and still have an aesthetic purpose.

Novels have two elements. They are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements of the novel are theme, setting, plot, character and characterizations, point of view, style and tone. The extrinsic elements include history, biography, society, psychology, ideas and arts. In this study focused on characterization which is in the intrinsic element (Hanna, 2016)

Conclusion

Amir's feelings of guilt are right on the conflict section of the novel *The Kite Runner*. When Hassan desperately needed help, Amir only dared to look from a distance, closed his eyes and ran away from the tormented Hassan. Because he was afraid of getting hurt, afraid that something similar would happen to him. because of what he did that was why he felt so guilty and remorseful, that feeling of guilt continued to haunt him because he didn't dare admit his guilt to anyone until he grew up. This research can contribute to all educational institutions to provide an insight into how conversations are really needed, especially for parents who are the first place of education. It is hoped that it will serve as an example when we have a problem to share with our family or maybe to someone we trust, so that there will be no misunderstanding, and maybe get a better solution. Also to avoid lies and even slander, because conversations between families are needed to avoid unclear and uncontrolled emotions. For a child's skill, for example, Amir has different habits from other children, it is not a difference, but rather the ability he has in reading and writing.

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