

Depression within lily's change of personality

in edith wharton's *the house of mirth*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

During his living in this world, a man certainly has problems which must be faced and solved. The problems of life, such as, finance, debt, disease, friendship, marriage, love, etc, often cause pressure in someone's inmost heart. The pressures of life sometimes can make every single man depressed. He should be ready to face and to control his pressures, otherwise, he will be defeated by the pressures of life itself.

Sort of phenomena of human life problems which surely exist in the society have become a source of inspiration for an author to write a work, since a literary work created by the author is based on the social realities around. The social realities can include thought, feeling, and also human behaviour that are inseparable from each other.

Talking about life, we can not deny that life is essentially full of problems and it is exactly experienced by each person who lives in this world.

Such human experiences may be revealed by the author to the readers through a work, as Stanton writes “the central purpose of a serious fiction is to enable the reader to imagine and to understand human experience” (Stanton, 1965 : 3).

Comprehension of human experiences in literature can be achieved through the interpretative process. In this case, the interpretative process is comprehensible by applying psychological view through the work since it contains psychological elements within each character. The psychological view assists the readers to explore profoundly the inward or the psyche of the characters, and to know the complexity of human experiences.

Concerning the human experiences, a depression is an experience that is inseparable from human life. The depression can be analyzed in character's change of personality, thus, some researchers are possible to analyze the depression by applying some theories toward literary works particularly novel that presents long period of life of the character, so we can follow the process of his change of personality.

Based on the previous assumption, this thesis discusses the psychological study on Edith Wharton's novel *The House of Mirth*. Edith Wharton presents the problems of human life with her own styles and also characteristics, they are : vivid setting, satiric wit, ironic style, and also moral seriousness. The subjects on Edith Wharton's works are the conflict between social and individual fulfilment, repressed sexuality, and the manners of the old families. She usually also focuses her theme of her novels on the parochial (religion) values as well as the decline of upper class society of New York during

the late 19th and early 20th centuries
<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/arch.htm> (March 03rd 2006)

Edith Newbold Wharton Jones was born on January 24, 1862 in New York City and died in her house near Paris because of stroke on August 11, 1937, at the age of seventy-five. Her parents, George Frederic and Lucretia Jones were descendants of English and Dutch colonists who had made fortunes in shipping, banking and real estate. She belonged to an aristocratic New York family <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/comtess.htm> (March 03rd 2006). From childhood, she showed that she was exceptionally bright and creative : even before she could read, she had made up stories, and as an adolescent, she wrote poetry and fiction, a novella titled *Fast and Loose*, precocious for a writer of fifteen <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/vand1.htm> (March 03rd 2006). In 1885 Edith Wharton married Teddy Wharton, a Boston banker, who was twelve years her senior. However, her marriage was not successful and ended in divorce in 1913.

Edith Wharton's writing career was launched with the publication of her first book, *The Decoration of Houses* in 1897 written with her architect friend, Ogden Codman. <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/howell.htm> (March 03rd 2006). Her first short stories appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, and though she published several volumes of fiction around the turn of the century, including *The Greater Inclination* (1899), *The Touchstone* (1900), *Crucial Instances* (1901), *The Valley of Decision* (1902), *Sanctuary* (1903), and *The Descent of Man and Other Stories* (1904), it wasn't until 1905, with the publication of the bestselling *The*

House of Mirth, that she was recognized as one of the most important novelists of her time for her keen social insight and subtle sense of satire. In 1906 Wharton visited Paris, which inspired *Madame de Treymes* (1907). The year before the outbreak of World War I represented the core of her artistic achievement, when *Ethan Frome* (1911), *The Reef* (1912), and *The Custom of the Country* (1913) were published. She also wrote two novels about war, *The Marne* (1918), and *A Son at the Front* (1923). Her other works were *Summer* (1917), *The Age of Innocence* (1920), for which she won the Pulitzer Prize, *Old New York* (1924), *The Mother's Recompense* (1925), *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), *The Children* (1928), *Hudson River Bracketed* (1929), *The Gods Arrive* (1932), *The Buccaneers* (1938), and her autobiography, *A Backward Glance* (1934).

After 1907 Edith Wharton lived in France. She visited the United States only at rare intervals. Her literary and personal papers were presented to the Yale University Library. <http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/fitz.htm> (March 03rd 2006)

Since *The House of Mirth* is the bestseller from Edith Wharton's works, thus, it is chosen to become the object of the research. This novel is very interesting to be analyzed because it has not been analyzed before by the other researchers from psychological point of view. Besides that, it also contains the pictures of the depression of the main character.

The House of Mirth was published in 1905 when Edith Wharton was forty-three. Its publication has caused criticism from Mary Moss. In *The Atlantic Monthly* (1906), she described *The House of Mirth's* depiction of New York

society : “Mrs. Wharton has no colors too black, no acid too biting, for its unredeemed odiousness and vulgarity. She shows its sensuality to be mere passionless curiosity ; she displays its cautious balancing of affairs so that reputation are preserved, not lost, in the divorce courts ; her people, with regard to the quality commonly known as virtue, resembling rich defaulters who are lucky enough through a technicality to miss a term in jail”
<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/roo.htm>(March 03rd 2006)

In her work, *The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton presents the complexity of the main character’s experiences. The novel covers the experiences of the main character’s survival in the pitiless of New York City, which collaborated with the sentiments of love and death. The setting of this novel took place in New York City *millieu* and the title taken from Ecclesiastes 7:4 ; “The hearth of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the hearth of fools is in the house of mirth”
<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/wharton/nedith.htm>(March 03rd 2006)

Lily Bart, the main character, was depicted as an attractive woman but she was still not married at the age of twenty-nine. Since the death of her parents, Lily began to live with her aunt, Mrs. Peniston. However, Lily spent much her time staying at Bellomont, the-out-of-town estate of the wealthy and well-established Gus and Judy Trenor. At the Bellomont, Judy regularly held extravagant parties that were attended by most of New York upper-crust. They played bridge for money alias gambling. It was very problematic for Lily because she had a gambling addiction and she could not stop gambling, even though it ruined her financially.

Lily had two main goals in the story : marriage and wealth. She expected to marry a rich man in order to secure her place in society, but due to her own indecision, she passed up numerous chances. Unfortunately, her true love, Lawrence Selden, did not have enough money to marry her.

At the Bellomont, Lily heard about the stock market and decided to get involved in investment. She then asked Gus Trenor to invest her small sum of money for her, and he readily assented because he was secretly attracted to Lily. The investments paid off, and after Lily began to make money from Wall Street, she spent it lavishly. Later, to her horror, Gus tried to rape her, and she was shocked knowing that Gus had not investing her money – of which there was none – but rather was own ; he had been giving her his profits. Gus said that she might pay him back by spending time with him, but, Lily withdrew quickly from his presence and resolved that she would somehow pay back although she did not how to repay it.

Because of anxiety, Lily took a sudden vacation to the Mediterranean with George and Bertha Dorset and also the young Ned Silverton. However, she soon knew that she was being brought along to distract George while Bertha had an affair with Ned. When Lily began to associate with European royalty, Bertha became jealous and kicked her off of the cruise yacht and she started to spread a nasty rumor that Lily and George were having an affair. It led to her expulsion from society.

When Lily returned to America, she underwent a deep dissapointment for her aunt inherited her anything and her aunt only left her \$10,000, which was

enough to pay off her debt to Trenor, although Lily could not have the money until one year elapsed.

Meanwhile, Lily began to be depressed because she had nothing to earn her living. In her desperation, Lily took jobs as a secretary and milliner (hat maker) before she eventually moved into a boarding house and led a meaningless life. To help her get away from her fear, anxiety, depression and loneliness, she took sleeping pills until the day when her check from her aunt's estate finally had arrived, she paid off all her debts with the money, then overdoses on sleeping pills.

Following Lily Bart's story, the researcher finds that her life was full of tragedies. A failure which was followed by the other ones made her depressed. The debts, and the loss of her reputation, and living in poverty are the examples of her depression. She tried to come out from the depression but it seemed that she had to face the failure during her life. The depression and the influences toward her personality are the subject matter in this research.

A. Research Question

Considering the idea which has been presented above, the problems are formulated as follows :

1. What are the causes of the depression of Lily Bart ?
2. What are the influences of the depression toward Lily's change of her personality ?

B. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are to find out the solution of the problems as formulated as follows :

1. To describe the causes of depression of Lily Bart.
2. To describe the influences of depression toward the change of Lily's personality.

C. Research Benefits

The analysis of this research is expected to be beneficial for :

1. the readers : to give profound understanding about the causes and the influences of depression toward the change of Lily's personality.
2. other researchers : as a contribution to the other researchers to analyze Edith Wharton's works, particularly *The House of Mirth* from other perspectives.
3. practical : to make the readers more sensitive to the psyche condition of human being around who gets problems, such as depression, as seen in *The House of Mirth*.

D. Research Method

1. The Type of Research

Research method is a strategy used by the researcher to find out the answers and solutions to the problems. In this research, the researcher applies Descriptive Qualitative Method. This method is applied in some phases including

the collecting data, analyzing data, and drawing conclusion. This method has descriptive characteristics, because it only describes the object of the research. Besides that, the data is focused on natural setting (based on the fact of the novel) and it is not in calculation and symbol (Nawawi & Martini, 1996: 73).

2. Data and the Sources of Data

The data of this research can be divided into two groups :

1. main data : data are taken from the novel *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton published in 1905 by David Campbell Publisher Ltd. Meanwhile, the main data includes the dialogues of the characters, ideas, actions, thoughts, and the whole narrations which are relevant to the subject of analysis.
2. supporting data : these data are obtained from other relevant sources, such as comments or criticism toward the novel, internet, essays, articles, and other sources.

2. The Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting the main data of this research, the researcher read the main data source thoroughly and repeatedly in order to get deep comprehension of the novel. Then, the researcher took notes of important sentences that are related to the subject of this research. The same method was done for supporting data.

3. The Technique Analyzing of the Data

There are some steps in analyzing the data :

1. firstly : the researcher classifies the collected data into the groups that are related to the problem of the research, especially the causes of depression of Lily.
2. secondly : looking for the correlation between classified data with the causes of depression of Lily through her thoughts, statements, attitudes, and her actions.
3. the third : describing the influences of depression toward Lily's change of her personality by employing Individual Psychology.
4. the last : drawing the conclusion.

E. Theoretical Approach

Approach is used as the perspective and the strategy to find out the answers and its solutions to the problems as formulated in the research question. The focus of this research is the causes of depression of Lily Bart and also the influences of the depression on Lily's change of personality. The researcher applies the theory of Adler's Individual Psychology since it will assist her in analyzing the problems which is experienced by Lily, especially influences of depression toward the change of Lily's personality. Besides, the researcher also applies the theory of Wolman to help her in analyzing the meaning of depression, symptoms and also its causes.

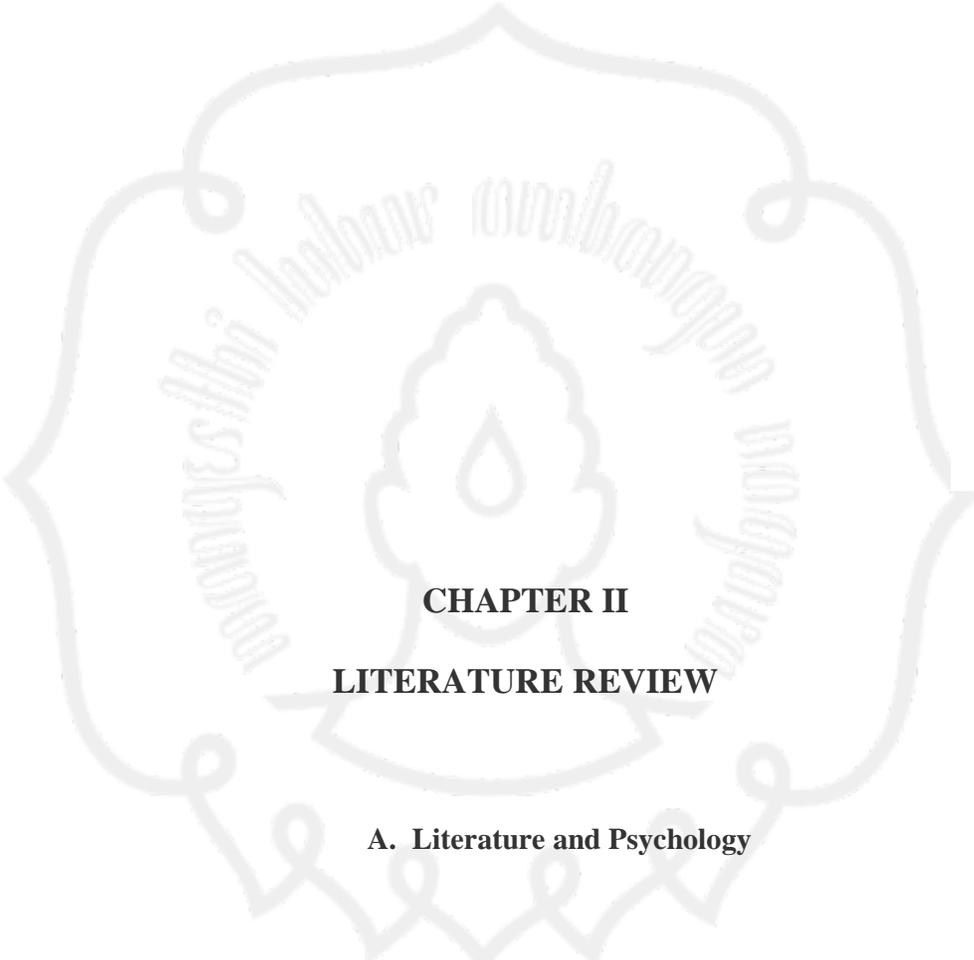
F. Scope of the Study

This study is focused only on studying the change of personality on the main character, Lily Bart, viewed from the Individual Psychology perspective.

G. Research Organization

The structure of this thesis is designed as follows :

- Chapter I : Introduction consists of Research Background, Research Question, Research Objectives, Research Benefit, Research Method, Theoretical Approach, Scope of the Study, and Thesis Organization.
- Chapter II : Literature Review consists of Literature and Psychology, the Meaning of Individual Psychology, The Major Principles of Adler's Individual Psychology and Depression.
- Chapter III : Analysis
- Chapter IV : Conclusion and Suggestion



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Literature and Psychology

According to Zainuddin Fananie, “sastra adalah karya fiksi yang merupakan hasil kreasi berdasarkan luapan emosi yang spontan yang mampu mengungkapkan aspek estetik baik yang didasarkan aspek kebahasaan maupun aspek makna” (Zainuddin Fananie, 2000:6). Literary work is a result of an author’s creation, in which, it expresses his emotion, thought, as well as his view

toward human's life. The content of a literary work should reveal aesthetic aspects, both in its language and also its meaning. Literary work depicts facts that surely exist in the society. The facts itself constitute human life's experiences and also their problems. That is way, these facts become an interesting topic to discuss.

Human's life experiences and their problems also can be seen in the novel *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton. In this novel, the researcher is interested in analyzing the problems faced by the main character, who experiences the depression in her life. Therefore, the researcher needs an assistance of psychology. Psychology is the most suitable means to analyze the psychological condition particularly the condition of depression faced by the main character in the novel *The House of Mirth*. As stated by Bimo Walgito, “psikologi adalah suatu ilmu yang menyelidiki serta mempelajari tentang tingkah laku atau aktivitas-aktivitas, dimana tingkah laku serta aktivitas-aktivitas itu sebagai manifestasi hidup kejiwaan” (Psychology is a science that examine and learn about behaviours or activities, in which, these as manifestation of psychical life) (Bimo Walgito, 1997:9).

According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, psychological study in literature can be used in some points, they are :

By ‘psychology of literature’, we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of

literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). (Wellek and Warren, 1956:81)

The explanation of the first one is the psychological study of the author. It constitutes a reflection of the psychological condition of the author. The second is the study of the creative process which emphasizes on the process of creating works. It involves the idea or the inspiration of the author. The third is the study of the psychological types and laws. It is applied into the characters of the work, such as in a novel. The last is the study on the effect of literature upon the readers. However, in this case, the most appropriate study deals with this analysis is the study of the psychological types and laws present within the works, since it emphasizes the study on the work itself.

Psychology and literature are related to each other. In every literary work, an author surely creates characters within it. To create the characters, he needs psychology to help him in shaping the psychical condition of each character, in which, psychology is the suitable means to analyze the psychical condition of characters in the literary work.

B. The Meaning of Individual Psychology

Individual psychology is a branch of psychology that studies the individual's personality and behaviour, in which, individual is viewed as a unity of personality. Feist says, "Individual psychology insists on the fundamental unity of personality" (Feist, 1985:64). Moreover, Suryabrata (1998:224) states that individual psychology constitutes a way to learn human's behaviour. However,

human's behaviour reflects one's personality. In addition, Hjelle and Ziegler reveal that Adler's individual psychology constitutes a study about the conception of human being as a single, indivisible, self-consistent, and unified entity (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1981:71).

Adler's individual psychology focuses on studying the uniqueness of individual's personality, in which, it is influenced by social aspect not by biological ones only, because human being is an individual and social creature. As an individual creature, human has different character and personality between one and another that show the uniqueness of each person. As a social creature, human being need to interact with others in the society, in which, social interaction influences certainly in shaping and building one's personality. As Schultz states :

Adler fashioned in understanding of human nature that did not depict us as victimized by instincts and conflict and doomed by biological forces and childhood experiences. He called his new approach individual psychology because it focuses on the uniqueness of each person, denying the universality of biological motives and goals ascribed to us by Freud. Each person, in Adler's opinion, is primarily social not a biological being. Our personalities are shaped by our individual social environments and interactions, not by biological needs and our continual efforts to satisfy them (Schultz, 1990:120).

C. The Major Principles of Adler's Individual Psychology

Actually, Adler's individual psychological theory consists of six major principles. Those are inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for superiority, creative power, fictional final goal, style of life, and social interest. The major principles of Adler's theory as follows :

1. *Inferiority Feeling and Compensation*

Inferiority feeling appears when somebody feels weak and unskilled to face his or her life problems, in which, it needs to be compensated. Adler explains, “inferiority means feeling weak and unskilled in the face of tasks that need to be completed. Actually, feeling of inferiority can be derived from a feeling of imperfection either physically, mentally, or socially” (Hall, et al, 1985 : 147). Adler states that feeling of inferiority arises from subjectively felt psychological or social disabilities as well as those that stem from actual bodily weakness or impairment. Later, he subordinated this view to the more general one that feelings of inferiority arise from a sense of incompleteness or imperfection in any sphere of life (Hall, et al, 1957:121).

Feeling of inferiority leads a person to take some efforts to defeat this feeling. In other words, this feeling motivates a person to be better. The struggles to overcome the feeling of incomplete and imperfect are called as compensation.

When a person cannot compensate this feeling of inferiority, it will be exaggerated and causes inferiority complex. As Schultz says, “inferiority complex is a condition that develops when an individual is unable to compensate for normal inferiority feelings” (Schultz, 1990:124).

2. Striving for Superiority

Striving for superiority is human’s struggles to be better and perfect. It does not mean to be superior to the others. Hall says :

Again, by this concept, Adler does not mean being better than others or winning out over them. By striving for superiority, Adler means continually trying and to become something better to become nearer and

nearer to one's ideal goals. It is the innate power, because every person has a desire to be better and natural. (Hall, et.al, 1985:147)

Moreover, Feist confirms, "the striving is innate, not acquired. It exists at birth, and precedes feeling of inferiority, rather than springing from them" (Feist , 1985:69).

Based on the perspective of striving for superiority, "perfection" refers to be valuable. It means that one strives to complete herself or himself for perfection in order to overcome feeling of inferiority. So, one feels to be valuable in his or her life. Striving for superiority emphasizes on human efforts to gain the goal of life in order to be better and valuable, in which, it can overcome the feeling of inferiority. Thus, striving for superiority and inferiority feeling relate each other. Adler confirms :

We are continually pushed by the need to overcome inferiority feelings and pulled by the desire to be superior. The minus and plus situations exist simultaneously. They can never be separated, for they are two dimensions of a single force. The force itself is innate, but its nature and directions are due both to feelings of inferiority and to the goal of superiority. Without the innate movement toward perfection, a child would never feel inferior, but without feelings of inferiority, one would be never set a goal of superiority or success. The goal, then, is set as compensation for the deficit feeling, but the deficit feeling would not exist unless the child first possessed a basic tendency toward completion. (Adler in Feist,1985:70)

3. Creative Power

Creative power constitutes the combination of innate potential and environmental influences toward a person in overcoming his or her difficulties of life. Wolman explains :

Each is endowed with an individual creative power, considered by Adler a third factor besides heredity and environment, for the creative power

combines the innate potentialities and environmental influences into a movement toward overcoming of obstacles in one's path of life. (Wolman, 1960:285)

The innate potential deals with heredity, in which, it gives certain abilities to a person that influence individual's personality. Social environment also really influences one's personality. As a social creature, one lives and interacts with the others in the society. One can not live alone. So, the social environment influences his thinking, feeling, view, and action. Adler states :

Heredity gives us "certain abilities," and the environment gives us "certain impressions." These two forces, in combination with the way in which we experience and interpret our heredity and environment, make up the "bricks". We use in our own "creative" way to construct our particular attitudes toward life and our relations with the outside world. (Hall, et.al.,1985:152)

4. Fictional Final Goal

Fictional Final Goal refers to one's expectations or ideals for future that motivates to make them real. Actually, these future expectations may be only fiction that has not been realized in the real world. Hall, et.al. (1985:146) states that fictional final goal is the individual's personal creation that exists subjectively and influences his or her behaviour.

In fact, fictional final goal has great influence to one's personality and behaviour. Somebody who has ideals or goals will take some efforts to realize them. These motivates individual to do better. Adler confirms :

The fiction of greatest important is the final goal of superiority or success. The goal is fictional, because it has no objective existence. As a subjective ideal, however, the fictional final goal has great significance. It unifies personality and renders all behaviour comprehensible (Feist,1985:64)

Fictional final goal closely related with the style of life and creative self. Bischof states that fictional final goal can not be separated from creative self and style of life in striving for superiority. It is because one has own unique way and ability in realizing his or her ideas (Bischof , 1970:181).

5. Style of Life

Perhaps, people have the same goal and desire in this life. In fact, each person has different way from others in striving for superiority, since every individual has different life style. Style of life deals with the uniqueness of individual's characters, behaviours, habits and ways in striving for superiority. Schultz states, "style of life is a unique character structure, or a pattern of personal behaviours, and characteristics, by which an individual strives for perfection" (Schultz, 1990:128). Wolman reveals that it reflects one's personality as the unity of personality that is expressed in thinking, feeling, acting, and resting either conscious or unconscious, in sex, and in social interest (Wolman ,1960:17).

One's life style can be recognized in his or her efforts to overcome inferiority and to reach reality. Hall and Gardner say, "Our life style, then, is based on our efforts to overcome our inferiorities and thereby establish a sense of superiority." So, it will appear through one's way in facing and solving the difficulties of life when he or she lives in a new atmosphere, milieu, or environment. Ansbacher explains :

As long as a person is in favorable situation, we can not see his style of life clearly. In new situation, however, where he is confronted with difficulties the style of life appears clearly and distinctly. (Ansbacher, 1958:173)

Adler confirms that the true form of life style can be indicated from one's manner in solving certain problems (Hjelle, 1981:145). Adler states, "Work, friendship, and love are the three unavoidable tasks that each person must face in this life" (Hjelle, 1981:145). In addition, human's experience has also influence to an individual's life style. Wolman says :

Happy or unhappy experiences influence one's life not by their happening but through the meaning one attaches to them. It is not the experiences that determine the individual's course of action but the conclusion he draws from them. His learning, remembering and forgetting are selective, guided by the promise of his life style. (Wolman, 1960:292)

6. Social Interest

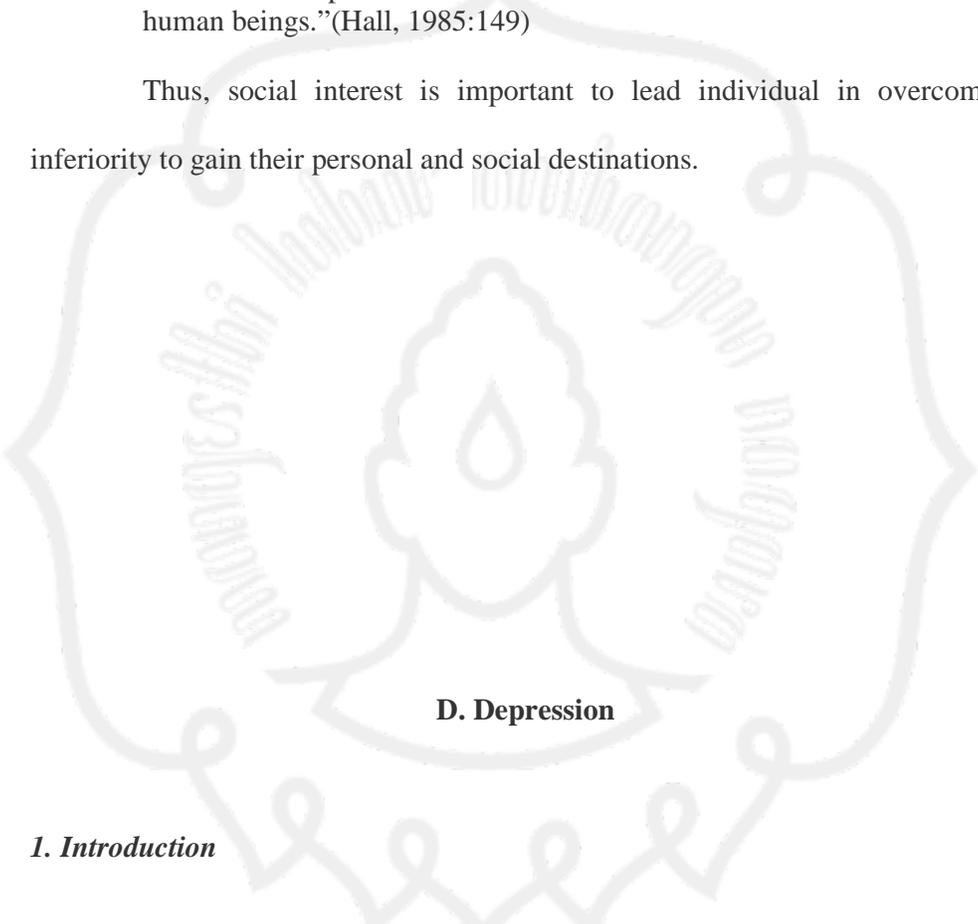
Actually, the basic concept of social interest is that human being constitutes a social creature that has desire and need to interact, associate, congregate, and cooperate with other people either in family, milieu, or society. Social interest is natural, because it ascribes from individual's potential, in which, human being lives in the society with other people. According to Adler, social interest constitutes the innate potential (Hjelle, 1981:148). Schultz confirms that social interest is human's inborn potential as a social creature to interact and cooperate with others in reaching his or her own goals and social ones (Schultz,1990:139).

Social interest is necessary to be developed to compensate one's inferiority and to reach the public welfare. If someone involves and socializes with other persons, he or she will have desire to compensate the inferiority, in

which, he or she will strive to make the perfection of himself or herself. Adler as quoted by Hall reveals :

The concept of social interest explains how it is possible for all people to struggle for superiority at once. Ultimately, social interest consist of people striving for the “perfection” of society as they strive for their own individual’s “perfection.” In this sense, “social interest is the true and inevitable compensation for all the natural weaknesses of individual human beings.”(Hall, 1985:149)

Thus, social interest is important to lead individual in overcoming inferiority to gain their personal and social destinations.



D. Depression

1. Introduction

According to Adler, depressed persons suffer from disability compensation, i.e, they try to lean on others by exaggerating their own inadequacies. Depressed persons exaggerate the hazards of living while striving for unrealistic lofty goals. When they fail to reach these unreachable goals, the depressed persons blame others and their life circumstances for the failures

<http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/devel/kid-c/resources/1-lecture/1-12.htm> (Feb 20th 2007)

People feel depressed when they experience a temporary sadness, loneliness, or blues from time to time. Meanwhile, Wolman describes depression as a feeling of hopelessness, helplessness, inadequacy, and sadness (Wolman, 1960:94), and Philip L. Rice states, “depresi adalah gangguan mood, kondisi emosional berkepanjangan yang mewarnai seluruh proses mental (berpikir, berperasaan dan berperilaku) seseorang <http://e-psikologi.com/masalah/depresi-1.htm> (March 03rd 2006)

2. Symptoms

Symptom is a group of event, behaviour or feeling which often (but not always) appear in the meantime. The symptom of depression is a group of behaviour or feeling which specifically can be grouped as depression. It can be seen from three sides, namely physical, mental and social. The explanation of three symptoms of depression are as follows :

a. Physical Symptom

- 1) People with depression may oversleep or, more commonly, sleep for fewer hours. A depressed people might go to sleep at midnight, sleep restlessly, then wake up at 5 AM feeling tired and blue. For many depressed people, early morning is the saddest time of the day http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761570982/Sleep.htm(March 03rd 2006)

- 2) Depression also changes one's energy level. Some depressed people may be restless and agitated, engaging infidgety movements and pacing. Others may feel sluggish and inactive, experiencing great fatigue, lack of energy, and a feeling being worn out carrying a heavy burden. Depressed people may also have difficulty in thinking, difficulty in remembering or making decisions, difficulty in concentrating, and having problems with memory [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761578303/Memory \(psychology\).htm](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761578303/Memory_(psychology).htm) (March 03rd 2006)

b. Mental Symptom

- 1) People with depression often experience feelings of worthlessness, pessimistic, helplessness, guilt and self-blame. They may interpret a minor failing on their part as a sign of incompetence or interpret minor criticism as condemnation. Some depressed people complain of being spiritually or morally dead. The mirror seems to reflect someone ugly and repulsive. Even, a competent and decent person may feel deficient, cruel, stupid, phony, or guilty of having deceived others. People with major depression may experience such extreme emotional pain that they consider or attempt suicide. At least 15 percent of seriously depressed people commit suicide, and many more attempt it.

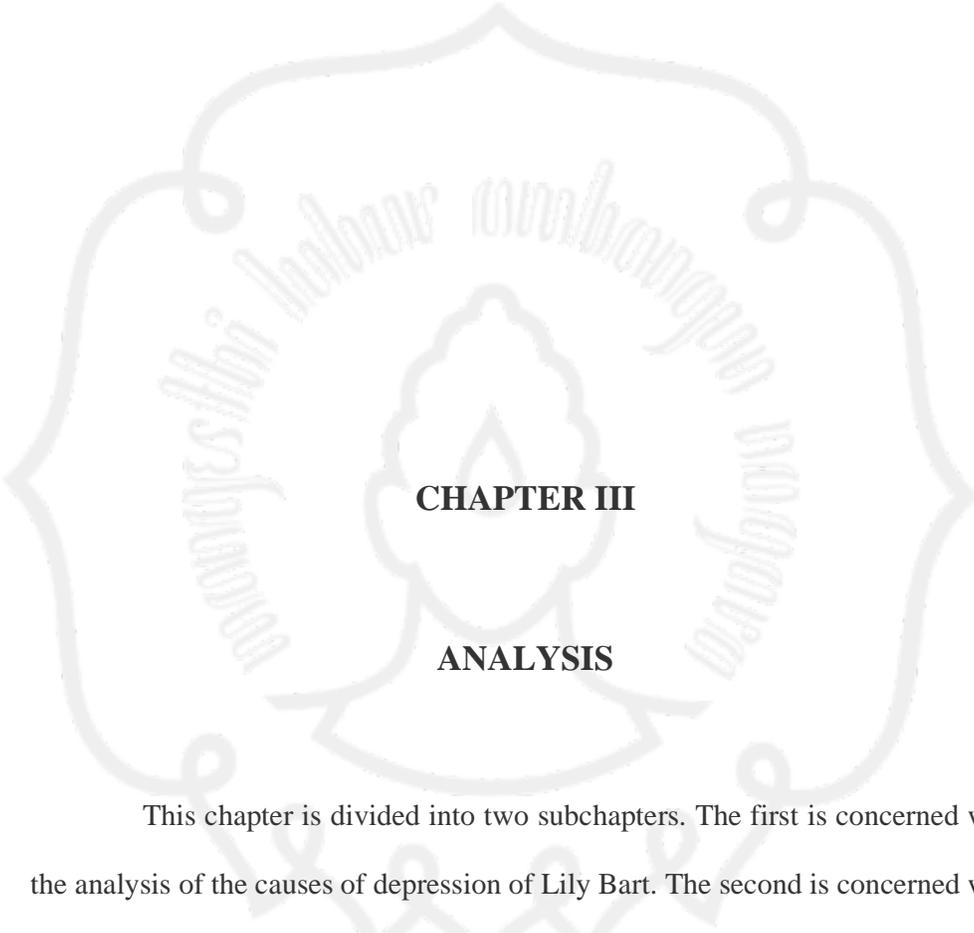
- 2) In some cases, people with depression may experience psychotic symptom, such as delusions http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761589448/Delusion.htm(March 03rd 2006)
- and hallucinations http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761565551/Hallucination.htm (March 03rd 2006)

c. Social Symptom

Social problem which is faced by a depressed person usually deals with interaction problem with environment. Some depressed people feel shy, anxious, and poor of self-confidence when they are in a group and they are uncomfortable in communicating as normal with their environment.

3. Causes

Some depressions seem to come out of the blue, even when things are going well. Others seem to have an obvious cause : a marital conflict, debt, financial difficulty, job loss, long periods of unemployment, poverty, the loss of a spouse or other family member, the loss of social status, the loss of reputation, the end of a committed relationship or some personal failure.



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter is divided into two subchapters. The first is concerned with the analysis of the causes of depression of Lily Bart. The second is concerned with the depression within Lily's change of personality.

A. The Causes of Depression of Lily Bart

The causes of depression commonly derive from a marital conflict, debt, financial difficulty, job loss, long periods of unemployment, poverty, the loss of a

spouse or other family members, the loss of social status, the loss of reputation, the end of a committed relationship or some personal failure.
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761578989/Depression \(psychology\).htm](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761578989/Depression_(psychology).htm)
(March 03rd 2006)

Before analyzing the causes of depression of Lily Bart, the researcher would like to tell the whole story of *The House of Mirth*.

Lily was an attractive and smart girl. But until at the age of 29 she had not been married yet. Since the death of her parents, Lily began to live with her aunt, Mrs. Peniston, an old rich widow. Lily had a dream, to marry a rich man who also loved her. To reach her dream, she began to associated with New York upper – crust. However, she still needed more dresses and money to support her performance in order to be accepted 25 in front of her acquaintances who were mostly from high class society. Whereas, her aunt restricted her allowance to her. On the other hand, the life style of her acquaintances was filled with party, sailing, charity and also gambling. Then, Lily finally had debt to Gus Trenor, a husband of her acquaintance, Judy Trenor. It was impossible for her to expect a help from her aunt.

By her performance which was very attractive, there were a lot of man felling in love with her, such as, Percy Gryce, a very wealthy young man, Rosedale, the owner of apartment building. None could conquest her heart because she only loved Lawrence Selden, a simple lawyer. However, Selden didn't have enough money to marry her. He only had love for her, as he said, "by loving you ..." (Wharton, 1905:7).

Oneday, one of her acquaintances, Bertha and George Dorset, held a party. Mostly high class society attended it. Since she saw Lily and her husband so close, Bertha became jealous at the moment. She considered them having an affair. She then began to take a vengeance on her by spreading nasty rumour to the society.

Since the spreading of the gossip, she had been regarded as an immoral women. Of course, it ruined her reputation.

When her reputation ruined, Lily seemed to be ostracized from her former acquaintances. In the meantime, she remembered that she had to repay her debt to Gus Trenor. She expected, her aunt's legacies would help her in repaying her debt and also earning her living. But her aunt left her a sum of money which was only enough to repay her debt. She was very dissapointed. But she had to make up her life. She had to struggle to earn her living by working as a secretary and finally as a hat maker at a millinery shop.

She finally realized that her job as a hat maker was very contrary to her life before. In her new environment, Lily felt that she had experienced the decline of her social status,

That Lily was a star fallen from the sky did not, after the first stir of curiosity had subsided, materially add to their interest in her. She had fallen, she had "gone under", and true to the ideal of their race, they were awed only by success – by the gross tangible image of material achievement. (**Wharton**, 1905: 301)

She was very difficult to receive these facts. It made her living in the deep regret for she had lost many chances to achieve all her dreams.

In the boarding house, Lily was led to the meaningless life. She began to take sleeping pills to help her getting away from her loneliness. When her check from her aunt's estate arrived, she paid off all her debts with the money. Lily then resolved to add the dose of the pills in order that she had a comfortable night's sleep. However, the pills made her overdose. She finally died tragically.

From the description above, the researcher concludes that there are some things that make Lily depressed, they are loss of reputation and poverty. The following are the explanation of each cause of Lily's depression :

1. The Loss of Reputation

A person who had an important role in ruining Lily's reputation was Bertha Dorset. Bertha was one of her friend. She hated her so much since Lily was more attractive than her. Bertha used her relation with some married man as a way to ruin her reputation. Furthermore, she had many ways to take a vengeance on her. As she saw Lily and her husband so close, Bertha became jealous. She released her jealousy by spreading a nasty rumour about her. Then, it seemingly had been heard by her family, especially her aunt. This made her aunt shocked and finally died.

Lily, if you must know the truth, it was the idea of your being in debt that brought on her illness – you remember she had a slight attack before you sailed. Oh, I don't know the particulars, of course – I don't

want to know them – but there were rumours about your affair that made her most unhappy – no one could be with her without seeing that. I can't help it if you are offended by my telling you this know – if I can do anything to make you realize the folly of your course, and how deeply she disapproved it, I shall feel it is the truest way of making up to you for her loss. (**Wharton**, 1905: 241)

As she returned from Europe, the nasty rumour had been spreading among her acquaintances. Lily actually wanted to tell the whole truth, but she seemed to have no power against her.

The whole truth?" Miss Bart laughed. "What is truth? Where a woman is concerned, it's the story that's easiest to believe. In this case it's a great deal easier to believe Bertha Dorset's story than mine, because she has a big house and an opera box, and it's convenient to be on good terms with her." (**Wharton**, 1905 : 236)

Instead, she seemed to surrender. Although she could take a vengeance on her, but she didn't want to do it. Lily considered that a good reputation was everything for her. It was because by having a good reputation, she could have a lot of friends from high class society, and it also could make her easily in achieving her goal of life. However, all her expectations were vanished as her reputation was ruined. Moreover, since the spreading of the gossip, she had been excluded from them.

Her loss of reputation was the cause of her depression. Lily felt that she had been ostracized from her society. She seemingly difficult to receive this fact. Consequently, this influenced her mentally and socially. The mental depression symptom that Lily experienced was the feeling of worthlessness. This feeling appeared when her former acquaintances accepted her no more. Socially, she concluded that she had actually been ostracized from them. Lily knew this fact from her efforts in getting back into her society in New York, in which, she failed.

Hitherto, she had kept up a semblance of movement outside the main flow of the social current ; but with the return to town, and the concentrating of scattered activities, the mere fact of not slipping back naturally into her old habits of life marked her as being unmistakably excluded from them. (**Wharton**, 1905 : 275)

2. Poverty

Since she was a child, Lily had lived a luxurious life. Her mother gave great influence in shaping her character to become a woman who was fond of luxurious things. Her mother always spent above her means. She also hated living in a poor condition, “she knew that she hated dinginess as much as her mother had hated it, and to her last breath she meant to fight against it, dragging herself up again and again above its flood till she gained the bright pinnacles of success which presented such a slippery surface to her clutch”. (**Wharton**, 1905: 40)

Lily had enjoyed it again since she stayed with her aunt. However, after her aunt had died, Lily could not depend on her anymore. She also had to live alone. Ironically, her aunt only inherited her with a sum of money which was enough to repay her debt. In the desperation, Lily resolved to find a job as soon as possible in order to keep her alive.

The first job was as a secretary at Mrs. Norma Hatch's. Actually, Lily could not enjoy her new job . Moreover, she realized that people in her place were talking about her. She then decided to go out from her work to save her reputation and turned to be a hat maker at a millinery shop. Hat maker was a difficult job for her. She had to learn hard to sew and decorate the hats. Lily was so confused. For many times she was always rebuked because of her inability in making the hats.

“Miss Bart, if you can’t sew those spangles on more regular I guess you better give the hat to Miss Kilroy.”

Lily looked down ruefully at her handiwork. The forewoman was right: the sewing on of the spangles was inexcusably bad. What made her so much more clumsy than usual? Was it growing distaste for her task, or actual physical dissability? She felt tired and confused : it was an effort to put her thoughts together. She rose and handed the hat to Miss Kilroy, who took it with a suppressed smile. (Wharton, 1905: 301)

Although Lily had worked at the millinery shop, but, actually her income was still not enough to earn her living. It could be seen from her movement into a boarding house. It meant that her condition was so declined. The decline was not only on her social status and her finance but also on her health. As she lost her reputation, she also experienced a physical weariness significantly. Her lassitude both in her body and her thought had influenced her appearance. Previously, Lily was known as a beautiful woman and she was adored by everyone. But, as depression attacked her, Lily’s condition was changed, especially her physical condition. She became pale and tired. It was because she experienced sleeping disturbance, “No – no; don’t be quiet; talk to me – keep me awake! I don’t sleep at night, and in the afternoon a dreadful drowsiness creeps over me.” (Wharton, 1905: 278).

In her deepest heart, Lily was actually afraid in facing her future. Even, the feeling of pessimism always covered her, “but the terrible silence and emptiness seemed to symbolize her future – she felt as though the house, the street, the world were all empty, and she alone left sentient in a lifeless universe”.(Wharton, 1905: 339)

Being bad depressed, Lily released her feeling of depression by taking drugs. She thought that by taking drug, she could forget her problems for a while. But, the drugs brought her into death.

B. Depression within Lily's Change of Personality

1. Inferiority Feeling and Compensation

In Individual Psychology, self-consciousness takes an important role upon human's life. By that self-consciousness, human may notice his weakness, whether psycally or psychologically, such as physical disability or poverty. The feeling of weakness and powerlessness can also cause an inferiority feeling in human's personality (Suryabrata, 1998:225).

The very first inferior feeling that Lily had experienced was her ruined reputation. The beginning of her ruined reputation was her relation with some married man . This usual relation had caused gossip and rumour in the society. Although she actually did not have an affair with some married man, however, the society had regarded her as an immoral woman. It made her inferior because her friends didn't want to associate with her anymore. Of course, she felt inferior in her life either mentally or socially.

Formerly, Lily was always adored by every people since she was so beautiful and attractive. Lily was not only beautiful but she also smart. She realized that "beauty is only the raw material of conquest, and that to convert it

into success other arts required” (Wharton, 1905: 36). That’s way she had a lot of friends particularly from high class society.

However, since her reputation was ruined, Lily had become an inferior woman. Moreover, she had no longer everything to be proud. Her friends such as Trenors and Dorsets left her, “Judy Trenor and her own family have deserted her too ...” (Wharton, 1905: 283). Therefore, Lily could not associate with them anymore. Her social dissability was the same as Adler stated in his theory that feeling of inferiority arises from subjectively felt psychological or social disabilities as well as those that stem from actual bodily weakness or impairment (Adler in Hall, 1957:121).

The other inferior feelings of Lily appeared when she was in a poor condition. She never imagined before that she would live in a poverty. Even, being poor was one thing that made her afraid,

“Dreadful things – what things?” asked Gerty, gently detaching her wrists from her friend’s feverish fingers.

“What things? Well, *poverty*, for one – and I don’t know any that’s more dreadful.” Lily turned away and sank with sudden weariness into the easy-chair near the tea table.(Wharton, 1905: 279)

Lily used to live in a luxury. Since she was a child, her parents especially her mother always spoiled her. Even, she suggested her to always live on ease and luxury and hated what was shabby and ugly and uncomfortable (Wharton, 1905: 284). Thus, these teachings had formed her as a women who fond of luxury, “to foster her naturally lively taste for splendour” (Wharton, 1905: 32). Lily was more happy when she finally adopted by her aunt since her

parents died. It meant, it would be easy for her to make all her dreams come true after she saw that her aunt was very rich widow.

However, the condition was changed after her aunt died. She could not depend on her anymore. Unfortunately, her aunt only inherited her a sum of money which was only enough to repay her debt. In this situation, Lily was so dissatisfied. She thought she would receive all her aunt's legacies, but in fact, her aunt gave it to her cousin, Grace Stepney.

Her inferiority being a poor person had motivated her to take some efforts in order that her life to be better. She then compensated it by looking for a job to earn her living. Through her friend, Gerty Farish, she got a job as a secretary and a hat maker in a millinery shop.

She had been working at the millinery shop for two months, but, Lily was still being rebuked for her inability to decorate new hat. Besides that, she confused in doing this job because she never did it before. She was also difficult to adjust herself to the new environment that mostly consisted of working classes which were uneducated and poor people, "every girl in Mme. Regina's work room knew to whom the headgear in her hands was destined, and had her opinion of its future wearer, and a definite knowledge of the latter's place in the social system" (Wharton, 1905: 301).

Lily was depressed thinking of her life which began to sink under the weight of poverty and ostracism. Moreover, the supervisor of the millinery shop had fired her for some reasons, "... and Miss Bart's attendance had of late been so irregular – she had so often been unwell, and had done so little work when she

came – that it was only as a favour that her dismissal had hitherto been deferred” (Wharton, 1905: 312). She perceived she was incapable of overcoming her inferiority. That’s way, she expressed her depressed feeling by taking drugs. She thought, by taking drugs she could escape from her weakness. She seemed to be happy, and her loneliness seemed lost,

“Tomorrow would not be so difficult after all: she felt sure that she would have the strength to meet it. She did not quite remember what it was that she had been afraid to meet it, but the uncertainty no longer troubled her. She had been unhappy, and now she was happy – she had felt herself alone, and now the sense of loneliness had been vanished”. (Wharton, 1905: 340)

2. Striving for Superiority

Striving for superiority encourages someone to struggle to gain the goal of life. It also can overcome the feeling of inferiority.

Lily, pushed by the need to overcome his inferiority, had many ways to strive for superiority. After her reputation had been ruined, Lily tried to make up her life. She tried to gain her goals, that were, to regain her position she had lost and to remedy her reputation in the society. She attempted to go back into the social elite by looking for her friends as much as possible, “...She must set out to regain, little by little, the position she had lost ; and the first step in the tedious task was to find out, as soon as possible, on how many of her friends she could count” (Wharton, 1905: 238).

The first way was by coming to the places where her friends often visited, such as a restaurant. Oneday, Lily met the group which was headed by

Judy Trenor at the restaurant. She tried to join them. But, Judy gently refused her presence.

After they refused her, Lily attempted to join a new couple, namely Gormers. They were new rich family in New York. Lily was happy for the time she spent in luxury. But, she then found the Gormer's manners were too familiar and too vague, very different from her previous group, "...Everything was pitched in a higher key, and there was more of each thing : more noise, more colour, more champagne, more familiarity - but also greater good-nature, less rivalry, and a fresher capacity for enjoyment" (Wharton, 1905: 244).

When she visited the construction site of the Gormer's new country house one day, Lily also met Bertha Dorset there. She decided to withdraw from this group since she saw Bertha's influence was too strong, "she was immediately conscious that Mrs. Dorset's influence was still in the air ..." (Wharton, 1905: 258). She believed that Bertha would tell a nasty rumor about her to the Gormers in order they kept away from her.

Lily strove for superiority not only on her reputation recovery but also on her poor condition. Since the death of her aunt, Lily automatically could not depend on her again. Moreover, her aunt only left her a sum of money which was only enough to repay her debt to Trenor. She had to struggle herself to earn her living. Here, the striving for superiority appeared when she attempted to find a job. She did it to overcome her feeling of inferiority as a poor woman. Through her friend, Gerty Farish, she got a job as a secretary and finally as a hat maker at the millinery shop. However, she was difficult to adjust with her new

environment. She became an object of gossip among them. Besides that, the salary as a hat maker was not enough to earn her living.

From the description above, it could be seen that Lily had tried with her best way to strive to realize her goal of life after her decline. Although she finally failed, at least, Lily had tried to overcome her inferiority, in which she could show her struggles to remedy her reputation and to earn her living.

3. Creative Power

Creative power is basically one's ability in overcoming his problems. Creative power constitutes an innate potential in which every person owns it.

Within the story of *The House of Mirth*, Lily could be seen to have experience both the social status decline and economic decline.

The society had regarded her as an immoral woman. Here, Lily's creative power appeared. She wanted the people to know that she was not the same as what they thought. Although she realized they would believe in Bertha Dorset than her, but, at least, Lily had attempted hard to use her creative power to remedy her reputation, "...In this case it's a great deal easier to believe Bertha Dorset's story than mine, because she has a big house and an opera box, and it's convenient to be on good terms with her" (Wharton, 1905: 236).

The first step she did was arranging the meeting with her former friend, Judy Trenor. Lily made a point to be seen in places where Judy and her friends often visited. One day, when she had lunch at one of a luxurious restaurants, she didn't have enough money to pay its cost. While Judy and her group were holding

the party at the same place, Lily tried to join their group. However, Mrs. Judy as the leader of the group gently snubbed her. She let her know that Lily was really on the outs with this group.

Such situation almost made her desperate because Lily had regarded Judy as a close friend of her, in which Judy often helped her in searching for a wealthy man to be married. But, Lily resolved to retry by using her creative power.

Lily finally joined a new couple, the Gormers. The Gormers were a new rich family in New York. Lily was very happy in joining them. Once, the Gormers invited her to visit their new house. At the same time, Lily unwittingly met Bertha Dorset who was visiting their house too. The existence of Bertha in the Gormers's house had caused her to withdraw from this group. Lily was actually afraid of her presence because Bertha's coming was only to tell a nasty rumour about her to Gormers. Therefore, she resolved to avoid her animosity against her.

She had arranged to break the length of her stay with her new friend by one or two visits to other acquaintances as recent ; and on her return from this somewhat depressing excursion she was immediately conscious that Mrs. Dorset's influence was still in the air. There had been another exchange of visits, a tea at a country-club, an encounter at a hunt ball; there was even a rumour of an approaching dinner which Mattie Gormer, with an unnatural effort at discretion, tried to smuggle out of the conversation whenever Miss Bart took part in it. (Wharton, 1905: 258)

Since Lily failed to remedy her reputation for twice, she kept trying in order that she could be acceptable again in the society. The creative power she used was marrying Rosedale.

One day, when she met him, Lily dared herself to reveal her readiness to marry him, as she said, "...I *do* believe what you say, Mr. Rosedale," she said quietly; "and I am ready to marry you whenever you wish" (Wharton, 1905: 266).

Hearing this purpose, Rosedale was surprised. He considered that it was merely misapprehension between them because he frankly told her that he was no longer interested to marry her. The situation made him changed his decision. Moreover, he didn't want to marry a woman whose her reputation was ruined since it would hamper him in joining the social elite of New York. "...I don't believe the stories about you – I don't *want* to believe them. But they're there, and my not believing them ain't going to alter the situation." (Wharton, 1905: 268).

Formerly, Rosedale proposed to marry her and gave her the luxuries. It was because Lily, at that time, was a woman who could help him in joining with the social elite of New York. In his thought, by marrying her, it could be easily acceptable in her acquaintances who mostly came from high class society. However, Lily refused him. As he said, "...last year I was wild to marry you, and you wouldn't look at me: this year – well, you appear to be willing. Now, what has changed in the interval? Your situation, that's all. Then you thought you could do better; now .." (Wharton, 1905: 268).

As the creative power in remedying her reputation failed, Lily changed her decision. She no longer thought about her reputation, but she thought about how to earn for her living.

Here, it could be seen that Lily began to use her creative power to earn for her living. There was an effort she did by using the creative power, that was, finding a job. The first job was as secretary. However, she left her job as a secretary because she had to save her reputation, and she got a new job as a hat maker at the millinery shop. Her job as a hat maker had shown that she still had a creative power to overcome her financial difficulty. However, Lily realized that her small income as a hat maker was not enough to earn for her living. Furthermore, she was always rebuked by her supervisor because of her inability in doing her work. Finally, Lily was fired from her job.

Lily was unemployed after being fired from her job. Even, until the story ended, she no longer used her creative power to find another job. Instead, she only contemplated her fate at the boarding house. She had no longer motivation to use her creative power. Thus, it meant that a creative power could make someone motivated to struggle. But, without creative power, it just made her desperate.

4. Fictional Final Goal

Lily Bart was an individual who had fictional goal in her life. This fictional goal automatically influenced and determined her in overcoming her problems. It also motivated her to struggle in realizing her purpose of life with her own unique ways and also her ability.

The purpose of life of Lily before she failed into depression was to marry a rich man. This purpose had grown since she was still a child. She wanted to marry, “An English nobleman with political ambitions and vast estates ... or an Italian prince with a castle in the Appenies and an heredity office in the Vatican” (Wharton, 1905: 36-37). It meant that she wanted not only to marry a wealthy man but also he had to come from an aristocratic family.

In realizing her purpose, she began to use her own ways. One of her ways was associating with people who had great influences in New York. They were social elite group. In this social elite group, she met Lawrence Selden. Selden was a simple lawyer. As a man, he was able to live both inside and outside the social world of wealth and privilege. Actually they loved each other, but Selden didn't quite dare to marry her since he had nothing for her.

Lily then met Percy Gryce, a very wealthy young man. He was an introvert, simple and shy man. Actually, she was bored with his attitudes, “At most it might amuse her to make sport of his simplicity for an evening – after that he would be merely a burden to her ...” (Wharton, 1905: 29). She also felt his personalities were very contrary to her. Nonetheless, she would try to get him.

However, their relation was in doubt since none of them dared to be active to each other. Furthermore, Percy had heard the story about her that she had gambling addiction. It made him avoid her and marry another woman.

After failing with Percy, another man namely Simon Rosedale, came to marry her. Rosedale was a Jew who also was quite wealthy, but he was still outside the social circle of the old rich in New York. He wanted to use her as a

tool in order that he was known and accepted in her acquaintances who mostly came from high class society. Knowing this purpose, Lily refused him for she still upheld her dignity and morality above all, “ She had rejected Rosedale offer’s without conscious effort, and her whole being had risen againts it, and she did not yet perceive that, by the mere act of listening to him, she had learned to live with ideas which would once have been intolerable to her” (**Wharton**, 1905: 275-276).

Lily’s presence in the Trenor family also would help her in realizing her purpose. It was because Judy Trenor had great influence in the society. She was a leader of social scene of the old rich in New York. She also regularly held the social activities as well as the party.

Since she was accepted in the Trenors, Lily ought to follow the life style they created, such as gambling. Gambling was a game that must be followed. Otherwise, Judy would regard her as a “poky people”- her generic name for persons who did not play bridge (**Wharton**, 1905: 137). Even, she received Gus Trenor’s suggestion to invest her money in the Wall Street. However, his suggestion was merely a trap for her because he secretly attracted to her. He gave his own money in hope of sexual favor.

Based on the description above, it was known that Lily had a fictional goal in her life before her fall into depression, that was, to marry a wealthy man. However, when she experienced a depression because of her ruined reputation and her poverty, her goal of life was lost.

5. Style of Life

Every human has the same purpose of life. However, each individual has different way in actualizing this purpose. Those peculiar ways explain the style of life of each individual. Gordon says, “life style refers to the manner in which an individual does what they do” (Gordon, 1963:4).

Lily Bart has her own style of life in achieving her purpose of life. Her desire was to marry a rich man. Lily in her former condition was a child of a wealthy family. Her parent took care of her by luxury. Her mother, Mrs. Bart, always spend money just to buy luxurious things. Meanwhile, her father, Mr. Bart, was afraid of refusing her wife’s desires. It was drawn by the writer as follows,

Mrs. Bart’s worth reproach to her husband was to ask him if he expected her to “live like a pig”, and his replying in the negative was always regarded as a justification for cabling to Paris for an extra dress or two, and telephoning to her jeweller that he might, after all, send home the turquoise bracelet which Mrs. Bart had looked at the morning. (Wharton, 1905: 31)

Her mother always suggested her in order she remained to wear “decently dress” and to eat “good cook” (Wharton, 1905: 31). Such suggestions has formed her to become a woman who was fond of luxury, “to foster her naturally lively taste for splendour” (Wharton, 1905: 32).

After the business of her father was bankrupt, Lily and her mother lived in a poor condition. But, the hope to live better reappeared after her mother saw Lily’s beautiful face. She convinced her to get her luxuries back, as she said, “But you’ll get it all back – you’ll get it all back, with your face” (Wharton, 1905: 30).

After the death of her mother, her aunt took care of her. Lily lived very well with her aunt because her aunt was very wealthy. Living with her aunt, Lily

felt comfortable. Her aunt always gave her everything she wanted, including nice dresses, jewelries and also enough money.

Before falling into depression, Lily had the life style of luxury in her life. She spent much her time with her acquaintances who mostly came from high class society. They often held the parties, sailing, charity and gambling activity.

However, after her reputation ruined, all her style of life were changed. Even, it was contrary to her expectation. Lily became to live under pressures. These were coming not only from herself but also from her environment. In the deepest heart, Lily actually regretted since all her purpose of life were unreachable. She also felt guilty because her life style formerly never made her happy. Even, it just made her suffered for she was too ambitious on the luxury, as she said to Selden,

“Once – twice – you gave me the chance to escape from my life, and I refused it: refused it because I was a coward. Afterward, I saw my mistake – I saw I could never be happy with what had contented me before. But it was too late : you had judged me – I understood. It was too late for happiness – but not too late to be helped by the thought of what I had missed. That is all I have lived on – don’t take it from me now! Even in my worst moments it has been like a little light in the darkness. Some women are strong enough to be good by themselves, but I needed the help of your belief in me. Perhaps I might have resisted a great temptation, but the little ones would have pulled me down. And then I remembered – I remembered your saying that such a life could never satisfy me; and I was ashamed to admit to myself that it could. That is what you did for me – that is what I wanted to thank you. I wanted to tell you that I have always remembered; and that I have tried – tried hard ...” (Wharton, 1905: 324).

The life style of Lily before and after depression was very different. Before falling into depression, Lily lived in a luxury and she always got whatever she wanted. However, when she experienced a depression, her style of life

automatically changed. She became to live in a poor condition. Thus, it can be known that the life style change of Lily can cause depression.

6. Social Interest

The setting of the novel *The House of Mirth* was the early of 20th century in America. There were social classes in the society. They consisted of upper class, middle class as well as the working class. At that moment, Lily Bart belonged to the upper class. Her social living dealt with wealthy man such as aristocratic and nobleman classes.

Their life style, of course, different from common people. They always held parties, sailing, charity and gambling activities. However, Lily was finally excluded from them since her reputation was ruined. Under the circumstances she was forced to socialize with the working class. Lily had attempted to socialize with them, but, it was actually very difficult for Lily because she still regarded herself as the member of high class society. Of course, it would hamper her in socializing with the working classes. Until the story was ended, Lily was still incapable of socializing with them. She rejected the kindness of her friends when she still worked at the millinery shop. At that moment, Lily intended to go home because she felt unwell. One of her friends from the working class offered her to accompany her going home. Lily rejected it.

“Miss Bart, I guess you can sew those spangles on as well as I can when you’re feeling right. Miss Haines didn’t act fair to you.”

Lily’s colour rose at the unexpected advance: it was along time since real kindness had looked at her from any eyes but Gerty’s.

“Oh, thank you: I’m not particularly well, but Miss haines was right. I *am* clumsy.”

“Well, it’s mean work for anybody with a headache.” Miss Kilroy paused irresolutely. “ You ought to go right home and lay down. Ever try orangeine?”

“Thank you.” Lily held out her hand. “It’s very kind of you – I mean to go home.”

She looked gratefully at Miss Kilroy, but neither knew what more to say. Lily was aware that the other was on the point of offering to go home with her, but she wanted to be alone and silent – even kindness, the sort of kindness that Miss Kilroy could give, would have jarred on her just then.

“Thank you,” she repeated as she turned away.

She struck westward through the dreary March twilight, toward the street where her boarding-house stood. She had resolutely refused Gerty’s offer of hospitality. Something of her mother’s fierce shrinking observation and sympathy was beginning to develop in her ...” (Wharton, 1905: 302).

It showed that Lily still kept her prestige in front of her friends. Lily didn’t want they put any sympathy on her. She seemed to keep a distance with them, and she preferred to be alone. However, the consequence of her rejection toward her social environment had caused her to become a loner since she limited her social living with them. She finally lived in the solitude and isolation. These solitude and isolation then caused the climax of her depression.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

After analyzing the novel *The House of Mirth*, the researcher draws some conclusions to answer the problem statement of the study. The first problem is the causes of depression of Lily Bart. There are two causes of depression of Lily, they are the loss of reputation and poverty. The loss of reputation came from the rumour that she had relation with some married man. While poverty came from her condition after her aunt left her without any inheritance. These things had caused her depressed.

The second problem is the depression within Lily's change of personality. Based on the individual psychological analysis, the influence of depression toward Lily's personality is reflected by her inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, creative power, fictional final goal, style of life and social interest.

Lily's feeling of inferiority was caused by her condition after her reputation had ruined and poverty after her aunt had left her without any inheritance. Lily then tried to raise from her fall. She proposed to gain the goal of life by going back to high class society. This striving for superiority was done in order that she could overcome her inferiority feeling.

Lily's creative power appeared from her efforts to go back to her society by arranging a plan to meet her acquaintances. This creative power also appeared from her effort to earn her living by finding a job.

Lily's personal goal was actually to marry with a rich man. In realizing this goal, Lily then associated with the wealthy people.

The life style of Lily before and after she fell into depression was very different. Before she fell, Lily had lived in luxurious life. However, after her reputation had ruined, all her life style automatically changed. She became to live in a poor condition.

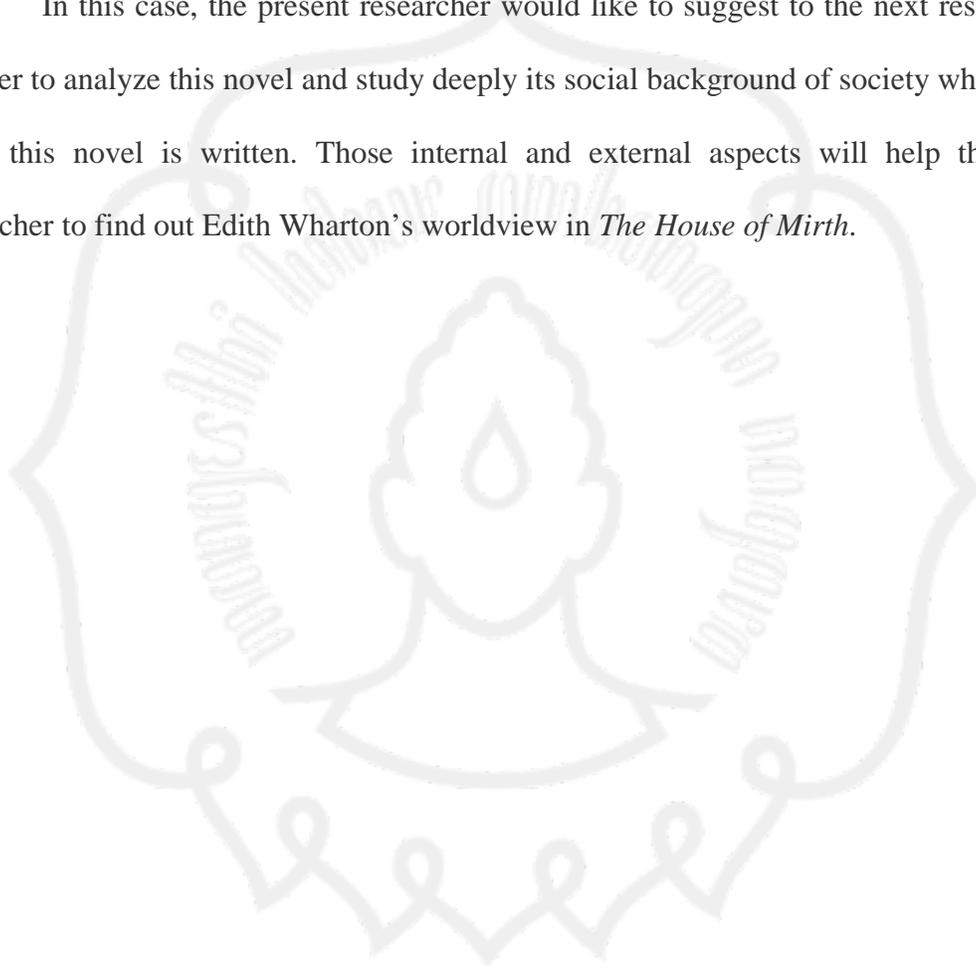
Within her depressed condition, Lily actually could not socialize well with her new environment in the working class. Her rejection toward the social environment had caused her to become a loner until she finally lived in a isolation, in which, it then caused the climax of her depression.

Being depressed, Lily experienced the change of her personality. Before she felt into depression, Lily was known actually as a good woman. She used to live in a luxurious life. However, after she depressed, her personality was changed. Lily turned to live in a horrible condition. Beside, Lily also felt desperate in facing her future. Finally, in the end of her life, she preferred to choose drugs as a way to solve her problem.

B. Suggestion

Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* is an interesting novel to be analyzed. There is possibility to another researcher to analyze this novel by using different approaches. One of them is genetic structuralism. It is approach that focused on literary work and society where the novel is written in order to find out the worldview of the writer.

In this case, the present researcher would like to suggest to the next researcher in order to analyze this novel and study deeply its social background of society where and when this novel is written. Those internal and external aspects will help the next researcher to find out Edith Wharton's worldview in *The House of Mirth*.



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