

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone has little moments of emotional insecurity in a relationship and everyone is possessive about loved one. Sometime possessiveness can be found in the character of one family member, friends, and maybe in the people around us. Possessiveness is a sign of insecurity, low self esteem, lack of self confidence and sometimes can be an indication that the person who is acting possessive with a loved one is most likely engaged in other relationships that could be threatening to the primary relationship (William, 1975: 25). If someone act possessive, he/she is sending a clear message that he/she does not trust his/her partner and that he/she is handling that mistrust by being controlling.

Furby (1978: 51) states that possessiveness is not about having things. It refers to the feeling of ownership over things. In the real life, possessive is not only on things, but also happen on people. Furby (1978: 53) also analyzes that possessiveness comes from a deeply rooted inferiority/superiority complex or insecurity whereby an individual feels powerless, and therefore needs to constantly be in control (of something or someone) in order to improve his or her self-esteem or to feel a sense of power.

The Piano Teacher by Elfriede Jelinek is one of the novel that talking about possessiveness. She wrote *The Piano Teacher* in 1983 which main characters are Erika and her mother. Like Erika in the novel, Jelinek was the only child of her

parents, who were relatively old when she was born. Jelinek grew up in Vienna, where she attended the famous Music Conservatory, as same as the setting of place in this novel. And like Erika's, Jelinek comes from a family with a very authoritarian mother and her father was also committed to an insane asylum while she was still a girl.

The writer has chosen Elfriede Jelinek's novel *The Piano Teacher* as the subject of matter of this thesis. It describes the character of Erika's mother as a possessive mother who wants to utilize the child's life herself. She shows an excessive desire to possess, control, and dominate Erika. She wishes and imagines her daughter as a famous concert pianist without considering her daughter's feeling.

In this thesis, the writer chooses to analyze Erika's mother possessiveness in *The Piano Teacher* by Elfriede Jelinek for at least three reasons. First, because the writer wants to examine the bad effect of being possessive. Second, it is a reflection of human attitude in real life. Last, this story also gives values that can be taken as a lesson of life.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

From the background above, the writer can state the following problems:

1. How is Erika's mother possessiveness described in the novel?
2. What are the causes of Erika's mother possessiveness?
3. What are the effects of Erika's mother possessiveness on Erika's character?

1.3 Objective of the Study

From the statement of the problems above, the purpose of this study or analysis is to know:

1. Erika's mother possessiveness reflected in the novel;
2. The causes of Erika's mother possessiveness;
3. The effects of Erika's mother possessiveness on Erika's character.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study will be useful to enlarge the writer's knowledge on literary work deeper. For the students of the Faculty of Letters of University of 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya, the writer hopes it can give contribution as a reference to do further research. For the readers in general, it is expected that they will not only give contribution in appreciating and understanding literary work but also understand the effect of being possessive.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study is primarily taken within the scope of studying the character of one of the main characters of Elfriede Jelinek's "*The Piano Teacher*". In order to make the discussion more specific, it is limited to the discussion of the possessiveness of Erika's mother in Elfriede Jelinek's "*The Piano Teacher*".

1.6 Research Method

This study is conducted through qualitative research method. In doing the analyses, the thesis writer applies descriptive qualitative. This applies the techniques of collecting data and classifying data taken from the novel which attempts to describe a subject as precisely as possible. The data is collected from the novel itself, and supporting informations are taken from some books as references related to the problem discussed. These references are used to support the writer's statement and idea.

The analyzes is not only focused on the character analysis to show the possessiveness in the story but also on the meaning and the message reflected in the novel. The character analysis is represented by the main character in this novel. Since the discussion is focused on characters, intrinsic approach is applied in this study. Intrinsic approach recognizes that the study of literature should first and foremost concentrate on the actual work of art themselves (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 139). It means that intrinsic approach focuses on intrinsic values of literary work such as character, so that it is suitable to apply intrinsic approach to analyze the character. This thesis also applies psychological approach due to the fact that this thesis analyze the psychological motivation of the main characters, namely Erika and her mother.

1.7 Organization of the study

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction because in this chapter, the thesis writer presents the background of

the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, research method and organization of the study. The second chapter presents review of related literature discussing about character, psychology of literature and the concept of possessiveness. The third chapter is analysis. The thesis writer explains about Erika's mother possessiveness in the novel, the causes of Erika's mother possessiveness and the effects of Erika's mother possessiveness on Erika's character. The fourth chapter is the last chapter in which the thesis writer make a conclusion which is followed by bibliography, and appendix consisting the biography of Elfriede Jelinek and the synopsis of *The Piano Teacher*.