

Research Article

The Relationship Between THE PROTAGONISTS AND THEME in the Novel "THE TREE OF MAN" By Patrick White As Australian Best Seller Author

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Abstract.


It is interesting to see the relationship between Stan and Amy and their different characteristics from which arise the conflicts in facing life in order to create the intact theme. By looking at Stan's first appearance in the novel, it seems White has a preconceived role or set of characteristics he wants to apply to Stan's character. His bitter experience makes him become well-known as a "pretty stubborn man" by the people around him. In the meantime, Amy's characteristics have also been prepared by White through the function of three things which were given to her by the Parson's wife at the wedding party. Those three things are: a bible, a blouse as good as new, and a little silver nutmeg grater. Of course, they are given to Amy, but there is an impression that both Stan and Amy will have to adopt those kinds of characteristics in life. For further analysis, let us see the appearance of the protagonists as symbolized by the three things in expressing the theme.

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1. Introduction

1.1. The Explanation of the Title.

A good novel is not only judged by its capability to give enjoyment, interest and consolation, but it also has the social function to help people become a better and more worthy human being than before. At least this novel should have a value of humanism. Because this novel describes real life which becomes a human problem. These are some of the reasons why this type of novel has always survived to be restudied and analyzed by critics. Based on the statement, the writer has chosen "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROTAGONISTS AND THEME" in the novel "The Tree of Man" by Patrick White as the title of his thesis. This choice is aimed at giving the

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necessary contemplation in which understanding, and enjoyment go together. One of his efforts is to appreciate White as a man of letters as well as his works.

As an Australian author who was awarded the Noble Prize in Literature, 1973, White, in this novel tries to suggest every possible aspect of life through the lives of an ordinary man and woman. From the title, one can assume that White uses the word “Tree” as a symbol of human life. It is obvious that the tree consists of a root, stems, branches, twigs, leaves, and so on. Whether the stems, branches, twigs, and others are good or strong depends on the root which has the function as foundation. If the foundation is good, it is certain the stems, branches, and twigs, and others could be good or strong too. And the trees will produce suitable fruits as well. Of course, the surroundings trees could also influence their development.

Analysis about the title can be seen as metaphor for the life of a human being in society. It is commonly known that the basis of one’s character is formed as a result of the combination of inherited characteristics, parent’s hobbies, and the area where they are living and developing. The first influence on the child’s characteristics are obtained from their family circle father, mother, sisters and brothers to who the child owes all the basic abilities intellectual and social.

From this story, we see Stan and Amy are ordinary people who share their lives together and have two children. Their life is marked by natural disasters wind, flood, storm, as well as having relationships with the neighbours or society in general. The development of both children contrasts greatly from that of Stan and Amy. Ray becomes a crook and thelma married her boss, Mr. Forsdyke, a genteel solicitor. Thus, her life reflects the modern standard of life. However, these ideas have attracted the writer of this thesis’s early attention. And his interest had been rekindled by having investigated the bibliographical data available.

1.2. The Reasons for Choosing the Topic.

The main reason why the writer of this thesis chooses Patrick White’s novel “The Tree of Man” as the subject for his thesis is because novels as literary works are not only enough to just to be read but they also must be appreciated, interpreted, and taken advantage of. Usually, one way which people use to appreciate a novel is by analysis. As was mentioned above, after a closer look at Patrick White’s material and themes, the writer of this thesis was inspired to examine White’s work in depth. Therefore, what the writer of this thesis wants to create through this paper is the relationship between the protagonists and the theme. By knowing the protagonist’s character, the writer of

this thesis will analyze their motivation and function within this story, how they act, speak and develop, their complexity and their activities. The paper will then show how they relate to the building of the theme. Hopefully, this thesis will help the readers to understand more about the message of the author.

The novel describes how ordinary people face the struggle of life. Reading it, the readers will improve their understanding of life in general and the life of ordinary people in particular. At least, by discussing this novel, we can present the positive values in order to be pre— served and the negative to be avoided. For instance, on the one hand we can take Stan Parker who saves people from a flood, and therefore feels close to nature. On the other hand, is Amy Parker, who becomes the wife of Stan and who commits adultery with Leo as the reason for revenge toward her husband who does not give her enough sensual pleasure. By choosing “The Tree of Man” the writer of this thesis is eager to give a little contribution to the appreciation of one of White’s works. One should remember that White is the only famous Australian author who has been awarded a Noble Prize. As a famous author, it is known his works are popular in the world. Finally, by writing this descriptive analysis of the novel, the writer of this thesis intends to fulfill the partial requirement for obtaining the first degree in English at Andafala University.

1.3. The Theoretical Framework.

There are some important things to be explained in this part. Firstly, what is the theme and how to find it in a novel. Secondly, who is the protagonist. and how to find him. After the writer of this thesis is successful in finding them both, it will be interesting to discuss more about how they relate to each other.

Laurene Perrine (1959) says that “The theme in a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story. To derive the theme of a story, we must ask what its central purpose is: What view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals”

William Kenney (1966) says that “Theme is the total meaning discovered by the writer “in the process of writing reader in the process of reading”. While Edgard V. Robert (1969) says that “A theme should be a short, accurate, and peaceful presentation of ideas or description well contrived as totality or unity” In short, the above mentioned three men of letters agree that the theme is something to be discovered in a novel and it can be about a variety of things. In a good novel, the writer presents the theme through a developed process using the character’s conflicts, and activities in a careful presentation

from the beginning of the novel until the end. Normally, the theme is concerned with the problems that occur frequently in the story.

In this thesis, the writer of this thesis will also discuss the protagonists. How they are used as symbols, their background, their development, their complexity, and their activities. Winston (1980) says that "Protagonist is the person on whom the story has the maximum effect". In other words, the definition of Winston as protagonist is also called the major character. Henceforth, in the study of the protagonist, the writer of this thesis uses the theories of Laurene Perrine and Edgard V. Robert. Laurene Perrine (1959) says that "The main character must therefore return him a pleasing image of self. He must be someone such as he would like to be".

Edgard V. Robert (1969) says that Character in literature as the author's creation, thought, expression, and attitude unique and appropriate to that personality and consistent with it". After finding the theme and the protagonists, their relationship will be implicitly analyzed. How the theme is built and developed by looking at their character and the appearance of conflicts in this novel will be discussed.

1.4. The Limitation.

Throughout his novel writing period, Patrick White had produced not less than 10 novels such as: *Happy Valley*, *The Living and the Dead*, *The Aunt's Story*, *The Tree of Man*, *Voss*, *Riders in the Chariot*, *The Solid Mandala*, *The Vivisector*, *The Eye of the Storm*, and *A Fringe of Leaves*. After reading two of his works, *Voss* and *The Tree of Man*, the writer of this thesis's interest became more focused towards the latter, *The Tree of Man*, for his analysis. This novel takes places in Sydney and the countryside surroundings such as: Durilgay, Bengalay, and Yuruga, and Glastonbury. These places do, however, have the certain function to identify the ideas of the author.

The limited data available in West-Sumatera, especially in his faculty, has caused the writer of this thesis to go to the Australian Culture Center Building, Jakarta, to do his research. He has also asked an Australian, D.G. Brown, to send any books or information about Patrick White from Australia. Notwithstanding, the writer, as an Indonesian young man, realizes that he does not know much about the characters of each of those places. Because of that, the writer reminds the readers that he is only discussing how this novel describes the life of the human being in a society, and the human being's relationship with nature. In other words, the writer does not analyze this novel in the strict sense of the word.

1.5. The Method of the Research.

Besides using the chosen novel of White's, this thesis is written by using some biographical as well as bibliographical references available in the library. The method of analysis the writer uses is library research. The writer has also gained from having discussions with the teaching staff, especially in Literature, as well as with other interested people.

2. A STUDY OF THE PROTAGONISTS

The novel "The Tree of Nan" is deeply concerned with the inseparability of man and woman in terms of their activities but they are separately corrupted with each of their own humanity and honesty. Stan is close to nature and Amy is shown as having the desire to possess material things, sensual pleasures, etc. In this novel, White chooses Stan and Amy as ordinary people and are representative in expressing various aspects of life. They are not educated, or perhaps not very intelligent in understanding themselves or each other.

The writer of this thesis chooses them both as the protagonists based on the writer's understanding of this novel. The author describes Stan and Amy often appearing as if their struggle in life is together. This decision is ensured by their relationship as husband and wife. Therefore, it is unavoidable that Stan and Amy have the maximum importance in the story, "The Tree of Man". Of course, there are some other figures who support the story, such as the neighbours: O'Dowd, Quigleys, Gages, and most important their two children. Because they are minor characters, they will not be analyzed. In short, the writer in this chapter will only study the protagonists.

A young man, named Stan Parker, goes by a carriage towards the land about one mile from the center of Sydney, Durilgay. While in the agony of death, his mother told him that long ago his father purchased a piece of land that he did not make productive before he died. On the way towards Durilgay, Stan stops for a while with his mother's cousin at Yuruga. Here, he meets Amy Victoria Fibben, an orphan who has been living with a Parson's wife for a long time. Their acquaintance develops into a close friendship and finally into a simple wedding. The Parson's wife feels happy; and therefore she gives Amy a bible, a blouse as good as new, and a little silver nutmeg grater.

Soon, they arrive in a new place, Amy and Stan build a shack and plant many kinds of plants and vegetables around it. Stan diligently works in the field with an axe, or scythe, or hammer. Once, when Amy is milking her yellow cow, called Julia, a stranger comes and asks Whether Amy has been to Wullunya where a big river runs. Amy answers that

she has never been that far. She has only been to Yuruga, and there, and to Bengalay once or twice. Henceforth, Amy refuses his order to buy a bible because she has one and tells him that she has no time to read. The stranger also shows Amy a kind of magnetically water and before leaving he steals Amy's grater.

From time to time the place becomes crowded with people who live in that part of the country. There is a neighbor, named O'Dowd and another is Quigley.

Bub and Doll Quigley often come to the back door of Parker's to have a talk. At the time Bub shows Amy a cat's cradle and asks her to play with it. Suddenly Amy feels panicky and begins to be sick when Bub shows her a mattress. Amy tells her husband that she is going to have a baby. On another occasion, there is an accident to Julia, her cow gets milk fever after giving birth to a calf and finally she dies. Because of that, Amy imagines that she will not give birth to a child.

When the rain continues to fall heavily, the stream becomes flooded, and the surrounding land is covered with surging water. Stan and O'Dowd and other men of the district go towards the river of Wullunya to help the victims of the flood. Among the victims, there is a woman who seeks her father who has disappeared, and all other things she valued could not be saved. Amy takes a lost child home but Stan objects to her doing it. The lost child finally escapes from their supervision after leaving a piece of glass. About a mile from the Parkers where the road forks, a store has been built and later a post office is added. The postmistress has a husband who accidentally hangs himself because all the neighbors think that he is lunatic.

The surrounding people come to offer their congratulations when Amy gives birth to a boy, named ay and a girl, named Thelma. Once, Amy receives a letter from Mrs. O'Dowd telling her that she is trouble. In fact, Amy is asked by Mrs. O'Dowd to talk to Mr. O'Dowd about his drunkenness because she knows that in such a particular case, a friend can better solve the problem than she can herself as his wife.

Stan helps to take Madeleine, Tom Armstrong's fiancée, out of the burning house at Glastonbury. As a sign of thankfulness, Armstrong gives Stan a cheque. In the meantime, Mrs. O'Dowd comes to Amy and says thanks also to Stan who helps Madeleine. Mrs. O'Dowd feels some regret that it is not her husband who helps Madeleine out of the fire with her face pressed into his neck. At the time Stan goes to Bank in Bengalay, he gets the information that war has just broken out in Europe. After getting permission from his family, Stan decides to go to war.

At home, there is a young German, Fritz, who becomes friendly with the Parkers. Fritz receives cruel words from the children and hostile attitudes from their parents. This attitude forces him to leave the Parkers and the district. The Parkers employee

another foreigner after the war is over. He is Con, the Greek who becomes very popular with the family fulfilling many of the emotional needs of the Parkers. Stan Parker decides to apprentice his son to be a saddler at Bengalay. At first, Ray refuses because he does not want to be a saddler as much as he wishes to be an explorer or a boxer. However, Ray obeys his parents and becomes an apprentice even though he dislikes Bengalay.

Thelma studies at a College for a Business Girl in the city. After she graduates from the Business College, Thelma soon obtains a job as a junior typist with a shipping firm. Here, she lives with the Bourke family. Mrs. Bourke, whose first name is Lilian, was formerly a daughter of the Bott family whose washstand was broken.

In Bengalay, there is a horse race in which Bourke's horse is expected to win but the horse loses. The attendant, who is a friend of Rays admitted to giving some dope to the horse. Ray had heavily backed another horse which won, and he made a lot of money. Thelma feels afraid and sends a letter to her parents about that problem. Stan comes to Sydney to see his son. However, he does not find Ray at home but only his girlfriend Rose who does not treat Stan well. Later, Ray visits Thelma and tells her that he is going to marry Elsie Tarbutt, a Methodist. Ray also visits his mother to inform her. Thelma does not believe that Elsie is good or Methodist. Amy stands by Ray's side believing that Elsie is good even if she is not pretty. Ray has a boy with Elsie who tells her son to see his grandmother. Amy shows the boy an old box containing some brittle flowers, and then a piece of glass that belonged to the boy she saved from the flood. The boy wants to keep the glass. Not long after that, it is known that Ray has left Elsie and later from a newspaper article Stan learns that Ray is dead. Ray is known as the one who got the bribe and has served several short jail sentences in another state for house— breaking and theft.

Thelma gets married to her boss, Dudley Forsdyke, but has no children. Moreover, Stan also knows that Amy is really committing adultery with a young man, Leo. Nevertheless, for a long time he does not care about the gossip concerning his wife's infidelity. Stan goes to a communion service to fill his spiritual emptiness accompanied by Amy and Thelma. There, he is taught by the Evangelist about God and the nature of life. Finally, Stan collapses and dies of old age leaving Amy with her grandson.

3. A STUDY OF THE THEME

In the novel "The Tree of Nan", Patrick White stresses the importance of humanistic values through the life of an ordinary man. Looking at Stan's background, one sees his bitter experience has made him strong and helps him firm in facing every possible

aspect of life. As a matter of fact, he can use his brain to think rationally as well as psychologically. The writer of this thesis finds that the main theme of this novel is that “one who undergoes hard times and difficult problems in his life usually becomes tough and matured if he is not frustrated”. White represents Stan as an ordinary young man who has a hard background. He goes to an isolated place to share his life together with his wife. The place is in the land which was never kept productive by his father when he was still alive. As we can see by his mother’s talk.

“She began to talk of money in the bank.’ And there’s that land that was your father’s, in the hills back from here, don’t just know the name, I don’t think it ever had one, People always called it Parker’s when they spoke. Well, there is the land. Your father did not think much of it. The land was always uncleared, scrubby, he said though the soil is good in patches. When the country opens up it will perhaps be worth a little. The railway is a wonderful invention, and of course, assistance to the landowner. So, keep this property, it’s safe” she said. (pp14—15).

Stan drives down along the coast towards a suburb called Durilgay where his land lay. Along the way he meets a Fibben girl, in Yuruga, named Amy Victoria Fibben who later becomes his wife. As Dutton says “At their first meeting, Stan is completely open and honest while Amy is dishonest without being aware of her dishonesty. She does not want Stan to know what her family is really like”.⁷ From this quotation, it is known that Amy and Stan have different attitudes.

Perhaps, this is also what the author wants to present in causing the conflicts between their household’s relationship, their neighbors, nature, and the different ideas in rearing their children. These conflicts move with each event in order to build a plot of the story. William Walsh (1916) describes Stan “The husband is a good man, with the special dignity of those whose life and work are part of a more inclusive natural rhythm. He is a peasant, but a peasant in a land which has never known, never been subjected to an aristocracy. The wife, on the other hand, is a sharper, neater intelligence and has a much higher degree of self—limited interest” ⁸.

This novel consists of 480 pages which are divided into 26 chapters. They are categorized into four parts: The first part is telling about Stan’s background. His father who dies of alcoholism and his mother who is humorless and rather frightened woman. By having a bitter experience in his childhood, Stan becomes stubborn as the surroundings people thought. In this part is also presented Amy’s desire to mother a pretty girl and it is symbolized in other events. For example, when her yellow cow dies of milk fever after giving birth, Amy thinks that she will not have a baby. The loss of the child from the flood who disappears from their home support her illogical thinking that she will not

succeed in being a mother. Other conflicts happen when they face natural disasters like, storms, floods, and fires. Stan can see the storm as the mystery of the natural world while Amy feels scared. "There is nothing much we can do,' he shouted,' except hope it will be over" C pp 47). Stan's humanistic sense has led him to help Madeleine from the fire and the victims of the flood voluntarily. It known that going into the burning house is a dangerous act, but it also reflects heroism and responsibility for a man to help others. "At the time the flood comes Stan can see their effect in a wider context of meaning than Amy who sees the safety of their own situation and the posh session of her home and husband"9.

The second part describes how the place becomes as crowded from time to time as the conflict itself. There is a difference of opinion between Stan and Amy when they first have a baby. Amy, in her dream wants Ray to be something in the government or a famous surgeon or something like that. In fact, Stan laughs and replies with ridiculous words at hearing Amy's idea. On the other hand, Ray wants to be rich like Armstrong or even wants to be a boxer.

The third part describes Parker's life, especially Stan who goes to the war. For Stan, this is an opportunity for heroism but also a meaningless experience. The significance of his real life is in the small farm where he prepares his daily life. After returning from war, Stan sends his boy to Bengalay for the study of saddlery, and Thelma to Business College. Ray does not continue his study and becomes a member of a gang in town, where conflict happens with Stan's cousin because Ray destroyed the chance for Mr. Bourke winning the horse race.

In the last part, White describes the sequence of events which relate to the former events. Stan is aware that his wife has really committed adultery with a young man, Leo and later, decides to go to the communion services to fill his spiritual emptiness. "You are not stubborn, friend? I would not be here if I was not stubborn,' said the old man. Don't you believe in God, perhaps? asked the evangelist, who had begun to look around feeling the necessity for further stimulus of confession, "I can show you book, he yawned" (pp 476). Even though, in the communion services he cannot pray, Ray is able to accept the mystery of life. He does not commit suicide as his neighbor, Mr. Gage has done. He now understands how hurt Mr. Gage's soul is when the surrounding people including his wife, the postmistress, thought that he is a lunatic.

4. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROTAGONISTS AND THEME

A work of fiction has a theme which is formed in the plot of the story. Plot is the sequence of events formed by the character's activities. In discussing the relationship between the protagonists and theme, the writer of this thesis examines this relationship from the point of view of Stan and Amy. White presents Stan and Amy as the major characters who fail to communicate even with each other in facing the struggle of life. These two major characters have the important function of support in expressing the theme and messages through their development, acts, and their conflicts.

It is interesting to see the relationship between Stan and Amy and their different characteristics from which arise the conflicts in facing life in order to create the intact theme. By looking at Stan's first appearance in the novel, it seems White has a pre-conceived role or set of characteristics he wants to apply to Stan's character. His bitter experience makes him become well known as a "pretty stubborn man" by the people around him. In the mean time, Amy's characteristics have also been prepared by White through the function of three things which were given to her by the Parson's wife at the wedding party. Those three things are: a bible, a blouse as good as new, and a little silver nutmeg grater. Of course, they are given to Amy, but there is an impression that both Stan and Amy will have to adopt those kinds of characteristics in life. For further analysis, let us see whether the appearance of the protagonists is symbolized by the three things in expressing the theme.

"Stan Parker did not decide to marry the Fibbed girl, if decision implies pros and cons; he simply knew that he would do it, and as there was no reason why the marriage ceremony should be delayed, it was very soon performed, in the little church at Yuruga, which looks a bit cockeyed, because built by hands less skill than willing, on a piece of bumpy ground (Pp 24). Early after their wedding is over, the Parson's wife, Mrs. Erbey, gives Amy a bible, a blouse as good as new, and a little silver nutmeg grater before Stan and Amy leave for Durilgay.

Those three things symbolized what the Parson's wife feels should be important factors in the life of every human being. The bible portrays a faithful attitude. White wants to say that one has to hold a belief in order to fill his conscience. Another symbol can be seen from the function of a blouse to cover a part of the human body. However, in this story, the blouse is actually old, but it is still useful and seems as good as new. So that through this blouse it seems that everything we serve well is still valuable. The value of something should be judged by the individual and not be subject to the influence of

out sides. In fact, this blouse is still able to give Amy beauty even though it is old. The message for the human being is: please be satisfied with all your properties and if you can appreciate them, they will also be useful for you.

The third characteristic is symbolized by a little silver nutmeg grater in which can be seen the social sense of humanity. We know that a nutmeg grater is a grater used for nutmeg and it has a serrated blade. The cogs of the grater can cut whatever is in it. Like the grater blade, humans also have some bad attitudes such as: stealing, killing, corrupting, and other things. But White, in this story, does not make the nutmeg grater from the usual metal or iron. He changes it from the usual material into silver. So that function is replaced by ornamentation. Through the changing of its function the writer of this thesis draws the conclusion that the Parson's wife wants Stan and Amy to possess conscientiousness in life. Cautiousness does not mean distrust of others, but we should protect our property. We must save our property in order to establish our self—confidence and not to disturb anyone else. The analysis below will show us the protagonist's responsibility to live up to those characteristics described above.

In the sense of religiousness, Amy gets more chance to know religion through reading the bible compared with Stan. We see a lot of discord between her thoughts and acts. Bub Queqley shows Amy a cat's cradle, and she feels panic and becomes more upset when she is asked to play with it. Then, Amy feels that she is pregnant but unfortunately when her yellow cow, Julia, dies of milk fever, she regains her illogical thinking believing she also will not be able to give birth. Meanwhile, Stan does not connect one event with another by using illogical thinking like Amy. Also, with natural disasters like storms, he does not think too far and realizes that it is a usual event of nature. He just hopes the storm will be over soon while his wife feels scared. Technically, the Parkers are safe from the flood's danger as Amy says when they are on a hill. "Yes, said her husband, ' we are on a hill. What about the poor bugger at China Flat ?(Pp 70). The sense of responsibility Stan feels as a human being has influenced his decision to go with a person from another district to rescue the victims from the flood of Wullunya.

The first time Stan looks at the fire, he feels awkward and does not know what to do. His behavior is usual for an ordinary man who has never experienced facing a fire. Finally, his humanistic sense raises his awareness that natural disasters like storms, floods, arid fires are natural things. All of them are important in our lives because at certain times they can be our friend. So, the storm, flood, and fire may give a human a sense of heroism in the struggle of life. Stan seems to be more mature in thinking after having much experience in facing the struggle of life. His strong ability and maturity in

thinking have made him able to think more rationally and he does not commit suicide after discovering his wife's infidelity.

In the sense of religion, Stan is not a preacher nor a teacher. He is a very ordinary person. He cannot pray when he goes to the communion services in order to fill his spiritual emptiness after realizing that Amy has really committed adultery with Leo. His experience has become a teacher for his further life in order to be mature. This shows that one may not know much about religion theoretically but has a good sense of humanity which is more valuable than one who only knows religion theoretically but does not do what he knows.

From the beginning of the story, we know why Stan feels close to Amy after a short acquaintance. In fact, Amy and Stan have the same nostalgias after she confesses that she is an orphan. To tell the truth, Amy has no superabundance of anything in terms of beauty. She is a thin girl and a practical woman. We are shown the symbol of a blouse as good as new, but factually, Amy cannot live up to such a symbol. Amy still imagines other woman's beauty and compares herself with Madeleine, Tom Armstrong's fiancée who looks beautiful in her gown while riding a carriage. Looking at Madeleine's beauty, Amy continuously dreams about how Tom makes love with Madeleine. Then her dream becomes reality with her adultery with Leo. Amy thinks that she has not gotten enough sensual pleasure from her husband. Looking at Amy's activities in the above events prove that she cannot live up to the characteristics symbolized by a blouse as good as new.

Looking at another characteristic of Stan and Amy through the symbol of the little silver nutmeg grater, Amy is unable to be conscientious. Conscientiousness in the meaning of protecting herself from any probability of becoming bad or realizing good things in life in society. Of course, when her nutmeg grater is lost, she has a feeling of suspicion, but that is a kind of indecent reaction, because in fact her nutmeg grater is only misplaced. She has accused a stranger of stealing her nutmeg grater which is a very valuable part of her life. It proves that Amy shows less conscientiousness than Stan objects to her desire to take a lost child from the flood. Her sense of pity cannot be accepted by the lost child because finally he escapes from the Parker's home. From the analysis about the protagonists, it seems that White stresses humanistic values. In short, this novel rejects the concept of individualism and tries to prove that life needs unity. This novel tries to portray how such a sequence of events should be faced one by one by human beings as complete creatures.

Human beings each have a territory in which they must actively relate to each other. They are acquainted with the milieu and on the contrary, show their acts to the territory.

The mutual relationship between the human beings and the territory causes the problem and challenges the available which must be overcome. When people have more ability in thinking they will have more probability of meeting problems which will be faced and find more districts to be cultivated. By having a larger milieu and districts we will have more problems. So that the essence of humanity will be found in the interactions between human beings and their surroundings.

It is obvious that in the novel "The Tree of Man", Stan and Amy as the main characters, have the important function to expressing the themes and suggestions that can be found by looking at their activities and development from the beginning to the end of the story. The kind of characters and how they develop, their mutual relationship expresses the theme and suggestions. Finally, this relationship between the protagonists and theme can prove whether this novel is good or not.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

5.1. Conclusions.

After having discussed the relationship between the protagonists and theme, the writer of this thesis would like to sum up his study that Patrick White in this novel tries to prove that experiences can make one mature in thought and act. The essence of humanity can be found in the interaction between human beings and their surroundings. Like in this story, Stan, who derives from a virginal place or suburb, lives in an area which becomes crowded over time and therefore must face increasing problems. The success of Stan in facing every problem makes him different than his neighbour who kills himself because the people around him say that he is a dull man. Geoffery Dutton says that "It is not a novel about the land but about human relationship" (p 30). It is true that this novel is not about the land, but of course, the human relationships between nature, with God, animals, and other humans. So, there is a broad meaning in the relationship which White tries to portray in this novel. The characteristics of the protagonists are expressed through the dialogues, environment, atmosphere, setting, and the narrative story.

As was stated in the introduction the growth of a tree is confirmed by the tree itself and the trees surroundings. The tree acts as a symbol of human relationships as reflected by the life of Stan and Amy in the world. Even though, while sharing their life, Stan and Amy never endure a physical struggle, their contrary minds and souls make the growth of their children contrast with them. In this novel, Patrick White uses symbolism to express

his view on humanity, such as: Mrs. Parson's wedding gifts to Amy, the symbol of the tree's growth as paralleling a person's.

After having elaborately discussed, the relationship between the protagonists and theme, the writer of this thesis would like to sum up his study that: First, Patrick White in this novel tries to prove that experiences can make one mature in thought and act. The essence of humanity can be found in the interaction between human beings and their surroundings. As in this story, Stan, who derives from a virginal place or suburb, lives in an area which becomes crowded over time and therefore had to face increasing problems. The success of Stan in facing every problem makes him different than his neighbor who kills himself because the people around him say that he is a dull man. It is true that this novel is not about the land, but of course, the human relationships between nature, with God, animals, and other humans. So, there is a broad meaning in the relationship which White tries to portray in this novel. Second, the characteristics of the protagonists are expressed through the dialogues, environment, atmosphere, setting, and the narrative story. Third, as was stated in the introduction, the growth of a tree is confirmed by the tree itself and the trees surroundings. The tree acts as a symbol of human relationships as reflected by the life of Stan and Amy in the world. Even though, while sharing their life, Stan and Amy never endure physical struggle, their contrary minds and souls make the growth of their children contrast with them. Fourth, in this novel, Patrick White uses symbolism to express his view on humanity, such as: Mrs. Parson's wedding gifts to Amy, the symbol of the tree's growth as paralleling a person's.

5.2. Suggestions.

In the section of this last chapter, the writer of this thesis suggests that the novel "The Tree of Man" is worth reading, especially for students of an English Department. In that case, the readers should know as much about the author's background and psychological ideas as possible to fully appreciate this novel.

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