THE MEANING OF MISS PRYM’S RESPONSE TO THE TEMPTATION TO POSSESS BARS OF GOLD, AS SEEN IN PAULO COELHO’S THE DEVIL AND MISS PRYM

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements To Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Education

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Dean,

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JESUS CHRIST

MOTHER MARY

MY FAMILY

MY GUARDIAN

MY BOYFRIEND

ALL OF MY FRIENDS
STATEMENT OF WORKS’S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this thesis, which I have written, does not contain the work or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, 11 June 2014

The writer

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ABSTRACT

Prasetya, Maria Ika. 2014. The Meaning of Miss Prym’s Response to the Temptation to Possess Bars of Gold as Seen in Paulo Coelho’s The Devil and Miss Prym. Yogyakarta: English Education Study Program, Sanata Dharma University.

This study is about temptation. Miss Prym, as the main character of Paulo Coelho’s The Devil and Miss Prym, is used by the Stranger to tell to the Viscos about the wager. The wager is about the barter of bars of gold for the life one of the Viscos. The reward which is given by the Stranger is eleven gold bars. The Stranger protests the claim that the nature of human being is both good and bad. To him, human being tends to fall into becoming an evil. Miss Prym wants both to clarify the Stranger’s misunderstanding and to save the life of one of the members of Viscos. When she tells the Viscos about the Stranger’s wager, she is angry with them, because she is accused for becoming a traitor instead of a heroine.

The objective of this study is to find the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation to possess bars of gold. There are two problems to answer in this study. The first is “How is Miss Prym described in the novel?” Secondly, “What is the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation?”

This study is a library research. The primary datum is the object of this study that is Paulo Coelho’ The Devil and Miss Prym. The secondary data are textbooks, essays, journals, and articles related to the study. This study uses some theories and approach to answer the problem formulation. This study uses theory of character and characterization, theory of personality, theory of psycho analysis, and theory of motivation. The approach used is psychological approach.

Having analyzed the novel, it can be pointed out that Miss Prym is independent, naïve, confident, loving, curious, ambitious, and she is also a hard worker. It is also found the surface and deeper meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation. Miss Prym is accepting the wager offered by the Stranger, because she wants to be known as a heroine for Viscos. The deeper meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation is that Miss Prym actually exercising her human nature. As the suggestion for the next researchers is to analyze Stranger’s motivation in tempting Miss Prym. This novel can also be used for the teacher as a material to teach Prose in English Education Study Program in Sanata Dharma University.

Keywords: response, temptation, surface meaning, deeper meaning
Prasetya, Maria Ika. 2014. The Meaning of Miss Prym’s Response to the Temptation to Possess Bars of Gold as Seen in Paulo Coelho’s The Devil and Miss Prym. Yogyakarta: Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Sanata Dharma.


Tujuan dari studi ini adalah menemukan arti dari tanggapan yang dilakukan Miss Prym terhadap godaan untuk memiliki beberapa batang emas. Ada dua rumusan masalah yang akan dijawab dalam studi ini. Pertama, “Bagaimana Miss Prym dideskripsikan dalam novel?” Kedua, “Apa arti dari tanggapan yang diberikan Miss Prym terhadap godaan tersebut?”

Studi ini adalah sebuah studi pustaka. Data primer yang digunakan adalah novel karya Paulo Coelho yang berjudul The Devil and Miss Prym. Data sekunder yang digunakan dalam studi ini adalah, buku-buku, jurnal, esai, dan artikel artikel yang berhubungan dengan studi ini. Studi ini menggunakan beberapa teori dan pendekatan untuk menjawab rumusan masalah. Studi ini menggunakan teori tokoh dan penokohan, teori kepribadian, teori psikoanalis dan teori motivasi. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah pendekatan psikologi.

Setelah menganalisis novel tersebut, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Miss Prym memiliki karakter mandiri, polos, percaya diri, penuh kasih, ingin tahu, ambisius dan dia juga seorang pekerja keras. Ditemukan pula makna harafiah dan makna sebenarnya dari tanggapan Miss Prym terhadap godaan tersebut. Miss Prym menerima taruhan yang ditawarkan Stranger, karena ia ingin dikenal sebagai seorang pahlawan bagi penduduk Viscos. Makna sebenarnya dari tanggapan Miss Prym tersebut adalah dia sedang menjalankan sifat manusiawinya. Saran untuk penulis selanjutnya adalah menganalisa motivasi Stranger dalam menggodanya Miss Prym. Novel ini juga dapat digunakan oleh guru sebagai bahan mengajar Prose di Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Kata kunci: response, temptation, surface meaning, deeper meaning
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Maria Ika Prasetya
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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five parts namely, background of the study, objective of the study, problem formulation, benefits of the study and definitions of terms. Background of the study describes the main topic of the thesis and the reason for choosing the topic of this study. Problem formulation deals with the questions to answer in this study. The objective of the study states the purpose of why the study is conducted. The benefits of the study identify the expected advantages of the study. The definition of terms explains some terms related to this study to avoid misunderstanding.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an art. Literature is also a reflection of reality in our life. Therefore, we can find relevance of the story to ourselves and society. Literature, such as a novel also brings enjoyable and valuable things. Novel is one of literature, which we can learn many things from novel without experiencing it. By reading a novel, the readers sometime can feel some feelings which appear in the novel, such as anger, happiness, sadness, and horrible thing.

*The Devil and Miss Prym* which is written by Paulo Coelho is a novel about temptation. The reason why the writer chooses this novel is the title of the novel. The writer wonders what the meaning of Devil here is and what the relation between devil and Miss Prym, the main character in the novel. After
reading the whole story, the writer interested in analyzing the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation. Temptation is around in human life and how Miss Prym’s response to the temptation can be as a reflection whenever we are tempting.

The story begins when there is Stranger coming to Viscos, bringing eleven gold bars. He comes to Viscos to answer his anxiety about the nature of human, good or bad. He brings eleven gold bars, and will give them to Viscos if in the seventh days, one of the villagers is found dead. He buries the gold bars in a hill. He uses Miss Prym as a messenger to Viscos, telling about the wager. The wager is, Miss Prym will get gold and the last will be given to Viscos if in the seventh days one of the villagers is found dead.

Miss Prym loves her motherland so much. She was born and grew up there, after her grandmother passed away. She is an orphan since she was born. Her mother passed away when she was born and she does not know who her father was. She has dreams to leave Viscos and find a job in the city. She also wants to marry someone who can take her as his.

Viscos is a remote village where there is only one young person, Miss Prym. She is appointed by the Stranger to tell Viscos about the wager does not want one of her people to die. She actually wants to help Viscos to get the ten gold bars to increase their standard of living. Unfortunately, when she tells about the wager to the villagers, they accuse Miss Prym as a traitor, who let the Stranger do the wager.
She is so disappointed with the response of the Viscos. She thinks that they are being cowards. They actually want the gold but they do not want to take the risk. Miss Prym is confused; she actually wants to possess the gold, leave the village and becomes rich. On the other hand, Miss Prym does not want someone in Viscos dead. This thesis’ objective is to find out the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation to possess bars of gold. Based on the objectives, the writer has two problems formulated. The first is, how is Miss Prym described in the novel? The second, what is the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The study aims to find the meaning of response to the temptation to possess bars of gold, given by Miss Prym, the main character of Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym*.

1.3 Problem Formulation

The research problems of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. How is Miss Prym described in the novel?

2. What is the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation to possess bars of gold?
1.4 Benefits of the Study

A study about literary work is not just a matter of reading. Study about literary work gives some benefits. Some people assume that reading novel is for having fun. In writer’s opinion, reading novel is not just for fun but we can also learn many things from the novel, such as character and motivation.

The writer also hopes this study could give contribution to English Education Study Program’s student. This novel can be used as a reference to learn more about literature and to increase their knowledge about literature. The writer also hopes the novel Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym* gives reflection about our life since this novel tells about our life. This novel is not only enjoyable to read but it is also invites us to reflect on our spiritual life.

1.5 Definition of Terms

The following part is the meaning of certain words used in the study. The purpose is to avoid misunderstanding, ambiguities, and vagueness in perceiving some important terms in this research.

1.5.1 Temptation

Temptation, according to *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary*, is a thing that makes somebody wants to do or have something that they know is bad or wrong. In this novel the temptation is ten gold bars. Ten gold bars is used by the stranger as a tool to answer his question, whether human inheritably is good or evil. He came to Viscos, a remote village, and used Miss Prym as a herald to claim his purpose.
1.5.2 Viscos

According to Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym*, Viscos is the place where the story happened. Viscos is the place where Miss Prym was born and grew up. Viscos is a remote village with 281 inhabitants. This place is used by the Stranger as a place where he does the temptation.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter consists of two parts. The first part is a review of related theories which is used to explain theories that support the study. Second, theoretical framework is used to explain the steps in conducting the research.

2.1 Review of Related Theories

This section presents theories and reviews which can be used in analyzing a literary work. The theories, which are used in this study, are theory of character, methods of characterization, theory of personality, theory of psycho analysis and theory of motivation. According to Young (1945), a theory is an abstract and general statement of fundamental principles designed to explain particular events or facts which we know concretely (p.276).

2.1.1 Theory of Character

Abrams (1981) says that “characters are persons in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and depositional qualities that expresses in what they say – dialogue – and what they do – action”. Abrams also stated that characters, which appeared in novel, possess some characteristics which are similar to human
beings in the real world (p.210). Rohrberger and Woods (1971) also state that characters have particular personalities and physical attributes that distinguish them from other character (p. 20). It concludes that every character in the novel, which is human, have their own unique personality and appearance. The unique personality and appearance makes every human different from another.


1) **Static character**

Static character does not undergo a change. This kind of character will have the same characteristics from the beginning to the end of the story (p.71). It concludes that the character in the story has the same behavior, thought, attitude in the whole story in the novel.

2) **Dynamic character**

Dynamic character is a developing character. This kind of character will change in certain conditions and can be developed under some possibilities. Dynamic character undergoes a permanent change in some aspects of his or her character, personality or outlook. The changes may be in a large or small portion, and may be better or worse, which are important or basis (p.71).

Based on the theory above, the writer can identify which types of character Miss Prym is.
2.1.2 Methods of Characterization

Characterization is an important part because it can help the reader to understand the main character deeper. According to Murphy (1972), characterization is a process by which an author creates character, the device by which he makes us believe a character is the particular type of person he is. Murphy states that there are nine ways that enable the author to present a character in a story understandably and lively for the readers (pp.161-173).

The first is through personal description. The author directly describes the characters’ appearance and clothes (p.161), what the character looks like and what social class they belong to. The reader has the imagination of how the character looks.

Second way is character as seen by another. This way differs from personal description, which tells the readers directly about the character, the author can also describe him through the eyes and opinions of another (p.162). It is clear that the character in the novel could be described through what other characters see or think.

The third way for an author to present a character in the story is through speech. The author can give the readers insight about the character through what the character says, whenever he speaks, whenever he is in conversation with another, and whenever he puts toward an opinion (p.164). The dialogue in the novel can determine someone’s character.

The fourth is past life. The author can give the readers a clue to events that have helped to shape a person’s character by telling his past life. This can be
shown by the direct comment of the author, through a person’s thoughts, by his conversation or by a medium of another person (p.166). Every person has different past life, it makes the character of every person in the novel is unique.

The fifth is through conversation of others. The author can give the reader clues to a person’s character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about him. Sometimes, people could not see how their character is, but others can.

The sixth is through reactions, the author can also give the reader a clue to a person’s character by letting the reader know how that person reacts to various situations and events. There is conflict in the novel, it is also the way how to determine the character in the novel. Someone’s reaction to the conflict can show their way of thinking and action.

The seventh is through direct comment. The author describes or comments on a person’s character directly (p.170). The eight is thought. The author gives the readers direct knowledge of what the person is thinking about (p.171). The last way is through manner. The author can describe a person’s mannerism, habits or idiocies, which may also tell us something about his character.

2.1.3 Theory of Personality

Lahey (2009) states personality as a total of all of the ways of acting, thinking, and feeling that are typical for that person and make each person different from other individuals (p. 405). Every person is unique. Their typical
characteristics are composed of all the relatively unchanging psychological characteristics that make them different from one to another.

Hurlock (1976) concludes that human life consists of two aspects namely individual and social aspects. Individual aspect concerns with the physical changes and individual’s personality. Individual’s personality development, which is usually influenced by two factors; individual’s early experience within his family and the important events that happened outside the home or the social aspect (pp. 19-20).

Allport (1970), in *Pattern and Growth in Personality*, says that “cultural ways, social situation, and individual’s role within social systems plays role in individual’s development personality” (pp. 194-195). He explains that a child usually requires cultural ways. He grows to accept the roles, which are appropriate to his status within the family, but later, he finds himself playing many assigned roles within many social systems. His behavior is modified within limits by every social situation he encounters.

Huffman, Vernoy and Vernoy (2000) state personality as an individual’s unique and relatively stable pattern of thoughts, feelings, and action (p. 464). From two theories above, personality is related to someone’s characteristics. So, a personality theory is the way to understand more about the characteristics of each person.
2.1.4 Theory of Psychoanalysis

Psychology according to Kasschau (1995) in *Understanding Psychology* is a scientific study of behavior and mental process (p. 7). From the definition above there are three keys to understand more about psychology, they are science, behavior, and mental process. Psychology is assumed as science because to understand people, the psychologist needs to think critically when they are doing the observation. Behavior refers to all of a person’s overt actions that others can directly observe. Mental process refers to the private thought, feelings, motives, emotion that other people cannot directly observe.

Rohrberger and Woods (1971) say that a critical approach to literature necessitates an understanding of its nature, function and positive values. One must know what literature is, how to read it, and how to judge it. The critic is involved in what is called applied esthetics, a branch of philosophy devoted to the study of art and the nature of beauty. As one of the arts, literature as an art form is called the esthetic response, and the response is to its beauty (p.3). By using a critical approach, people will know how a literary work is created, what the purpose of the work is, and what messages or lessons are conveyed in it.

Rohrberger and Woods present five approaches in understanding literature; they are formalist approach, biographical approach, sociocultural-historical approach, mythopoetic approach, and psychological approach. In this study, the critical approach used by the writer is psychological approach. Psychological approach according to Kennedy and Gioia (1999) is focused on analyzing the character’s motivations or behaviors in the work.
Barry (2009) states that a psychological approach focuses on unconscious motives and feelings which come from the author or the characters depicted in the work (p.100). Two definitions above conclude that psychological approach is used to find out the motivations of characters in doing particular behaviors.

According to Freud’s *Theories of Personality* which is cited by Feist and Feist (2006), personality is composed of three elements. These three elements of personality are id, ego, and superego. They work together to create complex human behaviors.

### 2.1.4.1 The Id

The id is the only component of personality that is present from birth. This aspect of personality is entirely unconscious and includes of the instinctive and primitive behaviors. The id has no contact with reality, yet it strives constantly to reduce tension by satisfying basic desires. Because its only function is to seek pleasure, we say that the id serves the pleasure principle. Because the id has no direct contact with reality, it is not changed by the passage of time or by the experiences of the person.

Besides being unrealistic and pleasure seeking, the id is illogical and can simultaneously entertain incompatible ideas. These opposing desires are possible because the id has no morality; that is, it cannot make value judgments or distinguish between good and evil. The id operates through the primary process because it blindly seeks to satisfy the pleasure principle. Its survival is dependent on the development of a secondary process to bring it into contact with the external world. This secondary process functions through the ego.
2.1.4.2 The Ego

The ego is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. According to Freud, the ego develops from the id and ensures that the impulses of the id can be expressed in a manner acceptable in the real world. The ego operates based on the reality principle, which strives to satisfy the id’s desires in realistic and socially appropriate ways. The reality principle weighs the costs and benefits of an action before deciding to act upon or abandon impulses.

In many cases, the id’s impulses can be satisfied through a process of delayed gratification, the ego will eventually allow the behavior, but only in the appropriate time and place. The ego also discharges tension created by unmet impulses through the secondary process, in which the ego tries to find an object in the real world that matches the mental image created by the id’s primary process.

2.1.4.3 The Superego

The last component of personality to develop is the superego. The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society- our sense of right and wrong. The superego provides guideline for making judgments. The superego acts to perfect and civilize our behavior. It works to suppress all unacceptable urges of the id and struggles to make the ego act upon idealistic standards rather that upon realistic principles. The superego is present in the conscious, preconscious and unconscious. According to Freud, the superego begins to emerge at around age five. There are two parts of the superego:
1) **The Ego Ideal**

The ego ideal includes the rules and standards for good behaviors. These behaviors include those, which are approved of by parental and other authority figures. Obeying these rules leads to feelings of pride, value and accomplishment.

2) **The Conscience**

The conscience includes information about things that are viewed as bad by parents and society. These behaviors are often forbidden and lead to bad consequences, punishments or feelings of guilt and remorse.

3) **The Interaction of the Id, Ego, and Superego**

With so many competing forces, it is easy to see how conflict might arise between the id, ego and superego. Freud used the term ego strength to refer to the ego’s ability to function despite these dueling forces. A person with good ego strength is able to effectively manage these pressures, while those with too much or too little ego strength can become too unyielding or too disrupting. According to Freud, the key to a healthy personality is a balance between the id, the ego, and the superego.

2.1.5 **Theory of Motivation**

There are many experts define motivation. According to McConnell (1977) motivation comes from the Latin word “motive” which mean “to move” is defined in many different ways, the most common one is a series of questions that why people think, feel, and behave as they do (p.259). Beck (1978) defines motivation as broadly concerned with the contemporary determinants of choice.
(direction), persistence, and vigor of goal-directed behavior (p.24). Murray (1964) distinguishes motivation from the other factors that also influence behavior, such as the past experience of a person, the physical capabilities, and the environmental situation in which a person finds himself (p.7).

Kennedy and Gioia (1999) state motivation as sufficient reason to behave as they do. Motivation leads human to do an action. Motivation can push someone to do something that they want (p.60). According to Huffman (2000), motivation is a factor within an individual (such as needs, desires, and interests) that activates, maintains, and directs behavior toward a goal. It indicates that people are motivated to do something because they have a goal or purpose (p.392). Huffman, Vernoy and Vernoy (2000) also present two forms of motivation that affect achievement. They are intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation (p.401).

2.1.5.1 Intrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic motivation refers to a desire to perform an action for our own sake. It means that the motivation comes from someone’s enjoyment; they do something for their pleasure without a real reward (certificate, statue, or money).

2.1.5.2 Extrinsic motivation

Extrinsic motivation is a desire to perform an action because of the external rewards or avoidance of punishment. Someone is motivated to do something because they want a reward, certificate, money, or status.
2.2 Theoretical Framework

The writer uses the theories which have been explained in the previous part. There are five theories which have been explained, those are the theory of character, theory of characterization, theory of personality, theory of psychology and theory of motivation.

Firstly, the writer uses the theory of character which helps the writer to decide that Miss Prym is the main character of Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym*. The writer also applies theory of personality and methods of characterizations in order to answer the first problem formulation. By knowing Miss Prym’s personality by using those three theories, it will be easier for the writer to find out how Miss Prym is described.

Secondly, the writer uses psychological approach to know the meaning of Miss Prym’s responses to the temptation from her process in having ego, id, and superego. Theory of motivation helps the writer to find out the motivation of Miss Prym in giving the responses to temptation.
CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the writer discusses the methodology that was employed in this study. This chapter consists of three parts; namely object of the study, approach of the study, and method of the study. Object of the study focuses on the physical description of the literary work studies. Approach of the study discusses the approach employed in the literary work. Method of the study describes the procedures in analyzing the literary work.

3.1 Object of the Study

The Devil and Miss Prym is a book of temptation written by Paulo Coelho, a Brazilian author. It is an English version of O Demonio E A Senhorita Prym. The Devil and Miss Prym translated by Amanda Hopkinson and Nick Caistor published by Harper Collins Publishers, New York in 2007. There are 201 pages and it is divided into 25 chapters. The original version is in Portuguese, published by arrangement with Sant Jordi Asociados, Barcelona, SPAIN, copyright in 2000 by Paulo Coelho.

The Devil and Miss Prym concludes the trilogy of And on the Seventh Day. The first two books are: By the River Piedra I Sat down and Wept (1994) and Veronica Decides to Die (1998). The trilogy novels tell about the life changes of someone during seven days.
The major character of the novel is Miss Prym Chantal. She is a young woman in Viscos. She hopes to meet someone to marry and bring her from Viscos. She is starting to get bored live in Viscos with her routine. She has no family anymore. Her mother has passed away when Miss Prym was born and no one knows who her father is. She lived with her grandmother in Viscos. After her grandmother has passed away, she works at the bar of the hotel in the evening. She is young and people of Viscos do not hate her. Her friends of the same age have moved to the city to work or to marry someone. In her age she wants to meet someone, get married, and move far away from the Viscos.

One day a Stranger comes to Viscos and offers her a gold bar if she can do what the stranger wants. The Stranger wants to revenge his past life experience where his wife and daughter died at the hands of terrorists. His question is to answer whether human is good or evil. So, he asks Miss Prym to tell the villager about the gold.

Actually, Miss Prym is attracted by the gold bars but she also wants to help people of Viscos. If people in Viscos know about the gold, she is pretty sure they will struggle to get the gold bars for themselves. The ten gold bars need a victim as a stranger wants.

3.2 Approach of the Study

The approach which is used in this study was the psychological approach. The Psychological approach is an approach that is used to analyze Miss Prym’s character’s behavior and personality. Miss Prym’s psychological condition can be
interpreted implicitly and explicitly in *The Devil and Miss Prym*. Miss Prym’s character can be analyzed through her words, minds and attitudes stated in her literary work.

3.3 Method of the Study

This study is a library study. The primary datum is a novel entitled *The Devil and Miss Prym*, written by Paulo Coelho. The secondary data are textbooks, essays, journal, and articles related to the study. There were four steps in conducting this research: the first one was reading the novel. While reading the novel, the writer tried to find the understanding which the writer got from the novel. Finding the writer’s understanding is important to find the problem formulations and the objectives of the study.

The second step was finding secondary resources, which was used as references to support the data. Secondary resource is important to support the study. The writer found the secondary resource from books or internet to find some beneficial points about Miss Prym.

The third, the writer looked for the approach, method and theory that could be used to analyze Miss Prym’s *The devil and Miss Prym*. In this step, the problem in problem formulations were answered by using the approaches and references related to the study.

The last part, the writer made a conclusion of the study. The conclusion itself was the finding of the analysis. In the conclusion the writer also gave some suggestions to the next researcher and the implementation of the study.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part discusses Miss Prym’s characteristics. The second part discusses the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation.

4.1 The Description of Miss Prym’s Characteristics

Character and characterization are important parts in a story. By using the theory of character, Miligan, the writer finds out that Miss Prym is a major character in the novel. Miss Prym appears more often in the story that makes her become a major character in the story. According to Perrine’s (1974) theory, Miss Prym has a dynamic character. Her character change when she is facing a problem, in this novel is temptation. She is a good girl, but when she is tempted by the Stranger, her characteristics change. She is a loving person, but when she is tempted to possess bars of gold, her characteristics change. She becomes a bad person, she is tempted to steal. In the last story, Miss Prym becomes a loving person again.

Characterization helps the reader to acknowledge the true self of the character. As explained in Chapter 2, the writer mentioned Murphy’s theory of character in a book entitled Understanding Unseen: An Introduction to English Poetry and The English Novel for The Overseas Students. Here are nine ways in showing characters in a novel, they are personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation of others, reaction, direct comment, thought and the last one is mannerism.
4.1.1 Independent

Miss Prym is an independent woman, since she is an orphan. She should do everything by herself, including fulfill her needs. She should work in the bar. There is no one can fulfill her needs.

She approached the van with the air of someone who, for the first time in her life, was playing a leading role in the history of her village. Until then she had been the helpless orphan, the girl who had never managed to find a husband, a poor night worker, a lonely wretch in search of company; they were losing nothing by waiting (p. 9).

The dialogue above shows that Miss Prym is independent. She is a night worker eventhough she is a woman. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from direct comment from the author (p.170).

She is an orphan, so she should do everything by herself, eventhough she is sick. Whenever she gets sick, she should take care of herself. She cannot depend her life on somebody else.

There was no one there to make her go downstairs to buy bread; she was independent, she could stay in bed for as long as she wanted, since she only began work in the evening…” (p. 40).

The text above shows that Miss Prym is independent. She can take care of herself whenever she is sick. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from direct comment from the author (p.170).

4.1.2 Naïve

Miss Prym is the only young people in Viscos. Her lifetime spends in Viscos, a remote village. Most of her peers had been moved to the big city to get married or to get a better job. She is naïve, for believing in every promise.
“You promised me that, if I came with you, you would answer any questions I asked you.”

“In the first place, you shouldn’t believe in promises. The world is full of them: promises of riches, of eternal salvation, of infinite love. Some people think they can promise anything, others accept whatever seems to guarantee better days ahead, as, I suspect, is your case. Those who make promises they don’t keep end up powerless and frustrated, and exactly the same awaits those who believe those promises” (p.10).

The dialogue above is between Miss Prym and Stranger. From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that Miss Prym is naïve, because trust a promise from the Stranger, a person who she just met. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from the manner of Miss Prym.

Since Miss Prym is the only young people in Viscos, she is still young to know about love. Usually, a rich man comes to her only for sex, rather than propose her to marry him. Miss Prym understands what Stranger’s want is. He may think that young women from remote villages were naïve a proposal to escape from Viscos.

Miss Prym, however, had understood just about everything. Like all older men, he was obsessed with the idea of sex with a younger woman. Like all human beings, he thought money could buy whatever he wanted. Like all Strangers, he was sure that young women from remote villages were naïve enough to accept any proposal, real or imaginary, provided it offered a faint chance of escape (p. 11).

Some tourists who came to Viscos may think that younger woman like Miss Prym will easily be tempted because they are so naïve. They may just offer a proposal with promises to bring them out of Viscos. The incident above proof that Miss Prym is naive as seen through thought. It is analyzed by using Murphy’s methods of characterization (1972).
Miss Prym is still young, meanwhile the Stranger is older. It is clear that Stranger’s experience is much more than Miss Prym. Miss Prym just too naïve to show as if she knows everything what Stranger’s talking about.

His comment was merely intended to provoke her: obviously a young woman like her would never have heard of Durenmatt, and he knew that she would again try to appear indifferent, as if she knew whom he was talking about (p.15).

From the incident above it can be concluded that Miss Prym is naïve. Compare to Stranger, Miss Prym’s knowledge is limited. Stranger understands the young person and a girl from remote village, like Miss Prym is trying to look indifferent. They will pretend as if they what other’s said. It is analyzed through Murphy’s methods of characterization (1972). In this case, it is derived from the speech. (pp. 164-166).

### 4.1.3 Hard Worker

Miss Prym is a hard worker. She even works as a barmaid in the only hotel in Viscos. It can be seen through the direct sentence of the character. She has been working in a bar since she is 18 years old. She has to work in the bar after her grandmother passed away so that she can continue her life in Viscos.

“My name’s Miss Prym. I work in the evening at the bar of the hotel where you’re staying, and I was surprised when you didn’t come down to dinner, because a hotel doesn’t make it’s money just from renting room, you know, but from everything the guests consume. “(p. 8)

As a barmaid, Miss Prym has to work in the night. She will meet drunken men mostly which is dangerous for her. She tries to satisfy her customer with her service. The dialogue above is between the Stranger and Miss Prym. From the
dialogue above, it can be concluded that Miss Prym is a hard worker. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from the speech.

Miss Prym works very hard to earn every penny. She should work for hours. Moreover, she works overtime from evening to midnight for almost every night. She must be very tired for having hallucination about the rogue wolves.

The mayor’s wife, however, would not give up so easily. “Regardless of whether or not it exists, we all know that there were no wolves howling last night. You work the poor girl too hard, up until all hours; she’s so exhausted she’s starting to get hallucinations” (p. 42).

From the dialogue above, it shows that Miss Prym is a hard worker for she is working overtime almost everyday. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from speech between the hotel landlady and mayor’s wife.

4.1.4 Confident

Being a beautiful woman and rather attractive, Miss Prym thinks that every man will be attracted to her. Moreover, she is the only young woman in Viscos, she is pretty sure that every man wants her.

“Miss Prym, however, had understood just about everything. Like all older men, he was obsessed with the idea of sex with a younger woman. Like all human beings, he thought money could buy whatever he wanted. Like all Strangers, he was sure that young woman from remote villages were naïve enough to accept any proposal, real or imaginary, provided it offered a faint chance of escape.” (p. 11).

The dialogue above is from Miss Prym’s mind. She is pretty confident that the Stranger who is old enough is interested in her. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from thought.
The Stranger who has more experiences than Miss Prym understands that she is confident. She is trying to show her youth and indifference to grab the Stranger’s attention. The Stranger, who has much more experience and has met a lot of kinds of person like Miss Prym, understands what’s on Miss Prym’s mind.

“The Stranger turned his gaze from the mountains and looked at the young woman in front of him. He had worked for many years with all this kinds of people and he knew, almost for certain, what she must be thinking. She probably thought he had shown her the gold in order to impress her with her youth and indifference.” (p. 13)

The dialogue above proves that Miss Prym is confident. She dares to talk to a person she has just met once. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from thought.

4.1.5 Loving

Miss Prym is a loving person, even though she rarely shows it. She really loves Berta, the old woman who is labeled as a witch by Viscos people. Berta is the only person who still wants to talk to Miss Prym whenever she is ignored by Viscos.

Of all the people she had known, Berta was the only one who had ever treated her with any kindness. Miss Prym did not just sit down, she flung her arms around Berta. They stayed like that for a long while, until Berta broke the silence (p.96).

The text above shows that Miss Prym loves Bertha. She loves Bertha because she is the only one person who always shows her kindness to Miss Prym. The text above proves that Miss Prym is loving. She hugs Bertha and tries to release all of her burden to her. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from her manner.
Miss Prym also loves her motherland, Viscos. Place where she was born and
grew up. Her love is shown in this dialogue between Miss Prym and Bertha. She
loves Viscos and hopes that Viscos will be like it is as always. She does not want
any changes in Viscos. She is just afraid that the changes will destroy Viscos.

“It reminds me of Ahab,” she said to Miss Prym.
“I don’t want to think about Ahab, about legends, about anything! All I want
is for the world to go back to how it was and for Viscos- for all its faults-
not to be destroyed by one’s madness!”
“It seems you love this place more than you think” (p. 97).

From the dialogue above, it shows Miss Prym’s love for her motherland,
Viscos. She does not want Viscos was destroyed by the Stranger. When Bertha
tells her about Ahab, the legend in Viscos, Miss Prym shows her love through her
reaction. It is analyzed by Murphy’s method of characterization. It is derived from
the reaction given by Miss Prym (p.167).

4.1.6 Curious

Miss Prym is a curious person. She is raised by her grandmother who makes
Miss Prym at least can write or read. She grows up become a curious person. She
likes reading books to satisfy her thirsty of knowledge.

The first person he saw as he walked back to the village was a young
woman sitting beside one of the many temporary rivers that formed when
the ice melted high up in the mountains. She looked up from her book,
acknowledges his presence, and resumed her reading; doubtless her
mother had told her never to talk to Strangers (p.7).

From the text above, it can be concluded that Miss Prym is a curious person.
it shows by her hobby to read whenever she has time. It is analyzed by Murphy’s
methods of characterization. It is derived from Miss Prym’s manner.
Miss Prym’s curiosity makes her become a smart person. She does not need to spend a lot of money to satisfy her thirst of knowledge because she can get it without paying. She gets a lot of insight after reading some books.

At first she doubted whether to share anything more with this man who was her enemy. But then she remembered a book on a Japanese martial arts, she always read any books left behind by hotel guests, no matter what the books were about, because she didn’t want to spend her own money buying them (p.59).

From the text above, it can be concluded that Miss Prym is a curious person. Her curiosity improves her knowledge. She uses her knowledge whenever she is facing a problem. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from Miss Prym’s manner.

Miss Prym is still young, so she has many curiosities in her life. Whenever she meets with the Stranger, she is not afraid to follow what Stranger’s want. Her curiosity is bigger than her fear.

She had read many stories about young woman who decide go into the forest with a Stranger, only to vanish without trace. For a moment she was afraid, but her fear was quickly replaced by a desire for adventure… (p.9).

The text above proves that Miss Prym is a curious person. She wants to know what Stranger’s purpose is. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from her thought.

“Why did you want to show me this?” she asked.
He didn’t respond.
“Who are you exactly? And what are you doing here? Why did you show me this, knowing I could go and tell everyone what’s hidden here on the mountain?” (p. 10).

The text above also proves that Miss Prym is a curious person, she is interested with the Stranger. She has to know what the Stranger wants. It is
analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from Miss Prym
reaction.

4.1.7 Ambitious

Miss Prym is an orphan and she is still young. She has a lot of dreams to be
fulfilled. Her childhood was not happy, because she does not know who her father
was and she lost her mother when she was born. She dreams to study out of
Viscos, but eventually she is only a barmaid. She hopes to meet a guy who loves
her and bring her out of Viscos. She is very ambitious to leave Viscos.

“She was holding her dream in her hands, the thing she had always longed
for, and which a miracle had set before her. Here was the opportunity to free
herself from all those identical days and nights in Viscos and from the
endless going back and forth to the hotel where she had worked since she
was eighteen, from the yearly visits of all those friends whose families had
sent them away to study and make something of themselves, from all the
absence she had long since grown used to, from the men who arrived
promising her the world and left the next day without even a goodbye, from
all the farewells and non farewells to which she had long become
accustomed” (p. 30).

From the text above it shows that Miss Prym has an ambitious to leave
Viscos. So, when the Stranger offering to her bars of gold to barter with a life of
Viscos, she hesitates no more. She will do everything to make her dreams come
ture. She is accepting the wager without hesitation. It is analyzed by Murphy’s
methods of characterization. It is derived from the thought of Miss Prym.

“Every day was another day spent waiting. Every night was a night when
she might meet someone who would recognize her true worth. Every man
she took to her bed was the hope of leaving Viscos the following morning,
ever again to see those three streets, those stone houses with their slate
roofs, the church with its cemetery beside it, the hotel selling local
handicrafts that took months to make and were sold for the same price as
mass-produced goods.” (p. 31)
Miss Prym is still young. She wants to leave Viscos, move to a big city, have a husband and career. Her big dream is leaving Viscos although she loves her motherland. She will do anything to make her move from Viscos, including having a sex with some men. From the dialogue above it can be concluded that Miss Prym is an ambitious person. It is analyzed by Murphy’s methods of characterization. It is derived from thought.

Hurlock (1976) says “Individual’s personality development is influenced by individual’s early experience and the important events that happened” (pp. 19-20). Miss Prym becomes an independent, ambitious, and hard worker person because of her past life. She is an orphan who does not know who her father and mother are. She lives in Viscos because she is raised by her grandmother. She should work very hard to fulfill her needs that make her become an ambitious person to get whatever she wants. Her big ambitious is to leave Viscos.

Allport (1970) says “cultural ways, social situation, and individual’s role within social systems plays role in individual’s development personality” (pp. 194-195). In this situation, Miss Prym is raised in Viscos, a remote village which inhabitants have a good heart. Her cultural ways develop her characters. She becomes naïve, loving and confident.

4.2 The Meaning of Miss Prym’s Response to the Temptation

This section discusses the meaning of Miss Prym response to the temptation. The meaning of her response is divided to the surface meaning and deeper meaning. The surface meaning will discusses about the Miss Prym’s response and motivation that can be found in the text. The deeper meaning is
found by reading the whole text and analyzing it using psychological approach.
Below are the analysis of the surface meaning and the deeper meaning of Miss Prym’s response to the temptation.

4.2.2 Surface meaning of Miss Prym’s response

Miss Prym is the person designated by the Stranger as the messenger. She is appointed by the Stranger to convey his wager to Viscos. The Stranger comes to Viscos and brings eleven gold bars buried in a hill. He purposely brings the gold to answer the question that is in his heart, whether man is basically good or bad. He wants to answer these questions by providing a wager to the inhabitants of Viscos by giving the ten gold bars to inhabitants of Viscos within 7 days if one of the villagers is found dead. Miss Prym is just the messenger used by the Stranger to convey his wager to Viscos.

Miss Prym’s first thought when the Stranger shows her the gold; she thinks that the Stranger is attracted to her. With her previous experience, Miss Prym thinks that Stranger who is old enough is trying to attract her attention by showing his wealth. Since Miss Prym is the only young person in Viscos, she is pretty confident that the Stranger is attracted to her. It is written in the text page 11.

Miss Prym, however, had understood just about everything. Like all older men, he was obsessed with the idea of sex with a younger woman. Like all human beings, he thought money could buy whatever he wanted. Like all Strangers, he was sure that young women from remote villages were naïve enough accept any proposal, real or imaginary, provided it offered a faint chance of escape (p.11).

Miss Prym is the only young girl who is left behind in Viscos. In her age, it is time for her to get married; she wishes to have a husband and immediately go to the big city. Many men have been coming and going to propose her but she
refuses. When she sees the Stranger, she feels it is time for her to get married. So when the Stranger asks her to deliver the news that there is gold in the hills and the Stranger makes the wager, Miss Prym is hesitated though she wants it.

The Stranger wants is a sacrifice to be made in Viscos within 7 days. He will give ten gold bars to inhabitants of Viscos to be divided equally if there is one of the villagers who are found dead within the 7 days. The reason why the Stranger does this is to answer a question related to his past experience, whether human being is basically good or bad.

The Stranger chooses Viscos as his target because it is a remote village. The inhabitants are only 281 people and Viscos is well known as a naive village. Honesty is highly valued in Viscos. The Stranger wants to know if a good people can do bad things because of money.

At the same time Miss Prym wants to save Viscos from sacrificing one of its own, but she is also tempted to possess the gold for herself. Moreover, the ten gold bars that will be given to the villager will make Viscos rich. Because of the Stranger’s threat, Miss Prym accepts the Stranger’s wager for her village.

“You may decide not to cooperate, in which case, I’ll tell everyone that I gave you the chance to help them, but you refused, and then my proposition to them myself. If they do decide to kill someone, you probably be their chosen victim.” (p. 18).

The speech above is made by the Stranger when Miss Prym seems to refuse the Stranger’s wager. Miss Prym has two options whether to tell the wager to the Viscos by herself or the Stranger will tell it to them. Miss Prym needs to think carefully if she does not want to be the chosen victim. She finally do as the Stranger’s command, she accepts the Stranger’s wager.
Miss Prym’s motivation to accept the Stranger’s wager is because she wants to save Viscos. She tries to save Viscos by telling them about the wager, hoping that Viscos people will not accept the Stranger’s wager. She really loves her motherland where she was born and grew up.

“It reminds me of Ahab,” she said to Miss Prym.
“I don’t want to think about Ahab, about legends, about anything! All I want is for the world to go back to how it was and for Viscos- for all its faults-not to be destroyed by one’s madness!”
“It seems you love this place more than you think” (p.970.

The dialogue above is between Bertha and Miss Prym. It shows that Miss Prym loves her motherland so much. She wants Viscos to be as it is. She does not want Viscos to be destroyed by Stranger.

“What exactly are you driving at?” he said, a slight tremor in his voice.
“The wager should be fairer. If, after three days, no one is murdered, the village should get the ten gold bars anyway. As a reward for the integrity of its inhabitants.” (p. 80)

From the dialogue above, it is clearly shown how Miss Prym loves Viscos. She accepts the wager in a condition which can make Viscos prosperous. She raises the wager not for herself but for Viscos. She tries to help the Stranger to solve his problem but she does not want any victim. Unfortunately, after she tells about the wager to Viscos, they avoid her. She is accused by the people as a person who let the Stranger does the wager. She thinks of vengeance.

The hatred she had felt only half an hour before had been transformed into a far more agreeable emotion: vengeance (p.111).

Miss Prym drank her coffee and hoped the day would pass quickly. She would destroy the village, she would bring Viscos to its knees that very night. The village would die within a generation anyway because it was a village without children- young people had their children elsewhere, in places where people went to parties, wore fine clothes, traveled and engaged in ‘pointless exercise’.”(p.44)
From two dialogues above shows Miss Prym’s willingness to make Viscos pay for what they have done to her. She tries to help Viscos to have a better life, but she is considered as a bad person instead. Since she is the only young person in Viscos and she is the only who has seen the gold, she can steal the gold and escape from Viscos to big city.

She would never become saint like St. Savin, but for many generations to come she would be remembered as the woman who saved the village from Evil’s second visitation. Maybe they would make up legends about her; the village’s future inhabitants might refer to her as a lovely young woman, the only one who had not abandoned Viscos, because she knew she had a mission to fulfill. Pious ladies would light candles to her, and young men would sigh passionately over the heroine they had never known. (p. 91)

Deep down in her heart, Miss Prym wants become a heroine for Viscos. She wants Viscos to remember her as the person who saves Viscos. She accepts the Stranger’s wager because she wants Viscos acknowledges her as their heroine.

4.2.3 Deeper meaning of Miss Prym response

Miss Prym, a good young girl in Viscos accepts the Stranger’s wager. The novel explains that the meaning of Miss Prym response to the temptation is she wants to be a heroine for Viscos. It is written in the novel, but the deeper meaning of Miss Prym response to the temptation will be discussed in this part.

Miss Prym is an orphan; she has never seen her father and mother. She is raised by her grandmother who will do anything to make sure Miss Prym gets an education. She was born and grew in Viscos. Unfortunately, she no longer has family after her grandmother passed away. She still lives in Viscos and works as a barmaid in the only hotel in Viscos.
Murray says that there are factors other than motivation that also influences behavior, such as past experience of a person, physical capabilities, and the environmental situation in which a person finds himself. The writer finds that Miss Prym’s past life makes her has big dreams in her life. She dreams to meet a rich guy, marry him, and live in the city. She wants to leave Viscos since her friends has moved to the city to work or to have marry. So, she works hard to fulfill her dream.

This was not, of course, true, and she had already begun to worry that the Stranger might lose interest and leave. The truth was that she had spun the web, setting up their meeting in the woods by strategically positioning herself at a spot he would be sure to pass on his way back—just so as to have someone to talk to, another promise to hear, a few days in which to dream of a possible new love and a one-way ticket out of the valley where she was born. (pp. 11-12)

From the narration above, Miss Prym is trying to attract the Stranger’s attention. She is the first person who tries to attract the Stranger’s attention. It is clear that Miss Prym is attracted to the Stranger and does not want to lose her chance to get married. Her motivation here is from herself to find pleasure or enjoyment.

A great opportunity to realize her dream occurs when a Stranger comes to Viscos and uses Miss Prym as messenger. The reward for Miss Prym is big enough if she wants to play the Stranger's game. A bar of gold weighing 2kg is enough to make her rich and leave Viscos. Especially, if she gets the eleven gold bars, she will become extremely rich.

People want to change everything and, at the same time, want it all to remain the same. Miss Prym did not immediately understand why, but that was what happening to her. Perhaps she was too bound to Viscos, too accustomed to defeat, and any chance of victory was too heavy a burden to bear (p.34).
She was convinced that the Stranger must now be tired of her silence and that shortly—perhaps that very afternoon—he would decide to choose someone else. But she was too cowardly to change her faith (p. 34). Miss Prym actually wants to change her fate by doing what the Stranger commands. However, she does not want any changes. She wants her life to be still the same. She wants to have lot money, career, and a great husband. She cannot imagine how her life outside Viscos is.

After the Stranger offers the wager to Miss Prym, there is a struggle between good and evil in her heart. She wants to posses the gold but she does not want anyone sacrificed. Miss Prym who is an honest person is tempted to think of morally evil things; stealing and murder. If she can choose, she does not want to live in Viscos for her whole life and she does not want to be chosen as a messenger. But she is too afraid to face changes in her life.

After the Stranger offers the wager, Miss Prym is afraid to tell it to Viscos. She is pretty sure that Viscos is full of good people; they will never choose a victim. However, she finally has the bravery to tell it to Viscos. She thinks that by telling to Viscos, she will help the Stranger to solve his problem and help Viscos from poverty. Deep in her heart, she really wants to posses the gold which belongs to her. She also wants Viscos to get the ten gold bars to be divided equally.

Unfortunately, after she tells about the wager to Viscos, they accuse Miss Prym as a person who let the Stranger bring the temptation. They start to blame Miss Prym so that Miss Prym is disappointed with Viscos. She is accepting the Stranger’s wager because she thinks that the ten gold bars can improve Viscos in many aspects. The reaction given by Viscos, makes Miss Prym feels so disappointed that makes her human nature arises. She will make Viscos regret for
what they have done to her. She starts to think about destroying Viscos. She eventually will own the eleven gold bars herself. She will not give Viscos’s portion which is ten gold bars.

What Miss Prym does is exercising her human nature. The temptation, which is eleven gold bars, is interesting for Viscos. Viscos which is a poor remote village, was chosen by the Stranger as a place to do his wager. Stranger tries to offer a better life by possessing bars of gold. Eleven gold bars can develop Viscos more. They can build everything to increase their standards of living. Here, the morality of human is being tested.

In a situation where Viscos can become a prosperous village, but they should choose one person as a victim. Viscos, which village is full of naïve person, is interested in possessing bars of gold. It is the reason why the Stranger chooses Viscos a place he does the wager. He wants to know whether a good person can be fallen if they are tempted. He uses Miss Prym as a messenger to tell about the wager.

Miss Prym finally does what the Stranger’s want, she tells about the wager to Viscos. She hopes that Viscos is wise enough facing this wager. She hopes the villager can get the ten gold bars but there is no victim in Viscos. She, on the other hand wants to posses the gold too to save her poverty.

After she tells the wager to Viscos, the reaction given by Viscos is so disappointed; she is accused as a traitor. Viscos people are cowards, they want the gold but they do not want any victims. In other words, at the same times, they want to change her fate but at the same time, they want it all remain the same.
Here, Miss Prym is exercising her human nature. She wants to be a heroine for Viscos, but the reaction given by Viscos is otherwise. She, for the first time, was angry with the reaction given by Viscos, but her conscience is working. Her conscience tells her to save Viscos whatever it is.

According to the writer the motivation that makes Miss Prym accepting the temptation from the Stranger is from herself. She wants to save Viscos and become a heroine for Viscos, but after the writer analyzed the novel, it can be concluded that Miss Prym is exercising her human nature. Facing the temptation, her conscience is still working. The deeper meaning of this novel is actually about morality. The inhabitants of Viscos are using their conscience or not when they are being tempted. Miss Prym, as a person who tries to make any changes, is also exercising her human nature. Finally, Miss Prym and Viscos people understand what the meaning of temptation given by the Stranger. They are all ashamed of what they have done, but it is shows that Viscos and Miss Prym’s conscience is still working when they are tempted.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS

The last chapter consists of three parts. The first is conclusions and the second is implications and the last one is suggestions. The first part shows the findings of this study. However, suggestions part shows the input or recommendation for the next researcher.

5.1 Conclusions

This part discusses the conclusion from the analysis on Chapter 4. There are two conclusions that are based on the problem formulations; the first one is about the characteristic of Miss Prym. The second one is the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to possess bars of gold.

First, through using Perrine theory, it can be found that Miss Prym is a dynamic character because there is developing character in her. Miss Prym’s character is developed from a cowardly person to brave person. Miss Prym is a main character in the novel, since she often appears in the story. There are many characteristics appears from her. It can be seen through Murphy’s method of characterization. It can be found that Miss Prym is: independent, naïve, confident, loving, curious, ambitious and she is a hard worker.
The second problem formulation is the meaning of Miss Prym’s response to possess bars of gold. There are two meanings; surface meaning and deeper meaning. From the surface meaning it is clearly written in the novel that Miss Prym’s accepting Stranger’s wager because she wants to save Viscos. Moreover, she wants to be a heroine for Viscos. She wants to be remembered by their grandchild. The deeper meaning, Miss Prym is exercising her human nature. She is proving that her conscience is still working whenever she is tempted.

5.2 Implications

This research is literature including novels. Literature is good to be implemented in English class for university level, since it is effective for students to express learners in other languages and a potential source of learner motivation. Teachers could help students in literature text to provide opportunities which can appeal to learners with different learning styles. Literature could be as stories in poems, novels or through performance of plays.

Literature has an important role in learning a language. Through literary work, students can improve their vocabularies. Moreover, they can find value in literary work. The value in the novel Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym* is about self control. When people are tempted to do the bad thing such as stealing and murder for bars of gold, they may have a good self control. This novel also can be implemented to teach Prose.
5.3 Suggestions

There are two suggestions the writer wants to give to the next researchers and also to English teacher. The first suggestion is to the next researchers. The next researchers may analyze and explore more about motivation, which is done by the Stranger. It is because there is a relation between the main characters with the Stranger. Moreover, Stranger is the person who offers the wager to Miss Prym, the main character in this novel.

The second suggestion is to English teacher. This novel can be used as a teaching material to teach Prose in English Department Study Program of Sanata Dharma University. So many topics can be discussed, such as plot, character and characterization, symbol and setting.
REFERENCES


Internet Sources:


APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF THE DEVIL AND MISS PRYM

The Devil and Miss Prym is one of the novels of Paulo Coelho. This novel is one of a trilogy And on the Seventh Day. The third story tells of an ordinary life changed in just seven days. The main character in The Devil and Miss Prym is Chantal Prym. She is an orphan girl. She even does not know who her father is while her mother died in childbirth. She was raised by her grandmother in a village called Viscos which is located in the mountain. Viscos people work as farmers, ranchers, tour guide (hunting), and craftsmen souvenirs. There are not many choice jobs there. After her grandmother died, Chantal become a waitress at bar in the only hotel in Viscos. There is no youth in Viscos except Chantal. The young people are out wandering in the big city to get a better job.
One day a stranger came to Viscos for vacation. This man is not alone; he was accompanied by the devil. He was almost entirely under the control of the devil because the devil has long accompanied him. The man is a man burdened by grim and severe wounds of the past. Previously he was a wealthy businessman. His business is the manufacture of firearms. He has a wife and a daughter. At one time, his wife and his daughter were kidnapped by a gang of terrorists who want the hostages are exchanged with numbers of weapons. The stranger does not want to negotiate with terrorists, he called police. It is told there that the incident actually is God’s plan, the girl is supposed to be later in adulthood will be a caller peace. However, the daughter’s guardian angel made a mistake. A shootout between police and the terrorist gangs happened. The terrorist was shot dead. However, before they are dying, it turns out they had to kill the hostage: wife and the man’s daughter. Since then, the man became moody and always asks if the truth becomes a basic human instinct the good or evil.

His visit to Viscos actually was not for holiday. He went there to bring eleven gold bars to bet. He wants to find the answer of his question. If people are naïve Viscos was brave and willing to commit murder to at least one person within a week, the man would be happy to hand over the entire ten gold bars to Viscos people, and he was going to go home with the responsibility of knowing that basic human instinct is crime. However, if within a week there was no murder, he will go home knowing that the responsibility of the basic human instinct is goodness, but no one will get the gold bars.
Chantal Prym, the only young person in the village, was chosen by the man to be preacher’s message. He was asked to be man’s mouth in announcing the stakes. Chantal Prym was also invited to bet. If within a week there was a murder, she has a right to a gold bar. However, if it does not happen, it will be otherwise. Chantal Prym participates in the game because she was convinced and believed that residents of Viscos are naïve and apathetic, she raised the bet. Whatever happens, the gold bars will belong to Chantal as a payment for her participation in a crazy game. In the case of someone is being murdered; the man will go bring the remaining ten gold bars. However, if the murder does not occur until the seventh day, all the gold is hers.

For several days Viscos became tense as if there was a fire in the husk ready enlarged and burning. The villagers blamed Chantal over the game eventhough they are also interested in the ten gold bars. Ten gold bars can improve the life of the entire Viscos village that is abandoned by the younger generation. The only thing that Viscos people were waiting their time, they often hold mass burial than mass of baptism. So, when they are offered ten gold bars they were become exited to rise and reform their village themselves.

Still the villagers wondering, who is willing to be a victim of it all? No one wants! They think that it is impossible to kill someone because that person must have had relatives who would seek and miss them, except for people: an old Berta, and old Priest and the young Chantal Prym. An old priest who volunteered as a victim was denied because they are too innocent to kill a saint. They are also reluctant to kill Chantal Prym because she was the only girl in the village, her
energy is still needed in Viscos, and she is the only one who knows where the
gold bars are except the man. So, the last choice was only Berta, an elderly widow
who suspected witches.

Chantal actually wants to run away from the game, she could steal his gold
bars and escape to another city. There is an inner conflict in her mind because she
also wants to prevent the murder. On the other hand, the villagers had not been
seen at all the gold bars. What if the man is lying? The villagers also do not
believe the story that told by Chantal. Then, the man was willing to show the ten
gold bars in the night of execution. When the villagers were already confident
with the decision to execute Berta, Chantal spoke. There is nothing more precious
than mere gold bars. Gold bars are not so free in its use unlike money. The
Villagers discouraged. They actually never dare to commit murder. One by one
they go home. Berta survived and asked for fountain water. Chantal Prym wins
the bet and gets eleven gold bars. She also went out of Viscos along with the
foreign man for cashing the gold bars. While the man understand that Good and
Evil exist within every human being, but the humans who control it. Human
chooses whether to do good or evil.
APPENDIX 2

THE BIOGRAPHY OF PAULO COELHO

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on August 24, 1947. Before becoming the most widely published Brazilian author of all time—publishing close to 100 million books, he worked as a theatre director, an actor and a journalist. In the 1970's, Coelho was also a successful songwriter whose songs were sung by such well-known Brazilian singers as Elis Regina, Rita Lee and, most notably, Brazilian psychedelic rock pioneer Raul Seixas. Seixas and Coelho received wide commercial and critical acclaim for their songs "EuNasciHáDez Mil AnosAtrás," "Gita," "Al Capone" as well as 60 other songs. Also during this time, Coelho travelled the world as part of the hippy movement and became more and more interested in Eastern religions as well as occultism in general.

Coelho's definitive spiritual turn, however, came when he made a pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, a catholic pilgrimage route in the north-western Spanish state of Galicia. This journey is documented in his book, The Pilgrimage (O Diário de um Mago), released in 1988. His next book was The Alchemist (O Alquimista), a book which he claims is a metaphorical adaptation of his own spiritual journey that he undertook on his pilgrimage. Clearly, the name of the protagonist in The Alchemist is a nod to Coelho's
experience on the Camino de Santiago. While sales of *The Alchemist* were slow at first, it went on to become the highest-selling Brazilian book of all time and one of the most widely read books in the world.


Coelho is not only an internationally acclaimed author, but is also an outspoken activist for peace and social justice. He is a Messenger of Peace for the UN, an Ambassador to the European Union for Intercultural Dialogue, a Member of the Board of the Shimon Peres Institute for Peace, a UNESCO Special Counselor for “Intercultural Dialogues and Spiritual Convergences,” and a Board Member of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. He is also a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, the highest honor for a Brazilian author, and is one of the best-known authors to actively support the free distribution of his work.
Paulo Coelho and his wife Christina split their time between Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Saint Martin, Hautes-Pyrénées, France.


Here are Paulo Coelho’s books which are translated into English version.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Portuguese Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>O Manifesto de Krig-há</td>
<td>The Manifest of Krig-há</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Teatro da Educação</td>
<td>Theater For Education</td>
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<td>1982</td>
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<td>O Alquimista</td>
<td>The Alchemist</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Brida</td>
<td>Brida</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>O Dom Supremo</td>
<td>The Greatest Gift</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>As Valkírias</td>
<td>The Valkyries</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Na margem do rioPiedraeusentei e chorei</td>
<td>By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>O Monte Cinco</td>
<td>The Fifth Mountain</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Letras do amor de um profeta</td>
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<td>Manual do guerreiro da luz</td>
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<td>Veronika decide morrer Palavrasessenciais</td>
<td>Veronika Decides to Die</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>O Demónio e a srtaprym</td>
<td>The Devil and Miss Prym</td>
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<td>Históriasparapais, filhos e netos</td>
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<td>OnzeMinutos</td>
<td>Eleven Minutes</td>
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| 2004 | E no sétimodia                           | And on the Seventh Day (collection of the novels By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept, Veronika Decides to Die and The Devil and Miss Prym)
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<td>O Gênio e as Rosas</td>
<td>The Genie and the Roses</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>O Zahir</td>
<td>The Zahir</td>
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<td>Sercomo um rioqueflui</td>
<td>Like the Flowing River</td>
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<td>A bruxa de Portobello</td>
<td>The Witch of Portobello</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Vida: Citações selecionadas</td>
<td>Life: Selected Quotations</td>
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(Taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paulo_Coelho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paulo_Coelho) accessed on February 28, 2014 at 18:04.)
APPENDIX 3
LESSON PLAN

Subject : Prose
Semester : IV
Time Allocation : 3 X 50 minutes
Teaching Methods : Lectures, Discussion, Group Work, presentation
Source : Paulo Coelho’s *The Devil and Miss Prym*

Competence Standard: On completing this course the students are able to appreciate original novels and put forward their own opinions concerning the context of them.

Topic : Novel analysis on character and characterization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Achievement Indicators</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>Time Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Character and</td>
<td>Students are able to:</td>
<td>1. Pre Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>characterization</td>
<td>- Analyze the character and characterization in the novel</td>
<td>- Lecturer greets the students.</td>
<td>10’</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Understand the contents or the meaning of the novel</td>
<td>- Lecturer gives explanation related to today’s material</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lecturer distributes the reading material to the students</td>
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<td>2. Whilst Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lecturer explain the material</td>
<td>20’</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lecturer divides the students into several small groups</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lecturer asks the students to discuss the character and characterization in the novel</td>
<td>50’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lecturer asks</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

52
3. Post Activities
   - Lecturer asks the students what they have learned today
   - Lecturer closes the meeting

| TOTAL TIME | 150’ |

Evaluation:
- Presentation : 20%
- Mid-term test : 25%
- Assignments : 10%
- Reflections : 10%
- Final Project : 35%
Handout

A. What is character?
According to Miligan (1983), there are two kinds of character in the fictional story. They are:

1. Major character
   A major character becomes the centre of the story because he endures problems, conflict, happiness, sorrow, etc. Through his actions, the reader knows the author’s message of the story.

2. Minor character
   The minor characters are characters that plays less important role than major character. Their appearances support the main character to develop the story so that they appear only in a certain setting. They do not endure the problem of the story (p. 155).

Perrine distinguishes the character into two types:

1) Static character
   Static character does not undergo a change. This kind of character will have the same characteristics from the beginning to the end of the story (p.71). It concludes that the character in the story has the same behavior, thought, attitude in the whole story in the novel.

2) Dynamic character
   Dynamic character is a developing character. This kind of character will change in certain conditions and can be developed under some possibilities. Dynamic character undergoes a permanent change in some aspects of his or her character, personality or outlook. The changes may be in a large or small portion, and may be better or worse, which are important or basis (p.71)
B. What is characterization?

Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. Characterization is revealed through direct characterization and indirect characterization.

Direct characterization tells the audience what the personality of the character is. Murphy (1972; 160-173) in Understanding Unseen: Introduction in English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students states that there are some ways of the author to make his or her characters understandable are:

1. **Personal description.** The author directly describes the characters’ appearance and clothes (161), what the character looks like and what social class they belong to. The reader has the imagination of how the character looks.

2. **Character as seen by another.** This way differs from personal description, which tells the readers directly about the character, the author can also describe him through the eyes and opinions of another (162). It is clear that the character in the novel could be described through what other characters see or think.

3. **Speech.** The author can give the readers insight about the character through what the character says, whenever he speaks, whenever he is in conversation with another, and whenever he puts toward an opinion (164). The dialogue in the novel can determine someone’s character.

4. **Past life.** The author can give the readers a clue to events that have helped to shape a person’s character by telling his past life. This can be shown by the direct comment of the author, through a person’s thoughts, by his conversation or by a medium of another person (166). Every person has different past life, it makes the character of every person in the novel is unique.
5. **Conversation of others.** The author can give the reader clues to a person’s character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about him. Sometimes, people could not see how their character is, but others can.

6. **Reactions.** The author can also give the reader a clue to a person’s character by letting the reader know how that person reacts to various situations and events. There is conflict in the novel, it is also the way how to determine the character in the novel. Someone’s reaction to the conflict can show their way of thinking and action.

7. **Direct comment.** The author describes or comments on a person’s character directly (170).

8. **Thought.** The author gives the readers direct knowledge of what the person is thinking about (171).

9. **Manner.** The author can describe a person’s mannerism, habits or idiocies, which may also tell us something about his character.

**The ways characters are revealed:**

1. What does the character say? How does the character speak?
2. What is revealed through the character’s private thoughts and feelings?
3. What is revealed through the character’s effect on other people?
4. What does the character do? How does the character behave?
5. What does the character look like? How does the character dress?

Taken from:  
(http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson800/Characterization.pdf)


APPENDIX 5

Sample material for teaching Prose 1

Note: This material is taken from Chapter 2, page 5-18 of Paulo Coelho’s The Devil and Miss Prym.

The Devil and Miss Prym

The hotel was, at one and the same time, a shop selling local products, a restaurant serving food typical of the region, and a bar where the people of Viscos could gather to talk about what they always talked about: how the weather was doing, or how young people had no interest in the village.” nine months of winter, three months of hell,” they used to say, referring to the fact that each year they had only ninety days to carry out all the work in the fields, fertilizing, sowing, waiting, then harvesting the crops, storing the hay and shearing the sheep.

Everyone who lived there knew they were clinging to a world whose days were numbered; even so, it was not easy for them to accept that they would be the last generation of the farmers and shepherds who had lived in those mountains for centuries. Sooner or later the machines would arrive, the livestock would be reared far from there on special food, the village itself might well be sold to a big multinational that would turn it into a ski resort.

That is what had happened to other villages in the region, but Viscos had resisted, because it owed a debt to the past, to the strong traditions of those ancestors who had once chosen to live here, and who had taught them the importance of fighting to the bitter end.

The stranger carefully read the form he was given to fill in at the hotel, deciding what was going to put. From his accent, they would know he came from some South American country, and he decided it should be Argentina, because he really liked their football team. In the space left for his address, he wrote...
Colombia Street, knowing that South Americans are in the habit of paying homage to each other by naming important places after neighboring countries. As his name, he chose that of a famous terrorist from the previous century.

In less than two hours, all the 281 inhabitants of Viscos knew that a stranger named Carlos had arrived in the village, that he had been born in Argentina and now lived in a pleasant street in Buenos Aires. That is the advantage of very small villages: without making the slightest effort, you can learn all there is to know about a person’s life.

Which was precisely what the newcomer wanted.

He went up to his room and unpacked his rucksack: it contained a few clothes, a shaving kit, an extra pair of shoes, vitamins to ward off colds, a thick notebook to write in, and eleven bars of gold, each weighing two kilos. Worn out by the tension, by the climb and by the weight he had been carrying, the stranger fell asleep almost at once, though not before placing a chair under the door handle, even though he knew he could count on each and every one of Viscos’ 281 inhabitants.

The next morning he ate breakfast, left his dirty clothes at reception to be laundered, put the gold bars back in his rucksack, and set off for the mountain to the east of the village. On his way, he saw only one villager, an old woman sitting in front her house, who was looking at him with great interest.

He plunged into the forest, where he waited until his hearing had become used to the noises made by the insects and birds, and by the wind rattling the leafless branches; he knew that in a place like this someone could easily be observing him without doing anything.

When he felt sure that any possible observer would have lost interest and moved on without anything to report, he dug a hole close to a rocky outcrop in the shape of a Y and hid one of the bars there. Then he climbed a little higher, spent another hour as if in rapt contemplation of nature, spotted another rocky outcrop, this time in the form of an eagle, and dug another hole, in which he placed the remaining ten gold bars.
The first person he saw as he walked back to the village was a young woman sitting beside one of the many temporary rivers that formed when the ice melted high up in the mountains. She looked up from her book, acknowledged his presence, and resumed her reading; doubtless her mother had told her never to talk to the strangers.

Strangers, however, when they arrive in a new place, have the right to try and make friends with people they do not know, and so he went over to her.

“Hello,” he said. “Very hot for the time of year.”
She nodded in agreement.
The stranger went on: “I’d like you to come and look at something.”
She politely put down her book, held out her hand, and introduced herself.
“My name’s Chantal. I work in the evening at the bar of the hotel where you’re staying, and I was surprised when you didn’t come down to dinner, because a hotel doesn’t make its money just from renting rooms, you know, but from everything the guests consume. You are Carlos from Argentina and you live in Columbia Street; everyone in the village knows that already, because a man arriving here outside of the hunting season is always an object of curiosity. A man in his fifties, with graying hair, and the look of someone who has been around a bit.

“And thank you for your invitation, but I’ve already seen the landscape around Viscos from every possible and imaginable angle; perhaps it would be better if I showed you places you haven’t seen, but I suppose you must be very busy.”

“I’m 52, my name isn’t Carlos, and everything I wrote on the form at the hotel is false.”

Chantal didn’t know what to say. The stranger went on:

“It’s not Viscos I want to show you. It’s something you’ve never seen before.”

She read many stories about young women who decide to go into the forest with a stranger, only to vanish without trace. For a moment she was afraid, but her fear was quickly replaced by a desire for adventure: after all, this man...
wouldn’t dare do anything to her when she had just told him that everyone in the village knew all about him, even if none of the details were actually true.

“Who are you?” she asked. “If what you say is true, surely you realize I could turn you in to the police for passing yourself off with a false identity?”

“I promise to answer all your questions, but first you have to come with me, because I really do want to show you something. It’s about five minutes’ walk from here.”

Chantal closed her book, took a deep breath and offered up a silent prayer, while her heart beat in fear and excitement. Then she got up and followed the stranger, convinced that this would prove to be yet another disappointing encounter, one which started out full of promise and turned into yet another dream of impossible love.

The man went over to the Y-shaped rock, indicated the recently dug earth, and suggested she uncover what lay buried there.

“I’ll get my hands dirty,” protested Chantal. “I’ll get my dress dirty too.”

The man grabbed a branch, broke it and handed it to her to use as a spade. She found such behavior distinctly odd, but decided to do as he asked.

Five minutes later, a grubby, yellowish bar lay before her.

“It looks like gold,” she said.

“It is gold. And it is mine. Now please cover it over again.”

She did as she was told. The man led her to the next hiding place. Again she digging, and this time was astonished at the quantity of gold she saw before her.

“That’s gold too. And it’s also mine,” said the stranger

Chantal was beginning to cover the gold over again with soil, when he asked her to leave the hole as it was. He sat down on one of the rocks, lit a cigarette, and stared at the horizon.

“Why did you want to show me this?” she asked.

He didn’t respond.
“Who are you exactly? And what are you doing here? Why did you show me this, knowing I could go and tell everyone what’s hidden here on the mountain?”

“So many questions all at once,” the stranger replied, keeping his eyes fixed on the mountains, as if oblivious of her presence. “As for telling the others, that’s precisely what I want you to do.”

“You promise me that, if I came with you, you would answer any question I asked you.”

“In the first place, you shouldn’t believe in promises. The world is full of them: promises of riches, of eternal salvation, of infinite love. Some people think that can promise anything, others accept whatever seems to guarantee better days ahead, as, I suspect, is your case. Those who make promises they don’t keep end up powerless and frustrated, and exactly the same fate awaits those who believe those promises.”

He was making things too complicated; he was talking about his own life, about the night that had changed his destiny, about the lies he had been obliged to believe because he could not accept reality. He needed, rather, to use the kind of language the young woman would understand.

Chantal, however, had understood just about everything. Like all older men, he was obsessed with the idea of sex with a younger woman. Like all human beings, he thought money could buy whatever he wanted. Like all strangers, he was sure that young women from remote villages were naïve enough to accept any proposal, real or imaginary, provided it offered a faint chance of escape.

He was not the first and would not, alas, be the last to try and seduce her in that vulgar way. What confused her was the amount of gold he was offering: she had never imagined she could be worth that much, and the thought both pleased her and filled her with a sense of panic.

“I’m too old to believe in promises,” she said, trying to gain time.

“Even though you’ve always believed in them and still do?”

“You’re wrong. I know I live in paradise and I’ve read the Bible and I’m not going to make the same mistake as Eve, who wasn’t contented with her lot.”
This was not, of course, true, and she had already begun to worry that the stranger might lose interest and leave. The truth was that she had spun the web, setting up their meeting in the woods by strategically positioning herself at a spot he would be sure to pass on his way back, just so as to have someone to talk to, another promise to hear, a few days in which to dream of a possible new love and a one way ticket out of the valley where she was born. Her heart had already been broken many times over, and yet she still believed she was destined to meet the man of her life. At first, she had let many chances slip by, thinking that the right person had not yet arrived, but now she had a sense that time was passing more quickly than she had thought, and she was prepared to leave Viscos with the first man willing to take her, even if she left nothing to him. Doubtless, she would learn to love him, love, too, was just a question of time.

“That’s precisely what I want to find out: are we living in paradise or in hell?” the man said, interrupting her thoughts.

Good, he was falling into her trap.

“In paradise. But if you live somewhere perfect for a long time, you get bored with it in the end.”

She had thrown out first bait. She had said, though not in so many words: “I’m free, I’m available.” His next question would be: “like you?”

“Like you?” the stranger asked.

She had to be careful, she mustn’t seem too eager or she might scare him off.

“I don’t know. Sometimes I think that and sometimes I think my destiny is to stay here and that I wouldn’t know how to live far from Viscos.”

The next step: to feign indifference.

“Right, then, since you won’t tell me anything about the gold you showed me, I’ll just thank for the walk and return to my river and my book.”

“Just a moment!”

The stranger had taken the bait.

“Of course I’ll explain about the gold; why else would I have brought you here?”
Sex, money, power, promises. But Chantal decided to pretend that she was expecting some amazing revelation; men take the oddest satisfaction in feeling superior, without knowing that the most of the time they are being utterly predictable.

“You’re obviously a man with a great deal of experience, someone who could teach me a lot.”

That was it. Gently slacken the rope and then lavish a little light praise on your prey so as not to frighten him off. That was an important rule to follow.

“However, you have a dreadful habit of making long speeches about promises or about how we should behave, instead of replying to a simple question. I’d be delighted to stay if only you’d answer the question I asked you at the star: who exactly are you and what are doing here?”

The stranger turned his gaze from the mountains and looked at the young woman in front of him. He had worked for many years with all kinds of people and he knew, almost for certain, what she must be thinking. She probably thought he had shown her the gold in order to impress her with his wealth, just as now she was trying to impress him with her youth and indifference.

“Who am I well, let’s say I’m a man who, for some time now, has been searching for a particular truth. I finally discovered the theory, but I’ve never put it into practice.”

“What sort of truth?”

“About the nature of human beings. I discovered that confronted by temptation, we will always fall. Given the right circumstances, every human being on this earth would be willing to commit evil.”

“I think…”

“It’s not a question of what you or I think, or of what we want to believe, but of finding out if my theory is correct. You want to know who I am. Well, I’m an extremely rich and famous industrialist, who held sway over thousands of employees, was ruthless when necessary and kind when I had to be.”

“I’m a man who has experienced things that most people never even dream of, and who went beyond all the usual limits in his search for both pleasure
and knowledge. A man who found paradise when he thought he was a prisoner to
the hell of routine and family, and who found hell when he could at last enjoy
paradise and total freedom. That’s who I’m, a man who has been both good and
evil throughout his life, perhaps the person most fitted to reply to my own
question about the essence of humanity, and that’s why I’m here. I know what
you’re going to ask next.

Chantal felt she was losing ground. She needed to regain it rapidly.

“You think I’m going ask: ‘why did you show me gold?’ but what I really
want to know is why a rich and industrialist would come to Viscos in search of an
answer he could find in books, universities, or simply by consulting some
illustrious philosopher.”

The stranger was pleased at the girl’s intelligence. Good, he had chosen
the right person, as ever.

“I came to Viscos because I had a plan. A long time ago, I went to see a
play by a writer called Durrenmatt, whom I’m sure you know…”

His comment was merely intended to provoke her: obviously a young
woman like her would never have heard of Durrenmatt, and he knew that she
would again try to appear indifferent, as if she knew whom he was talking about.

“Go on,” said Chantal, feigning indifference.

“I’m glad to see you know his work, but let me just remind you about the
particular play I mean.” He measured his words carefully so that his remarks
would not sound too sarcastic, but would also make it clear that he knew she was
lying. “It’s about a woman who makes her fortune and then returns to her
hometown with the sole intention of humiliating and destroying the man who
rejected her in her youth. Her life, her marriage and her financial success have all
been motivated by the desire to take revenge on her first love.

“So then I thought up my own game: I would go to some remote place,
where everyone looked on life with joy, peace and compassion, and I would see if
I could make the people there break a few of the Ten Commandments.”

Chantal looked away and stared at the mountains. She knew the stranger
had never heard of the author he was talking about and now she was afraid he
would ask her about those ten commandments; she had never been very religious and had not the slightest idea what they were.

“Everybody in this village is honest, starting with you,” the stranger went on. “I showed you a gold bar, which would give you the necessary financial independence to get out of here, to travel the world, to do whatever it is young women from small; out of the way villages dream of doing. The gold is going to stay there; you know it’s mine, but you could steal it if you want. And then you would be breaking one of the commandments: ‘Thou shalt not steal.’”

The girl turned to look at the stranger.

“As for the other ten gold bars,” he went on, “they are worth enough to mean that none of the inhabitant of this village would ever need to work again. I didn’t ask you to rebury the gold bars, because I’m going to move them to a place only I will know about. When you go back to the village, I want you to say that you saw them and that I am willing to hand them over to the Viscos on condition that they do something they would never ever dream of doing.”

“Like what, for example?”

“It’s not an example, it’s something very concrete. I want them to break the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill.’”

“What?”

Her question came out like a yell.

“Exactly what I said. I want them to commit a murder.”

The stranger saw the young woman’s body go rigid and realized she might leave at any moment without hearing the rest of the story. He needed to tell her his plan quickly.

“I’m giving them a week. If, at the end of seven days, someone in the village is found dead, it could be a useless old man, or someone with an incurable illness, or a mental defective who requires constant attention, the victim doesn’t matter, then the money will go to the other villagers, and I will conclude that we are all evil. If you steal the one gold bar but the village resists the temptation, or vice versa, I will conclude that there are good people and evil people, which would put me in a difficult position because it would mean that there’s spiritual
struggle going on that could be won by either side. Don’t you believe in God and
the spiritual world, in battles between devils and angels?”

The young woman said nothing, and this time he realized that he had
mistimed his question and ran the risk of her simply turning on her heel and not
letting him finish. He had better cut the irony and get to the heart of the matter.

“If I leave the village with my eleven gold bars intact, then everything I
wanted to believe in will have proved to be a lie. I will die having received an
answer I would rather not have received, because I would find life more
acceptable if I was proved right and the world is evil.

“I would continue the suffer, but knowing that everyone else is suffering
too would make the pain more bearable. But if only a few of us are condemned to
suffer terrible tragedies, then there is something very wrong with Creation.”

Chantal’s eyes filled with tears, but she managed to fight them back.

“Why are you doing this? Why did you choose my village?”

“It’s nothing to do with you or your village. I’m simply thinking of
myself; the story of one man is the story of all men. I need to know if we are good
or evil. If we are good, God is just and will forgive me for all I have done, for the
harm I wished on those who tried to destroy me, for the wrong decisions I took at
key moments, for the proposition I am putting to you now, for He was the one
who drove me towards the dark.

“But if we’re evil, then everything is permitted, I never took a wrong
decision, we are all condemned from the start, and it doesn’t matter we do in this
life, for redemption lies beyond either human thought or deed.”

Before Chantal could leave, he added:

“You may decide not to cooperate, in which case, I’ll tell everyone that I
gave you the chance to help them, but you refused, and then I’ll put my
proposition to them myself. If they do decide to kill someone, you will probably
be their chosen victim.