A STUDY OF PLOT AND CHARACTER TO CONVEY THE THEME AS SEEN IN KOBO ABE'S THE BOX MAN

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Sarjana Sastra
In English Letters

By

AGUSTA ROSARIANA

Student Number: 014214143

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
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Defended before the Board of Examiners on September 27, 2005 and Declared Acceptable

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Yoyakarta, September 30, 2005
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Fr. B. Alip, M.Pd., M.A.
The universe always helps us fight for our dreams, no matter how foolish they may be. Our dreams are our own, and only we can know the effort required to keep them alive.

Paulo Coelho

In everything, we have to be thorough. Like boiling water, if you don’t want to repeat from the very beginning, don’t put the fire out before it boils

Agusta Rosariana
This undergraduate thesis is dedicated to
Ma'e, Pa'e, De Ani, Thomzzz, Dian,
Mak Uwo,
And
Mas Andri
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ABSTRACT

AGUSTA ROSARIANA (2005). A Study of Plot and Character to Convey the Theme as seen in Kobo Abe’s The Box Man. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This study analyzes one of Kobo Abe’s novels entitled The Box Man which is originally written in Japanese with the title Hako Otoko. It was published in the year of 1974. This novel is a narrative novel. It tells about a man who deliberately lives in a box. He leaves the normal life and lives in a box. He hides himself from shame, fear, and despair. He becomes the narrator of the story who tells about other characters experiences. This study deals with the plot and character in conveying the theme of the story.

This study has two objectives. The first is how the plot and the characters are revealed in the story. The second is how the plot and the characters convey the theme of the story.

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research. New Criticism is the appropriate approach to analyze the problems. The theories applied are concerned with the character and characterization, the plot, the theme, and the relationship between the plot, character, and theme.

From the study, the writer concludes that the novel does not have a conventional plot. The narrator of the story jumps from one case to another case that sometimes does not have any relation to the previous case. The author emphasizes the conflict faced by the box man. There are conflicts inside him. There are also conflicts with the environment. The conflict that occurs inside is whether he wants to leave his box or stay. There are many reasons that make him want to leave his box. They are his desire to make a love with the nurse, his jealousy to the fake box man and his box sale to the nurse. The same reasons make him want to stay in his box. The external conflicts occur because he chooses to be a box man but the society cannot accept him. A man becomes a box man not only because he hides from something that he does not want to face but also because he rejects to be a part of the society. Generally, the character prefers to be invisible, pessimist, difficult to trust on someone, weak and does not have enough courage. In the next analysis, the writer concludes that the mixture of the plot and character reflects the theme of the story. It is found that the main conflict is a desire to hide or run away from the difficult reality they should face. It becomes the main factor that makes the story move on. Therefore, the theme that can be stated is ‘some people tend to run away from a difficult situation.’
ABSTRAK

AGUSTA ROSARIANA (2005). A Study of Plot and Character to Convey the Theme as seen in Kobo Abe’s The Box Man. Yogyakarta: Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma.


Penulis mengumpulkan data-data dengan menggunakan metode studi pustaka. Pendekatan New Criticism adalah pendekatan yang sesuai untuk menganalisa permasalahan. Teori-teori yang diterapkan adalah teori tentang tokoh dan penokohan, alur, sudut pandang, tema, dan hubungan antara alur dan tokoh dengan tema.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary work is a portrait of human's life. What is pictured there is generally based on the fact and experience that happened in the past or dreams about future.

One of the literature genres is a novel. It can be defined as a work or literature or a composition that imitates life and human activities. Richard Courtney states that reading a literary piece such a novel does not merely give us pleasure, but also deepens and broadens our vision and experience of living (1965: 100).

Hudson states the sources of literature are derived from life. There are four kinds of impulses that influence the creation of literary work. They are: our desires for self expression; our interest in people and their doings; our interest in the world of reality which we live, and in the world of imagination which we conjure into existence; and our love of form as form (1958: 10). Hudson believes that the impulses exist because human is social being, so he needs to interact with others. When human being interacts with others, he will share his thought, feeling, emotion and experience of life. Of course their sharing is different from one to another. Because of the differences, there could be a contradictory interest. This contradiction may leads into a conflict.
It could be a conflict that occurs inside him or conflict with the external world.

The writer is going to analyze a novel entitled *The Box Man*. *The Box Man* is one of Kobo Abe’s works that is originally written in Japanese. Kobo Abe was one of the famous authors from Japan.

*The Box Man* talks about a man who deliberately makes himself live in cardboard box. This box man is homeless. The box man not only sleeps in the box, but lives in it at all times, even moving about in it by peering through a carefully cut hole. The box man creates his box with everything he wants in order to make him feel comfortable.

This novel describes the internal sensation of the box man whether he wants to leave his box or stay. The novel also mentions about the effect of a box man in his environment. The writer thinks that Kobo Abe’s *The Box Man* presents each of those descriptions.

Having noticed the description of the story, the writer is directly interested in finding the theme of the story. The theme can be found through the analysis of the plot and the characters. Those intrinsic elements support each other. Since there is still no other thesis discussing about this study, therefore the writer comes to the idea to go deeper in analyzing the story.

The novel was published in Japanese in the year of 1973 then E. Dale Saunders translates it into English and published in the year of 1974. *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Japan* (1993) explains that fictions in these early years often deal with the depressing reality of Japan in defeat. Poverty,
hopelessness, and moral disorientation are the basic mood in the works of the so-called 'libertines.' In this novel Abe emphasizes the libertines of one's life by being a box man.

The Japanese society standard value are house, job, wealth, and status. It is demanded from a person who wants to get a status in the society. Being a box man means throw all those things and becomes a person who is homeless, jobless and does not have any money to get his daily needs. It means that being a box man is reject to be apart of the society.

The writer thinks that the character and the plot have an important contribution to find out the theme of the story. The theme of the story is crucial because it gives focus, unity, impact, and "point" in the story (Stanton. 1965:19). Therefore, the theme will not be stated in easy way. It needs more attention to get it. That is why the intrinsic elements above are needed in this study. Knowing the theme means understanding the main point of the story, the central meaning of the story.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the previous discussion as the starting points, the problems can be formulated as follows

1. How are the plot and the characters revealed in the story?
2. How do the plot and the characters convey the theme of the story?
C. Objectives of the Study

To explore the analysis of this study, the writer focuses on two objectives. The first is how the plot and the characters are revealed in the story. The second is how the plot and characters convey the theme of the story.

D. Definition of Terms

Holman and William Harmon in their book entitled *A Handbook to Literature* state that plot is an intellectual formulation about the relations among the incidents of a drama or a narrative. It is a guiding principle for the author and an ordering control for the reader (1986: 378-379).

Holman and Harmon also state that character is a brief descriptive sketch of a personage who typifies some definite quality. The person is described not as an individual personality but as an example of some virtue or type, such as a glutton, a fop, a garrulous old man, etc (1986: 81).

In *Merriam Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature* (1995; 1105), theme is the dominant idea of a work of literature. In nonfiction prose it may be thought of as a general topic of discussion. In poetry, fiction, and drama it is the abstract concept that is made concrete through its representation in person, action, and image in the work.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

Dorothy Perkins said that Abe went on to write novels that portray the alienation of modern human beings and their loss of personal identity in urban, industrial society. Abe’s concern with these universal contemporary issues had led critics to characterize him as an existentialist writer. His style is often described as ‘absurd.’ Characters are trapped in what he portrays as the ‘labyrinth’ – the modern, impersonal city – with no escape and no higher meaning (1991: 1).

Kinya Tsuruta and Thomas E. Swann stated that Abe has written novels that explore problem of existence in narratives of almost mythic simplicity, most of them touching in one way or another in human alienation. Some of Abe’s themes which illustrate this general problem of alienation are: the individual search for the ‘roots of existence’ that will serve to ground his identity; the difficulty people have in communicating with one another; the dispatch between the mind and the external world, or between inner and outer reality (1976:1).

Still in the same book they mentioned that this is one of Abe’s ironies, used frequently in his fiction, in having his dehumanized characters make claims to the right of human beings on the grounds of their various
‘identification’ while they themselves are in search of their own irony (1976: 7).

Michaela Grey in www.themodernword.com/scriptorium/abe.html mentioned that in *The Box Man*, Abe explores the isolation of the individual by creating a psychological study of a ‘box man,’ one of the homeless who live their lives in cardboard boxes. The novel not only studies the internal conflict but also the external conflict of the box man has.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theories of Character

Abrams, in his book *A Glossary of Literature Terms* defined the character as

the person presented in dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expresses in what they say—their dialogue—and what they do—their action (1985: 20).

Abrams also stated that basically, based on the importance, the character can be divided into two categories. They are major character and minor character. A major character usually appears in the whole of the story. He becomes the focus of the story. The events that appear in the story always involve him directly or indirectly. On the other hand, minor character is often said as the supporting character. The roles are less important than the main characters because they are not fully developed characters and their roles in a story are just to support the development of the major character. The main character is the most important because it
can be the center of the story are focused to this character from the beginning until the end of the story (1985: 20-21).

In this study, the characters that will be discussed are the main character and several minor characters that support the main character. The characteristics of the characters will be the next thing to be analyzed. Therefore the theory of characterization is needed to find out the characteristic of the characters.

2. Theories of Characterization

The story may present human quality or real activity in human life through the characters. The process by which an author creates a character is called characterization.

Baldick suggest that characterization is the presentation of persons in narrative or dramatic works that may include direct way like the description or commentary and distribution of qualities. Indirect or dramatic way is also combines to invite readers to decide qualities from the fact of the characters' action, speech, or physical appearance so the readers are free to interpret their characterization (1991: 34). It means that each character has his personality and physical attributes.

According to Murphy (1972: 161-173), there are nine ways that an author tries to present the characters' personalities to the readers. Those ways are:
a. Personal description

Personal description is the way the author presents a character’s physical appearance. It includes the face, body, and clothes of the character. Personal description is important because it can give clues to the character.

b. Character as seen by another

Instead of describing a character directly, the author can describe the character through the eyes and opinion of another character.

c. Speech

The author describes the character by giving us insight into the character of the one person in the story through what he says. Whenever he is in conversation with another, and whenever he speaks and gives opinion, he gives the readers a clue to his character.

d. Past life

By permitting the readers learn something about a person’s past life, the author describes the character by giving a clue to past events that could help to shape a person’s character.

e. Conversation to others

The description of a character also known from the conversations of other people and the things they say about him.

f. Reactions

Reaction is the way the author describes the character through the character’s responds to various situations and events.
g. Direct comment

The author describes the character by giving a description or comment on one’s character directly.

h. Thought

Thought refers to what a person is thinking about.

i. Mannerism

The author can describe one’s mannerism, habits, or idiosyncrasies to tell something about the character.

Successful characterization is crucial to the development of narrative since the events that move the story forward are often strongly influenced by the natures of the person involved.

3. Theory on Plot

This theory is needed to analyze the plot of the story. As stated by Robert and Jacobs’ *Fiction: an Introduction to Reading and Writing*:

A plot is a plan or groundwork for a story, based in conflicting human motivations, with actions resulting from believable and realistic human response (1987: 9)

It means that a conflict is the basic part that needs to be created in order to establish a set of events in forming the story. A conflict will determine the next action or situation. It will be the determinant factor to create a major structure of the story.
Thus the plot of a story is the establishment of a conflict and the consequences, variations, and developments that stem from it (Robert and Jacobs, 1987: 9). Therefore plot is important in making the arrangement of the story. Plot is the idea that determines how the story will flow. Plot will relate one action to another in order to make a good organization of the story. In well-plotted story, everything is related. In the story, time is important not simply because one thing happens after another, but because one thing happens because of another.

Furthermore according to Stanton (1965: 16), there are two important elements of plot: conflict and climax. He divides conflict into two parts:

a. Internal conflict

Internal conflict is the conflict between two desires within a character. The conflict could happen because the opposing desires or values in the character’s own mind, and he has to choose the best one for him.

b. External conflict

External conflict is the conflict between a character and his environment. They are maybe the conflict of the characters against the condition. It happened because the characters have different opinion about life.

Stanton also said that a story may contain than one conflict of forces, but only the central conflict fully accounts for the events of the plot. Obviously, the central conflict of a story is intimately related to its theme, the two may even be identical (1965: 16)
Based on the plot construction, novels can be divided roughly into three categories (Murphy, 1972: 135 – 139). They are:

1. Novels with tight and well-defined plot (conventional plot)

   Novels have tight and well-defined plot when it has a definite plot. The plot begins with exposition, complication, crisis, climax, and denouement. It leads into a climax and neat conclusion. Conventional plot is also called plot in a normal sense because it leads to the climax and neat conclusion, for example, in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*. Other example is the plot in book of mystery and detective story.

2. Novels with loose and rambling plots

   The plot in the novel is not really well defined. Many of the early novels written in eighteenth century are of this type, especially those that are written around a central hero who wanders from place to place and has various adventures. For example, in Charles Dicken’s *Oliver Twist*, the plot of this story may even be a little difficult to follow because the narrative tends to jump from place to place and at times. Plot in a novel, then, is not everything. Dickens’ rambling stories is wonderful and it makes him a great writer.

3. Novels with no plot in the normal sense

   Many novels, especially modern ones, do not have a well-defined plot. It does not mean that their authors have not planned the novels. Most authors try to plan their novels. However, many do not think in terms
of a plot, tightly planned and leading to a climax and a satisfactory and neat conclusion. For example, Graham Greene's *The Heart of the Matter* cannot be said to have conventional plot, yet his book of another type, which he himself calls ‘entertainments’ because it is written with the main aim of entertaining the reader, has a tight and exciting plot.

Not all novels have conventional plot. Whether a novel has a clearly defined and well worked-out plot or not, often depends on the author's aim in writing the novel and to some extent on his method of writing. Plot is not all-important in a novel; it is just one aspect of a novel that we can consider. In this study, the writer also considers the plot as one intrinsic element that has an important contribution to reveal the theme.

### 4. Theory on Theme

This theory is very important to help the writer in stating the theme of *The Box Man* as the final result of the analysis.

Stanton states in *Introduction to Literature*,

A central meaning of this sort corresponds to what, in a story, we call the “theme” or “central idea’. Like the central meaning of our experience, the theme of a story is both particular and universal in its value; it lends force and unity to the events described, and it tells us something about life in general. A theme may take the form of a generalization that may or may not imply a moral judgment.” (1965: 5).

As stated by Stanton, theme is the important element of the story. Theme is the central idea or the main point that the author wants to share through
the story. It can be any idea about life. The main idea of the story can be gained from the contribution of the events that create the story. Events of the story can be seen through the mixture of character and plot, the theme can be found by analyzing those elements.

Holman and Harmon in *A Handbook to Literature* state that theme is a central or dominating idea in a work. As the central idea of the story, theme unifies the elements of the story and makes them coherent because theme can connect the elements to form a complete and unified story. The elements of the literary work support each other to form the theme (1986: 502).

5. **The Relationship Between the Character, Plot, and Theme**

To identify a theme in a story, we must start with a clear idea of the characters and the plot (Stanton, 1965: 21). It means that we have to describe the characters and the plot revealed in the story before stating the theme. In this study, the writer sees that the character and plot have a contribution in stating the theme. The character and plot have a close relationship. The actions and reactions of the characters influence the movement of the story. M. J. Murphy states,

What is meant by a ‘plot’ is a carefully thought-out plan in which all the events, all the actions and reactions of the characters, contribute towards the forward movement of the story (1972: 134).

It is clear that character and its action are inseparable. The plot shows the movement of the events in the story that are done by the
characters. The combination of characters and every action that is taken by the characters create a plot of a story. It can be said that plot is what happens to the characters. In discovering the themes, the readers should pay attention to the intrinsic elements of the story. By understanding those elements more deeply we can find the theme of the story.

C. Theoretical Framework

This study aims to find out the theme revealed in the story by analyzing the character and plot in Kobo Abe’s The Box Man. There are some theories related to this study that are used. They are the theory of character and characterization, the theory of plot, the theory of theme, and the relationship of those elements. They are used in order to help the writer in analyzing the problems that have been formulated in the previous chapter. To answer the first problem that is about the description of the character and plot, the definition about the character and characterization, and the theory of plot is needed. The theories are important to reveal what kind of character and plot that are presented in the novel. After finding a brief description of those elements, the writer will continue to answer the second problem that is about the theme conveyed from the contribution of those elements. In this concern, the writer uses the theory of the theme and the relationship between the plot, character and theme. This theory is used to get the theme of the story. All theories will definitely help the writer to analyze the study.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The novel that is analyzed in this study is *The Box Man* written by Kobo Abe. This novel originally is written in Japanese entitled *Hako Otoko* in the year of 1973. E. Dale Saunders translated this novel into English in the year of 1974. The writer read the novel that was published in Singapore by Tuttle Publisher in the year of 2000. It consists of 178 pages. At the first time *The Box Man* printed for 12,500 copies.

This novel is a narrative novel. It tells about a man who alienates himself in a cardboard box. He experiences a feeling of fear that drives him to be a box man. He chooses to be a box man even though the society cannot accept him. He has an internal conflict when considering being a box man. But the conflict still occurs to him when he becomes a box man.

Kobo Abe is one of the best-known modern Japanese novelists. Among his many notable works are *The Crime of Mr. S. Karuma*, winner of the prestigious Akutagawa Prize in 1951, *The Woman in the Dunes*, won the 1960 Yomiuri Prize for Literature.

B. Approach of the Study

In analyzing the works of literature, some critics have their own ways and approaches. They may be different from one to another even though they
may analyze the same work of literature. They may have different views in learning and understanding the literary works. This study will go deeper in analyzing the intrinsic elements of the text. It will focus on analyzing the theme that can be conveyed through the unity of the intrinsic elements of the novel that are plot, and character. Therefore, the appropriate approach that is used is New Criticism.

As stated by Guerin in *A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature*,

The New Critics sought precision and structural tightness in the literary work; they favored a style and tone that tended toward irony; they insisted on the presence within the work of everything necessary for its analysis; and they called for an end to a concern by critics and teachers of English with matters outside the work itself – the life of the author, the history of his times, or the social and economic implication of the literary work (1999: 81).

It means that the New Criticism puts away the extrinsic elements such as the psychological conditions of the author, the social historical background, etc. The critics focus solely on textual peculiarities. In other words, the study that uses New Criticism is only focusing on the analysis of a text, including the elements in the text or the intrinsic dimension.

Klarer in *An Introduction to Literary Studies* states that “a central term often used synonymously with New Criticism is close reading” (1999: 68). It means that the critic has to read and reread the work as many as possible until he feels that he has completely understood about the work. The critic has to master the work in details in order to make the precious analysis.
C. Method of the Study

The study analyzes one of Kobo Abe's literary works, *The Box Man*. After the writer found the book, the writer read it several times to get the understanding of the whole story. Deciding the topic was the most important step to be taken because it would determine the next step.

After deciding the topic, the study was implemented into some steps. The first step was doing library research to find some books, criticism, essays, and the theories, which were needed. The writer also searched the data from the Internet sites to find the reviews and criticisms in order to collect data as many as possible. Those data were useful in finishing the study. The data is divided into two categories; the first was primary data that were taken from the novel itself, *The Box Man*, and the second was secondary data that consisted of data on criticism, theory on plot, character, theme, and relationship between those elements, and the theory on approaches. The next step was formulating the problems, which were going to be analyzed in the study. When the problems had been stated, deciding the appropriate approach to be applied would be the next step. Then the study came to the important part that was the analysis. In this step, all problems stated above would be discussed one by one deeply. Finally, the study came to the last part, which was deriving a conclusion. The conclusion was taken from the previous chapter until the latest chapter. It was made by concluding all the explanation to show the relation between each part of the whole story.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

This chapter is going to answer the problem formulations that have been stated in the first chapter. Based on the two problems stated in the previous chapter, this chapter will be divided into two major parts. The first will analyze the first problem that is analyzing the plot and character of the story. The second part will analyze the second problem that is finding the contribution of the plot and the character to convey the theme of the story.

A. The Plot and Characters Revealed in the Story

1. The Plot

This novel has unconventional plot. It does not have a structure like in conventional plot. As stated by Murphy, not all novels have conventional plot. Whether a novel has a clearly defined and well worked-out plot or not, often depends on the author’s aim in writing the novel and to some extent on his method of writing. The novel seems like a diary. The main character writes anything that comes to his mind. When he writes his story, he gives subtitle. Each of the subtitle function to show the details events and character actions. In the novel, the narrating box man divides his story into cases, for instance, The Case of A, The Case of B, The Case of D, etc.

The opening of the story is a black-and-white negative. Later in the story, this negative will be used as unshakable evidence if the box man
is being killed. It continues with a piece of article about vagrants who were being arrested on the spot under the Law of Minor Offenses (infringement of the prohibition against loitering and vagrancy) and the Traffic Laws (acts prohibited on highways).

This novel is a note written by a box man who tells about his own experience on becoming a box man and about the life of other box man. In this study the writer calls him as the narrating box man.

This is the record of a box man.
I am beginning this account in a box. A cardboard box that reaches just to my hips when I put it on over my head.
That is to say, at this juncture the box man is me. A box man, in his box, is recording the chronicle of a box man (Abe, 2000: 3).

The notes begin with detail instructions for making a box. The first box man who is being written about is A. The box man calls it as ‘The Case of A’. At first, A is not a box man. He is deeply influenced by the presence of a box man who takes a residence below his window apartment. Even he tries to ignore that creature, he is very aware of his presence. He is angry and abhorrent. For the first time he experienced something similar to fear.
He waits; perhaps his neighbors will handle the matter. But, there is no sign that anybody is about to handle the matter. A complaints to the janitor of the apartment building, but in vain. He goes to the police office, and finally, A decides to take an action by himself. A shots at that foreign body that encroaches his territory illegally with an air rifle. He is confused in taking aim of the box man because he does not know his position in the
box. He thinks that he just want to teach him not to show his face around A's apartment again. Then he aims several inches below and to the left of the line connecting the lower left and the upper right angles of the window (Abe, 2000: 10). Actually he feels uncomfortable in doing that action.

The box man leaves the place. A starts to forget about the box man when he gets a new cardboard box from the new refrigerator he has bought. A begins to think about the box man. Then he crawls slowly into the box.

The place seemed very homelike. He wanted to stay like this forever, but in less than a minute he came to his senses and crawled out. Feeling a little uneasy, he decided to keep the box for a while. (Abe, 2000: 12)

A does it spontaneously. A feels comfortable in the box. But the feeling does not remain long because he remembers the box man who makes him abhorrent. He imagines if he becomes a box man. He is surprised at that thought then crawls out from the box.

The following day, he tries to put the box over his head again but not immediately he takes it off. He does not understand what happens. He kicks the box to the corner of the room but does not destroy it. His action shows that he faces an internal conflict whether he wants to be a box man or not to be a box man.

The next day A watches television with the box over his head. From the fifth day, he lives in the box as long as he is in his room, except for sleeping, urinating, eating, and defecating. A feels more natural and
homelike in his box. Finally, A is grateful to his bachelor life because there is nobody who bothers him when he enjoys his new life in a box.

At the sixth day, A feels calm and relaxed in his box. Then he creates his box. He colors it with various colors. He puts chamber pot, flashlight, thermos, picnic set, tape wire, hand mirror, seven posters colors, and various foodstuffs that can be eaten without preparation. The following day, A goes stealthily out into the streets with the box over his head and does not come back.

From his process of being a box man, the writer thinks that A has an internal conflict. He has two different desires. At one side he has a strong prejudice over a box man. A feels that a box man is a disturbance. It leads him to the action of shooting the box man who takes residence below his apartment window. The presence of a box man is abhorrent to him. But when he gets a cardboard box, he tries to stay in that box. He is surprised at his action because he thinks that a box man is a disgusting creature but now he tries to be a box man. He cannot destroy the box even though it reminds him of the disgusting box man. But when he slowly tries to stay in the box, he enjoys it. He is more confused. He hates the box man but now he wants to be a box man.

The notes continue. Now it is the story about the box man who is writing. He says that his box is sold to someone. Now he waits for the woman, who will pay fifty thousand yen for his box, to make a transaction. He waits for the woman under the bridge. He is suspended between belief
and disbelief because he does not understand her motive to pay out his box in a good price.

There's no reason to believe her, nor is there any to doubt her. There's no reason to doubt, nor is there to believe. (Abe, 2000: 16, 17)

That statement is repeated several times. These statements seem to show that he wants to ensure himself and to calm his heart down, because he is worried that she will not come to fulfill her promise.

His worry is greater when the times draw longer and she has not come. He thinks of another danger that might come to him. He prepares himself to meet the attack because he does not want to die. Realizing something worst could happen to him, he will throw the notes he writes. He hopes somebody will find and report it to the police to find the murder. He also attaches a black-and-white negative with cellophane tape to the upper right-hand corner of the inside cover. He thinks that it will be unshakable evidence. He describes the man in that negative which is the picture of the sniper.

It's the back view of a middle-aged man hurrying off, hiding his air rifle under his arm, the muzzle pointed downward along his body. When enlarged, I suppose you will be able to distinguish the various features even better. He is poorly dressed, but the cloth is strong and excellent quality. Yet the trousers are full of creases. His fingers are heavy and solid, but the tips are rounded and look as if they have never experienced work. And then the fancy shoes are most conspicuous. They are low shoes, like slippers, with the sides scooped out and the soles thin. He is in a profession in which he takes them off and puts them on more than the ordinary number of times (Abe, 2000: 22)
His attention to the sniper drives away with the coming of a girl riding on a bicycle. Suddenly, she says that there is a hospital at the top of the slope. He is attracted so much with her legs. They are so vivid that he has no memory of the color of dress she wears. Finally, he goes to the hospital because his wound becomes worse. He is surprised by the fact that the air-rifle man is the doctor and the girl on the bicycle is the nurse. He still loves her even though he knows that the girl is the air rifleman’s friend.

When the narrating box man gets treatment from the nurse with the box off, he experiences such a sense of release that it makes him forget that he shows his naked face. He feels that he loves the nurse. He is so attracted with her smile. It makes him think that he no longer needs return to the box (Abe, 2000: 27-28). She is the girl who promises to pay fifty thousand yen for his old box.

A box man can’t very well take off his box and simply return to the ordinary world. I secretly expected that my meeting with her would provide that opportunity (Abe, 2000: 41).

From his statement above, it is clear that he hopes that his meeting with the nurse will provide an opportunity to leave his box. Firstly, it is because the nurse will pay a good price for his old box. Secondly, he feels that he is in love with the nurse and wants to live together with her. Lastly, because the doctor gives him a chance to live with the girl no matter what kind of relationship they build.
The narrating box man put a piece of article. It talks about the discovery of forty-year-old vagrant who dead, leaning against a pillar in the underground passage of the West Exit to Shinjuku Station, Tokyo. There are thousands passengers but no one had taken any notice of him. Further, the man is scarcely ten yards from the police box, but the officer on duty says that he is not visible on the other side of the pillar.

He just adds that article in his notes. The writer thinks that it is because that article talks about a vagrant which has a similar way of life to him.

Then he writes about his dream of being fish. He compares a fish with a man. He tells how a fish can move freely in the water. As one is light oneself, one feels as if the world itself has become a buoyant. One is completely liberated from bodily afflictions caused by gravity-dropping belly, stiffness of shoulders and neck, etc. It makes one frolics around as if one were at least ten years younger (Abe, 2000: 32). Then the great waves tossed the fish high into the air. And the fish drowned in the atmosphere. The narrating box man has apparently dropped off any number of times and has some dreams. This dream is one of his dreams. He hopes he could be a fish who moves freely in the water. He wants to go around freely without having a prejudice from others. He realizes that he is rejected by the society. That is why he hopes that his environment will accept him. But it seems that the society cannot accept him. It is clear from the statement he makes that ‘he is still the box man he was’.
The story goes back to the story when he waits for the girl. The girl comes to fulfill her promise. She does not approach the place where the box man waits. She just put a letter with fifty thousand yen at the embankment. She writes that he has to tear it up and throw to the current (Abe, 2000: 37).

The narrating box man is still confused about her motives. He wonders why she pay his old box in a good price but after that she wants him to tear the box up and throw it to the current. Then he decides to return the fifty thousand yen, and get her to cancel the promise he has made to throw the box away. Again, he goes to the hospital. Actually, he also wants to make the doctor admit his action in shooting him. But he is surprised when he sees through a rear-view mirror, the girl stark naked in front of a man who wears a box exactly likes his.

He recalls his experience when the girl treats his wound. At that time they made an agreement about the buying of the box, she suggests a special bonus for him as a photographer. She will make poses while she stark naked and he will take her pictures. She is interested in his profession as a photographer; besides, the modeling is the work she likes best.

While peering at them, suddenly the ground at his feet surges up as if it has kneaded, and losing his balance, he sinks to one knee. There is a dog squeezing between his knees. It is difficult to chase it away quietly but finally he can chase the dog away. When he returns to peer at
her and that box man, the scene has changed completely. The girl already buttoned her uniform.

After the narrating box man sees that view, he feels that there is no need to leave the box. He ever wanted to leave his box because of the girl. But after he sees her naked in front of another box man his willing is lost (Abe, 2000: 57). He calls that box as a fake box man because he is a replica of himself; wearing a box exactly like his but it is not he.

He inserts the conversation between the girl and the fake box man. It seems that there is nothing important in their conversation but it makes him depress only because the girl is naked in front of a replica of him. He wants that girl because she has an attracting smile. But after he sees the girl naked in front of a box man who was not he, he shocks (Abe, 2000: 63).

Abe clearly makes his character faces a conflict that occur inside whether he wants to leave or stay in his box. He falls in love with the girl. He hopes that their meeting will provide him an opportunity to leave the box. It means that he has a desire to leave his box. But his jealousy to the fake box man makes him want to keep his life as a box man.

He goes away. Then he arrives at the place where he has made preparations before goes to the hospital. He loves the girl that he wants to show his best appearance in front of her. He washes his body and cleans
his underwear and shirt. But when he unexpectedly meets the box man at the hospital, he feels depressed. He feels thoroughly bored with the box and feels desperate with the situation that he wants to tear the notes up and throw them away (Abe, 2000: 64). His desire to leave his box is greater. His jealousy toward the fake doctor is also greater. He is desperate enough that he wants to end his note and throw it away. It means that he wants to cease his life as a box man.

But then he recalls his experience when he sees a broken and empty cardboard box. He is easily able to distinguish that it is the discarded skin of a box man. On the inside of the box, he sees a vividly etched, the traces of the life of the former occupant. He gives him the name B. Seeing B’s cardboard box; he looses his strength and feels cold, quivers. He has a feeling of witnessing the opening of the sarcophagus of B’s mummy. The presence of B is very important. The narrating box man is in the peak of his despair. When he suddenly remembers B, he feels that he does not want to look his own box death in that way. The box is left by the owner in a sorrowful way. He ignores his jealousy and continues his living in the box.

The notes of the narrating box man go back to his preparation before he goes to the hospital and when finally he goes there. He comes because he wants to come (Abe, 2000: 73). When he meets the nurse, he tells her who he really is. That he is a box man. But the fake box man also there.
The narrating box man and the fake box man debates about feeling of being a box man. The narrating box man feels that he knows the life of being a box man very well because he is quite long time become a box man and he knows that the fake box man is the air rifle man who shot him. The narrating box man knows that he becomes a box man because he is influenced by the presence of another box man.

While they are in the conversation, the nurse prepares the desk as if she does not want to cancel the examination. She does not want to involve in their conversation. Then the fake box man sways because he wants to stop that conversation. He orders the nurse to be naked in front of the narrating box man. Actually, the fake box man also wants to see her stark naked.

The narrating box man is confused. He realizes from the beginning that the girl is irreplaceable since she is the only person from the opposite sex that he has met. But now he sees her naked in front of a replica of himself. As she starts unbuttoning the buttons on her white uniform, he remembers the poses she is showed to the fake box man the night before. If she intends to catch him with that posture, the narrating box man thinks that he will need nothing like a box. His desire to leave the box appears again. But the narrating box man does not move when the fake box man tells him that he can take pictures of her naked body. He does not want to be ordered by the fake box man. The fake box man mocks him because he does not make any reaction toward her naked
body. Actually he really wants to touch her. He often imagines her naked body and hopes that it will become true. He tells the narrating box man the taste of the girl. But it does not work because he is afraid to go out of the box. This is the same conflict that occurs to him whether he wants to leave or stay in his box. His secret desire to see the naked body of the nurse is granted. He will not need his box again because the nurse is naked for him. But his fear of going out of the box forces him to stay in his box.

The fake box man turns his attention to the notes that is written by the narrating box man. The fake box man claims that it is not the narrating box man who writes. But the narrating box man insists that it is he who writes (Abe, 2000: 103-105). The narrating box man then tell them that he has unshakable evidence about the one who shot him because he takes his picture. He calls it as a professional reflex as a photographer (Abe, 2000: 107). Again, he describes the characteristic of the sniper. The characteristics are the same as what he describes before from his black-and-white negative. When he describes the characteristics of the sniper, the fake box man, who stands straight upright merely expressionless and harmless, begins to make an abrupt reaction, and begins to shake his box awkwardly, making an annoying sound (Abe, 2000: 107).

The vinyl curtain over the observation window separated, and from within a long stick was thrust out. It was an air rifle. Aimed straight at my left eye.
“Stop it!” I parried in a casual tone, half jokingly. “I seem to have a touch of phobia for extremities, a weakness in me. So pointing at me like that . . . “

“Won’t you show me the film?”

“I didn’t bring it along. It’s my only trump that will guarantee me an equal right to speak.” (Abe, 2000: 108)

From the conversation above, it is clear how the fake box man has a great fear over the narrating box man’s statement. He threatens him with an air rifle. He wants to have that black-and-white negative. The narrating box man does not want to give it because it is his trump. The fake box man urges the nurse to search him. Because the nurse is still naked, the narrating box man prefers to do it by himself. But then he takes a crocodile doll. Actually, the doll is a blackjack, the deadly weapon that has gained notoriety by being favored principally by the Mafia and the secret police. The narrating box man pretends to give it to the fake box man; he strikes below at the end of the gun barrel. The destructive power is unimaginable from the speed. The rifle barrel bits into the upper frame of the window, and the fake box man jumps. An angry groan comes from the fake box man, who has taken by surprise. The fake box man attacks the narrating box man. They fight. But the doctor squeezes himself up into a small ball and becomes perfectly passive like a wastebasket. The narrating box man is satisfied because he finds that the fake box man who are also the doctor feel guilty of having shot him. The narrating box man waits for the girl’s reaction after knowing that the doctor is the one who shot him.
The narrating box man inserts the affidavit of the fake doctor in his notes. The fake doctor's real name is C. His full name that he uses when he practices medicine and the one registered at the Bureau of Public Health is the name of the army surgeon who often shifts his job to C because he prefers to continue his experiment to produce sugar from wood. At that time sugar is something expensive. Nana, the doctor's legal wife, lives with C and become a nurse. But when he hires Toyama Yoko as a new apprentice nurse, Nana is not happy and suggests living apart.

C discharges his military duties as a medical corpsman, and practices on his own. His interest gradually growing and he absorbs the latest information in medical books and specialized reviews. The doctor's experiment to produce sugar from wood does not make any progress. The doctor becomes mad (Abe, 2000: 124). The doctor and C are investigated because of the excessive amount of drugs they use. C also feels that he is in danger. The clinic is closed. They move to the city. It is clear that their movement to the city is caused by a desire to run away from the danger that might come. They avoid the worst thing that could happen.

The doctor's mental grow worse. Nana suggests that the doctor should not appear in public events and decides that C should register himself as the doctor. The doctor seems to believe that along with his name, address, and license, he has handed C his personality and become nobody. Because of his experiment, the doctor is infected by a kind of bacteria from the goat intestines. He cannot identify his own sickness.
There is no doctor who knows about his disease and surely there is no exact medicine for him. When the doctor still has enough strength, he sometimes goes out to the town with a box over his head to hide himself from the public. When his healthy is worse, he stays at a morgue, in a little room, in the box. But he feels very much home in the box (Abe, 2000: 129). C kills the doctor using euthanasia injection.

The doctor leaves a note. The opening sentence of the notes is the same as the notes which is written by the narrating box man, that is,

"This is the record of a box man. I am at this time beginning to write this record in my box. I am in a cardboard box that fits over my head and covers me completely to the hips. "That is, at this point, the box man is my very self." (Abe, 2000: 117)

That sentence is italic from the original novel. From the quotation above it is clear that the doctor’s notes only tell about his life.

The narrating box man also includes the Case of D in his notes. This case is an autobiographical reflection of the narrating box man, the same way to drive to watch but not be seen. D is a boy who yearns to be strong. But he does not know how to increase his strength (Abe, 2000: 149). Then he has an idea to make a kind of periscope from plywood, cardboard and mirrors. At the first time he sees the vista of the street reflected in the mirror in which he looks, he is terror-stricken. He has an impression that the whole view approaches him directly in the eyes. And instinctively he ducks his head. It causes his periscope breaks. He repairs it with cellophane tape.
The second time he continues watching through his periscope, his tension began to slacken. When he realizes that there is no reason to fear that anyone might look back at him, his sense of guilty vanishes at once. The vista begins to change in front of his eyes. D is courageous peering at the street. He shifts from one place to another place. One day, he decides to try peering at the toilet at the next door. The one who lives at that place is a lady. She is an instructor in gymnastics at the Middle School. She always plays the piano.

There is a sound that get caught him when peer over his periscope. It orders the boy to enter the house from the front door. He enters because he is afraid that she might report it to his parents or teacher. Then he meets the lady. The lady asks him to be naked and the woman will see him from the keyhole. The lady wants him to experience the same feeling as she feels.

Both of them like to look at without being noticed. But they have different ways. The box man uses his observation window. The boy uses periscope. They secretly have desire to see a naked body of a woman but when it is granted, they are afraid to approach her. Both of them realize their ugliness that caused them do not have enough self confident. It is clear that The Case of D is the narrating box man autobiographical reflection. It seems that the narrating box man want to reassure himself to keep his live in his box. He thinks that there is a person who is similar to him.
D faces conflict when he should decide to continue his action in peering over using his periscope. He knows that it is forbidden to peer at someone. It means that D tries to look at one's privacy without being noticed by the person. Of course they think that his action is forbidden. They will not let him know their privacy. That is why the woman he peer at catch him and punish him.

The notes jump to the story of the narrating box man and the nurse. It is about their meeting after he has washed his body and dozed off when he waits for his clothes dry. But his clothes lost and now he is naked. The narrating box man asks her for a trouser. The nurse does not want to give him any clothes because she also wants to be naked. She wants him to take pictures as she has promised. But then quietly he extricates himself from the box and approaches her. He slowly reduces the space between them. He feels that he must maintain this closeness forever.

The narrating box man includes a story of a poor father and his soon. The father calls his son Chopin. Chopin is going to get married. Based on the custom, the bride must be met with a horse-drawn carriage at a wedding. The father takes place, as a horse because they are so poor that cannot hire a horse-drawn carriage. However, not to cause Chopin embarrassment, he hides himself in a cardboard box. Chopin will not give up the wedding only because he cannot pay the fee for the carriage.
The conflict starts when his son will get married and the father wants to follow the custom. It means that he should hire a carriage to meet the bride. But he cannot hire a carriage. He decides to take place as a horse to pull the baggage carriage. He puts a box over his head not to embarrass his son. Moreover, his motive of being a box man is to hide himself. It occurs because of his conservative view. He forces himself to follow the custom whereas in fact he cannot.

It takes a long time to reach the bride house because his father already old and does not have enough power to pull the carriage. After arriving at the side road of the bride house, Chopin crawls down from the carriage, which actually a baggage carts, he run shuffling to the side of the road and urinates. Seeing his attitude, his father comes in perplexed cry. At that time, his bride comes out from the house, and because the distance is so close, it is certain that she sees his penis. And the girl leaves him, enters the house and slams the door.

The father is very disappointed. He has walked for miles. He pulls the carriage with all his strength. He struggle for his son so that he can meet his bride without breaking the custom. That is why his son’s attitude disappoints him. He thinks that his effort is in vain. He suggests him to give the whole thing up. There is no need to struggle to reach her again because the father thinks that a man who gets mania for indecent exposure is not suited to marry.
They move to the city. They want to start a new life. They do something new to cure their disappointment. The father flatly refuses to take the box off. He thinks that he takes a part in causing all troubles or unfortunates that befalls to them. Chopin devotes himself to draw her from memory. But the portraits turn into a nude woman. The father asks him to paint the portraits in a smaller picture to increase their financial situation. His paintings become famous. Everyone knows his name. Their financial situation grows better. Ironically, there is nothing that Cophin can do toward the girl. The pictures are still the same but the real girl grows older. Their movement to the city has similar motives with the movement of the doctor, his wife, and the fake doctor to the city. They run away from the bitter situation that they experience.

Again, it comes back to the story about the narrating box man and the nurse. The narrating box man falls in love with her. They live together. And for about two months she is living naked. The narrating box man is also naked in his box. There is nobody else at home. They are naked together at home. So far, they live a happy life that he believes could go on living like that for any number of years (Abe, 2000: 172).

And then one day, she is dressed and looks at him in silence. It makes him feel that his nakedness seems terribly piteous. The writer thinks that he is surprised at the girl action. At first, he believes that he could go on living together with the girl in naked condition. But then suddenly the girl dressed up. He often takes his box off at home but the
girl action makes him return to his box. He returns to his box. She frowns and looks around, but pretending not to take any notice of him. She seems only trying to identify the source of the stench then withdraw to her room.

The notes closed with his struggle to find her. But he cannot find her. All he knows is just a siren of an approaching ambulance.

From the explanation above it is clear that the author's method of writing is similar to writing a diary. Diary means note that we write regularly. It does not have exact method. Usually we write anything we like, feel, and think. Simply, we write anything befall to us and come to our mind. The narrating box man also writes anything that befalls to him and comes to his mind. His notes consist of his experiences in being a box man, his dreams, his story about the people he has met, several articles of news about vagrants and pictures he takes. The fake box man disappears in the end of the story because the narrating box man does not have a conventional plot. So then the novel does not have a conventional plot structure. But in each of case the writer finds that there are conflicts that occur to the characters whether it is an external or internal conflict.

It is a novel with no plot in normal sense (Murphy. 1972: 135-139). The narrating box man who writes the notes tends to jump from an event or case to another and back again to the previous case. The writer sees that all those case talk about men who deliberately live in a box to hide themselves. They have different background and motivation. The narrating box man was a photographer who becomes a box man because
he does not want to attract his object’s attention. The fake box man was a fake doctor who becomes a box man because he is deeply influenced by the presence of a box man. He also wants to hide from the police because of his criminal actions. The father is a poor father who wants to follow the custom to meet the bride with a carriage but he does not have enough money to hire a carriage. He takes place as a horse but wearing a box over his head not to make his son embarrass. The plot of the story is a bit difficult to follow.

The writer finds one of the important elements of plot that is conflict, (Stanton. 1965: 16) in each case of the characters. The external conflict occurs between the box men and his society. A man chooses to be a box man while the society cannot accept him. It shows from the opinion of the common society toward the existence of a box man. The society standard value is house, job, and status. The box man is homeless and jobless. That is why a box man does not have any status in the society.

The box men in the story live in T-City. It is the anonymous city that exists for its nameless inhabitants where the doors are open for anyone (Abe, 2000: 14). Those box men are homeless and nameless, not have I.D. cards, or professions, set time and place for eating and sleeping (Abe, 2000: 18).

Here is a town for box men. Anonymity is the obligation of the inhabitants, and the right to live there is accorded only to persons who are no one. All those who are registered are sentenced by the very fact of being registered. (Abe, 2000: 130)
It is not enough only making the box. It needs a great courage to be a box man. It is clear that a box man is rejected by the society. A box man needs a great courage to face the society.

Just making the box is simple enough; at the outside it takes less than an hour. However, it requires considerable courage to put the box on, over your head, and get to be a box man. (Abe, 2000: 7)

The courage is needed to face the real life that faces by the box men. The box men are not being talked about because the box men are abhorrence. The box men are like a piece of rubbish People prefer to keep their mouth tightly shut about them. (Abe, 2000: 8).

From A’s first reactions of seeing a box man, it is clear that a box man is something which is abhor and unexpected one to be seen (Abe, 2000: 8).

Surprisingly enough, even beggars are part of the environs that belong to the townsfolk, and when you become a box man perhaps you’re below a beggar. (Abe, 2000: 18)

From the statement above, it can be said that the presence of a box man is refused by the society. A man becomes a beggar perhaps because of the condition that forces him but a man becomes a box man because of his own decision. He chooses to be a box man. He lives in a cardboard box. It means that he alienates or separates himself from his society. From the explanation above, it is clear that being a box man means reject to be apart of the society. The internal conflict occurs inside the characters.
2. The Characters

There are several characters appears in the story. They are the narrating box man, the fake box man who is also a fake doctor. At the beginning of the story, the narrating box man calls the fake doctor as A but his real name is C. The next characters are the nurse, the original doctor, the boy whose name is D, the lady who becomes his object of peering, the father, Chopin the son who is going to get married, Nana, the doctor’s legal wife and B whose box is found by the narrating box man.

The writer will discuss the main character and several minor characters in the story that support the main character. The writer uses the theory of character to determine the major and minor character. After that the writer uses the theory of characterization to find out the characteristics of the characters. According to Murphy (1972: 161-173), there are nine ways that an author tries to present the characters personalities.

1. The narrating box man
   
   a. Personal description

   Abe describes his narrating box man as a man of his late twenties or early thirties (Abe, 2000: 84). A describes him as a tall man (Abe, 2000: 11).

   The narrating box man has a vagrant’s lifestyle. He takes what he needs from the road (Abe, 2000: 15) including the food (Abe, 2000: 83, 171).

   b. Thought
The narrating box man is very difficult to trust on someone. He is questioning the nurse's reason of paying his old box in a good price but then he should tear it up (Abe, 2000: 37-38). He is suspicious about her motivation. It makes him difficult to trust her (Abe, 2000: 39). On the other hand, he doubts that anyone trusts him (Abe, 2000: 21).

He is a pessimist person. It clearly shows from his thought that the nurse will not come to fulfil her promise. He judges the nurse in his mind. His pessimistic also shows by his thought that people will laugh at his foolishness of waiting the girl all through the day but perhaps useless. He thinks that he is a dull person who spends half of the day waiting for her.

He thinks that he is so offensive because he does not want to tear up and throw the box after he gets fifty thousand yen. Therefore, the nurse asks him to do it.

He feels intense pressure to leave his box. There are many things that caused him to leave his box, his interest to the girl (Abe, 2000: 28), his jealousy toward the box man (Abe, 2000: 56), his desire to make love with the girl (Abe, 2000: 160), and the sale of his old box in a good price.

The narrating box man quite aware of his own ugliness and he is not shame to expose himself naked in front of the girl (Abe, 2000: 86).
c. Past life

He was a photographer who leaves his job when he reaches a good reputation (Abe, 2000: 24). After become a box man, he still brings his camera everywhere. As a photographer he likes to look at than being look at. The narrating box man thinks that hiding himself in a box is an effective means of getting closer to his subjects without being seen directly by the subjects (Abe, 2000: 28). He enjoys his life as a box man because he can spy in any kind of place everywhere without being look at. He also enjoys being a voyeur (Abe, 2000: 45). He prefers to be invisible.

‘One never wearies of looking at such a view as long as one is peering out from a box.’ (Abe, 2000: 42)

The narrating box man thinks that he should not be afraid that someone will look back at him. It is because he does not want to be seen. He will be free in seeing anything without being seen by others.

d. Mannerism

The narrating box man is a smoker. It proves by the evidence that he finds five cigarette stubs (Abe, 2000: 11) at the place he took residence below A’s apartment. He brings tobacco everywhere (Abe, 2000: 19) and also from the statement he makes when he waits for the woman, ‘But I just put another cigarette to my lips’ (Abe, 2000: 26). He lit the cigarette and chain-smoke. He
relishes his cigarette. He smokes to overcome his worry when he waits for the nurse who will buy his box.

The narrating box man seems to try to be well educated. He reads many newspapers everyday. He listens to the news from radio and televisions from different channel at the same time. He also reads journals and keeps those journals in his box (Abe, 2000: 74).

The narrating box man dutifully records everything that befalls to him, including his own experience and also the death of the original doctor which he has knew from the affidavit makes by the fake box man.

The box man naturally sees the lower half of those going by. His eyes become trained to see legs and only legs, for example when he sees the nurse. He only remembers her legs and forgets the color of the dress she wears. This manner makes his awareness of other people is often limited to an analysis of their legs and footwear (Abe, 2000: 77).

e. Reaction

He always writes anything. He will use his writing as evidence if somebody kills him, so then the killer can be found and gets punishment (Abe, 2000: 20-21). He also prepares himself to meet an unexpected attack (Abe, 2000: 22). His actions show clearly that he is afraid to die.
When he waits for the nurse, he shows his impatient side.
He hopes that she will come sooner and fulfill her promise.

f. Character as seen by another

'Fortunately the box man seems to have uncommon affection' (Abe, 2000: 39).
The quotation above is the nurse's statement. The nurse realizes
that the narrating box man gives a special attention to her. It is
because the narrating box man loves her (Abe, 2000: 168). He is
jealous with the fake box man because the nurse stark naked in
front of him, a replica of himself (Abe, 2000: 47). He is also
jealous when the girl drinks the beer from the same glass as the
fake box man (Abe, 2000: 53). When the girls smiles to the fake
box man, he is also jealous (Abe, 2000: 84). His jealousy also
shows clearly when he sees the naked body of the girl at the first
time. He is jealous because the fake box man has seen it many
times (Abe, 2000: 95). But he is unable to hate the girl (Abe,
2000: 18, 48).

2. The fake doctor/ the fake box man

The fake doctor is the second character who has big role
toward the main character, the narrating box man.

a. Personal description

The narrating box man describes him as a middle-aged man
who is poorly dressed that his trousers are full of creases. But he
has a good taste in clothes because his are strong and have
excellent quality. His fingers are heavy and solid, but the tips are rounded and look as if they have never experienced work (Abe, 2000: 21-22).

b. Mannerism

The fake doctor is a smoker. He always smoke when he faces a difficult situation (Abe, 2000: 9). The narrating box man realizes him as the air-rifle man who shot him (Abe, 2000: 26).

c. Past life

He was an amateur photographer. He ever wants to take pictures of his patient who is dead (Abe, 2000: 80). Like the narrating box man, he also wants to take pictures without being look back by the object (Abe, 2000: 83). The narrating box man calls him as a fake box man because he is his mirror image (Abe, 2000: 55).

d. Conversation to others

When the fake box man is in a conversation with the narrating box man, he admits that he is a killer. He kills the doctor with a fatal injection, euthanasia (Abe, 2000: 138). He is also a liar. He uses the doctor's identity and does his practice on medicine. He is a medical corpsman during the war (Abe, 2000: 112). Together with the original doctor, he is investigated by the police because of the excessive use of drugs (Abe, 2000: 124).
c. Thought

The fake box man also understands the importance of the written words. He painstakingly composes an affidavit when the narrating box man asks him to make it. It explains about himself and the death of the original doctor.

3. The nurse

The nurse is the next character who has strong influence toward the main character. Her presence makes the narrating box man faces the internal conflict whether he wants to leave or stay in his box.

a. Personal description

She has white fingertips (Abe, 2000: 26) and soft light hair (Abe, 2000: 52).

The nurse has an attracting smile. Her smile makes him lost his power in front of her. He describes her smile as,

... a smile hewn of solidified air, so transitory and yet so defenseless, as if colored with a brush of light (Abe, 2000: 27).

The narrating box man gives many descriptions on her legs. Her legs are part of her body that he likes much. One of his descriptions is mentioned below,

They were slender, but not too slender- light legs with a well-proportioned curve. The backs of her knees were glossy and beautiful like the inside of shell (Abe, 2000: 26).
b. Past life

Based on her story, she first came to the hospital to have an abortion. Then she becomes an apprentice nurse in that hospital to pay the treatment cost (Abe, 2000: 46).

"Along time ago I used to do modeling."
"Seriously . . . "(Abe, 2000: 29)

From the conversation above, between the narrating box man and the nurse, it is clear that the girl was a model. And it was apparently the work she liked best (Abe, 2000: 46). She had been a poor art student and made a living by posing for those who belonged to private art schools or amateur art clubs (Abe, 2000: 46). After become a nurse, she spends her spare time in painting. She tells the narrating box man that the excitement of exposing her naked body as a model is the spice of life. It inspires her in the will to create. She has a lot of painting of a nude woman.

c. Mannerism

She is a smoker. It shows from the statement makes by the narrating box man, 'about a third of the cigarette was consumed' (Abe, 2000: 46). The writer thinks that smoke is her escaping. She only smokes when she faces a difficult situation and she does not know what to do.

d. Reaction

She is friendly. She gives her smile whenever she faces the patient. No matter whom her patient is.
4. The Doctor

Since the story about the doctor is told by the fake doctor, the writer can only analyze from what the doctor tells. His character can also analyze from the notes he left.

a. Character seen by another

The doctor is a surgeon doctor for the army (Abe, 2000: 112). He is a brilliant doctor. He is doing an experiment to produce sugar from wood (Abe, 2000: 121).

He gets a strange sickness. And it is getting worse from time to time. He is in despair. He becomes weary of life and an inclination to suicide became obviously pronounced (Abe, 2000: 124). Even though it seems that he is a person who easily gives up toward a difficult situation, in fact he is not. He still tries to overcome that situation. His wife does not permit him to show in the public but he often goes to the town with the box over his head. He uses the box a facilitator to overcome his weary and ashamed of his condition.

b. Thought

He feels lonely that he needs somebody to accompany him and becomes his friend (Abe, 2000: 134). But no one wants to do that, even his wife. It makes him personally chooses death. He is not afraid to die because he understands that he will not live any longer (Abe, 2000: 133).
5. The boy

This story is told by the narrating box man so the writer can only analyze from what he describes.

a. Personal description

D is a boy who yearns to be strong. It means that he is weak. It makes him into a person who does not want to be look at because he is aware of his own weakness.

b. Reaction

He does not have enough courage. It clearly shows from his action to run from the woman who catches him. He also pretends to cry when the woman gives him a punishment.

6. The father

The story of the father is told by the narrating box man. The writer analyzes his characteristics from what he writes.

a. Personal description

His son tells the readers that his father is over sixty.

b. Reaction

He is a conservative person. He wholeheartedly refuses to break the custom handed down from ancient times. He acts as the horse for the carriage to meet the bride but he puts a box over his head because he does not want to embarrass his son. After the married fails, he still keeps the box because he is ashamed.
B. Theme

This section is trying to state a theme from the brief description of the plot and characters. As Stanton states that we must start with a clear idea of the character and the plot to identify the theme of the story (1965: 21). It means that we have to describe the characters and the plot revealed in the story before stating the theme of the story.

Murphy (1972, 135-139) stated that novel can be divided into three categories based on the plot construction; they are novels with tight and well-defined plot (conventional plot), novels with rambling plots, and novels with no plot in the normal sense.

*The Box Man* is a novel that includes in the third category that is novel with no plot in the normal sense. It does not lead to a climax and satisfactory and neat conclusion. But it does not mean that the story is unplanned. The relation build by the characters presented in the story is very close. The characters presented in the notes of the narrating box man have similarities in their characteristics. They tend to hide or run away from a difficult situation they should face.

The narrating box man is the main character of the story. He hides himself in a box to take pictures without attracting the objects. He was a photographer who prefers to look than being look at. He is a pessimist and difficult to trust on someone. He tries to be well educated by reading newspapers and listening to the news everyday. He is aware of the important
of writing to prolong his existence. He is aware of his own ugliness. He wants to see the nurse naked in front of him. He wants to make a love with her. When, finally, he sees the nurse naked, he reduces the distance between them slowly from behind. It is because he does not want to be look at directly. He often thinks to leave his box. It starts by the nurse who will pay his old cardboard box in a good price. His desire to make love with the nurse also makes him ever think to leave the box and come to the normal life. But it is not a simple matter to go back to the normal life and live together with the nurse.

The fake box man hides himself in a cardboard box because he is afraid that the police might catch him because they are investigating him. It is also because he hides his real identity because he is not the real doctor. He was also the killer of the doctor. So then he hides himself because he afraid that somebody will recognize him. His past as a photographer who often look at than being look at influence him to be a person who likes to look at. He is aware of the importance of written words. He makes an affidavit. He does it for the narrating box man. He also likes to see the nurse naked in front of him.

The original doctor hides himself in a cardboard box because he has no identity anymore. He already gives his identity to the fake doctor. It is also because he is shame of his disease. He is a person who is not easily to give up when he faces a difficult situation.

The boy looks at the outside of the world from the periscope. He prefers to look at and afraid if there is somebody who will look back at him.
When he finally experience of being look at, it is because he is caught by the woman who he looks at. He feels shame to stark naked in front of her. But he does it more because he is afraid that the woman might report him to his parents or school. He is a weak person who does not have enough courage in facing a difficult situation.

The father is a conservative person. He hides himself because he does not want to embarrass his son because he will meet his bride. But after the marriage broke, he still keeps his box because he is ashamed of the attitude of his son and also because he is ashamed of himself. He is the one who caused his son's marriage fail because he can not hire a carriage.

Contrary to those characters, the nurse presented as a model that made living by posing for those who belongs to private art schools or amateur art clubs. It means that she prefers being look at.

The author describes the characteristics of the characters through the characterization of the character. Not all the ways of characterization are applied in analyze the characteristics of the characters. In major character there are more ways that the author apply to characterize his character. The minor characters characterize in fewer ways of characterization. The less important character characterize in fewer ways. If a character characterize in many ways, it means that the character has a big role in the story because to find the characteristic of a character there many ways that the author uses. It means that the author presence this character in the whole story.
The narrating box man experiences shame when he should be naked in front of the nurse. The fake box man experiences something similar to fear of being caught by the police and shame because he is a fake doctor. The boy experiences a feeling of fear and shame of being seen. The father also experiences a feeling of shame.

A theme unifies the elements of the story (Holman and Harmon, 1986, 502). It can be gain from the contribution of the events that create the story. Events in the story can be seen through the mixture of characters and plot, ad the theme can be found by analyzing those elements. The starting point of the story is when each of the character tries to hide or run away from the reality they do not want to face. Some of the characters move to the city to forget their past life. They tend to run away from the real life that they have to face. The characters hide themselves in a box. This box is a means to run away from the feelings or situations that they do not want to face. When they are in danger or experience a feeling of shame, fear and despair, they feel that they are in trouble or difficult situation. Those conditions or feelings are part of real life but they do not want to face it. They prefer to avoid those conditions by moving into the city or hiding in a box. Everything is determined by one cause that is, their will to hide or run away from the real situation they should face. It becomes the starting point of the next actions that lead them to be box men. The plot does not lead to the climax and neat conclusion because it supports the characters who tend to reject to be apart of the society. It is strengthened by the characters that prefer to be invisible, pessimist, weak and does not have
enough courage. Stanton said that theme is the central idea of the story and it leads to the unity of the events described (1965. 5). The theme that can be stated from the whole analysis is 'some people tend to run away from a difficult situation'.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Chapter IV has been made to answer the problems formulated in the chapter I. As it is stated in the objective of the study the analysis is to find out how the plot and the characters are revealed in the story and how the plot and the characters convey the theme of the story. Therefore, in the last chapter, there are several points that need to be concluded.

The story does not have plot in the normal sense. The plot does not lead into a climax and neat conclusion. The starting point that leads into the next actions is the desire of those men to hide or run away from the real situation that they should face. This desire becomes the factor that leads the characters to be box men. They prefer to be invisible and enjoy being a voyeur. Their fancy to be a voyeur leads them to the conflict inside themselves whether they want to stay live in a box or leave the box and return to the normal life. The strong conflict also occurs between the box men and his society. Being a box man means reject to be apart of the society.

There are several characters have been analyzed; they are the narrating box man, the fake box man or A, the nurse, the original doctor, the father, and the boy. The narrating box man is the main character of the story. He is the narrator who tells the other characters’ story. The dominant characteristic of the narrating box man is that he is pessimist, difficult to trust on someone, prefers to be invisible and enjoys becoming a voyeur. He feels intense pressure to leave his box because
of his characteristics. The next character is the fake box man. He also prefers to be invisible to hide his real identity. He also enjoys seeing the nurse naked body. The father prefers to be invisible because he wants to run away from the real situation and his shame by moving to the city and becomes a box man. The doctor prefers to be invisible after he becomes nobody. He hides himself in a box. He is willing to die. The nurse runs away from her own identity as a poor art student, become, an apprentice nurse. She enjoys making poses when she is naked because she can afford some money to live and influences her will to create in her painting. D is a boy who yearns to be strong. He enjoys peering at the street with his own periscope. He is weak and does not have enough courage.

The actions of the characters can be found in the plot. They unify the story to show the theme of the story. The plot is used to perform the arrangement of the events. As it is found in the plot, the characters try to hide or run away from the real life. It becomes an important starting point that determines the next actions. The theme as the central idea of The Box Man that can be stated is 'some people tend to run away from a difficult situation'.
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APPENDIX

The Summary of Kobo Abe’s The Box Man

The story begins with the instruction of making the box. But just making the box is not enough. It needs a great courage to put the box over the head and be a box man. There are many reasons and motivations for someone to be a box man. The narrating box man writes about some people experiences, including his own, in being a box man. The first that he writes is A. A is a man who becomes a box man because he deeply influenced by the presence of a box man. That box man takes residence below his apartment. The narrating box man becomes a box man because he wants to take pictures without attracting attention of his subject. He prefers to be invisible. He is shot by A when he takes residence below A’s apartment. He still thinks about A. Suddenly, there is a sound of a girl. She tells him that there is a hospital at the top of the slope. He is attracted so much with her legs and even forgets about the color of the dress she wears. His wound is worse. It forces him to go to the hospital. The doctor is in fact the man who has shot him. He is also surprised by the fact that the girl is the nurse. He is more surprised with the fact that the doctor wears a box exactly like his box.

The narrating box man is attracted so much with the nurse’s legs and smiles. He agrees when she wants to pay his box fifty thousand yen. Actually, the one who wants that box is the doctor. The doctor wants him to cease his life of being a box man. He often feels that he wants to leave his box. His love for the girl makes him thinking to go out from his box and back to the normal life. He
wants to live together with her. But this desire is lost when he sees the girl stark naked in front of the doctor who is a replica of himself. He is jealous because he admits that he has saw her naked body for several times while he only once. But the narrating box man still loves that girl.

His notes continue with the story of the original doctor who has killed by A using euthanasia injection. The original doctor is infected by a kind of bacteria from goat intestines when he does his experiment to produce sugar from wood. He becomes a box man because he is ashamed of his sickness. But he feels comfort in his box. He feels that he becomes nobody after he gives his name, personality, and license to A. He does it because of his wife’s order. He is weary of his life. He personally chooses death. He knows he will not live any longer. But in his despair, he hopes that he can see the apprentice nurse’s naked body. He thinks that it will prolong his life because he does not want to die anymore. The apprentice nurse is the same nurse who is loved by the narrating box man.

A becomes a box man because he deeply influence by the presence of a box man. Beside that, he becomes a box man to hide himself. He is afraid that the police will catch him because of his criminal action. He moves to the city together with the original doctor and his wife. At the city, he meets the girl who first comes to have an abortion. The fake doctor asks her to be an apprentice nurse to pay her treatment cost.

The narrating box man’s notes move to the story of a father and his son. His son will get married. The father becomes a box man when he takes place as a horse of the carriage because he is unable to hire a carriage to meet the bride. He
hides in a box because he does not want to embarrass his son. Their marriage breaks but the father does not take the box off.

The narrating box man adds a story of a boy. The name of the boy is D. D wants to increase his strength but he does not know how. Then he makes a periscope. He can see any kind of view with his periscope. At first, he is afraid that someone looks back at him. But he is not afraid after realizing that nobody will looks back at him. He is not weary seeing any view as long as he sees it from his periscope. He plans to peer over at the lady who lives next to the door. He wants to see her when she is at her toilet. But she catches him.

The notes continue with his story when he lives together with the girl for about two months, naked. The girl leaves him. He feels that his nakedness is sad because the girl gets dressed again. It ends with the search of the girl but the box man cannot find her.