THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHASING THE WHITE WHALE
TO MAJOR CHARACTERS IN HERMAN MELVILLE'S
MOBY DICK

A THESIS
Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra
in English Letters

By
DOROTHEA MAYA SAVITRI
Student Number : 954214056
Student Registration Number : 950051120106130051

ENGLISH LETTERS PROGRAMME
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2002
A THESIS
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHASING THE WHITE WHALE TO MAJOR CHARACTERS IN HERMAN MELVILLE'S 
MOBY DICK

By
DOROTHEA MAYA SAVITRI

Student Number : 954214056
Student Registration Number : 95005112016130051

Approved by

Drs. Fx. Siswadi, M.A
Sponsor

Date: 9 March 2002

Ni Luh Putu Rosiandani, S.S
Co. Sponsor
A THESIS

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHASING THE WHITE WHALE TO MAJOR CHARACTERS IN HERMAN MELVILLE'S

MOBY DICK

Presented by
Dorothea Maya Savitri
Student Number: 954214856
Student Registration Number: 95005112016130051

Wa defended in front of the Board of Examiners
on March 21st 2002
and declared acceptable

Board of Examiners

Chairman : Dr. Fr. Alip, M.Pd., M.A.
Secretary : Drs. Fx. Siswadi, M.A.
Member : Dra. Th. Enny Anggraini, M.A
Member : Drs. Fx. Siswadi, M.A.
Member : Dra. A.B. Sri Mulyani, M.A

Yogyakarta, 8 April 2002

Faculty of Letters
Sanata Dharma University
Dean,

B. Alip, M.Pd., M.A.
I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn’t have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why does’s God help me?" I wondered
He answered, “you didn’t ask.”

Dedicated to:
my lovely father and mother
my brothers Mas Agung, Mas Endra, Mas Iwan
and my cupid Yoanes Bandung
ABSTRACT

DOROTHEA MAYA SAVITRI (2002) The Significance of Chasing the White Whale to Major Characters in Herman Melville's Moby Dick, Department of English, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta

This study discusses the significance of chasing the white whale to the major characters, Ishmael and Captain Ahab. Novel of the white whale or well known as moby dick was written by Herman Melville in 1920. In this novel, Melville presents many characters who are willing to chase the white whale. Here, the writer wants to analyze two major characters.

The objective of the study is to answer the three questions which are formulated in the problem formulation. The writer tries to find the characteristics and the motivations of the major characters in Moby Dick. Then, the writer tries to find the significance of chasing the white whale to the major characters.

In this study, the writer used library research method. The writer applied the psychological approaches to answer of the problem formulation. The psychological approach was used to help the writer to explore the motivations of Ishmael and Captain Ahab and the significance of chasing the white whale to them. To strengthen the answers of the problem formulations, the writer used some theories, such as the theory on character and theory on plot.

The study shows that Ishmael is a boy who chases the white whale to neglect his boredom and depression on the land. Finally, Ishmael finds the valuable thing since sailing in the sea such as; he believes the greatness of God and appreciates the value of friendship. Meanwhile, Captain Ahab is an ambitious man. His ambition is to kill the wild white whale. The motivation of Captain Ahab is to make a vengeance toward the white whale because it has lost one of his legs. Besides fulfilling his revenge, Captain Ahab wants to be considered as a hero for his bravery to fight the wild white whale.
ABSTRAK


Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menjawab tiga pertanyaan yang ada dalam perumusan masalah. Penulis mencoba untuk mengetahui sifat kedua karakter utama dan menemukan motivasi mereka dalam mengejar paus putih. Dari analisa tersebut, penulis akan dapat mengungkapkan arti penting pengejaran ikan paus bagi kedua tokoh utama.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank God for His blessing and His love. He always hears my prayer. I also thank Mother Mary who always sends my prayer to Her Son.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my sponsor Drs. Fx. Siswadi, M.A and my co. sponsor Ni Luh Putu Rosiantani, S.S who spends her time to read, re-read, correct, and give many important clues, notes, and guidance during my writing process. I am so sorry to take her time because I sometimes disturb her rest time by calling her at night.

I would like to thank my beloved parents for their prayer, support and facilities so that I can accomplish my tiring thesis, and all my brothers Mas Agung, Mas Endra, Mas Iwan and new sisters Mba Tyas and Mba Yosi for their cares and loves. Thanks for everything.

It is also impossible to accomplish my thesis without the assistance of others. They are my brothers in Alamanda boarding house: Gargan, Mas Anggi and Mas Pran to let me use their computer and printer. Thanks so much.

I will never forget all my best friends Nineng, Yune, Yuyut, Marina, Lulu, Imot, Emmy, Yoga and Q'mpling. I really like to share with them about many things. To Yosef and Moko, thanks for lending me some important books. I also thanks the administrative staff Bu Ninik and Mba’ Niek who have been helpful me during accomplish my thesis. To Mas Jono, a library staff, thanks for the free charge.
Finally, I would like to thank my dearest friend Yoanes Bandung who always reminds me to be tough when I get stuck. His love and care makes me strong.

DOROTHEA MAYA SAVITRI
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE OF TITLE ........................................................................................................... i
PAGE OF APPROVAL .................................................................................................. ii
PAGE OF ACCEPTANCE .............................................................................................. iii
ABSTRACT ..................................................................................................................... iv
ABSTRAK ...................................................................................................................... v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ................................................................................................. vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS .................................................................................................. vii
CHAPTER I ................................................................................................................... 1
INTRODUCTION ............................................................................................................ 1
    A. Background of the Study ...................................................................................... 1
    B. Problem Formulation .......................................................................................... 5
    C. Objectives of the Study ....................................................................................... 5
    D. Benefits of the Study ......................................................................................... 5
    E. Definition of Terms ............................................................................................ 6
CHAPTER II ............................................................................................................... 9
THEORETICAL REVIEW .............................................................................................. 9
    A. Review on Related to the Study ......................................................................... 9
    B. Review on Related Theories .............................................................................. 11
        B.1 Character and Characterization ................................................................ 11
        B.2 Theory on Plot ............................................................................................ 15
        B.3 Theory on Motivation ................................................................................ 16
    C. Theoretical Framework ..................................................................................... 20
CHAPTER III ............................................................................................................ 21
METHODOLOGY ........................................................................................................ 21
    A. Object of the Study ............................................................................................ 21
    B. Method of the Study .......................................................................................... 21
    C. The Approach .................................................................................................. 22
CHAPTER IV................................................................. 24
ANALYSIS........................................................................ 24
  A. The Characteristics of Major Characters..................... 24
    A.1. The Characteristics of Ishmael......................... 24
    A.2. The Characteristics of Captain Ahab............... 29
  B. Motivation of Major Characters in Chasing the White
    Whale............................................................... 34
    B.1. Ahab’s motivation to chase the White Whale...... 35
    B.2. Ishmael’s motivation to chase the White Whale... 40
  C. Significance of Chasing the White Whale to the Major
    Characters............................................................. 44

CHAPTER V................................................................. 51
CONCLUSION.................................................................. 51
BIBLIOGRAPHY............................................................. 53
APPENDICES.................................................................. 55

Appendix 1. Summary of the story
Appendix 2. Biography of the author
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

White whales are the largest living animals on the sea. White whales, most people call them moby dick, actually live in the sea. (Geismar, 1960:23). They are hunted because of the valuable oil they give. This oil is mostly used for oil lamps. Until in the middle of the 19th century, oil of whales is very important for a lot of people, especially the people who live along the coast. Whale oil, in the years before petroleum is discovered has become one of the world’s basic commodities. Besides to light the lamp, the oil of whales or sperm oil is used in soap making industry, manufacture of margarine and chemical industry (Bradley, 1987:683). Because of oil production of moby dick or the white whale is better than other whales, people prefers to choose the white whale. At that time, moby dick or the white whale was very popular. People tried to get the white whale in order to get oil from it.

The greatness of moby dick inspires Melville to create a story about the white whale. Herman Melville is an American author and a poet. He was famous for his profound symbolic novel Moby Dick. Chase as written in Re-appraisal, says:

Melville gives whaling an emblematic significance, as American, and democratic, and primitive. Whaling is an American preserve; whaling ships are the most democratic of ships; their crews the most international; their condition of work the most crude. It is significant that the experience of whaling cures a hyper-civilised (1963:92)
Hetterington adds Chase's criticism:

Language in the hands of his master becomes like a magician's wand evoking at will "thick coming fancies" and peopling the chamber of imagery" with hideous shapes of terror of winning forms of beauty and loveliness (1960:11)

According to Bradley (1974:461), Moby Dick is the first American literature of whaling. Melville gives information about the whales, the whale men, whale ship, and about the craft of finding, hunting and killing the whales. This book was once praised for being, so to speak, a charming description of whaling voyage.

During his life, Melville wrote novels and many of them dealt with his experiences. Young Melville spent many of his time sailing around the sea and make some notes for stories. Many of his works describe about the sea. His love in whaling voyage make him assume that whaling ship was his Yale College and his Harvard (Gehlmann, 1958:550). It means that whaling ship was the place where Melville learns about many things such as life, love and friendship.

Melville creates his fictions that are related to sea. Typee is the first novel of Melville. It was written when he deserted the ship and escaped to a strange island. There he found himself among Typee, a tribe of cannibals. Omoo is the title of his second novel that is the continuation of Typee. White Jacket is written to reform the naval abuses. It was written when Melville was a sailor in the American Navy. Redburn was written when Melville worked as a merchant sailor on the ship of St Lawrence. Then, Moby Dick is the first literary novel of whaling. It is the story of hunting for the great white whale. The last book is Billy
Budd, a story tells the author's earliest adventures at the sea but it was not published until long after his death. Indeed, almost all of his significant novels reflect his experiences.

Moby Dick is included in one of the best novel in the world. Fadiman in his criticism on Moby Dick states:

"...Moby Dick is one of the great books of the world.... It is conceived, from first to last, on a vast scale...it will remain, I think, America's unarguable contribution to world literature..." (1960:1)

In Discussion of Moby Dick, Kazim adds' Fadiman criticism:

Moby Dick is not only a very big book; it is also a peculiarly full of rich one, and from the very opening it conveys a sense of abundance, of high creative power, that exhilarates and enlarges the imagination (1960:52)

The criticism above shows that the presence of Moby Dick is not only considered as the best novel in American literature, but also one of the American's great gifts to literary world.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Moby Dick is the great book. One of the reasons that makes the writer interested to analyze the novel is the characters's motivation to get something. The writer is interested in studying the major characters of Moby Dick because each of them has their own motivation in chasing the white whale.

This study discusses the major characters represented by Ishmael and Captain Ahab. Here, Ishmael is the major character as well as the narrator of the story. It is shown in chapter one when a major character introduced himself as Ishmael, "Call me Ishmael" (Moby Dick, 1972:15). These two major characters have great intention in chasing the white whale. Ishmael is a simple sailor who
wants to see a new world. He feels that he is always bored and depressed on the land. Ishmael considers that going to sea and chasing the white whale is the best way to ignore his boredom. Ishmael hopes that seeing the world he can find out the hidden significant events in his life. Meanwhile, Captain Ahab has only one reason in sailing the sea that is killing the whale. For Ahab, the white whale represents the evil that should be killed. He lost one of his legs because the wild white whale has taken his leg. It can be concluded that the motivations of hunting or chasing the white whale for major characters are different.

The explanation above shows that there are different motivations to chase the whale. The analysis is not only to find out the human's motivation of the major characters in chasing the white whale but also to know that chasing the white whale has signified to the major characters. Here, the writer firstly finds the characteristics of the major characters, then the writer tries to find the motivations that reveal the significance of chasing the white whale to the major characters.

B. PROBLEM FORMULATION

Based on the discussion above, there are three problems that can be formulated as follows:

1. How are the major characters, Ishmael and Captain Ahab, described in Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*?

2. What are the motivations of the major characters in chasing the white whale?

3. What is the significance of chasing white whale to the major characters?
C. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of study is to answer the three questions stated in the problem formulation. The first objective is to describe the characteristics of Ishmael and Captain Ahab as the major characters in the novel. Knowing their characteristics, the writer tries to answer the next question. The second objective is to explain the motivation of the major characters in chasing the white whale. Finally, the answers of the first and second problem formulations are used to reveal the significance of chasing the white whale to major characters.

D. BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

Generally, people read literary works to gain a kind of enjoyment and get pleasure or satisfaction. They get new ideas and reflections to add their knowledge about human nature and the complex problems of life. According to Scoonderwoerd (1957:174), a novel is a work of art in so far as it introduces us into a living world; in some aspects resembling the world we live in, but with an individuality of his own. By reading novel, Moby Dick, people can learn the human’s life in the sea, especially the struggle of whaler to keep the vastness of the sea or against the terror of the typhoon. People also learn the men’s organization of whaling industry and men’s ability to catch the white whale.

This study helps the writer to understand more about the significance of friendship. The writer learns that having a friend is very important in life. Without a friend in this world it will be difficult to enjoy this life. It means that
the writer always need a friend when the writer is still alive. The writer also learns how to make a good relationship with the other people.

This study will facilitate the English Department students, especially the students of Sanata Dharma University who are studying the American literature. The results of this study will also be beneficial for other researchers who are interested in analyzing further about the works of Melville, especially *Moby Dick*. This study also gives the contribution to the reader who wants to study about the character of *moby dick*, especially from psychological aspect.

E. DEFINITION OF TERMS

In analyzing the story, there are terms that need to be classified in order to provide an accurate analysis and a clearer explanation to answer the problems. Those terms related are:

1. Significance

As stated in Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (1991:1101) *significance* means “having or expressing a meaning” or “importance”. The definition of “having expressing a meaning” is needed in this study because the study is going to show that the pursuit of whales has a certain meaning for major characters; Ishmael and Captain Ahab. The meaning of “importance” will also be emphasized in understanding the title of the study. It is because this study tends to prove that killing the white whale is very important or significant to the major characters.
2. Chase

The same dictionary (1991:188) defines **chase** as the sport of hunting, hunting ground, unenclosed, hunted animal or pursued. A pursuit with intent to capture or kill, on the other word hunting, catching or pursuing to get something. Chasing in this study means hunting or pursuing the white whale.

3. White whale

**White whale** or **moby dick** is a group of exclusively aquatic mammals that include the largest animals that ever lived. Whales are found in all oceans and seas, and in certain rivers and lakes of southeastern Asia, tropical South America, Northern North America, and Northern Eurasia (Bradley, 1995:676). White whale or Moby Dick perhaps 90 to 100 feet long, has a snow–white wrinkled forehead, a deformed lower jaw, a high pyramidical hump, and a body streaked and spotted with the same whiteness of forehead. (Melville, 1966:95)

4. Character

Hornby (1991:560) defines **character** as personage in narrative or dramatic work; also a kind of prose sketch briefly describing some recognizable type of person. According to Abrams (1981:20), **character** means the person presented in a dramatic narrative work, who is interpreted by the readers as being endowed with a moral and
dispositional quality, that are expressed in why, they say-the dialogue -
and by what they do-the action.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

The second chapter, the theoretical review, consists of several theories that become the base of the writer's analysis. Besides several theories, the writer picks up some criticisms toward the novel. This chapter also presents the theoretical framework, which explains the usage of the theories.

A. REVIEW ON RELATED STUDIES

Many people admire Melville as one of the best American author. He is a man who dedicated all of his talents to literary world, especially in American literature. Stren in *A Treasury of American Literature* states:

Herman Melville brought to his work as a writer richer and more adventurous external experience than did any other American of his literary generation (1948:990)

Wattres (1956:231) in his book entitled *Eight American Authors* says that Melville is not only the best writer, but he is also a thinker, an artist and a romancer. Melville is called a thinker because of his brilliant brain. He creates the novels successfully and most of them have become the popular novels in the world. People consider him as an artist because of his popularity in writing the literary works. Melville is called a romancer because of his expression in interpreting the beauty of the sea.

Chase (1963:93) argues that the reader should realize that Melville does not only write the American scenes but also write the American adventurer in the
sea. Chase in his criticism adds that Melville describes the adventure of chasing the white whale as the reflection of American society at time which like to hunt the whale for her oil. In his criticism, Chase also reveals that Melville's novel gives whaling an emblematic significance, as the American democratic. Whaling ship describes democratic of ships as the reflection of American democratic. Herman Melville's choice of the sea was a natural one. Many of his works tell about the sea. That statement is supported by Me Mechan's criticism (1960:8) who describes that Melville is the best sea-story author.

Olson (1956:231) says Melville is a good Christian. Melville's failure in creating the works does not make him give up. He believed that God would give him the best way. "Praise he to God for the failure" is the motto of Melville when he gets a problem in publishing his book. A miracle was coming when he created Moby Dick, however, primarily people never admitted it. He was rediscovered about 1920, after sixty years of neglected. Moby Dick leads him in peak of popularity, especially in the literary world.

Among Melville's works, Moby Dick is one of his best novels. This statement is supported by Joseph Conrad's criticism in Moby Dick:

Years ago I looked into Typee and Omoo, but as I didn't find there what I am looking for when I open a book I did go no further. Lately I head in my hand Moby Dick. It struck me as a rather strained rhapsody with whaling for a subject and not a single sincere line (1972:20)

Fadiman (1959:288) says that Melville's Moby Dick is the greatest novel that rises from humanity conflict. Every character has the problems in sailing in the sea and chasing the white whale. He or she should face the other
crew that may not have the same idea to him. It may rise the conflict among them. Beside the relationship among human life, Moby Dick also describes the ability of the crew in fighting the white whale. According to Spiller, Moby Dick is a unique novel because it contains a lot of information about the whaling world.

Moby Dick is the great quantities of factual information: the natural history of whales, the literature of whaling, the actual processes of chasing and capturing the whale, stripping the blubber, refining and storing the oil. (1957:56)

B. REVIEW ON RELATED THEORIES

B.I. Character and Characterization

Reading fiction is useful for us because in fiction we may find many characters that represent the real human characters in life. It is important to discuss theories of character and characterization since the study is about character of Captain Ahab and Ishmael. Characters here are persons that present the human personality in the novel.

According to Abrams (1981:20), character is the person presented in or narrative work dramatic work, who is interpreted by the readers as being endowed with a moral and disposition quality that are expected in what, they say-the dialogue-and what they do-the action. Abrams categorizes characters into main character and minor character. Major character is usually the center of the story. He or she is the most important character in the story. Usually the acts of the story are focused on this character from the beginning to ending parts. Minor characters appear in a certain setting, just necessarily to become the background for the
major character. Their roles are less important than the major characters. Their roles in the story are just to support the development of the major character.

Further, Barnet (1988:712) says that the narrator or character is defined in what he says and what he does. The narrator or character can be described to character analysis through what they do and what they say.

According to Stanton (1965:17), character is defined into two meanings. The first meaning refers to individuals who appear in the story and the second one refers to the mixture of interest, desires, emotions, and moral principles that make up each of these individuals.

Forster (1974:47-54) distinguishes the characters into flat character and round character. The really flat characters can be expressed in one sentence. One great advantage of flat characters is that they are easily recognized whenever they come in. The readers can easily find them in the story. The simple character then can serve very well as minor characters in fiction. The flat character is introduced from the beginning until the end of the story in the stable condition or unchanged nature. It is called the flat character because the readers see only one side of him or her. On the contrary, round character can not summed up in a single phrase and we remember them in connection with the great scenes through which they passed and as modified by those scenes, we do not remember them so easily. Usually round characters are major figures in the story. They are called round characters because the readers see all sides of them.

Besides theory of character, the writer also needs the theory of characterization. According to Holman & Harmon (1976:81) Characterization is
the process of creating characters. Characterization is the creation of these imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as lifelike.

There are ways through which an author can convey his characteristic both directly and indirectly in his novel. According to Murphy (1972:161-173), there are nine ways through which an author can convey his characters:

a. Personal description

In this way he author gives a description of character's physical appearance (face, physique, clothing) directly.

b. Character as seen by another

An author uses another character's eyes and opinion to describe a character.

c. Speech

The author gives the reader into an insight into character in his book through what a person's character. Frequently, from his speech, we know his motivation and his attitude toward his characters.

d. Past life

The character's past life is always closely connected to his or her present life. Whenever the author provides pictures of the character's past life, it can be traced and learn to help us figure out his motive of action at the present time.

e. Conversation of others

The author gives the reader clues to a person character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about them.
f. Reaction

By allowing the readers to know how a person reacts to various situation and events, an author can also give them a clue to a person’s characteristics

g. Direct Comments

The author can describe or comment on a person’s characteristics directly

h. Thoughts

The author can give his readers a direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about

i. Mannerism

A person’s mannerism, habits can be described by the author to tell his readers something about the person’s characteristics

Perrine (1974:68) adds Murphy's idea that characteristic can be classified into direct presentation and indirect presentation. In direct presentation the author tells us directly what character is like. This quality brings to the reader an image of the characteristic of major characters. This method is being clear because the readers know directly about characters. In indirect presentation the author tells us the character by his or her action, so we know what a character is from what the character thinks, says, or does. This quality brings to the reader an image of the character that the author creates.

Basically, characterization may also be identified in accordance with the functions of the characters. The characters can be major or minor characters. They
can be protagonist and the antagonist as well. Baldick (1990:81) defines protagonist as the major character who may also be opposed by an antagonist. The antagonist is the opponent of the protagonist, but in the works in which the protagonist is represented as evil, the antagonist will be virtuous or sympathetic one.

B.2. Plot

Plot, according to Forster (1974:54), is a narrative of events which emphasizes the cause and the effect of the story. The plot helps the readers to understand the story by showing the cause and effect of events of the story. In the story, chronological events are arranged in the shape of the plot. Plot shows the movement of the events in the story that is done by the characters. In plot, it is seen that characters do their action and activities related to the arrangement of the plot. Plot and characters cannot be really separated. Plot is nothing without character, characters are nothing without plot. Plot needs character to make a movement in a story and character also needs plot to make a movement in a story. The characters cannot stand up by themselves but they depend on the movement of the plot so that they support each other. Perrine's statement about plot

Plot was considered apart from character, as if the two were separable. Actually like the ends of a seesaw, the two are substance; there can be no movement at one end without movement at the other (1974:67)

There is no separation between character and plot. It can be summed up that a story needs plot and character. If there is plot, there is also character and on the contrary.
B.3. Motivation

Motivation can not be separated from human daily life. Most of people infer that motivation is important to people to keep survive. Darwin defines motivation as the organism is endowed with motives to help them survive (Diane, 1985:24). For example, a starving man will take great risk to obtain the food. He will do everything to get food. Vidler (1977:192) adds a brief definition of motivation as the willingness to exert high levels of effort organizational goals, conditioned by the effort's ability to satisfy some individual need. Individuals vary considerably in the degree to which are motivated by any particular need. For instance, Jane, a nurse's student, is eager to become a supervisor someday, but her classmates are motivated only enough to slide through and get her certificate.

According to Kalish (1985:30) motivation is strong enough to activate goal-seeking behavior which begins with curious feeling and ended with behavior that satisfied his need. On the other hand, motivation refers to the people's perfection of their wishes. Motivation is also defined by Richard as the process of activating, maintaining and directing behavior toward a particular goal (Kalish, 1985:29). All normal people usually have certain motivation when they do something because motivation is the foundation of every action human beings do. Pettijohn (1987:210) states motivation can be thought of as the forces that initiate and direct behavior, and variables that determine the intensity and persistence of that behavior.
Maslow says that motivation is the process of setting behavior into action because of need (Mc Clelland, 1985:308). Maslow organized human needs in the form of a pyramid with the most elemental physiological needs at the bottom.

Maslow developed a seven-level hierarchy of needs, with basic physiological needs at the bottom and self-actualization at the top.

1. Physiological needs

The physiological needs can be divided into two categories: survival needs and stimulation needs. Survival needs include those produced by hunger or thirst. When we are hungry or thirsty, we must concentrate to satisfy our need. Survival needs must be satisfied or the body processes stop, then die. To obtain food, a starving soldier is likely to surrender to a hostile enemy, even
he knows that he may be executed. The individual will take great risk to obtain them. Stimulation need, including the need of sex, novelty, does not appear necessary for personal survival. Nonetheless, a complex lack of environmental stimulation is very distressing such as hunger or thirst are not adequate. The individual is in an emergency situation is dominated by the needs. For example, a person in a state of semi-starvation will constantly think, dream, and talk about food.

2. Safety needs

The safety needs represent a need for safety or security in our environment. They are important for people in order to feel secure, safe, and out of danger. The individual can be satisfied if this need has been adequate.

3. Belongingness and love

Love maybe necessary for the maintenance of good relationship. In any event, the need for love and belonging is important. People with an unsatisfied need for love or for the feeling of belonging to a group may be difficult to satisfy their love needs. Love needs are not restricted to romantic love and parent–child love. They include the feeling of closeness between two good friends, the feeling of neighborliness that exist in some communities, or the feeling of good fellowship that occurs in some special groups.

4. Esteem needs

The desire for reputation or prestige (defining it as respect or esteem from other people) statues, fame and glory, dominance, recognition, attention are important dignities of people. When individual earns recognition, attention
and status, she or he satisfies the esteem needs and feel self confident and important. If she or he does not satisfy them, she or he tends to feel inferior and helpless.

5. Cognitive needs

The rule of thinking process and perceptual interpretation is the biggest part for most individuals. The individuals are looking for the knowledge in order to have more understanding on it. The scientists are not always satisfied with their discoveries. They always search the other discoveries to satisfy their cognitive need.

6. Aesthetic needs

The aesthetic needs of individuals are very important. The individuals who live in aesthetic environment will be better and healthier than live in dirty or poor environment.

7. Self Actualization

When the individual has satisfied the first until the sixth levels of need, the final level of development, self-actualization, can be reached. According to Maslow (1970:34) self-actualization is the tendency to “become more and more what one uniquely is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming”. A person may have self-actualization by doing a good job of farming picture by maintaining a happy home and bringing up healthy children or by writing poetry to express his own feeling.
C. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There are theories used in this study. The theories are related to the topic of the study and they will help the writer to analyze the novel. The theory on character and theory on motivation is used to explore the characteristic of Captain Ahab and Ishmael, the major characters of the novel. It is important to discuss the theory on character and characterization since this study is about character.

To find out the answer of problem formulations, the writer uses theory on character. A character is defined as a person in the novel that presents human personality. The term is used as the basis to see how characters are described. Furthermore it will be used to answer the first problem formulation. A method of characterization is used to analyze the way Melville presents the characters to the readers. To discover the traits of major characters, the writer has to know the characteristic of the character. The writer tries to pay much attention to the dialogue among the characters. It includes what the major character says or responds to other characters in the story. This study uses Murphy and Abrams’ theory on character to know the characteristic of the major characters. Meanwhile, theory on plot is used to find out the event of the story that shows major character’s struggle in chasing the whale.

To strengthen the two theories above, theory on motivation is used to explore the motivation of Captain Ahab and Ishmael in chasing the white whale. It is used because the theory would help the writer to comprehend every motivation of the characters in chasing the whale. Theory on motivation also helped the writer to find out that chasing the white whale have signified the major characters.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. OBJECT OF THE STUDY

The object of the study is the novel, *Moby Dick*. This is one of the best novels of Herman Melville. The novel was published twice both uncompleted and completed novel. The uncompleted novel was published by Harper & Brother, London, England on 18 October 1851 with Bentley as the editor. The uncompleted novel was under the title *The Whale*. Meanwhile, the completed novel was published in United States of America on 18 November 1851. It was reprinted by Harper & Brother, New York and published under the title *Moby Dick*.

The study here uses the second publication of novel, *Moby Dick*. It was reprinted by Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England, on 1977. It contains 687 pages and is divided into 135 chapters including to Epilogues. Firstly, people ignored the first appearance of Moby Dick as a great book. Literary scholars re-discovered Melville’s great working the early 1920’s. (Gilmore:1977:7)

B. METHOD OF THE STUDY

The method of gathering data used in this study was library research. The writer carried out some steps that helped her to complete the analysis. To
literary research the writer collected data from reference books and used them to analyze the questions presented in problem formulation.

The first step was reading the primary source, Melville's *Moby Dick*. Rereading the novel was very useful until the writer understood the content of the novel. After reading the novel, the writer comprehended the story as well as the details about the characters, characterization, and the important events which supported the process of finding this thesis.

The second step was finding the data from other books as the secondary sources. The writer used several books to collect information about literature and its elements, and some books related to the secondary data consist of theory character, characterization, theory of motivation and criticism of the work itself. For this study, the writer took some data such as Abrams' *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, E.M Forster's *Aspect of The Novel*, Perrine's *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, Murphy's *Understanding Unseens*. These books have used the writer to analyze the characteristic of major characters in *Moby Dick*. Many books were also used to find the theory of motivation; they were *Human Motivation* by Mc Clelland, *Psychology* by Papalia, Diane E, *The psychology of Human Behaviour* by Richard Kalish and Vidler in his book, *Achievement Motivation*. 
C. THE APPROACH

In analyzing the novel, the writer will apply the psychological approach. It is chosen because in this study, the writer is going to find out the characteristic of Captain Ahab and Ishmael, and their motivations in chasing the whale. The character and motivation can be traced by using psychological approach. Either character or motivation is part of psychological study. Robert Benedetti once made a comment as follows:

The psychological traits in apply or a noble are the most essential category in terms of characterization. Psychological points of view refer to the search and analysis of inner working of the mind such as emotions, attitudes, motivations and desires. Psychological traits always preceed the action of characters (1987:130)

To analyze the motivation of the major characters in this novel. This is very necessary to use psychological approach. Because this approach can help the writer to understand and comprehend character and motivation deeply.

According to Rohrberger and Woods (1971:12), the psychological approach is to explain human motivation, personality, and behavior patterns written in literary object, therefore, knowledge of psychology ground is important in order to understand the literary works.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer divides the discussion into three parts based on the questions in the problem formulation. First, the writer presents the characteristics of major characters. Second, the writer focuses on the motivation of major characters in *Moby Dick*. In this part, the writer reveals the different motivation of the major characters in chasing the white whale. Finally, the writer analyses the significance of chasing the white whale to major characters.

A. The Characteristics of Ishmael

Ishmael, the major character of the story, is a simple boy who really likes to go to sea. This boy likes going to sea when he feels bored and depressed. He considers that sea as a nice place to help him ignoring his troubled and bored mind.

"Now, when I say that I am in the habit of going to the sea whenever I begin grow hazy about the eyes, and begin to be over conscious of my lungs, I do not mean to have it inferred that I ever go to sea as a passenger. (pg.95)

Ishmael who comes from Massachusetts is described as a young man in his teens, tall, broad shoulder, and fair of complexion. His childhood is not always happy and fun. Ishmael lives with his cruel stepmother. Ishmael’s stepmother often forces him to do what she wants and her action has made Ishmael tortured. His stepmother also often limits his activities by locking him
up, him in chimney alone. Ishmael’s stepmother’s action makes him feel like a prisoner and he is so frightened.

“My mother dragged me by the out of the chimney and packed me off to bed, though it was only two o’clock in the afternoon of 21st June, the longest day in the ear in our hemisphere. I felt dreadfully. (pg. 119)

At last I must have have fallen into a troubled nightmare of a doze; and slowly walking from from-it half stepped in dreams- I opened my eyes, and the before sunlit room was now wrapped in outer darkness. Instantly I felt a shock running trough all my frame; nothing was to be seen, and nothing was to be heard. (pg. 119)

Eventhough Ishmael spends his childhood in frightening circumstance, it does not make him to be a coward. Ishmael grows to be an adventurer. He likes to go to places that have never been visited before. Ishmael likes to go to new place or isolated area although he knows that the place is dangerous. This boy is able to survive in dangerous and horror place.

“I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coast. Not ignoring what is good, I am quick to perceive a horror, and could still be social with it”-would they let me- (Pg. 98)

His desire to go to new place or isolated area shows that he is a curious boy. His curiosity also grows when he hears people’s rumor about the great whale. Ishmael wants to know more about the white whale or people call her Moby Dick . Moby dick is a huge white whale that is wild and fierce. She always attacks ships that are trying to catch her. The greatness of the white whale has made Ishmael interested to know about the white whale. He decides to join with the whalemens to catch the white whale. This is not easy for Ishmael to join the whalemens because he does not have enough money to pay them.
Nevertheless, Ishmael is a smart boy, he acts as a sailor, not as a passenger in sailing the sea. If he acts as a passenger he does not have to pay the whalenmen, on the contrary, he is paid.

Again, I always go to the sea as a sailor, because they make a point of paying me for my trouble, whereas they never pay passengers as single penny that I ever heard of. On the contrary, passengers themselves must pay. And there is all the difference in the world between paying and being paid.(pg.97)

Ishmael is alone boy. He feels alone when he lives on the land. He is bored to the situation on the land. Ishmael himself has a willing to have friends by going to the new place. One of his decisions to avoid his boredom is to go to sea and join the whalenmen to chase the white whale. This statement describes Ishmael’s feeling when he is lonely and needs to look for a friend.

Here was a man some twenty thousand miles from home, by the way of Cape Horn, that is—which was the only way he could get there—thrown among people as strange to him as thought he were in the Planet Jupiter; and yet he seemed entirely at his ease; preserving the utmost serenity; content with his own companionship(pg.58)

Along his journey, Ishmael meets Queequeg. Queequeg is the first man who becomes his best friend. The friendship between Ishmael and Queequeg reveals that Ishmael is not a selfish person. He never thinks about himself, on the other contrary, he gives his fully compassion to his friend. For Ishmael, a friend is so worthy. He describes that having a best friend is as worth as having a wife or a husband.

“How it is I know not; but there is no place like a bed for confidential disclosures between friends. Man and wife, they say, there a re open the very bottom of their souls to each other; and some old couples often lie and chat over old times till nearly
morning. Thus, then in or heart's honeymoon, lay and Queequeq- a
cosy, loving pair. (Pg.148)

Ishmael realizes that friendship is really important in his life. It stimulates him to
have a friend. Having a friend will make his life not so lonely anymore. For
Ishmael, friend can also help him to solve the problem and share about many
things.

A friend may have a big influence on the others. However, Ishmael
is a tough boy who is not easily influenced by his friend. This is proved when his
best friend, Queequeg tries to influence him to worship a pagan idol. Ishmael
refuses it.

I was a good Christian; born and bred in the bosom of the
infallible Presbyterian Church.
But what is worship? - to do the will of God? - that is worship. And
what is the will of God? - do to my fellow man what I would
have my fellow man to do to me. (Pg.148)

As a good Christian, Ishmael does not want to worship anything
except God. Ishmael is a Christian who appreciates a pagan religion. He does not
disturb his friend’s ceremony in worshipping his pagan idol, Yojo. Ishmael has a
great respect toward everybody’s religious obligation. He does not feel that his
religion is better than others.

As Queequeg’s Ramadhan, or Fasting and Humiliation, was to
continue all day, I did not choose to disturb him till toward s night-
fall; For I cherish the greatest respect toward everybody’s religious
obligation, never mind how comical, and could not find in my
heart to undervalue even a congregation of ants worshipping a toad
-stool; or those other creatures in certain parts of the earth.(pg.
178).
Besides having the great respect toward another person, Ishmael is also a generous person. He helps his friend, Queequeg, to be allowed to join the whalemens in catching the white whale. Firstly, Queequeg is refused to join in Pequod because of his pagan. Furthermore, Ishmael explains to the crew that his friend is not a pagan but he is the member of Congregational Church. Then, Queequeg is accepted to join the whalemens. Ishmael is illustrated as a generous character who always helps others.

Ishmael is described as a boy who is easy to conceive others. He conceives the crew that Queequeg is member of congregational Church. Ishmael’s way in giving explanation shows that he is so convincing. From the following conversation it is obviously that Ishmael has the ability to convince others.

“ I don’t know anything about Deacon Deuteronomy or his meeting.” said I all I know is, that Queequeg here is a born member of the first Congregational Church. He is a deacon himself, Queequeg is “.

“Young man,” said Bildad sternly,” thou art skylarking with me-explain thyself, thou young Hittite. What church dost thee mean? answer me.”

Finding myself thus hard pushed, I replied. I mean, sir, the same ancient Catholic Church to which you and I, And Captain Peleg there, And Queequeg here, and all of us, and every mother’s son and soul of belong: the great and everlasting First Congregation of this whole worshipping world. (pg.185).

The conversation above also depicts that Ishmael never discriminates people. He accepts everyone who wants to be his friend. Ishmael explains to the crew that there is no different status among human and faith. Ishmael believes that every belief is good.
Ishmael finds a chapel whose wall attaches full of carved memorial in New Bedford. The names of men who are missing and dead in the sea have been carved in the wall. The carved memorial is founded to remind people that sailing and hunting the whale is dangerous. The carved memorial describes the pursuit of the whales will be resulting the tragedy. Ishmael knows all of the risks, nevertheless, he is a boy who never gives up to face troubles.

Ishmael is a type of boy who likes challenges. His willingness to join with the sailor is one of the proofs that he is never afraid to face difficulty. Ishmael knows that the pursuit of anything worthwhile is dangerous. He believes that a person cannot test his own strength if she or he does not face the danger by herself or himself.

The whaling voyage was welcome; the great flood-gates of the wonder-world swung open, and in the wild conceits that swayed me to my purpose, two and two there floated into my inmost soul, endless processions of the whale, and, mid most of them all.(pg.67)

The characteristics of Ishmael have been explained above. It is known that Ishmael is simple and lonely boy. He wants to get friend by leaving on the land. Although he grows up in the frightening circumstances, it does not turn him to be a coward boy, on the contrary, he grows to be a brave boy. As a generous boy, he likes to help his friend who getting in the trouble.

B. The Characteristics of Captain Ahab

Captain Ahab is the main captain of the Pequod. He is also the owner of the ship. This man lost one of his legs because the white whale has
bitten it. He only has one leg and the whalebone has replaced his missing leg. He usually stands to the deck with his peg leg anchored in the hole on the deck.

Captain Ahab is a considered as a taciturn man. He prefers staying at the cabin to gathering the crew. He is also rarely seen by the crew, so there are only few crew who know about the Captain Ahab. Although he is a taciturn man, the crew will get his point when he speaks to them.

"And what dost thou want of Captain Ahab? It's all right enough; though art shipped"
"Yes, but I should like to see him"
"But I don't think thou wilt be able to at present. I don't know exactly what's the matter with him; but he keeps close inside the house; a sort of sick, and yet he don't look so. Captain Ahab; does not speak much; but, when he does speak, then you may well listening.(pg.176)

Captain Ahab is only seen by the crew when he command his crew to serve him. For example when he wants to have a dinner, he commands one of the crew to bring him the food. After commanding the crew to serve him, Captain Ahab go backs to the cabin and he is rarely can be seen by the crew.

He swings himself to the deck, and in an even, unexhilarated voice, saying, 'Dinner, Mr. Starbuck,' disappears into the cabin (pg.245)

Ahab stood for a while leaning over the bulwarks; and then as had been usual with him of late, calling a sailor of the watch, he sent him below for his ivory stool, and also his pipe. (pg.128)

This statement above shows that Captain Ahab always wants to be served by his officer, he wants to be admitted that he is the king of the ship. Eventhough he makes a mistake, he does not want to be criticized.

"Captain Ahab," said the redding mate, moving further into the cabin, with a daring so strangely respectful and cautious that it
almost seemed not only every way seeking to avoid the slightest outward manifestation of itself, but within also seemed more than half distasteful of itself: "A better man than I wight well pass over in there what he would quickly enough resent in younger man;aye, and in happier, Captain Ahab."

"Devils! Dost thou then so much as dare to critically think of me?- On deck!" (pg.289)

Captain Ahab is an ambitious man. It can be seen in his efforts to get everything he wants. His ambition is to take a revenge on the white whale. It has stimulated him to try harder and harder in all his efforts to make his obsession realized. With his ambition, Captain Ahab, provides a lot of money. In chasing the white whale Captain Ahab should be helped by the crew but he wants to kill the white whale by himself. Captain Ahab will give his money to a person who can chase and catch the white whale. The following quotations show his effort in providing a lot of the money to the crew.

All ye have mast-header before now herd me give orders about a white whale look. Look ye! D’ye see this Spanish ounce of gold?-holding up a broad bright coin to the sun-‘it is a sixteen dollar piece, men. D’ye see it? (pg.261)

‘Whosoever ye raises me a white a white headed whale with a wrinkled brow and a crooked jaw; whosoever of ye raises me that white-headed whale, with three holes punctured in his starboard fluke-look ye, whosoever of ye raises me that same white, he shall have this gold ounce, my boys!' (pg.260)

Captain Ahab is very purpose-minded. He only thinks one purpose in his life and he will be preoccupied to chase his dream.

Captain Ahab realizes that he is a stubborn man. He ignores people’s warning not to catch the white whale, moby dick, because it is very dangerous. Captain Ahab is rarely afraid of the difficulties that may be faced. He
always tries to gain what he wants. Nobody can stop him in realizing his dream. Captain Ahab is a person who allows every effort to get his dreams. He does not care whether everybody considers him as a mad man.

What I’ve dared, I’ve willed; and what I’ve willed, I’ll do! They think me mad—Starbuck does; but I am demoniac, I am madness maddened! That wild madness that’s only calm to comprehend itself! (pg.266)

The crew of the Pequod knows that their Captain is a mad man. Nevertheless, Captain Ahab is still honored by the crew. He is honored because of his bravery to chase the white whale. Besides he is a commander of the Pequod and he is a captain who pays the crew in chasing the white whale. This following quotation shows that Captain Ahab is a man that should be honored although he makes a mistake.

Captain Ahab kicked ye, didn’t he?” ‘Yes, he did,’ says I—right here it was. Very god, says I. ‘Well then, says he, ‘wise Stubb, what have you to complain of? Didn’t he kick with right good will? It was not a common pitch a great man, and with a beautiful ivory leg, Stubb. It’s an honor; I consider it an honor. (pg.76)

Captain Ahab is a hard worker. He always does the best to get what he wants, he always pays his attention to the risk of all his action. He does not want to fail in doing something. He always does everything to make his dream comes true. For example when the crew takes a rest Captain Ahab is still learning the existence of the white whale by reading the chart.

But it was not this night in particular that in the solitude of his cabin, Ahab thus pondered over his charts. Almost every night they were brought out; almost every night some pencil works were effected, and others were substituted (Pg. 298)
His hard working makes Captain Ahab knowing the existence of the white. Many hunters are hopeless to chase the white whale because it is difficult to find out the existence of the white whale. It is different to Captain Ahab, he has the ability to read the chart so that he rarely meets the difficulties to find the existence of the white whale. As a hard worker, Captain Ahab is never tired to ask the information about the white whale to other seamen. It is revealed when he joins the gam ceremony. The gam is the social meeting of two ships where information is exchanged and social visit is made. In the ceremony, the first question of Captain Ahab is “Have ye seen the white whale?” If the seamen’s answer is no, Captain Ahab will not waste his time having visit to the other ship. But if the seamen’s answer is yes, then he will ask further information about the existence of the white whale by visiting the other ship.

Captain Ahab is a selfish person. He refuses to help Rachel, the other ship to find a boat containing the captain’s son that lost in the sea. Captain Ahab feels that he will lose track of moby dick if he helps Rachel. Captain Ahab refuses to take out time to help Rachel to look for the lost boat. Captain Ahab thinks that getting the white whale is more valuable than helping a human being. He ignores Rachel’s demand and keeps commanding Starbuck to continue their trip.

“Captain Gardiner, I will not do it. Even now I lose time. Good-bye, good-bye. God bless ye, man, and may I forgive myself, but I must go. Mr. Starbuck, look at the binnacle watch, and in three minutes from this present instant warn off all stranger; then brace forward again, and let the ship sails as before.” (Pg. 349)
Captain Ahab has a great self-confidence. He does not believe the crew that he will find death if he keeps on chasing the white whale. Captain Ahab convinces that he must get the white whale, so he ignores people's warning about the danger of chasing the white whale.

Captain Ahab is a man who has many expectations, he never gives up in trying to catch the whale. He has a great desire to catch the white whale although he knows that it will not be easy. Captain Ahab has also been warned by his crew and seamen not to catch the white whale, but he ignores the warning. The struggle to catch the white whale for three days is an evidence of Captain Ahab's hard effort in catching the white whale. For three days Captain Ahab finds many difficulties to fight against the white whale. On the first and second day, the ship is attacked by the white whale and some crew have lost in the sea. Even though Captain Ahab knows that his ship is attacked by the white whale, he is not hopeless. He keeps on commanding the crew to continue searching the white whale. On the third day, Captain Ahab convinces his crew that they will be successful in catching the whale. There is no doubt in Ahab's mind to catch the white whale.

"D'ye see him?" cried Ahab; but the whale was not yet in sight.
"In his infallible wake, though; but follow that wake, that's all. Helm there; steady, as thou goest, and has been going. What a lovely day again! Were it a new-made world, and made for a summer-house to the angels, and this morning the first of its throwing open to them, a fairer day could not dawn upon the world. (Pg.385)
B. Motivations of the Major characters in Chasing the White Whale

Moby dick or the white whale is a huge whale. Many people are looking for the white whale because of its benefits. They catch the whale, firstly, in order to get his fat and the oil. The fat and the oil produced by the white whale called the sperm whale. Many whales are producing the sperm whale, however, moby dick produces the best quality of the sperm whale to fulfill world’s basic commodities. Besides to light the lamp, the oil is used in soap making industry and manufactures. Unfortunately, this is not easy to catch the white whales because they are dangerous. Many fishermen are wounded, sometimes are dead when they try to catch the whale. Among whales, moby dick is the largest. Moby dick has peculiar snow white, wrinkled forehead and high. It has a deformed lower jaw. Moby dick is so wild, when it is pursued by whaleboats, she will turn suddenly and maliciously attacks her pursuer. She destroys the whaleboat and then shatters the crew. It is clearly terrible for whalermen, so only few of men who are really eager to catch the white whale. Most people’s motivation to chase the white whale is to have a fun or look for the sperm whale. It is so clear that there are different motivations in chasing the white whale.

The following explanation shows the different motivation of major characters of the novel; Captain Ahab and Ishmael

B.1 Ahab’s motivation to chase the white whale

Captain Ahab who lost one of his legs really wants to catch the white whale, moby dick. He makes a vengeance to moby dick, because it has hurt
him. Moby dick has made Captain Ahab invalid, losing one of his legs. Then, Captain Ahab is very purpose minded to take revenge on moby dick. All of his efforts are done to kill moby dick. He commands his crew to catch moby dick, dead or alive. Captain Ahab is always serious in chasing the white whale. He will keep on searching the white whale wherever she goes.

It was Moby Dick that dismayed me; Moby dick that brought me to his dead stump I stand on now. Aye, aye,' he shouted with a terrific, loud, animal sob, like that of a heart-stricken moose; 'Aye, aye! It was that accursed white whale that razed me; made a poor-pegging lubber of me for ever and a day!' Then 'tossing both arms, with measureless imprecations he shouted out: "Aye, aye! And I'll chase him round Good Hope, and round the Horn, and round the Norway Maelstrom, and round perdition's flame before I give him up. And this is what ye have shipped for, men! To chase that white whale on both sides of land, and over all sides of earth, till he spouts black blood and rolls fin out. What say ye, men will ye splice hands on it, now? I think ye do look brave.' (pg. 261)

According to Captain Ahab, moby dick is the personification of evil that is very cruel and wild. Her evil's action is shown when she attacks the ship which tries to catch her, hurts the seamen and sometimes she kills them. Captain Ahab lost one of his legs because of her cruelty and wildness. The white whale's evil action has stimulated Captain Ahab to take a revenge on her. He thinks that the white whale should be destroyed. Before getting the white whale and killing her, Captain Ahab feels a prisoner and the wall which keeps himself is moby dick itself. He can not move or think reasonably because of his being prisoner. Only by destroying moby dick he will free himself from his suffering.

If man will strike, strike through the mask! How can the prisoner reach outside except by thrusting through the wall? To me, the white whale is that wall, shoved near to me. Sometimes I think
there's naught beyond, but'tis enough. He tasks me; he heaps me; I see in him outrageous strength, with an inscrutable malice sinewing it. That inscrutable thing is chiefly what I hate; and be the white whale agent, or be the white whale principal, I will wreak that hate upon him.(pg.137)

Based on Maslow's theory, an individual has many motivations in his life. One of them is the motivation to get the self-esteem. According to Maslow (Kalish, 1985: 56) an individual has desire to be respected by others. To be respected, an individual should have status, fame or glory. Having status, fame or glory will lead people to a good dignity. It means that an individual who has the good dignity will fulfill the self-esteem.

One of Captain Ahab's motivations to catch the white whale also depicts that he wants to establish his self-esteem. It is seen from all his efforts to fight against the white whale. Captain Ahab considers that his self-esteem will be established if the crew admires him as the great captain. He wants to be admitted as a captain who is able to fight the white whale. For many people, the white whale is so wild so that it is difficult to conquer her. It means that a person who is able to fight and conquer the white whale must be a great man. The high motivation to get status as a great captain has made Captain Ahab keep trying to chase the white whale.

Besides getting the glory or status from his effort in chasing the white whale, Captain Ahab also wants to be admitted as the great man who is able to command his crew. It is revealed when they are sailing in the sea, Captain Ahab becomes a captain that always gives a command to the crew. Here, Captain Ahab wants to show the crew that he is not only able to fight and
conquer the white whale, but he is also able to command the crew of the *Pequod*,
The conversation between Captain Ahab and his crew depicts that the captain is
described as a powerful commander in the *Pequod*

“What do ye do when ye see a whale, men?”
“Sing out for him!” was the impulsive rejoinder from a score of clubbed voices.
“Good!” cried Ahab, with a wild approval in his tone; observing the hearty animation into which his unexpected question had so magnetically thrown them.
“And what do ye next, men?
“Lower away, and after him!”
“And what tune is it ye pull to, men?”
“A dead whale or stove boat!” (pg.258)

The crew must do what Captain Ahab’s order. The ability to command the crew makes Captain Ahab thinking that the crew should respect him.

In searching the white whale, Captain Ahab should compete with the other seamen. Captain Ahab wants to show the crew that he can conquer the white whale. He forbids the other seamen to kill the white whale except himself.
“I will have the first sight of the whale myself “(pg. 355). Here, Captain Ahab wishes to be appreciated by the other seamen that he has an ability to conquer the white whale. The motivation of Captain Ahab in chasing the white whale describes that he wants to get the self-esteem.

Captain Ahab has lost one of his legs because of the white whale. It makes him wants to take revenge on her. He is only thinking about pursuing and killing the white whale. Captain Ahab wants to kill the white whale by himself. When he meets other seamen who know about the existence of the white whale,
Captain Ahab forbids them to kill the white whale. It is revealed in the following conversation.

"Hast seen the White Whale?"
"Aye, yesterday. Have ye seen a whale boat adrift?"
"Where was he?—not killed!—not killed!" cried Ahab closely advancing. "How was it? (pg. 638)

The desire to kill the white whale is so great that he does not care about anything except the white whale. It is seen from Captain Ahab’s rejection toward warning of seamen not to chase and kill the white whale. He believes that he can chase and kill the white whale by himself. He never hesitates to do his plans though many people have warned him. Captain Ahab wishes that he will get the fame as a person who is able to conquer the white whale. It shows that one of Captain Ahab’s motivations in chasing the white whale is to get the fame in order to fulfill his esteem-need.

The white whale is a mysterious animal, it is not easy to find the presence of this animal. It needs skill to know where the white whale is. Captain Ahab has the ability to know the presence of the white whale, because he is the only person who is able to read the chart. According to Maslow, the way of thinking process is the important part for an individual (Kalish, 1985: 50). The individual is looking for the knowledge in order to know more about it. For example if an individual will never satisfy with his or her discovery, he or she will search more to satisfy his cognitive need. Captain Ahab always reads the chart when he chases the white whale. The chart leads people to know the habitation of the white whale. Chasing the white whale does not satisfy Captain
Ahab yet unless he learns more about the white whale and knows where the white whale is. His desire to make his dream come true sets Captain Ahab learns about white whale and her habitation.

"Now, to any one not full acquainted with the ways of the leviathans, is might seem an absurdly hopeless, task thus to seek out one solitary creature in the unhooped oceans of the planet. But not so did it seem to Ahab, who knew the sets of all tides and currents; and thereby calculating the driftings of the sperm whale's food." (pg. 298)

Knowing the greatness of the white whale, having the ability to read the weather of the sea and exploring the chart are his efforts to fulfill the cognitive needs.

According to Maslow (Kalish, 1985:46) if an individual has satisfied some levels of need, the final level, self-actualization can be reached. Self-actualization is individuals' need which attaches to the feeling and capability. An individual does something to express his or her feeling, or sometimes to show his or her capability. In the novel, it is shown by character of Captain Ahab. Captain Ahab's desire to get self-actualization is shown by his capability to chase the white whale.

B.2 Ishmael's motivation to chase white whale

Ishmael is described as a boy who really likes to go to the sea when he feels bored and depressed. He often sits on the ocean gazing at the water and tries to restore peace to his troubled mind. His pleasure to go to the sea has made him know about the greatness of the white whale. A lot of men tell that the white whale is so wild because she attacks the ship that is sailing in the sea. There are
many victims because of her. Besides her wilderness, the white whale also produces many benefits. It makes some people still look for her.

The curiosity about the greatness of the white whale has made Ishmael wants to know more about the white whale. His willingness to go to the sea with the whalmen is to see and know more about the white whale.

Chief among these motives was the overwhelming idea of the great whale himself. Such a portentous and mysterious monster roused all my curiosity. Then the wild and distant seas where he rolled his island bulk; the undeliverable, nameless perils of the whale; these, with all attending marvels of a thousand Patagonian sights and sound, helped sway me to my wish. (pg.98)

Based on Maslow's theory, Ishmael's desire to chase the white whale is to fulfill his cognitive needs. The cognitive-need is to satisfy the curiosity about something. According to Maslow (Kalish, 1985:45), an individual wants to search something new to fulfill his curiosity. The scientists are not always satisfied with their discoveries. They always search the other discoveries to satisfy their cognitive need. In this case, Ishmael's motivation to chase the white whale is to know the greatness of the white whale. Besides for knowing the greatness of the white whale, Ishmael also wants to explore the mystery of the sea.

"Such a portentous and mysterious monster roused all my curiosity. Then the wild and distant seas where he rolled his island bulk; the undeliverable, nameless perils of the whale; these, with all attending marvels of a thousand sights and sounds, helped to sway me to my wish (pg. 98)"
During his journey to the ocean, Ishmael meets Queequeg. He becomes Ishmael’s best friend for the first time. Firstly, Ishmael is afraid of Queequeg because of his terrible face. After getting a better understanding on Queequeg, Ishmael realizes that Queequeg’s appearance is not so cannibal. This quotation shows that Ishmael is not afraid anymore to his new friend.

He really did this is not only a civil but a really kind and charitable way. I stood looking at him a moment. For all his tattooings he was on the whole a clean, comely looking cannibal. The man’s a human being as just as I am: he has just as much reason to fear me, as much reason to fear me, as I have to be afraid of him. (pg. 118)

Furthermore, he realizes that there is no reason not to make a friendship to him. Ishmael’s view on humanity is now enlarging to incorporate people of all types. Then, the friendship is formed between Ishmael and Queequeg. Either Queequeg or Ishmael has the same plan to go the sea. Ishmael wishes to go to sea is to escape from his boredom. Ishmael’s decision to go to the sea is also strengthened by Queequeg’s story about greatness of the white whale. Finally, these men go to the sea and try to catch the white whale by joining the ship, Pequod.

“Well, what’s report?” said Peleg when I came back; “what did ye see?”
“Not much,” I replied —“nothing but water; considerable horizon though, and there’s a squall coming up, I think.”
“Well, what does thou think then of seeing the world? Do ye wish to go round Cape Horn to see any more of it, eh? Can’t ye see the world where you stand?”
I was a little staggered, but go a-whaling I must, and I would; and the Pequod was a good ship as any— I though the best— and all this I now repeated to Peleg. (pg. 168)

From the conversation above, it can be seen that Ishmael really wants to see the new world besides chasing the white whale.
The quality of friendship between Queequeg and Ishmael is revealed in their work. They are a great team on the ship during the journey in chasing the white whale. When their ship is attacked by the white whale, the crew pulls down to the water. Furthermore, some of the crews are floating from the ship and then dead. Here, Queequeg shows the value of friendship. He provides Ishmael one final evidence of his love to the friendship. Queequeg gives his coffin to Ishmael in order to survive. Queequeg’s coffin keeps Ishmael afloat until he is rescued by the Rachel. For Ishmael, the motivation to go to the sea and chase the white whale is also looking for a friend. He cannot find the real friendship on the land, it makes him bored and depressed. This statement reveals the condition of Ishmael when he should make a decision to go to the sea.

“Call me Ishmael, some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would all about little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul. (pg. 93)

He decides to go to the sea and join the Pequod to visit the other places besides his land. Through chasing the white whale and going to the sea, Ishmael can meet people and make a friendship with them.

According to Maslow, a man’s effort to get a friend is one motivation to fulfill belongingness and love needs. Every person wants to be loved and accepted, so that an individual needs someone to share in his or her life. It is also proven by Ishmael that one of his motivations to go and chase the white whale is to get the friendship.
I should now take into my head to go on a whaling voyage; this the invisible police officer of the Fates, who has the constant surveillance of me, and secretly dogs me, and influence me in some unaccountable way—he can, better answer than any one else. And, doubtless, my going on this whaling voyage, formed part of the grand programme of Providence that was drawn up a long time ago. (pg.97)

Ishmael's desire to go around the sea and chase the white whale is the application of one of Maslow's hierarchy needs, that is esteem—need. According to Maslow's theory of esteem-needs includes the desire for strengthening, for mastery and competence, for confidence in the face of the world, and for independence and freedom (Kalish, 1970: 45). In the story, Ishmael is described as a boy who wants to get the freedom, face the world that has been never seen before. He goes to sea and chases the white whale in order to gain more knowledge on the sea and the white whale.

Based on Maslow's theory, the top motivation is to fulfill the self-actualization. A person feels valuable in his or her life if he or she is appreciated by others. One of the motivations of Ishmael to chase and kill the white whale is fulfill his self-actualization needs. The self-actualization need of Ishmael in the novel is seen by his effort to join the crew in Pequod and work together in chasing the white whale. Joining the crew in Pequod and chasing the white whale shows that the man must be the best of the best. Ishmael wants to be appreciated by others through his effort to join the whalermen. Furthermore, Ishmael will fulfill his self-actualization. This conversation between Ishmael and one of the captain below shows that Ishmael likes to be appreciated as a boy who is able to fight against the wild sea and the white whale.
I have given thee a hint about what whaling is; do ye feel inclined for it?"
"I do sir."
"Very good. Now, art thou the man to pitch a harpoon down a live whale's throat, and then jump after it? Answer, 'quick!'"
"I am, sir, if it should be positively indispensable to do so; not to got rid of, that is; which I don't take to be the fact."
"Good again. Now then, thou not only wantest to go a-whaling, to find out by experience what is, but ye also want to go in order to see the world? (pg. 167)

C. The Significance of Chasing the White Whale To the Major Characters

White whale or moby dick is a huge and wild animal. She will attack the whalenmen who are trying to catch her. Many people are dead and wounded because of her. Nevertheless, there are many people who insist on their planning to look for the white whale. The reasons of the people to catch the white whale are various. Most of the people catch the white whale because of her sperm oil. The crew of Pequod is also primarily looking for the sperm oil, besides her flesh. It means that people have many reasons to chase and get the white whale. On the other word, there are different motivations and reasons to chase the white whale.

The characteristic of Captain Ahab and Ishmael have been discussed in the previous part. It is known that Captain Ahab has a complex character. He is an ambitious and aggressive man. He wants to take revenge on the white whale that has made him invalid. The other character is Ishmael. He is the narrator of the story who is depicted as a self-confident and brave boy.

Captain Ahab and Ishmael are described as persons who have different motivations to catch the white whale. Captain Ahab and Ishmael realize that it is
not easy to catch the white whale. They know that they should pay a lot of attentions to chase the white whale because they will face many risks or great danger.

In several events, Captain Ahab shows the character of individual with high motivation to catch the white whale. It is revealed Captain Ahab that all of his effort to chase the white whale is to make a vengeance. This quotation shows the Ahab’s desire.

“Though, consumed with the hot fire of his purpose, Ahab in all his thoughts and action ever had in view the ultimate capture of Moby Dick; though he seemed ready to sacrifice all mortal interests to that one passion; nevertheless it may have been that he was by nature and long habituation far too wedded to a fiery whalermen’s ways, altogether to abandon the collateral prosecution of the voyage. (pg.319)

From all of his efforts shows it seen that Ahab is as an individual who really wants to accomplish his goal, to chase the white whale.

Since Captain Ahab sails with the crew of Pequod, he shows that he is a creative, hard headed and ambitious man. His stubbornness is revealed in all of his action in chasing the white whale. He never hesitates to do his plan, Captain Ahab insists on taking revenge on the white whale, although many people have reminded him that he will not be succeeded. Nevertheless, Captain Ahab still strongly believes that he will succeed to make his dream comes true. His efforts and his high motivations show that the white whale is so significant to Captain Ahab.

Besides to take revenge toward the white whale, Captain Ahab has another reason to catch the white whale. He believes that killing the white
whale, also means destroying the evil. Captain Ahab thinks that the white whale is the symbol of evil that will destroy the human in the world, so she must be killed. Here, Captain Ahab commands his crew to kill the devil, the white whale. The crew should kill the white whale because it is so dangerous and will destroy human beings.

That's it—that's it! long and strong. Give way there, give way! The devil fetch ye, ye ragamuffin rapscallions; ye are all asleep. Stop snoring, ye sleepers, and pull. Pull, will ye? Pull, can't ye? Pull, won't ye? Why in the name of gudgeons and ginger-cakes don't ye pull?—pull and break something! pull, and start your eyes out! (pg. 320)

White whale might have possibility extended itself in some degree to all sperm whales, and that the more monster he slew by so much the more he multiplied the chances that each subsequently encountered whale would prove to be the hated one he hunted. (pg. 313)

To Captain Ahab, chasing the white whale is very important because he can show his ability to overcome the white whale's wilderness. All that he wants to a huge whale is to make a vengeance. If he is successful in conquering the white whale, Captain Ahab will be proud of himself because he feels that has done the best. It means that Captain Ahab believes that he has done a great service to humanity by killing the devil, the white whale. The world and human being will find their peace after the white whale finds her ends. Captain Ahab thinks that his struggle to wipe out evil in the universe will be known by the people. He will be the great hero and perhaps God, because he considers that God as the conqueror the evil.

"Ahab seized a loaded a loaded musket from the rack (forming part of most South-Sea-men's cabin furniture), and pointing it towards
Starbuc, exclaimed: “There is one God that Lord over the earth, and one Captain that is lord over the Pequod.-On deck!” (pg. 586)

This statement explains that Captain Ahab wants to be admitted as a hero or God.

For Captain Ahab, chasing the white whale is so significant, because he can be admitted as a hero or God.

“... I durst not so much as dare? Is Ahab, Ahab? Is it I. God, or who, that lift his arm? But if the great sun move not of himself; but is as an errand-boy in heaven; nor one single star can revolve, but by some invisible power; how then can this one small heart beat; this one small brain think thoughts; unless God does that beating, does that thinking, does that living, and not I (Pg.363)

The white whale is one of Ishmael’s reasons to go to the sea. When he decides to get the white whale he hopes that he will find the new thing that can not be found on the land. On the land, Ishmael is lonely, he is hard to find a best friend. On the other hand, he can find the real friend on the sea. Ishmael believes that going to the sea and chasing the white whale can make his dream comes true. His dream is to find out the meaning of the life.

Ishmael thinks that the sea is the source of life which keeps many mysteries, including the white whale. Chasing the white whale will help Ishmael to find out the mystery of life. Ishmael realizes that he will find out something new that is never seen on the land. Ishmael believes that the sea is a place where he finds out the mystery of life.

By reason of these things, then the whaling voyage was welcome: the great flood-gates of the wonder-world swung open, and in the wild conceits that swayed me to my purpose, twoo and two there floated into my inmost soul, endless procession of the whale, and, miu most of them all, one grand hooded phantom, like a snow hill in the air. (pg.7)
The statement describes that the ocean represents the very essence of life and stands as a contrast to the land. Ishmael feels that the ocean is the place where he can lessen his depression and boredom.

On the sea, Ishmael realizes the importance of having a friend. For Ishmael, all of his efforts to chase the white whale are the way to know the importance of comradeship. It means that the white whale is so significant to Ishmael because he finally finds out the value of friendship. Ishmael is saved by Queequeg's coffin that has been transformed into a life buoy, although Queequeg himself, finally, should meet his death. Ishmael is sure that he will die if he is not saved by Queequeg.

Through the experience of chasing the white whale, Ishmael has found the greatness of God. Here, Ishmael believes that God has power over the world. God can do everything that he wants, such as giving the bosom friend, like Queequeg, giving the beautiful view during his journey to sea, giving Ishmael a chance to go to the new place that never been visited before. On the other hand, God is also able to give the terror of the sea, for instance, the giant whale that floats mysteriously through the middle of the sea. Then, *The Pequod* has been shattered by the white whale. Because of that, many crew are dead and lost in the sea. Nevertheless, Ishmael is only the man who still survives. Queequeg has given him a coffin, so that Ishmael survives. Although Queequeg himself faces the death. Since Ishmael floats to the sea, he is saved by other ship, *Rachel*. Then, Ishmael can survive.
Saved from the death, Ishmael realizes that the mystery of life is in God's hand. His searching the white whale reminds him that life or death is in God's hand. It proves that he can survive although he has floated for two days. For Ishmael, chasing of the white whale has opened his eyes and his ear to have more faith in God. Here, Ishmael realizes that he can survive because of his friend and the greatness of God.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION

Ishmael and Captain Ahab as the major characters of Melville’s *Moby Dick* have the complex characteristics. It is known from all of their actions and also saying in the story. Ishmael, the narrator of the story is known as a curious boy. His curiosity brings him to know something new in his life. He wants to go and search the answer by going to the place that has never been seen before. He prefers going to the sea, because he thinks that the beauty of the sea can help him to forget his boredom and depression on the land. Finally, he signs on as a sailor in *Pequod* in order to go to the sea and joins the whalemens to chase the white whale.

During his journey to catch the whale, Ishmael finds something new that can not be found on the land. He admires God because of His greatness. Ishmael also realizes that person should be able to establish a friendship with any other person. For Ishmael, friendship is so important to fulfill his belongingness and love needs. According to one of Maslow’s theory of motivation every person wants to be accepted by others. The motivation to be accepted by others has stimulated Ishmael finding the friend. Having a friend will make a person not to be a selfish man. In this case, Queequeg wants to save Ishmael by giving him his coffin, although Queequeg should meet the death.

Captain Ahab, the captain of the *Pequod*, has a great self-confidence. He is also an ambitious, active and stubborn man. Captain Ahab always believes
in himself that he can do and reach everything he wants. He does efforts actively and creatively to support his actions. He is described as an individual who has high motivation in his effort to gain his desire. Captain Ahab is a man who never surrenders when he experiences failure.

The main motivation of Captain Ahab in chasing the white whale is to take a revenge, because the white whale has made Captain Ahab lost one of his legs. Besides to fulfill his desire to make a vengeance, Captain Ahab's other motivation is to establish his esteem-needs and self actualization. Concerning the theory on Maslow's human motivation, the desire for reputation or prestige is important dignities of people. When an individual earns good reputation, she or he will get satisfaction in life. For Captain Ahab, the esteem need will be established if he is able to catch and kill the white whale. If he succeeds in chasing and killing the white whale, Captain Ahab feels that he can establish his self-esteem.

Chasing the white whale is a difficult work, however, Captain Ahab insists on trying to chase the white whale and killing her. The white whale is significant for Ahab because the man who is able to chase the white whale will be admitted by people as God or a hero.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Roberts, James L, Ph.D. *Moby Dick Notes.* Nebraska: C.K Hillegars, 1966


APPENDICES

SUMMARY OF THE STORY

Ishmael, an inlander of Massachusetts often feels that he must avoid his depression and boredom on the land by going to the sea. He decides to leave his town and go to the shipping port of New Bedford. There he finds a man comes from the South Sea Islander named Quequeeq. The two men quickly become friends, then they decide to sign on the ship of Pequod. They search the ship that can bring him to go to the sea and chase the white whale. The captain of the Pequod is Captain Ahab.

Captain Ahab rarely appears on the deck of the Pequod. It makes the crew is curious to see the mysterious captain. Firstly, he appears to the crew to pulls out an ounce gold piece and declares that the first man to sight the great white whale will be given the gold. The crew thinks that the captain is a mad man, because his mind is only thinking about killing the white whale. Captain Ahab wants to kill it for taking the revenge. He has lost one of the legs because of her.

The captain is an ambitious man, he will do everything to get what he wants. For instance, he wants to chase and kill the white whale. People remind him not to chase the white whale because she is dangerous. The white whale is so wild, she will attack anything that try to catch her. However, Captain Ahab does not pay the attention to people suggestion. He works hard every day and every night to catch the white whale.

Along his journey, Captain Ahab learns the habitation of the white whale. His ability to read the chart makes him easy to know where the white whale is.
Besides reading the chart, Captain Ahab always asks about the existence of the whale to the other ship in the sea. The Pequod meets the whaling ship Rachel, which has encountered moby dick and lost a whale boat bearing the crew including the captain’s son. Ahab ignores the Rachel’s plea to help search for the lost son. Captain Ahab refuses to help the Rachel because he does not want to waste his time. Captain Ahab thinks that he will lose his chance to get the white whale if his ship should help the Rachel to search the lost son.

Ahab has sighted Moby dick. The crew has begun the chasing of the white whale. Captain Ahab commands his crew to lower all of his boat with Captain Ahab’s boat in the lead. The first day harpoons are driven into moby dick but the furious whale smashes Ahab’s ship. All the whalemen are rescued, but moby dick escapes. The second day the harpoons of all three boats find their mark in moby dick’s huge and again Ahab’s boat is capsized. The third day Captain Ahab drives a harpoon into moby dick’s side. Two of the boats, in danger, ordered back to the Pequod. Ahab’s boat remains alone to fight the whale. The angered moby dick drives his forehead into side of the Pequod, splintering its bow. Ahab throws another harpoon into moby dick, but its rope catches Ahab about the neck and drags him into depths. The Pequod sink and the crew are dead. Only Ishmael survives. He is rescued by the Rachel, the ship that Ahab rejection to aid. Ishmael is still alive because Queequeg’s coffin keeps Ishmael afloat. Queequeg gives his coffin to Ishmael in order to save his friend although Queequeq himself should face the death.
BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Herman Melville was born on August 1, 1819. His father was a prosperous merchant, but when he was eleven, his father was bankrupt. Two years later after his father dead, Melville was forced to leave school and go to work to help his family. He worked on a bank as a messenger, and as a clerk in his brother’s store. He also tried to be a teacher in a country school. Melville is not satisfied to the job that he had been got. Then, he decided to look for some other kind work. He signed on as a merchant on a ship bound to Liverpool. After his return to America, he become a clerk.

In 1841, Melville joined the crew of whaling boat bound for the South Sea. He spent his time on the ship by writing the story. By the time the ship reached the Marquesas Island, There Melville found the cannibal and got sick. He decided to escape from the terrible island. He reached one of the islands where people are the cannibal too and they called themselves as the Typee. Although they are cannibals, people is not as wild as Marquesas’. Melville described his experience on the island in his first book, Typee in 1846. Then, in 1847 he published Omoo, a narrative of adventure in the South Sea.

Melville married Elizabeth Shaw in 1847. This new couple established a home in New York, where their first son was born in 1849. A second son was born in 1851 and daughters in 1853 and 1855. While in New York Melville wrote the symbolical Mardi (1849), Redburn (1849) and White Jacket (1850), and began the White Whale or Moby Dick in 1851, this book would lead him to the peak popularity.
Moby Dick however was ever rejected by public, and Melville got depression. In 1856-1857 Melville wanted to escape from his depression by going to Mediterranean. While abroad, Melville kept on writing the diary. After his return from abroad, he published a satirical novel, Pierre. In 1857 Melville completed the novel, The Confidence man. During staying in New York City, Melville also wrote several poetry, including Clarel: A poem and Pilgrimage in the Holy Land. This poem published in 1876 and it is Melville’s final work.

Melville died on September 28, 1891. One newspaper referred him as a man who had written a whaling book and once of popular author. Melville’s best novel besides Moby Dick is Billy Budd. This manuscript was found in Melville’s desk after his death but not published until 1942.