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A THESIS

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AND THE IRONY TO THE CREATION OF THE THEME IN GUY DE MAUPASSANT'S "THE NECKLACE"

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ABSTRACT

Christiana Dwi Endarini, 2002: The Contribution of The Main Character and The Irony to The Creation of The Theme. Yogyakarta: English Letters Study Programme, Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

"The Necklace" is one of Guy de Maupassant's best short stories. It tells about a beautiful woman who was born in a poor family. Her life is unhappy since the phenomena of the society depicts beauty as more important than rank. Since then, wealth is the main happiness in her life. This story is interesting to be analyzed because the presentation of the main character who can make the story more vivid through her attitudes seen from before the ball, during the ball and after the ball and the use of the irony which is very rich in the story seen from the main character's attitude.

There are three objectives in this thesis that the writer wants to expose. They are 1) to know how the main character is depicted in the story, 2) to know how the main character's attitudes create irony in the story, 3) to know how the main character and the irony contribute to the creation of the theme.

This thesis is an analytical study which uses a library research. This study applies a formalistic approach to help the writer analyze the main character, analyze the irony seen from the main character's attitude, analyze the theme seen from the main character and the irony.

The result of this study shows that Mathilde Loisel is a dreamer and a materialist woman since the society depicts beauty as the important thing than rank. Since then, she always dreams of luxurious things around her life and she only loves them. Therefore, she is never happy with her life which is poor compared to when she is in the Minister's palace where the ball is held. She is happy in the Minister's palace because it has become her long dreams to be part of the glamorous life-style. Unfortunately, she does not realize that wealth is not everything in life. It happens when her best friend's diamond necklace is lost. She does not tell the real incident to her best friend. Instead, she keeps the secret for ten years long. She thinks that her best friend's diamond necklace is real whereas it is fake. Her attitudes create irony which can be seen on the situational and dramatic irony. Situational irony occurs from her attitude during the ball and in the name of the streets like Seine and Rue de Martyrs. Dramatic irony occurs when she thinks that honesty is not the important thing in life. From the main character and the irony, theme can be derived as wealth sometimes brings happiness in our life but honesty is sometimes more important than wealth.
ABSTRAK

Christiana Dwi Endarini, 2002: The Contribution of The Main Character and The Irony to The Creation of The Theme. Yogyakarta: English Letters Study Programme, Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.


Ada tiga tujuan dalam skripsi ini yang ingin dikupas oleh penulis, yaitu 1) untuk mengetahui bagaimana karakter utama digambarkan didalam cerita, 2) untuk mengetahui bagaimana sikap karakter utama menciptakan ironi dalam cerita, 3) untuk mengetahui bagaimana karakter utama and ironi menyumbang dalam penciptaan tema.

Skripsi ini merupakan suatu studi analisis yang menggunakan penelitian keputusan. Studi ini menerapkan pendekatan formalistik untuk membantu penulis menganalisa karakter utama, menganalisa ironi dilihat dari sikap karakter utamanya, menganalisa tema dilihat dari karakter utama dan ironi.

Hasil dari studi ini menunjukkan bahwa Mathilde Loisel seorang pemimpi dan seorang materialis sejak masyarakat menggambarkan kecantikan sebagai bagian penting dari status sosial. Sejak saat itu, ia selalu memimpikan barang-barang mewah disekeliling kehidupannya dan ia hanya menyukai barang-barang mewah tersebut. Oleh sebab itu, ia tidak pernah bahagia dengan hidupnya yang miskin dibandingkan pada saat ia berada di kediaman Menteri tempat pesta berlangsung. Ia bahagia berada dikediaman Menteri tersebut karena itu merupakan mimpiannya untuk menjadi bagian dari gaya hidup yang glamor. Sayangnya, ia tidak menyadari bahwa kekayaan bukanlah segala-galanya dihidup ini. Ini terjadi ketika kalung berlian temannya hilang. Ia tidak mengatakan kepada temannya apa yang terjadi. Malahan ia merahasiakannya selama sepuluh tahun. Ia berpikir bahwa kalung berlian temannya asli
padahal kalung itu palsu. Sikapnya menciptakan ironi yang bisa terlihat pada ironi situasi dan ironi dramatik. Ironi situasi muncul dari sikapnya selama dipesta dan nama-nama jalan seperti Seine dan Rue de Martyrs. Ironi dramatik muncul ketika ia berpikir kejujuran bukanlah hal yang terpenting dalam hidup. Dari karakter utama dan ironi, tema bisa diperoleh yaitu kekayaan terkadang membawa kebahagiaan dalam hidup kita tetapi kejujuran terkadang lebih utama daripada kekayaan.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

People become blind when they speak and think of wealth, like money, jewelry, expensive car, luxurious houses and many other valuable things, as it is seen in the main character in "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant, a French short stories writer in the 19th century.

"The Necklace" is a story portraying a beautiful woman who becomes the victim of the luxurious life style of Paris. She is depicted as a woman who becomes a materialist and a dreamer because of the phenomena of the society which depicts beauty as an important thing than caste. As a beautiful woman, she feels that she was born for all the luxurious and the delicacies not the poverty around her life. So, when her husband is invited by the Minister of Public Instruction to the ball where all the important and rich people attend, it is her chance to be part of a high-class life style of Paris that she has been dreaming. She dresses well with the diamond necklace, which she borrows from her best friend. Unfortunately, her hope is not fulfilled. It happens when her best friend's necklace is lost on her way to reach home. She becomes panic when she realizes that her best friend's necklace is lost because it is an expensive thing to her. To conceal this incident from her best friend, Mathilde and
her husband replace it. Since then, her life changes. She fires her maid and does all the housework herself. She moves to the cheapest house and every day she has to save cent by cent so that she can pay the debt for replacing her best friend's necklace. Her debt ends up ten years long. One day, when she has finished paying the debt, she meets her best friend whom she borrows the diamond necklace and tells what actually happens. She is shocked when her best friend tells her that the missing diamond necklace is fake.

"The Necklace" is an interesting story in the way of the presentation of the main character who wants to be part of a high-class life style of Paris but she fails. It makes the story more vivid through the main character's attitudes seen from three important events which lead the writer to the creation of irony. The creation of irony seen from the main character's attitudes is the second discussion in this study. Both the main character and irony contribute to the creation of the theme, which reflects human desire in life.

The reason the writer chooses the story is that none of the students of English Department discusses this story before, so it makes the writer curious to explore the work. Another reason is that the main character's attitudes, when she wants to be part of a high class life style of Paris and to fulfil her dreams, has become one interesting part when the writer reads the story. The presentation of Mme. Loisel does not only represents the life of bourgeois people in
Paris but it also represents the life of the world nowadays as we can see in the movies or soap opera in television and daily events in life.

The focus in this study is on the character who lives in a city of Paris who is influenced by the glamorous life style and the phenomena of the society. Mme. Loisel is the main character who is depicted as a materialist woman. Her attitudes can be seen from the way she behaves in three events which lead the writer to the creation of irony. The three events are before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. Afterwards, the writer will try to derive the theme from the main character and irony interpretation.

B. Problem formulation

There are three problems formulated based on the background of study. They are:

1. How is the main character depicted in Guy de Maupassant's "The Necklace"?
2. How do the main character's attitudes create irony in the story?
3. How do the main character and the irony contribute to the creation of theme in the story?
C. Objectives of the study

There are three objectives the writer wants to gain in accordance to the problem formulation above. The three objectives are:

1. To know how the main character is depicted in the story.
2. To know how the main character’s attitudes create irony in the story.
3. To know how the main character and the irony contribute to the creation of theme.

D. Benefits of the study

In analyzing the story of Maupassant especially on the main character, the irony and the theme, the writer hopes that by reading this analysis the readers know about the life of bourgeois people in Paris and its effects to the modern people life style nowadays. The writer also hopes that this analysis can be an alternative in literary courses which merely discuss English literature or American literature. By exploring French literature it can bring new breath to the literary courses.
E. Definition of terms

There are three terms in literary world that the writer uses in this study. They are character, irony and theme. To explain those terms, the writer quotes from some experts in literary world.

1. Character

Abrams defines character in *Glossary of Literary Terms* (1993: 23) as

> The person in a dramatic or narrative work who naturally possesses moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities that all reflected in the dialogue and the action among the persons.

2. Irony

Scott defines irony in *Studies in the Short Stories* (1968: 13) as

> "a contrast, a disparity between what actually is and what ought to be."

3. Theme

Scott in the *Studies in the Short Stories* (1968: 8) defines theme as "the generalization, stated or implied, that lies behind the narration of a specific situation involving specific individuals."
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL REVIEW

A. Review on related studies

Most of Maupassant’s works are pessimistic and morbid as Trawick comments it in World Literature volume V. He says that Maupassant’s writing is “an almost fiendishly realistic treatment of modern life.” Trawick’s statement is true when we read “The Necklace”. Maupassant depicts the event when Mme. Loisel lost her best friend’s necklace. It is fiendish because she has to suffer for ten years long just to pay the debt of her best friend’s necklace which is fake. During the years, she has to do all her daily jobs alone, has to move to the cheapest house and has to save cent by cent to repay the debt.

“The Necklace” or “La Parure” in French tells about bourgeois life in Paris. It is also an expression of Maupassant’s hatred to the bourgeois people (Trawick, 1955: 130). This story is full of irony of fate (Trawick, 1955: 130). On the other hand, Hammerton says that “his “Necklace” has nothing in it but its workmanship, but that makes it classic.” Hammerton’s statement is a proof of Maupassant talent as a writer. He depicts “necklace” not only as something expensive, stylish, or luxurious but it can also change a life of a beautiful woman, named Mme. Loisel, in several hours by describing the event when she returns from the ball to her
way home. It is a good point of Maupassant’s story entitled “The Necklace” because ‘necklace’ is not only seen from the object of the glamorous of the ball but Maupassant creates it as blindness of human being to material and as human being’s stupidity because she or he can be driven by material.

Because of the success of this story, Maupassant is equaled to a famous English writer, Rudyard Kipling. Compared to English writers, Maupassant is more various in his way to produce his works (Hammerton, 1925: 3). A characteristic of a realist and a naturalist like Maupassant is that he never writes his works without observation first (Trawick, 1955: 129). So, when he starts to write a story, it must be based on what he sees or his experiences as G. Pellissier says in World Literature

“He shows us the things themselves with perfect transparence, so well that, believing that we have them under our eyes, we are unaware of the writer.” (1955: 131)

This study focuses on three subjects of discussion, they are main character, irony and theme. They are the focus on this study because the presentation of the main character makes the story more vivid through her attitudes which can be seen from before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. Her attitude lead to the creation of irony in this story which is so richly used. The contribution of the main character and the irony create the theme which reflects human desire in life. The main character is a beautiful woman who wants to
be part of a high-class life style of Paris because she thinks that she deserves to have all the glamorous things because of her physical appearance. But her obsession is not fulfilled. It even brings her to the darkness of her life because she has to suffer for ten years long just to pay the debt and live in poverty. This event brings the story to the irony. Before come to the irony, there are crucial parts that the writer pays attention, they are the attitudes of the main character seen from some events before she comes to poverty. The events are before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. Afterwards the writer concludes all in theme.

B. Review on related theories

B.1. Character and characterization

A difficult analysis in the internal elements according to Perrine is character. To Perrine (1974:67) character is 'much more complex, variable and ambiguous compared to plot. Stanton (1965:18) defines character in An Introduction to Fiction as 'through our knowledge of the characters, we understand their actions; through their actions, we understand the characters.' The quotation above means that to know the character in the story the readers can see from her or his action in the story. Stanton's explanation is not complete yet because character is not only seen from her or his actions but they can be analyzed through her or his dialogue as Abrams (1993:23) says in Glossary of Literary of Terms
The persons in a dramatic or narrative work who naturally possess moral, dispositional and emotional qualities that are reflected in the dialogue and the action among the person.

From the quotation above, it is obviously seen that the action and the dialogue are the most important parts in analyzing character. From the action and the dialogue the readers can also see the interaction of character(s) to other characters in a literary work which can determine what kind of person she or he is.

Another definition from Barnet (1988:77) about character is "personality, that is, the mental and moral qualities of a figure, as when we say that X's character is strong, or weak, or immoral, or whatever." If the readers wants to know more about character(s) in a literary work, Barnet (1988:77) suggests that in analyzing character in a story, the readers should also pay attention to the "personality, traits and characteristics" of the character(s).

The presentation of character(s) in a story by the author which is called characterization, can be presented in several ways. Perrine (1974: 68) says that "an author may present his characters either directly or indirectly." Furthermore, he explains it in two methods below.
1. **Direct presentation**

"The author tells the readers straight out, by exposition or analysis, what a character is like, or has someone else in the story tell the readers what he is like" (Perrine, 1974: 68). This method is easier to the readers to know what kind he or she is because there is a guidance from the author or other character(s) in the story. In this part, the readers only quote from what the author says in the story.

2. **Indirect presentation**

"The author shows the readers the character in action; we infer what he is like from what he thinks or says or does" (Perrine, 1974: 68). This method is quite difficult than the previous one because first there is no guidance of the author. Second the readers have to be critical to the character(s) in seeing or judging the character(s) seen from her or his dialogue and action.

Abrams (1993: 24) has different ways in presenting the character in a story. He divides it into two methods, namely showing and telling.

1. **Showing (it is also called the ‘the dramatic method’)**

The author merely presents his characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer what motives and dispositions lie behind what they say and do. This method has the same definition to indirect presentation from Perrine. The readers have to be critical
to the analysis of the character seen from the dialogue and the action.

2. Telling

The author himself intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of his characters. This method is seen that the author has big influence in it. It is different from the previous one and this is easier than that one.

B. 2. Irony

Stanton (1965: 34) says that the use of irony in a story “can add interest, impact, humor or pathos.” To define the meaning of this term, the writer is going to employ the theories from Scott and Perrine. Scott in a book Studies in the Short Story (1968: 13) defines irony as “a contrast, a disparity between what actually is and what ought to be.” Meanwhile, Perrine’s definition about this term is not quite different from what Scott has. He (1974: 215) defines irony as “a term with a range of meanings, all of them involving some sort of discrepancy or incongruity.”

Irony can be discriminated from some related uses of language, they are sarcasm and invective. Perrine (1974: 215) says sarcasm is “simply language designed to cause pain.” Another language which the readers should pay attention in analyzing irony is
invective. It is "a direct denunciation by the use of derogatory epithets" (Abrams, 1993: 91). These two experts in literary world remind the readers not to be confused with these two languages which are different from irony.

Perrine (1974: 216-217) groups irony into three kinds, namely verbal, dramatic and situational ironies.

1. Verbal irony. It is the simplest and, for the story writer, the least important kind. This kind of irony is a figure of speech in which the opposite is said from what is intended. The discrepancy is between what is said and what is meant. In this kind of irony it is obviously seen that the discrepancy is between what the character aims and from what the character says.

2. Dramatic irony. In dramatic irony the contrast is between what a character says and what the reader knows to be true. The value of this kind of irony lies in the comment it implies on the speaker or his expectation. In this definition the author says that the irony is laid on the readers' awareness of what actually happens in the story rather than the character.

3. Situational irony. This kind of irony is usually the most important kind for the story writer, the discrepancy is between appearance and reality, or between expectation and fulfillment, or between what is and what would seem appropriate. In this explanation there is a slight difference in the story between hopes and reality which is not the same.
B.3. Theme

To derive a theme in a story is not a simple job because it is sometimes implicit. There are many theories explaining this term as Scott's and Perrine's theories. Scott (1968: 8) defines theme as "the generalization, stated or implied, that lies behind the narration of a specific situation involving specific individuals." Not all of the stories have theme, because according to Perrine (1974: 102) theme is

the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story. To derive the theme of the story, we must ask what its central purpose is: what view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals.

Furthermore Perrine explains that theme exists in two conditions, they are:

1. When an author has seriously attempted to record life accurately or to reveal some truth about it.

2. When the author has mechanically introduced some concept or theory of life into it that he uses as a unifying element and that his story is meant to illustrate.

To determine theme in a story, Scott gives an approach that will help the readers to know the theme from the book the readers read. He divides this thematic approach into four steps. The first step is that readers should take a look at the characters in the story. The second step is that the readers should think about the situation in
which the characters live and interact each other. The third step is that the readers should consider how the characters respond to the situation. And the last step is the readers should see what happens to the characters as a result. Though not all stories can be applied with Scott's approach, at least his approach is beneficial in this study in determining the theme based on those steps.

Scott gives explanation further about theme. There are two characteristics of theme based on Scott's, namely:

Firstly, the idea of a theme should not be equated with that of a moral. He says that sometimes the readers think that a theme is a kind of an object lesson that refers to manner. Though there are some fictions that deal with it but there are some which are not. Secondly, the theme cannot be stated into a principle or general truth like "honesty is the best policy" because human life does not only refer to this principle or general truth. Human life is more complex than it.

Perrine gives several principles that the readers should keep in mind to find a theme in a story. The principles are:

1. Theme must be expressible in the form of a statement with a subject and a predicate. If the readers express theme in the form of phrase, the phrase must be convertible to sentence form. A phrase such as 'the futility of envy', for instance, can be changed into a statement with a subject and a predicate to 'envy is futile.'

2. The theme must be stated as clear as a generalization about life.

Perrine reminds the readers that in stating a theme, the readers do
not use the names of characters in the story. The usage of the characters' names in the story can make specific rather than general statement.

3. The readers must be careful not to make the generalization larger that is justified by the terms of the story. There are some terms which the readers should use carefully in determining theme, like the terms 'every', 'all' and 'always'. Meanwhile terms like 'some', 'sometimes' and 'may' are often more accurate.

4. Theme is the central and unifying concept of the story. It causes that theme must account for all the major details of the story. If the readers cannot explain the bearing of an important incident or character on the theme, either in exemplifying it or modifying it some way, it is probable that the readers' interpretation is partial and incomplete, that at best the readers have got hold only of a subtheme. Theme must also not be contradicted by any detail of the story. The theme must not rely upon supposed facts-facts not actually stated or implied by the story because theme must exist inside, not outside the story.

5. There is no one way of stating the theme of a story. The story is not a guessing game or an acrostic that is supposed to yield some magic verbal formula that will not work if a syllable is changed.

6. The readers should avoid any statement that reduces the theme to some familiar statement, like 'you can not judge the book by its cover' or 'a stitch nine saves nine'. (Perrine, 1974: 107)
These six principles from Perrine is another way to help the readers and also the writer to determine theme of a story beside theory and a thematic approach from Scott.

B. 4. The relation between character, irony and theme

Character, irony and theme have close relationship. Scott (1968: 13) says that the reader will find characterization in irony. Stanton (1965: 34) says that irony gives depth to the character. Meanwhile as we know that irony can be found in a good story and it can add interest, impact, humor or pathos. Without close relationship between character and irony, there will be no irony because character is the important element in a story which can make story good because of the presentation of irony.

Theme can also be found in irony (Scott, 1968: 13) and the irony implies theme (Stanton, 1965: 34). It shows that the relationship between theme and irony is as close as the relationship between character and irony. Futhermore, Hamalian and Karl state their opinion about the close relationship between theme and irony in *The Anatomy of Prose Fiction* that the author suggests his or her theme by using allegory, symbols, satire or irony. From this explanation, the writer assumes that theme can be derived from irony and character as the last analysis of this study.
C. Theoretical Ground

The focus of this discussion is about main character, irony and theme. It is divided into three discussions. The first discussion is about main character, Mme. Loisel, who makes the story more vivid in a way of the presentation to create irony. To gain a good analysis on her, this study will pay attention to the action and the dialogue of Mme. Loisel. Some theories about character from Perrine, Stanton, Barnet and Abrams are very helpful in this study.

Barnet’s theory about character says that the analysis of character is not only based on the action and the dialogue. He says that to analyze character we have to concern about his or her personality, traits and characteristics. Therefore in the second discussion the writer is going to analyze main character’s attitudes in creating irony in the story. Before discussing irony, the writer divides the main character’s attitudes from some events in the story. They are before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. In each event, the writer pays attention to how she behaves until it marks the irony. In analyzing irony, theories about irony from Perrine and Scott are very helpful to get the interpretation of this term and to differentiate this term from some languages which sometimes make the readers confused because the readers think they are the same with irony, like sarcasm and invective.

After analyzing character and irony, the last discussion is about theme. Theme in this discussion will be derived from the
interpretation of the main character and the irony. The writer realizes that finding a theme in a story is not an easy way, but there are theories about theme which help the writer to determine the theme in this study. The thematic approach and the theory about theme from Scott and also the six principles from Perrine are very helpful to get the understanding meaning about theme.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the object of study, the approach and the research procedures. On the other hand, the object in this study is Guy de Maupassant’s short story, entitled “The Necklace.”

A. The Object of study

This study analyzes one of Maupassant short stories, entitled “The Necklace.” “The Necklace” was taken from The Collection of Guy de Maupassant’s Best Short Stories which was translated by Arthur Symons. It was reprinted in the year 1944 and published by Cleveland and New York, the world publishing company. This short story starts on page 120 until 131.

It is a story about a poor beautiful woman who is a dreamer and a materialist woman because of the social condition is depicting beauty as part of the luxurious life. Mathilde Loisel, as a poor beautiful woman, is obsessed with this phenomena and hopes that by attending the ball which is full of rich people, she can be part of this luxurious life. Returning from the ball, she lost her best friend’s necklace. Since then, she plunges into poverty and lives in debt for ten years. The focus of this study is about the contribution of the main character and the irony to the creation of the theme.
B. Approach

There are five approaches given by Rohrberger and Wood in *Reading and Writing about Literature*. The five approaches are biographical approach, psychological approach, sociocultural-historical approach, formalistic approach and mythopoeic approach. Since this study analyzes the main character, the irony and the theme and there is no extrinsic element in this analysis, formalistic approach is the appropriate one.

To know how could formalistic approach be the appropriate approach in this study rather than other approaches, the writer quotes the definition of formalistic approach by Rohrberger and Wood from *Reading and Writing about Literature*. Both of them say that formalistic approach

> insists on the total integrity of the literary pieces. Concentrating almost entirely on its esthetic value, they are concerned with demonstrating the harmonious involvement of all parts to the whole pointing out how meaning is derived from structure and how matters of technique determine structure. (1971: 6-7)

This definition is not complete yet for explaining formalistic approach. Furthermore, they say that formalistic approach analyzes

> The literary pieces without reference to the facts of the author's life, without reference to the genre of the piece or to its place in the development of genre or in literary history and without reference to its social milieu. (1971: 7)
C. Research Procedures

There were some procedures the writer taken in gaining a good analysis in this study. The first procedure was to find the appropriate approach in the study. Formalistic approach was the appropriate one than the others to gain a good analysis in this study since this study did not analyze the external elements, such as social-historical, the life of author, psychology and the thought or the expression of the author in the story.

The second procedure was to gather the data which was compiled from desk or library research. To compile the data, the writer divided the data into two sources, namely primary and secondary sources.

The primary source was taken from Maupassant’s short story, entitled “The Necklace”. It was taken from The Collection of Guy de Maupassant Best Short Stories which was translated by Arthur Symons. The story was reread several times to get a deep interpretation about main character, irony and theme.

The secondary source was taken from books which were related to the analysis of main character, irony and theme. Books about character, irony and theme were needed in this analysis, like Abrams’ Glossary of Literary Terms, Barnet’s Literature for Composition, Koesnosobroto’s The anatomy of Prose Fiction, Perrine’s Structure, Sound and Sense, Scott’s Studies in the Short Stories and Stanton’s An Introduction to Fiction.
The third procedure was to apply the theories mentioned in the first and the second procedure to answer the problems. There were three problems which had been formulated in the previous chapter. The first problem was about how the main character was depicted in the story. To answer the first problem, the writer tried to pay attention to the action and to the dialogue which might help the writer to determine her personality. The second problem was about how the main character’s attitudes created irony. To answer the second problem, the writer firstly discussed the main character’s attitudes only. To analyze the main character’s attitudes, the writer tried to pay attention to some events in the story. The three events were before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. Through each event, the writer paid attention to how she behaved in each event. Afterwards, the writer tried to analyze the irony seen from the analysis of the main character’s attitudes in each event in the story which had been discussed. They were before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. The third problem was how the main character and the irony contributed to the creation of the theme. To answer the third problem, the writer would see the previous analysis about the main character and the irony. From this analysis, the writer tried to see their contribution to the theme.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

There are three items that are going to be analyzed in this chapter based on what have been formulated in the problem formulation. The first problem is about how the main character is depicted in the story. The second problem is about how the main character's attitudes create ironies in the story. Before going to the third problem, this part will be divided into two discussions. The first discussion, the writer is going to analyze the main character's attitudes seen from some important events in the story which create ironies in the story. The events are divided into three parts, namely: before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. The second discussion, the writer is going to analyze the result of the main character's attitudes from those events to the creation of ironies in the story. And the third problem is about how the contribution of the main character and the irony to the creation of the theme.

A. Mathilde Loisel's character

Mathilde Loisel or Mme. Loisel is the main character in "The Necklace." She is chosen not because the author gives more dialogue and description to her than other characters in the story like, M.
Loisel, Mme. Forestier and Beaston. Yet this is because she is "relevant to every event in the story that the events cause some change either in her or in the readers attitudes toward her" (Stanton, 1965: p.17). To analyze her, the writer will pay attention to the dialogue and action which are the most important things in analyzing character. Barnet's theory is needed to help the writer to analyze the main character's attitudes which bring the writer to the analysis of irony.

To know how the main character in this story is presented, the writer will apply the theories from Perrine's and Abrams'. There are two ways in presenting character in a story from Perrine's and Abrams'. Perrine presents in direct and indirect presentation. Meanwhile Abrams presents in showing and telling.

Mathilde Loisel is a beautiful woman from a family of clerk. Her life is poor. Her beauty is a blessing to her. Yet it is a mistake of her destiny because she was born in a poor family. Here, Mathilde Loisel is presented in direct presentation because it is clearly seen that to know what kind of person she is the writer only quotes from the author's explanation (Perrine, 1974: 68). As a poor person, she cannot hope much from her condition to change her life to have a better life except she has to accept it as her destiny and continues her life like other poor people. Therefore, when she marries a small clerk man, she has no other choices. The proof can be seen on the quotation below.
She was one of those pretty and charming girls who are sometimes, as if by mistake of destiny, born in a family of clerks. She had no dowry, no expectations, no means of being known, understood, loved, wedded by any rich and distinguished man, and she let herself be married to a little clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction. (p. 120)

From the quotation above it is clearly seen that Mathilde Loisel is shackled by destiny. Though she is beautiful she was born to be a poor person who does not have many options in her life except she accepts it and continues her life. She accepts it when she marries a small clerk man at the Ministry of Public Instruction who has the same social level.

Mathilde Loisel suffers from her poverty since the society depicts beauty as an important roles in life rather than caste or rank. She thinks that as a beautiful woman she deserves to have a luxurious life as other beautiful women. Since then, she begins to be a dreamer woman. From the quotation below it is seen that she is a dreamer. It can also be seen that Mathilde Loisel is presented in indirect presentation. It is seen from what she does (Perrine, 1974: 68)

She thought of the silent antechambers hung with Oriental tapestry, lit by tall bronze candelabra, and of the great foot men in knee-breeches who sleep in the big arm-chairs, made drowsy by the heavy warmth of the hot air stove. She thought of the long salons fittet up with ancient silk, of the delicate furniture carrying priceless curiosities, and of the coquettish perfumed boudoirs made for talks at five o'clock with intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, whom all women envy and whose attention they all desire (p. 120-121).
She thought of dainty dinner, of shining silverware, of tapestry which peopled the walls with ancient personages and with strange birds flying in the midst of a fairy forest; and she thought of delicious dishes served on marvellous plates, and of the whispered gallantries which you listen to with a sphinx-like smile, while you are eating the pink flesh of a trout or the wings of a quail (p. 121).

From the quotation above, it is clearly seen that Mathilde Loisel is a dreamer woman who cannot accept her destiny to be a poor person. She dreams of luxurious life style which in her opinion she deserves to be part of a high-class life style because she is like other beautiful women who live in luxurious and glamorous life style. She dreams of glamorous life style and other luxurious things which probably she might never feel a high-class life style because her destiny has made her to be a poor person.

Seen from the dream she has which is filled by the luxurious things and her attitudes which never happy with her life because lack of expensive things, Mathilde Loisel is a materialist woman. She always measures her happiness from the valuable things. It can be seen from her attitudes when she is in her house. She is never happy in her house because all she has is not valuable. The proof can be seen on the following quotations. In this part, Mathilde Loisel is presented in showing. It is seen from her action that is never satisfied to what she gets (Abrams, 1993: 24)
She suffered from the poverty of her dwelling, from the wretched look of the walls, from the worn-out chairs, from the ugliness of the curtains (p. 120).

She had no dresses, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that: she felt made for that (121).

From the quotations above it is seen that Mathilde Loisel will be happy if she has something valuable in her life because she only loves valuable things since the phenomena of the society depicts beauty more important than rank. Mathilde Loisel has pseudo happiness because she thinks that wealth is her main happiness. Therefore when she does not have anything, she will never be happy except she has something valuable in her life like expensive dress, expensive jewelry, expensive furniture and many other valuable things.

B. The main character’s attitudes create irony

B. 1. The main character’s attitude seen before the ball, during the ball and after the ball

The main character’s attitudes can be seen from three important events which hold important role in analyzing them. Those three important events are before the ball, during the ball and after the ball. Each discussion of this event will finally help the writer to analyze irony which is seen from the result of the main character’s attitudes in this part.
B. 1. 1. **The main character’s attitudes seen before the ball**

Unhappiness is clearly seen in Mathilde Loisel’s attitudes when she realizes that her beauty is not appropriate to the poverty around her life since the society does not pay attention to caste or rank but it pays attention to beauty, grace and charm. Therefore, she thinks that her beauty is only appropriate to the luxurious things around her life. She also thinks that she was born to feel all the luxurious things not the cheapest things around her. The proofs can be seen in the following quotations.

She dressed plainly because she could not dress well, but she was as unhappy as though she had really fallen from her proper station, since with women there is neither caste nor rank; and beauty, grace and charm act instead of family and birth. Natural fineness, instinct for what is elegant, suppleness of wit, are the sole hierarchy, and make from women of the people the equals of the very greatest ladies (p. 120).

She suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born for all the delicacies and all the luxuries. She suffered from the poverty of her dwelling, from the wretched look of the walls, from the worn-out chairs, from the ugliness of the curtains (p. 120).

She had no dresses, no jewels, nothing. And she loved nothing but that: she felt made for that. She could so have liked to please, to be envied, to be charming, to be sought after (p. 121).

From the quotations above, it is seen that Mathilde Loisel is unhappy because she is poor. She hates the poverty around her life which
lacks of luxurious things. On the other hand, she thinks that all the luxurious things was made for a beautiful woman like her. Therefore if she complains about her poverty, it is fair enough for her because she deserves to have them all. It is explained on the following quotation which quotes that she deserves to be unhappy or to be angry because in her opinion she does not belong to the poor environment, “all those things, of which another woman of her rank would never even have been conscious, tortured her and made her angry” (p. 120).

Envious can also be seen in Mathilde Loisel’s attitudes when she visits her friend who was her former school-mate at the convent. When she returns home from her friend’s house she feels envy because her friend is a rich person. On the contrary, when she returns home from her friend’s house, she finds nothing luxurious in her house. She only finds the worn-out chairs, the wretched look of the walls, the poverty environment and the ugliness of the curtains. She does not have jewelry and beautiful dresses too to wear on because she is poor. There is nothing to be proud of her life compared to what she sees in her friend’s house. Therefore, she does not want to visit her anymore because when she comes to her friend’s house her heart hurts her because of envy. It can be seen on the quotation below.

She had a friend, a former school-mate at the convent, who was rich, and whom she did not like to go and see anymore, because she suffered so much when she came back (p. 121).
To Mathilde Loisel, wealth is very important. So, when her husband, M. Loisel, brings an invitation from the Minister of Public Instruction to attend the ball which will be held on Monday evening, January 18th, she does not show her interest at all. In fact she shows her sadness when she reads the invitation. It can be seen on the following quotation.

She looked at him with an irritated eye, and she said, impatiently;

"And what do you want me to put on my back?"

He had not thought of that; he stammered:

"Why, the dress you go to the theatre in. It looks very well, to me."

He stopped, distracted, seeing that his wife was crying. Two great tears descended slowly from the corners of her eyes towards the corners of her mouth. He stuttered:

"What's the matter? What's the matter?"

But, by a violent effort, she had conquered her grief, and she replied, with a calm voice, while she wiped her wet cheeks:

"Nothing. Only I have no dress, and therefore I can't go to this ball. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better equipped than I."

(p. 122-123)

From the quotation above, it is seen that Mathilde Loisel is not happy with her husband's news. She feels sad when she reads the invitation because she realizes that the people in the ball will wear expensive and beautiful dresses meanwhile she only has the dress that she wears on the theatre with her husband.
To her, the dress is not suitable with the people who will attend the ball. She wants a beautiful and expensive dress so that she can be equal with the people attending there.

The day of the ball is near but Mathilde Loisel is looked sad, uneasy and anxious. It can be seen through the following quotation.

The day of the ball drew near, and Mme. Loisel seemed sad, uneasy, anxious. Her dress was ready, however. Her husband said to her one evening: "What is the matter? Come, you've been so queer these last three days."
And she answered: "It annoys me not to have a single jewel, not a single stone, nothing to put on. I shall look like distress. I should almost rather not go at all." (p. 123)

From the quotation above, it is explained clearly why she behaves so queer. She does not have jewelry to suit on with the dress. To buy jewelry, they do not have much money. She has spent her husband money to buy the dress. It is also seen that she is never satisfied to what she has. She asks more to her husband who is only a small clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction.

To her, jewelry is the most important ornament to put on to her body because it signifies that she is part of the ball and part of the beautiful women who live in luxurious and glamorous lifestyle. Therefore, when her husband suggests her to wear natural flowers which are stylish at that time, she refuses. She only wants jewelry to suit on her dress. It is seen on the quotation below.
He resumed:
"You might wear natural flowers. It's very stylish at this time of the year. For ten francs you can get two or three magnificent roses."
She was not convinced:
"No, there's nothing more humiliating than to look poor among other women who are rich." (p. 123-124)

From the quotation above, it is seen that she does not want people in the ball know that she is a poor beautiful woman. It is disgraceful to her. Her attitude shows that she has prestige among other famous and rich people. It is seen when she follows their life style and she does not want to admit her poverty life.

To be equal with the people attending in the ball, Mathilde Loisel comes to her best friend's house who is a rich person. She comes to borrow the jewelry which she is going to suit on with the dress. Her best friend takes the jewelry from the wardrobe and orders her to choose which one she likes. She is so excited, nervous and confused when she touches her best friend's jewelry. It can be seen on the following quotations.

She saw first of all some bracelets, then a pearl necklace, then a Venetian cross, gold and precious stones of admirable workmanship. She tried on the ornaments before the glass, hesitated, could not make up her mind to part with them, to give them back.

She kept asking:
"Haven't you any more?"
"Why, yes. Look, I don't know what you like."
All of a sudden she discovered, in a black satin box, a superb necklace of diamonds, and her heart began to beat with an immoderate desire. Her hands trembled as she took it (p. 124-125).
From the quotation above it is clearly seen that she never sees and touches so many jewelry. She is so excited, nervous and confused because it is her first time in her life that she sees and touches so many jewelry. Her attitudes in her best friend's house show how poor her life is.

B. 1. 2. The main character's attitudes seen during the ball

On January 18th, Monday evening is the day of the ball in the Minister of Public Instruction's palace. Mathilde Loisel has ready to join the ball with the important and the rich people. She has bought the dress for the ball and her friend has borrowed her the diamond necklace to suit on the dress she wears on January 18, Monday evening. She looks prettier than other women in the ball. Pride of her beauty is seen on her face. It can be seen on the following quotation.

She was prettier than them all, elegant, gracious, smiling, and crazy with joy. All the men looked at her, asked her name, endeavored to be introduced. All the attaches of the Cabinet wanted to waltz with her. She was remarked by the minister himself (p125)

From the quotation above, it is seen that all the men in the ball including the host itself are attracted by Mathilde Loisel's beauty. She has prepared well to come to this ball and she has made a great
success because all the men in the ball want to acquaintance and to
dance with her.

She becomes the star among the famous men that day. She
knows that her beauty is for all the important and the rich men in the
ball. She has waited to be adored by the important and the rich
people. Therefore she lets them get close to her because she has
waited for moment for long. January 18th is her golden moment for
her and she does not want to miss it.

Happiness is seen on Mathilde Loisel's attitude during the
ball. The proof can be seen on the following quotation.

She danced with intoxication, with passion, made
drunk by pleasure, forgetting all, in the triumph of
her beauty, in the glory of her success, in a sort of
cloud happiness composed of all this homage, of all
this admiration, of all these awakened desires, and of
that sense of complete victory which is so sweet to
woman's heart (p. 125).

From the quotation above it is seen that Mathilde Loisel enjoys the
ball. She is happy in the ball because she thinks that it is the place
where she is supposed to live and where she belongs. She thinks that
she deserves to be in this place because she is like other beautiful
women attending the ball on January 18th. Her beauty is only
appropriate in this place.

In this palace she does not see her ugly dwelling, her
wretched look of the wall, her worn-out chairs, and her ugliness of
the curtains. It makes her happy. In this palace, she meets and
acquaintances with important and rich men, drinks expensive wine, eats delicious and expensive meals, and many more.

B. 1. 3. The main character's attitudes seen after the ball

Mathilde Loisel leaves the ball at four o'clock in the morning. She is in rush steps when her husband covers her shoulder by his wraps so that no one of the guest recognizes her husband's common wrap. It is seen that Mathilde Loisel feels worried at that time. It can be seen from the following quotation.

He threw over her shoulders the wraps which he had brought, modest wrap of common life, whose poverty contrasted with the elegance of the ball dress. She felt this and wanted to escape so as not to be remarked by the other women, who were enveloping themselves in costly furs.

Loisel held her back.

"Wait a bit. You will catch cold outside. I will go and call a cab."

But she did not listen to him, and rapidly descended the stairs. (p. 125)

From Mathilde Loisel's attitudes shown on the quotation above, it is clearly seen that Mathilde Loisel is worried to be recognized as a poor woman when her husband envelopes her shoulder by wrap. She has worked hard to cover her poverty life during the ball and before leaving the ball. She does not want to mess that night because of a wrap which her husband envelopes to her. That night is a golden moment to her.
They finally arrived in their home in the Rue des Martys. Her husband is very fatigue and he needs to take a rest because he has to go to the office in the morning. Meanwhile Mathilde Loisel wants to rewind her glory in front of the mirror. But she is shocked when she realized that her best friend’s necklace is lost. It is seen on the following quotations.

Her husband, already half-undressed, demanded;
‘What is the matter with you?’
She turned madly towards him:
“I have-I have-I’ve lost Mme. Forestier’s necklace.”
He stood up distracted.
“What?-How?-Impossible!”
And they looked in the folds of her dress, in the folds of her cloak, in her pockets, everywhere. They did not find it. (p. 126)

From the quotation above it is seen that how they are shocked when they realize that the diamond necklace is lost, especially Mathilde Loisel who at that time wants to rewind the glory she has made in the ball. Both of them are so panic and so afraid at that time. It can be seen from their attitude when they are looking the diamond necklace.

Feeling of fear haunts Mathilde Loisel when she returns the diamond necklace to her best friend, Mme. Forestier. It is seen on the following quotation.

She did not open the case, as her friend had so much feared. If she had detected the substitution, what would she have thought, what would she have said? Would she not have taken Mme. Loisel for a thief? (p. 128-129)
From the quotations above, it is seen clearly that Mathilde Loisel is haunted by the fear especially when she gives the diamond necklace to her best friend, Mme. Forestier. Though her best friend does not recheck her jewelry, Mathilde Loisel cannot hide her worries that day. She still keeps thinking about her best friend’s reaction when she opens the case. What makes her so afraid is because she cannot tell the real incident to her. So when her best friend asks her diamond necklace back, she is afraid if her best friend recognizes that the diamond necklace is not the same and asks her what really happens.

After ten years long Mathilde Loisel keeps the incident from her best friend, Mme. Forestier, she tells the real incident to her in one Sunday after her hard house work in the Champs Elysees. It can be seen from the quotation below.

‘Do you remember that diamond necklace which you lent me to wear at the ministerial ball?’
“Yes. Well?”
“Well, I lost it.”
“What do you mean? You brought it back.”
“I brought you back another just like it. And for this we have been ten years paying. You can understand that it was not easy for us, us who had nothing. At last it is ended, and I am very glad.” (p. 130-131)

From the quotation above, it is seen that it is hard for Mathilde Loisel to tell the truth at that time to her best friend, Mme. Forestier. Mathilde Loisel is confused at that time and she cannot dare enough to take the risk if she tells her best friend that day. Mathilde Loisel
is confused because she does not have much money to change the diamond necklace which in her opinion is real. On the other hand, she has not prepared yet for any possibilities she has to accept because she has not paid the debt yet. Mathilde Loisel still shocks when she realizes that the necklace is lost.

So, after ten years lying to her best friend, Mme. Forestier and after paying the debt, she tells honestly to her. Unfortunately, she tells her best friend the real incident after she pays the debts which ends ten years long and she has to loose everything she has, like her servant, her house and especially her dreams. Her honesty is invalid. Although she tells honestly to her best friend, she cannot expect much from her honesty. It cannot also save her from her poverty life though she has told the truth. If only she tells after the incident, probably her friend can find the best solution because the necklace is not expensive thing as she think.

B. 2. The irony seen from the main character’s attitudes

After analyzing the main character’s attitudes, the writer moves a step to the next analysis, that is about irony. In analyzing the irony, analysis on the main character’s attitudes will be much helpful because the irony is created from it.

Before going to the discussion of the irony, it is better to take a look once again about the definition of irony by Perrine. He (1974: 215) defines irony as "a term with a range of meanings, all of them
involving some sort of discrepancy or incongruity.” Further more, Perrine (1974: 216) distinguishes irony into three kinds, namely; verbal, dramatic and situational ironies.

One of the interesting thing in “The Necklace” is that the use of the irony which is very rich in this story as Trawick (1955: 130) says in World Literature Volume V. He further more says that “The Necklace” is one of Maupassant’s work which is full of irony of fate. It is true what Trawick says as it is seen on the dramatic and the situational ironies which dominate in the story. The situational and the dramatic ironies created from three important events in this story.

The situational and the dramatic ironies dominate the irony of the story. To begin with, the situational irony will be discussed first in this analysis. Situational irony is “the discrepancy between appearance and reality, or between expectation and fulfillment, or between what is and what seem appropriate (Perrine, 1974: 217).”

The situational irony in this story is begun with the phenomena of the society which depicts beautiful women as a part of a high-class life style. it is also supported by the setting of this place, Paris, which always gives dreams to every beautiful woman to be part of the luxurious and the glamorous life style of Paris. Whereas the ball on January 18th is held in the Minister’s palace in Paris. So, there will be a glamorous ball that night moreover the host is the important person. So the guests must be rich and important.
people. There are many people covered with expensive dress and jewelry and of course they fall into happiness in the ball.

Mathilde Loisel, a poor woman who is blessed with beautiful appearance, is among of famous and important people who enjoys the ball very much and becomes the happiest woman among the other women there. She falls into happiness moreover she is the star of the ball that night. Mathilde Loisel, who is proud of her beauty and thinks that she deserves to be in a high-class life style because of her beauty, finally can make her dreams come true though it is only in several hours. She is surrounded by important men and the adoration from them. Mathilde Loisel does not know that all her happiness and all her glory in the ball are the end of her beauty since she decides to go to the ball on January 18th wearing elegant dress and diamond necklace.

Mathilde Loisel, who is very proud of her beauty, has to accept the reality that on January 18th, Monday evening, which she thinks that it was her golden moment, is the bad day for her. After leaving the ball, she lost her best friend’s diamond necklace which she thinks expensive. Mathilde Loisel thinks that the diamond necklace is original. So, her husband and Mathilde Loisel replace the diamond necklace which costs high. They have to loose everything to repay all the debts. Mathilde Loisel has to do all her housework herself which she never does before and she has to save the money efficiently. After this incident, Mathilde loisel, who was an attractive
woman, becomes unattractive woman anymore. It can be seen from the following quotation.

Mme. Loisel looked old now. She had become the woman of impoverished households—strong and hard and rough. With frowsy hair, shirt askew, and red hands, she talked loud while washing the floor with great swishes of water. (p. 129)

This incident is ironic for a poor woman like Mathilde Loisel. She is a poor woman who is really proud of her beauty and who always measures all the happiness of her life from the wealth which in her opinion, she deserves to have because she is a beautiful woman. From this incident, it is clearly seen that there is a discrepancy between expectation and fulfillment. Mathilde Loisel attends the ball so that she can be equal with the people there by wearing elegant dress and diamond necklace, and to be adored by the famous and the important people. She, who is pride of her beauty, pays all her happiness in that ball into a long suffering.

Mathilde Loisel does not have to be in this situation if only she wants to accept her life and be thankful to God for what He has given to her. Perhaps she is still a charming woman and perhaps her life will be better. If only she wants to follow her husband to wear natural flowers as the ornaments of her dress, perhaps she will not have to buy diamond necklace to replace her best friend’s diamond necklace which is lost. Perhaps she can attend the ball again which the Minister might hold again.
The other situational irony can also be found in the street, name, Seine and Rue de Martyrs. Both of these streets create situational irony. M. Loisel and Mme. Loisel realize that they perhaps will not have a chance to attend such a ball in the Minester’s residence when they arrived at the Seine street. This street is ironic for Mathilde Loisel because when she is in this street, she will be an ordinary woman who is given a talent in her physical appearance. It is different when she is in the ball. She has become ‘the queen’ of the guests there. It is seen that this place has become a gap for Mathilde Loisel between her fantasy world and her reality world. It is seen that there is a gap between what is and what would seem appropriate.

Rue de Martyrs is ironic for Mathilde Loisel because she rejects the environment of this street which is full of poverty. But on January 19th, Tuesday in the morning, Mathilde Loisel, who is never happy being in this environment of this street, has to be in this street wearing her elegant dress. Again, it is seen a gap between what is and what would seem appropriate.

This story also creates a dramatic irony. Before going to the analysis on dramatic irony. It is better to take a look once again the definition of dramatic irony. Perrine (1974: 216) says dramatic irony is “the contrast between what a character says and what the reader knows to be true.”
Dramatic irony in this story is begun on the following quotations.

"Oh my poor Mathilde! How you are changed!"
"Yes, I have had days hard enough, since I have seen you, days wretched enough and that because of you!"
(p. 130)

From the conversation above it is seen that there is a gap between what a character says and what the readers know to be true. The gap can be seen when Mathilde Loisel blames her best friend, Mme. Forrestier for all the misery and the suffering in her life when they meets in the Champs Elysees. What Mathilde Loisel says to her best friend, Mme Forrestier is not true as the readers know. The readers know that Mathilde Loisel and Mme. Forrestier have not met for ten years long. It is since Mathilde Loise looses the diamond necklace. Since then both of them never contact each other. It is a long long time ago. So, it is not Mme. Forrestier mistake as Mathilde Loisel says because she does not want to tell the real incident that time to her best friend. She keeps the incident from her best friend. She does not want to be honest to her. If at that time, she tells the truth, probably she does not have to live in a long suffering and in a long misery.
C. The contribution of the main character and the irony to the creation of the theme

Perrine’s and Scott’s theories about theme are very helpful to find the central purpose of “The Necklace” since it is the important thing when the readers want to derive the theme of a story. Perrine (1974: 102) says that “to derive the theme of a story, the readers must ask what its central purpose is: what view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals.”

To help the readers in deriving the theme of a story, Perrine gives his six principles meanwhile Scott gives his thematic approach which is divided into four steps. The first step is to take a look at the characters in the story. The second step is to think about the situation in which the characters live and interact with each other. The third step is to consider how the characters respond to the situation. The last step is that what happens to the characters as a result. Perrine’s six principles and Scott’s thematic approach applied in this study to create the theme of “The Necklace” seen from the contribution of the main character and the irony.

Perrine (1974: 103) says “the theme may be equivalent to the revelation of human character.” The revelation of human character in “The Necklace” is about a beautiful woman, named Mathilde Loisel, who regrets her destiny to be poor person since the society depicts beauty as important thing in the society more than family or birth. Since then, she becomes the unhappiest person in seeing her poor
life. She only likes the luxurious and the delicacy things around her. She thinks that she deserves to have them all because she is a pretty woman. Unfortunately, all the delicacies and the luxurious thing, which she thinks that can bring happiness in her life, brings her to the long suffering for ten years long after she lost her best friend's diamond necklace.

From Mathilde Loisel's character here, the revelation of human character is to reveal the truth about the phenomena in the society which depicts beauty as an important thing than rank. What Maupassant wrote in "The Necklace" actually happens in real life. In real life, beauty is sometimes connected by the glamorous life-style. Some of beautiful women thinks that they deserve to have all the luxurious things around them which are created for them. There is nothing to be happy among the luxurious things. It makes them become narrow-minded to see happiness because they measure from their wealth. It makes them blinded to some other things which are more important than wealth that can give them happiness.

Following the first step from Scott's thematic approach, the writer takes a look at the main character who becomes a dreamer and a materialist woman since the society depicts beauty as important thing in the society more than family or birth. Mathilde Loisel, who was born in a poor family and has been destined to be a poor beautiful woman, feels unhappy because of the condition she lives now. She regrets her destiny and thinks that she is supposed to be
born in the delicacies and the luxurious life. From the phenomena of the society she belongs to, Mathilde Loisel becomes a dreamer woman. She dreams of the luxurious and the delicacies things which in her opinion she deserves to have them all in her life because she is a pretty woman. She also becomes a materialist woman since then. She measure her happiness from wealth like dress, jewelry and many other things.

Mathilde Loisel lives at the Rue de Martyrs that is a slum place. Therefore, she never interacts and socializes with anyone in this place because she hates poverty. She interacts with her former school-mate friend at the convent who is rich. She seldom visits her friend because she feels envious after returning from her friend’s house. In her friend’s house, Mathilde Loisel sees luxurious furniture meanwhile after returning from her friend’s house she cannot find them in her house. In her house, she sees the wretched look of the walls, the worn-out chairs ad the ugliness of the curtains. This view makes her unhappy and feels envy.

One day in the evening, her husband, M. Loisel, returns home from his office. He brings an invitation from the Minister of Public Instruction to attend the ball on January 18th, Monday evening. Hoping to see his wife happy, Mathilde Loisel does not show her enthusiasm at all when she reads it. Instead she feels sad. She realizes that there are many important and famous people attend there with their elegant dresses meanwhile she only has the dress which
she and her husband go to the theatre. She does not want to perform with that dress because it is disgraceful to her. She wants to be equalled with the people there wearing elegant dress. She wants to attend the ball if her husband buys her elegant dress.

The dress is ready and the day of the ball is near. But Mathilde Loisel feels sad, uneasy and anxious. It can be seen when she tries to cancel to attend the ball because she does not have jewelry to suit on with her elegance dress. To her, jewelry is important thing to be suit on her elegant dress. She does not want to wear cheaper ornaments to be equalled with her elegant dress.

It is the time of the ball. January 18th. Monday evening, Mathilde Loisel is in Paris, a symbol of the glamorous and the luxurious life. In this city is the Minister of Public Instruction's palace. Mathilde Loisel is very happy in this place. It has become her long dream and today, on January 18th, she can make it come true. In this place, situational irony is created. Mathilde Loisel, who thinks that she is part of the luxurious and the glamorous life, has to end all the happiness and all the dreams since she has lost her best friend's diamond necklace. She, who is always proud of her beauty, has become unattractive woman anymore.

The streets, Seine and Rue de Martyrs also create situational irony. Seine is ironic when Mathilde Loisel arrives in this street. She realizes that she perhaps will not have a chance like that and this street realizes her from her fantasy world to her real life. Meanwhile
Rue de Martyrs is ironic when she rejects the environment of this place which is surrounded by slum houses. But on January 19th, she is back to this place again wearing her elegant dress. It is ironic to see Mathilde Loisel wearing her elegant dress with the background of Rue de Martyrs. From it there is obviously seen a gap between what is and what would seem appropriate.

Dramatic irony in this story is when Mathilde Loisel meets Mme. Forestier, her best friend who borrows her diamond necklace, in the Champs Elysees. She tells her best friend the real incident and blames her for her suffering. Ironically, she is told by her best friend that the diamond necklace is fake. She knows the truth after she keeps the secret for ten years long.

From the irony above, it is clearly seen that there is a false point of view in seeing happiness in life. Mathilde Loisel’s point of view, who thinks that her happiness is measured from the price of the dress she wears to the ball and from the jewelry her best friend she borrows, is false. Finally, she has to suffer because of this diamond necklace which in her opinion it is her happiness to wear the expensive jewelry and dress. She is blinded by the phenomena of the society. She does not realize that wealth is not everything in life. There is important thing in life that is honesty. If she is honest that time, she will not have to live in debt and does all the house work herself.
From the above explanation, theme can be derived as wealth

sometimes brings happiness in our life but honesty is sometimes

more important than it.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The writer deduces from the result of the analysis in the previous chapter into three parts. Firstly, it is on the main character's description. Mathilde Loisel is a beautiful woman who lives in a poor family. As a poor woman, she does not have many options in her life although she has a charming face. Therefore, she marries a small clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction who has the same social economy level as her. But since there is a change in the society which depicts beauty as an important thing in the society more than family or birth, she becomes a dreamer. Since then, she becomes a materialist woman. Nothing can make her happy except wealth like jewelry, dress and many things.

Secondly, it is about the main character's attitudes which create ironies. There are three important events which create irony in this story and the main character's attitudes are seen from each event. Before the ball, she is unhappy because as a beautiful woman she is supposed to live in the delicacy and the luxurious life not the poverty. She feels envy when she returns home from her former school-mate friend's house who is rich. She feels sad, uneasy and anxious when she reads the invitation from the Minister of Public Instruction and when she does not have elegant dress to wear at the ball and when she does not have the jewelry to suit on with her
elegant dress. She feels so excited, nervous and confused when her best friend, Mme. Forestier, orders her to choose the jewelry that she wants to borrow.

During the ball, she is so happy because she becomes 'the queen' of the ball on January 18th. Most of the men who are important and rich men are attracted with her beauty. They want to acquaintances and to dance with her. She enjoys the ball very much. She has made a great success that day.

After the ball, she feels worried because her husband envelopes her shoulder by common wrap meanwhile other women envelope their shoulder by costly furs. She feels worried because she is afraid if there is one of them recognizes her in enveloping this wrap. She is haunted by the fear when she realizes that her best friend's diamond necklace is lost. She cannot stop thinking of it. Fear is seen on her face when she returns the diamond necklace to her best friend. She is afraid if her best friend notices that the diamond necklace is different from the previous one and asks her the real incident. She cannot tell honestly to her best friend. It is lost because of her careless.

Situational and dramatic ironies occur in this story from the main character's attitudes which are seen from three events. Situational irony occurs when she has to pay the glory of her beauty with a long suffering for ten years long. She decides to attend the ball in the Minister's residence in Paris. Paris is a symbol of a
glamorous life style. Her pride of her beauty has to be ended after returning from the ball when she realizes that the diamond necklace is lost. Since then, she becomes unattractive woman anymore.

Situational irony also occurs in the name of the streets, Seine and Rue de Martyrs. Both of these streets are ironic. Firstly, Seine is ironic because this street has ended Mathilde Loisel's dreams when she realizes that she perhaps will not have attended such a ball again. It is ironic to see that in this street, she has to end her fantasy world and has to be back to her real life. Secondly, Rue de Martyrs is ironic because Mathilde Loisel, who always refuses to be part of this place, on January 19th, is back to this place wearing her elegant dress.

Dramatic irony occurs when she meets her best friend again after ten long suffering in the Champs Élysées. She blames her best friend for her misery. Mathilde Loisel’s action is not right because the readers know that it is her risk not to tell her honestly and she meets Mme. Forestier after ten years long the incident.

Thirdly is to create the theme. From the contribution of the analysis of the main character and the irony, the theme can be derived as wealth sometimes brings happiness in our life but honesty is sometimes more important than it,
BIBLIOGRAPHY


**Appendix**

**Summary of the story**

Mathilde Loisel was a beautiful daughter who was born in a family of clerk and a wife of a small clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction. She was not happy with her life because she dreamed on a glamorous life style as the phenomena of the social condition at that time which depicted beautiful women as a part of the glamorous life style. As a beautiful woman who was born in a wrong family, she thinks that she deserves to live in a glamorous life style as depicted in the phenomena of the society.

In one evening, her husband, M. Loisel, returned home and brought an envelope from the Minister of Public Instruction which was written that Mister and Madame Loisel were invited to the ball in Monday evening, January 18thn. Hoping his wife was happy, Mathilde Loisel did not show her interest to attend the ball because she had no expensive dress to wear on in the ball. Mister Loisel gave her money to buy the dress she wants. When the day of the ball was near, Mathilde looked anxious because she had no jewelry to suit on with her dress. Finally, she borrowed her friend’s diamond necklace. She had a great success in the ball.

In their home, Mathilde was shocked because her friend’s diamond necklace was missing. They had looked everywhere but they found nothing. The only way was to replace her friend’s diamond necklace. They finally found the same necklace but the price was high. They owed money to repay the necklace. Since then, their life changed. They dismissed their servant, moved to the cheapest house and did all the house work by herself. Finally it ended ten years long. One day on Sunday, she met her friend, Mme. Foriestier, and told what actually happened to her life. Mathilde Loisel was shocked when she was told by her friend that the necklace was fake.