THE CONFLICTS OF THAI PROSTITUTES
AS SEEN IN SURANGKHANANG’S THE PROSTITUTE

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

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

By
Stefani Sera Marcellina
Student Number: 071214047

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
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FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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Yogyakarta, 5 December 2011
Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Sanata Dharma University

Dean

Rohandi, Ph.D.
God created me with love...
He pours me with blessings
and raises me through the hands of my family
and friends....

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to my beloved
family and friends
STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY

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

Yogyakarta, 18 November 2011

The Writer

Stefani Sera Marcellina
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PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIK

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Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Yogyakarta, 18 November 2011

Yang menyatakan

(Stefani Sera Marcellina)
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With love,

Stefani Sera Marcellina
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ABSTRACT

Marcellina, Stefani Sera. (2011). *The Conflicts of Thai Prostitutes as Seen in Surangkhanang’s The Prostitute*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

Thailand is one of the beautiful countries in Asia. Besides its beauty, it is also known for its prostitution. This regrettable reality leads the writer to conduct a research about the conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes. The object of this study is *The Prostitute* written by a Thai novelist Surangkhanang. This study is conducted to reveal both intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn, the Thai prostitutes, who are the major characters in this novel.

The research problem of this study is how the intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts of Thai prostitutes are portrayed through the characters of Reun and Samorn in Surangkhanang’s *The Prostitute*. The objective of this study is to reveal the portrayal of Thai prostitutes’ conflicts in the novel. In analyzing the novel, the writer uses psychological approach. This approach is needed in order to analyze conflicts existed in Reun and Samorn’s life. The theories of conflicts in social psychology help the writer in grouping conflicts into intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts. A paper about prostitution is also used to give superficial understanding about prostitution.

In order to complete the analysis, the writer conducts a library research. The writer uses both primary and secondary sources. The primary source of this study is *The Prostitute*, a novel written by Surangkhanang. The secondary sources are taken from other books such as *Critical approaches to literature* written by Devito and social psychological books such as *Foundations of social psychology* written by Jones and Gerard.

The analysis of this study comes into a conclusion that Surangkhanang portrayed the conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes by narrating both intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn, the major characters of the novel. Both Reun and Samorn face intrapersonal conflicts which basically come from their regret in becoming prostitutes. They also face interpersonal conflicts with other people in their life such as their pimps, a rent-collector, and a child-minder.

The writer has some suggestions to future researchers. Other researchers who are interested in this novel can broaden the ideas of analyzing this novel for example by analyzing the symbols or characters. If it is possible, other researchers can also compare prostitution in reality in that era with what it has in the novel. The writer also has some suggestions in the implementation of *The Prostitute* in the learning activity of Basic Reading 1 class. The writer suggests a sequence of activity which consists of pre-reading, whilst and post-reading activity.

**Keywords**: prostitution, conflict, intrapersonal, interpersonal
ABSTRAK


Untuk menyelesaikan analisis, penulis melakukan penelitian kepustakaan. Penulis menggunakan sumber primer dan sekunder di dalam penelitian ini. Sumber primer dalam penelitian ini adalah novel The Prostitute karangan Surangkhanang. Sumber-sumber sekunder diambil dari beberapa buku seperti Critical approaches to literature yang ditulis oleh Devito dan buku psikologi social seperti Foundations of social psychology yang ditulis oleh Jones dan Gerard.


Penulis memberikan beberapa masukan bagi para peneliti berikutnya. Peneliti-peneliti lain yang juga tertarik pada novel ini dapat

**Kata kunci:** prostitusi, konflik, intrapersonal, interpersonal
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background of the study. The writer also presents the formulation of the problem that is going to be answered in the next chapters. In objective of the study, the writer explains about what is going to be revealed by conducting this study. This chapter also contains benefits of the study which is for readers especially for those who belong to English Language Education Study Program. The last part of this chapter provides the definition of terms used in this thesis.

A. Background of the Study

Thailand is known as one of the beautiful countries in Asia. It attracts people around the world with its beautiful tourism objects, tradition, food, and other things. Unfortunately, Thailand is not only known for its beauty but also for its prostitution. Boonchalaksi and Guest (1994) have stated in their book that “...for the past few decades; prostitution becomes most debatable topic in Thailand” (p. 1). There are many reasons affecting the increasing number of prostitutes in Thailand. One of them is economical factor. For men and women of low education, prostitution provides them higher income. No wonder prostitution is considered as a profitable industry for them. It is also stated in the book written by Boonchalaksi and Guest (1994) that “prostitution, while illegal, is not a disguised activity in Thailand. It has begun an economic activity with high levels
of investment and is directly connected to our companies, hotels, clubs, mail-order brides, golf clubs, etc” (p. 1).

The growing of prostitution in Thailand has something to do with the past. In 1361-1935, women in Thailand were regarded as properties. Rayanakorn (1990) in his journal stated that “…in Thailand there was a law called Husband and Wife Law. This law showed that since long time ago, women in society were not regarded as human beings yet they were regarded as properties” (p. 1). It is written as below.

According to the Husband and Wife Law dated from 1361 to 1935, Thai women were regarded as pieces of property. She could be sold by her father and if married, by her husband. A husband had a right to beat his wife for correction. He was entitled to have as many wives as he wished while a wife was expected to be loyal to only one husband with cruel punishment or death penalty in case of adultery. On separation, a husband was entitled to a bigger share in the division of matrimonial property. While a husband would always receive a share in the division of property no matter whether he had come to the marriage empty-handed or not, a wife could only get one third of the property if she had come to the marriage with a certain amount of real or personal property. If she had come empty-handed, she had to leave in the same manner (p. 1).

The literary work which is used to discuss the topic is The Prostitute by K. Surangkhanang. Its simple yet interesting title attracts the writer to read and later analyze this as the object of the study. The novel tells the story of a young girl from a country who is tricked into coming to Bangkok and then forced into prostitution. She becomes pregnant by a young rich man and struggles to raise the child away from the miserable life of Bangkok’s Street. It also presents a portrait of a village girl lured into prostitution. The major character, Reun, is a representative of a prostitute. Her life shows us the consequences of being a
prostitute, including losing contact with the family, identity and independence. The main issue of this novel is the conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes in their life.

This study intends to reveal the conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn, Thai prostitutes, as portrayed in Surangkhanang’s *The Prostitute* through her way in drawing the life of those main characters in the story. In this study the writer only reveals the conflicts, both interpersonal and intrapersonal conflicts, faced by Reun and Samorn in this novel as a portrayal of conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes.

**B. Problem Formulation**

After reading the novel for several times, the writer found that the main topic discussed in *The Prostitute* was the conflicts of Reun and Samorn, the major characters of this novel. Then, the writer of this study came up to the idea to reveal the conflicts faced by the major characters.

The formulation of the problem of this study is: How are the intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts of Thai prostitutes portrayed through the characters of Reun and Samorn in Surangkanang’s *The Prostitute*?

**C. Objective of the Study**

The objective of this thesis is to reveal the portrayal of Thai prostitutes’ conflicts in the novel. The writer tries to reveal the conflicts that exist in the Thai prostitutes’ life in the novel. After revealing those conflicts, the writer tries to analyze those as the portrayal of conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes by using some theories.
D. Benefits of the Study

The writer of this thesis hopes that this thesis gives the readers understanding about the life of prostitutes in Thailand especially the conflicts that appear in their life. The writer also hopes that this thesis can be used as a reference for those who later have the similar topic with this thesis.

This thesis may be a good source for students of English Language Education Study Program to enrich their understanding about Asian literary works. Hopefully students of English Language Study Program in Sanata Dharma University would also be interested in making Asian literary works to be more worldwide known.

E. Definition of Terms

1. Prostitute

Based on a thematic paper entitled Exploitation on Children in Prostitution written by Judith Ennew (2008), “Prostitution is variously described in the literature as ‘sex work’; ‘violence against women’, or ‘slavery’” (p. 8). In this study, Reun, the major character is tricked into coming to Bangkok and then forced into prostitution. She earns a living by being engaged in sexual work.

2. Prostitution

Bindman stated that “prostitution is variously described in the literature as ‘sex work’; ‘violence against women’, or ‘slavery’. The frameworks used include trafficking, labour market participation, gender and human rights” (as cited in
Ennew, 2008, p.8). In *The Prostitute*, Reun as the major character is tricked into sex work which is a form of violence against women or slavery.

3. Conflicts

The definition of conflict based on Christopher E. Miller (2005) in *A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies*, conflict comes from the Latin for ‘to clash or engage in a fight’, a confrontation between one or more parties aspiring towards incompatible or competitive means or ends (p. 21). In *The Prostitute*, Reun and Samorn who work as prostitutes have confrontations towards incompatible or competitive means or ends.

4. Brothel

Based on Concise Oxford Dictionary, brothel means a house where men visit prostitutes. Reun, the major character of the novel works as a prostitute, lives in a house where men visit prostitutes owned by Ba Tath.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter explains the theoretical review of the study. The first part explains the review of related theories. The theories used are psychological approach, theory of conflict, and theory of prostitution. The next part presents the theoretical framework. It gives explanation how those theories help the writer in analyzing the novel.

A. Review of Related Theories

1. Psychological Approach

Psychological approach is one of many approaches that people can use to obtain better understanding of literary works. Psychology can be used because in a literary work, the personality of the writer has its role in giving a “soul” in his or her work. Daiches (1981) stated that, “psychology comes into criticism in two ways, in this investigation of the act of creation and in the psychological study of particular authors to show the relation between their attitudes and states of mind and the special qualities of their work” (p. 329). To interpret the meaning of literary works, in this case a novel, we can look at the behavior or characters in a novel.

We can look at the behavior of characters in a novel or a play in the light of modern psychological knowledge and, if their behavior confirms what we know about the subtleties of the human mind, we can use modern theories as a means of elucidating and interpreting the work (p. 337).
Wellek and Warren (1956) has defined psychology of literature as “the psychological study of the writer as a type of individual, or the study of the psychological types and laws presented within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology)” (p. 81). They have also stated that “characters in plays and novels are judged to be “psychologically” true. Sometimes a psychological theory held either consciously or dimly by an author, seems to fit a figure or a situation” (p. 91). Literary works are made as the portrayals of reality. The authors try to capture phenomenons or situations in the forms of literary works such as novels, poems, or plays. Psychological approach helps the writer in analyzing conflicts happened to Reun and Samorn in The Prostitute.

2. Theory of Conflict

Human beings are social beings. It means that every man needs other people in order to live. The nature of needing others to live leads to interaction and communication. Interaction can be formed by two people or more.

Sometimes people who are interacting get different ideas or other things that lead them into conflicts. Conflict based on Jones and Gerard (1967) is “a state that obtains for an individual when he is motivated to make two or more mutually incompatible responses” (p. 709). Raven and Kruglanski (1970) see conflict as “tension between two or more social entities (individuals, groups, or larger organizations) which arise from incompatibility of actual or desired responses” (p. 70). The more people involved in the interaction the bigger probability of having
conflict. Based on Worchel and Cooper (1979) “conflict itself is divided into two. The first one is intrapersonal conflict and the second is interpersonal conflict” (p. 460).

a. Intrapersonal conflict

Intrapersonal conflict is a conflict which takes place inside someone. Based on Worchel and Cooper there are four types of intrapersonal conflict based on motives or intrapsychic drives:

1) Approach - approach

This kind of conflict occurs when someone is motivated to approach two positive goals but can attain only one. Based on the theory, this is the simplest conflict in intrapersonal conflict. Worchel and Cooper (1979) have stated in their book that “theoretically, this type of conflict should be easy to resolve. One assumption of conflict theory is that the closer one is to the goal, the stronger will be the drive toward (or away from, if avoidance is operating) that goal” (p. 481).

2) Avoidance-avoidance

The second type of intrapersonal conflict is avoidance-avoidance conflict. Based on Worchel and Cooper (1979), “this type of conflict happens when someone has to choose between two equally uninteresting goals” (p. 461). It is difficult to overcome this type of conflict since when someone is approaching to one negative goal, the drive to avoid that goal increases.

3) Approach-avoidance

This type of conflict sometimes or maybe often happens in someone. Based on Worchel and Cooper (1979) “this type of conflict involves only one goal
which has both attractive and unattractive qualities associated with it. The individual’s own desire to both obtain the goal and escape from it trap him in a conflict” (p. 461). They made an example of this kind of conflict by illustrating it. A girl has been taught by her parents not to take candies from strangers. The candies are her favorite. She wants to take those candies but she also does not want to break the rule from her parents (p. 461).

4) Double approach-avoidance

The last type of intrapersonal conflict is double approach-avoidance conflict. Worchel and Cooper (1979) stated that “this type of conflict can involve having to choose between two goals which each of it has its own negative and positive aspects” (p. 461). Besides that, Worchel and Cooper (1979) have also stated that “someone who deals with this kind of situation will choose one goal based on the mount of the goal, the kind of the goal, and its attractiveness. The more attractive the goals, the bigger the conflict” (p.461).

b. Interpersonal Conflict

Interpersonal conflict occurs between two or more people. This kind of conflict is commonly harder to solve than intrapersonal conflict since this kind of conflict involves in two or more people.

1) Sources of Interpersonal Conflict

Based on Isenhart and Spangle (2000) in Collaborative Approaches to Resolving Conflict, there are some sources of interpersonal conflict:
a) Data

Each person has his/her way in getting data about something, for example data about students’ interest in learning English. People can get data from internet, interviewing other people related to the subject, or other ways. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) stated that “people often have differences of opinion about the best source, reliability, or interpretation of data. The differences among people can lead them into conflict. Interpretation by neutral third parties is needed to resolve disagreement” (p. 14).

b) Interests

Every person has his/her own interest on something. Interests here can be wants, needs, thought, and so on. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) have stated that “specific, tangible wants or perceived needs are the most common source of disagreement” (p. 14).

c) Procedures

Each person has his/her way to do something, for example solving a problem. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) stated that “different ways of perspective in solving problem between two or more parties will lead them into a conflict” (p. 14).

d) Values

Each person has his/her way of thinking. Someone’s way of thinking or valuing something depends on many things, for example his/her experiences in life. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) have stated that “frequently, the hardest conflicts
to resolve involve differences of opinion about the importance or priority of interests, options, or choices of direction” (p. 15).

e) Relationship

Creating a relationship with other people is not an easy task for every person. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) have mentioned that “people may resist cooperating if they do not trust others, do not feel respected by others, do not believe that the other person is honest, or do not feel listened to” (p. 15).

f) Roles

In the real world, each person has his/her own role. Sometimes conflict can appear between two or more parties who have different roles. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) have mentioned in their book that “professional, community, or family roles often create conflict because of expectations for the role or power imbalances created by the role” (p. 15).

g) Communication

People do communicate with others in their life. They try to explain or deliver their thoughts by communicating those to others. Sometimes conflicts appear in the process of communicating with others. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) have stated that “conflict frequently results from how something is said. In addition, people’s emotions become triggered by words that another takes personally or interprets as threatening” (p. 15).
2) Types of Interpersonal Conflict

Beebe et al. (2005) in their book entitled *Interpersonal Communication* stated that “there are three types of conflicts. They are pseudoconflict, simple conflict and ego conflict” (p. 222).

a) Pseudoconflict: Misunderstandings

Beebe et al. (2005) stated “pseudo means false or fake. This type of conflict occurs when we simply miss the meaning in a message. This conflict can be ensued by asking more information” (p. 223).

b) Simple Conflict: Different Stands on the Issues

Common conflict that appears in daily life is simple conflict. Beebe et al. (2005) stated that simple conflict stems from differences in ideas, definitions, perceptions, or goals. Someone and another person understand each other, but they still disagree on something (p. 223).

c) Ego Conflict: Conflict Gets Personal

Besides pseudoconflict and simple conflict, there is also ego conflict. Beebe et al. (2005) stated that “fights that begin as pseudoconflict or simple conflict can easily lapse into more vicious ego conflict. And as each person in the conflict becomes more defensive, the issues become more tangled” (p. 223).

Different expert has his/her classification about types of conflict. Devito (2004) in his book entitled *The Interpersonal Communication Book* has also stated types of interpersonal conflicts. They are:
d) Content and Relationship Conflicts

In daily life, people are dealing with many issues of things. Those people may not involve in the issue, but they argue or fight about it. Devito (2004) has stated that “content conflict centers on objects, events, and persons in the world that are usually external to the people involved in the conflict. These include the millions of issues that people argue and fight about every day” (p. 311).

In maintaining a relationship the presence of conflicts becomes common. Devito (2004) has written in his book that “relationship conflicts are equally numerous and include conflicts concerned with the relationships between the individuals, with such issues as who’s in charge, the equality or lack of it in the relationship, and who has the right to establish rules of behavior” (p. 312). Siegert and Stamp stated that, “another study found that four conditions led up to a couple’s “first big fight”: uncertainty over commitment, jealousy, violation of expectations, and personality differences (as cited in Devito, 2004, p. 312).

e) Culture and Conflict

A culture somehow affects someone’s way in reacting to something. Devito (2004) stated that “culture influences the topics people fight about as well as what are considered appropriate ways of dealing with conflict” (p. 312). Based on this statement, we can also say that culture also involves the way of people in solving those conflicts.

f) Gender and Conflict

Devito (2004) in his book stated that “there are differences in the ways of women and men in handling conflicts. There is a tendency that men usually
withdraw from conflicts and deny it. In other hand, women want to get closer to the conflict and resolve it” (p. 315). Those differences usually lead women and men into conflicts. Devito (2004) has also stated said that “when men choose not to withdraw, they tend to be more aggressive” (p. 315).

g) Online Conflicts

Devito (2004) has stated “besides face-to-face conflicts, there are also online conflicts. One of the examples is sending commercial messages to those who didn’t request them often create conflict. It will make the readers upset because they have to delete it” (p. 316).

3. Prostitution

This study discuses the conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn, Thai prostitutes. To get general understanding about prostitution, the writer read a paper written by Edlund and Korn. As stated by Edlund and Korn (2002) in their paper “prostitution is low-skill, labor intensive, female, and well paid” (p. 181). This paper proposes a marriage market explanation to this puzzle. If a prostitute compromises her marriage market prospects, she will have to be compensated for forgone marriage market opportunities. They also discuss the link between poverty and prostitution and show that prostitution may decrease with male income if wives and prostitutes are drawn from the same pool of women. Edlund and Korn (2002) have stated that “prostitution has been associated with poverty. Low potential for female labor market earnings is often taken to be an important
reason why women go into prostitution, and in any society a higher proportion of poor women prostitute themselves” (p. 206).

Bindman stated that “prostitution is variously described in the literature as ‘sex work’; ‘violence against women’, or ‘slavery’. The frameworks used include trafficking, labour market participation, gender and human rights” (as cited in Ennew, 2008, p.8).

In prostitution there is a transaction between a prostitute and a customer. The customer pays the prostitute for his/her service. Ennew (2008) has stated that, the root meaning of ‘prostitute’ implies a transaction. It follows that a prostitute performs some kind of sexual activity in exchange for money. In order to highlight the essentially economic nature of the transaction, this paper uses ‘customer’, meaning someone who purchases, rather than ‘client’, which implies longer-term, economic and power inequalities. Prostitution cannot exist without customers, who objectify – and thus dehumanize – themselves, the prostitutes, and human sexuality (p. 8).

B. Theoretical Framework

This study discusses about the conflicts faced by Thai prostitutes as seen in K. Surangkhanang’s The Prostitute. Some theories and also reviews are needed in order to analyze this novel. The writer chooses psychological approach to analyze the novel. In order to reveal the conflicts happened to Reun and Samorn, the writer needs to get the ideas of theory of conflicts in social psychology.

Theory of conflicts is also needed in order to analyze the conflicts happened to Reun and Samorn in the novel. Based on the theory of conflicts, the writer then can group the conflicts into intrapersonal conflicts and interpersonal conflicts. Theory of prostitution is also used in analyzing the
novel. It is useful to give an understanding about general things of prostitution. As stated by Lena Edlund and Evelyn Korn in their paper entitled *A Theory of Prostitution*, prostitution is low-skill, labor intensive, and a female. In this novel, which is *The Prostitute*, Reun as the major character works as a prostitute. She earns money from prostitution for the sake of her daughter. Those theories mentioned above are used to help the writer in analyzing the novel to answer the formulation of the problem of this study.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, writer presents the object of the study. The object of this study is a Thai Novel entitled *The Prostitute* written by K. Surangkhanang. In this chapter, the writer also presents approach of the study, which is psychological approach, used in analyzing this novel. The last part of this chapter reveals the method of the study.

A. Object of the Study

*The Prostitute* is a Thai novel written by K. Surangkhanang. This novel is called *Ying Khon Chua* in Thai language. It is a translated novel from the Thai with an introduction by David Smyth. This novel is published by Oxford University Press in 1994.

K. Surangkhanang got the idea to write this novel when she was a schoolgirl. She observed people who came and left a brothel opposite her home, behind Wat Sommanat. Wat Sommanat is a temple located at Krung Kasem. Kanha came to the idea that she would describe in a novel the tragic lives of the women who lived there. In the beginning many publishers rejected K. Surangkhanang’s work because of its title. Based on its title, many publishers thought this novel contained pornographic story. Moreover, it seemed weird for them realizing the writer of that work was a young woman with her respectable and good background. ‘Some,’ K. Surangkhanang recalled in her novel, *Ying
Khon Chua, ‘even went as far as to say, “As a woman teacher, it would be better for you to be writing cookery books or manuals on childcare rather. Why on earth did you write that story about prostitutes?”’ (p. 13)

The Prostitute tells the story of a young girl named Reun, from a country who is tricked into coming to Bangkok and then forced into prostitution. She becomes pregnant by a young aristocrat and struggles to raise the child away from the dark world of Bangkok’s Street. It also presents a sympathetic portrait of a village girl lured into prostitution. Besides Reun, this novel also tells about Samorn. She becomes a prostitute because she has to earn a living for her and also her husband who is in a prison. This novel was controversial enough because the central of this novel is the prostitutes.

B. Approach of the Study

In analyzing the novel, the writer used psychological approach. The writer used this approach because it was really appropriate to be used in analyzing this novel. Psychological approach could be used in analyzing conflicts existed in Reun and Samorn’s life. The theory of conflicts in social psychology could help the writer in grouping conflicts into intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts. The Prostitute, which is written in 1930’s, is a portrayal of prostitution in Thailand in the early 20th century. To get a clear understanding about the Thai prostitutes’ conflicts, the writer had to obtain the conflicts happened to them and analyze how they reacted to the conflicts in their life.
C. Method of the Study

This study is a library research. The writer used *The Prostitute* as the primary source and several books as secondary sources such as *A Theory of Prostitution* written by Edlund and Korn. To get better understanding in psychological approach, the writer read some books of literary approaches such as a book written by Daiches entitled *Critical Approaches to Literature*. In order to comprehend the theory of conflicts, the writer also used books of social psychology. One of the books of social psychology used by the writer is written by Worchel and Cooper entitled *Understanding Social Psychology*. To get better understanding about psychology as a literary approach, the writer read some books of literary approaches. One of the books used by the writer was written by David Daiches entitled *Critical Approaches to Literature*.

The first step was reading the primary source, *The Prostitute*. While reading and rereading the novel, the writer tried to comprehend it, and then formulated the problem and determined the suitable approach to analyze the study. The problem would be the scope in analyzing this novel. The second step was finding more data and secondary sources that could be used in answering the problem formulation. Finally in the last step, considering the analysis that has been done, the writer drew the conclusion.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer answers the formulation of the problem by analyzing the novel. The formulation of the problem of this study is how the conflicts are faced by Thai prostitutes portrayed in K. Surangkhanang’s *The Prostitute*. Firstly, the writer reveals the conflicts happened in Reun and Samorn’s life in the novel. Then, the writer groups those conflicts into intrapersonal conflicts and interpersonal conflicts based on the theory of conflict.

**A. Reasons of Becoming Prostitutes**

There are various reasons of becoming prostitutes. Some women become prostitutes because they want to get much money by selling sex. Others become prostitutes because they are tricked into this industry or they are victims of premarital sex. Edlund and Korn (2002) have stated that “prostitution has been associated with poverty” (p. 206). Edlund and Korn (2002) also wrote in their book that, “low potential for female labor market earnings is often taken to be an important reason why women go into prostitution, and in any society a higher proportion of poor women prostitute themselves” (p. 206). Different reasons of becoming prostitutes affect the prostitutes themselves in reacting and managing conflicts in their life. Women who consciously or willingly sell their bodies may not be as tortured by their guilt as those who are tricked into prostitution.
Two main characters in this novel, who are Reun and Samorn, have different reasons of becoming prostitutes. The former becomes a prostitute because she was tricked by a man and lured into prostitution. The last becomes a prostitute because she needs money to buy her husband’s daily needs that lives in prison. Those different reasons affect their attitude in facing conflicts.

1. Reun’s Reason

There are many reasons which lead women in Thailand in becoming prostitutes. Some of them become prostitutes because of financial difficulties while others are tricked to be prostitutes. The last is the reason that leads Reun in becoming a prostitute. She used to be a country girl, lived in the harmony with the people in her village. Many young girls in the village consider that men from Bangkok, which is the capital city, are really attractive, charming, and sophisticated.

It also happens to Reun. The first time she sees Khun Wichai, she is attracted by his look. He looks very attractive. His outfit is different from other men in Reun’s village. Khun Wichai knows that having a sophisticated look is the best way to attract young girls in villages. By having this kind of look, there may be some girls who are attracted and can be tricked into prostitution. Khun Wichai’s look represents this kind of people as seen in Surangkhanng’s (1994) *The Prostitute*.

There was no doubt he was well-off, and he was bound to be from a very respectable family. Wahn remembered that in the morning he had been wearing light blue, but now, he was sitting here in green silk trousers and a white silk vest (p. 39).
After being attracted by Wichai’s appearance, Reun falls in love with him. Flattering words given by Wichai makes Reun give everything she has including her virginity. After giving her precious gift, Wichai asks her to go to Bangkok with him. Reun happily accepts Wichai’s request without thinking the risks that she may face in the future. In fact, Reun has not known this man well. She is just attracted by his appearance. Poor Reun finally comes to Bangkok. Soon after they arrive at Bangkok, Wichai and Reun come to a house owned by Ba That. Ba Taht is not the only person who lives there. There is a son of her and also several young pretty girls who also live in the same house. Wichai tells Reun that Ba Taht is his aunt. Because of not wanting his family get shocked of Reun, Wichai asks Reun to stay in his aunt’s house for a while. In the beginning, Wichai regularly visits Reun. in the same time, Reun feels that there are many weird things happened in the house. The girls in that house often have some guests in the night. They come to the girls’ room. Once Reun accidentally sees what is going on in the room beside hers. She is shocked but pretends that nothing happens. She becomes worried about what may happen to her in that place. Moreover, she does not have somebody to talk to.

Day by day, in her loneliness, Reun realizes that Wichai has not come to Ba That house’s for a long time. Ba Taht finally talks to Reun. She gives her an irritating reality. Ba Taht asks Reun to pay for her daily needs and also her rent in that house. Poor Reun, who does not have a relative or family there, cannot pay those things unless she sells her body for customers’ pleasure.

‘Well, if you’ve nowhere to go, you can stay with me. You must understand, Wahn, that I’m not a wealthy person. If you really want to live
here, you’ll have to help earn your keep.’ The last sentence she said with emphasis. ‘Of course,’ she added, ‘if you don’t want to stay and you’d rather go somewhere else, that’s fine. It’s up to you. But don’t forget to settle your food and rent first. Think it over carefully.’ When she had finished, she left the room, leaving Wahn to grapple with her painful problem (p. 60).

Wahn, who used to be a nice, beautiful and cheerful girl, has become someone else. She creates someone new by herself because of her foolishness. She becomes a prostitute, a thing that she has never thought to be a reality.

Who was to blame, except herself, for being so foolish? Now that she had lost her reputation, she should to accept her fate. Sad and embittered, she allowed Ba Taht to push her into business of ‘earning a living’. Many times she tried to put off the evil moment, hoping for some miracle. But for country girls like Wahn, there was no hope and no choice. Eventually, the innocent young girl from up-country changed into what the rest of the world branded a loose woman, a prostitute (p. 62).

2. Samorn’s Reason

Every woman who becomes prostitute has her own story. If Reun is tricked into prostitution, Samorn has a different story. Samorn, basically voluntarily lets herself to be a prostitute. Samorn actually has a family. She has a husband who loves her and also a lovely son.

She paused for a moment and noticed that Wahn’s sobs had become less frequent. ‘It’s been worse for me, Wahn,’ she continued. ‘Do you think I like living here? Do you think I like being a prostitute? Of course I don’t. I’m forced to love this way out of necessity. I’ve got a husband and a child’ (p. 61).

Samorn is forced by the situation. She has to be a prostitute because of her financial problem. She has to buy her and also her husband’s daily needs in a prison. To make sure that her son gets a proper life, Samorn decides to sell her own son. It is a difficult situation for her to sell her own flesh and blood to another
person. Even though it is hard, she has to do it for the sake of her son’s life. Furthermore, she has to be a prostitute, to get more money and to make a living for her and also her beloved husband. She hopes after some years of being a prostitute, she can have a better life and get along with her family again.

‘My husband’s in prison,’ Samorn continued. ‘I had no means of earning a living at all. At first, I could earn enough to buy things for him when I visited. But gradually it all ran out, and there wasn’t even enough to feed my child. Just think, Wahn, my husband was parted from me, and I had to sell my own child, with his bright eyes, to get money to buy food for his father. In the end, this is what you have to do. If I didn’t there’s no way I could survive and see my husband and child again. Honestly, Wahn, people who don’t know despise us. Sometimes they look as if they’re disgusted when we walk anywhere near them. You understand, don’t you, that we don’t like things this way?’ (p. 62)

Poor Samorn has to sacrifice her soul and body to keep her hopes alive. Her love to her husband and son leads her to be a prostitute and sell her only child. She has to face a bitter reality of loosing her family members. She also gets mockery from other people because of the job she has to do to earn a living.

B. Conflicts

1. Intrapersonal Conflicts

Based on Worchel and Cooper (1979) in their book entitled Understanding Social Psychology, “conflict itself is divided into two. The first one is intrapersonal conflict and the second is interpersonal conflict” (p. 460). In this part, the writer will reveal the intrapersonal conflicts. Intrapersonal conflicts are conflicts which take place inside someone.

In this novel, Reun and Samorn deal with intrapersonal conflicts. Most of the intrapersonal conflicts are caused by their regret of their foolish mistakes by
becoming prostitutes. The intrapersonal conflicts faced by them also deal with the way they judge themselves as prostitutes.

a. Reun’s Conflict in Considering Khun Wit’s Proposal

Being a prostitute is not someone’s dream. In many cases, being prostitutes is a result of financial problems. Others may be tricked into coming to this miserable job. The last happens to Reun. Being a prostitute is not her decision. She was naive to believe a well-looking Bangkok man who promises to marry her after they have made sex. The reality that happens to her is beyond her imagination. She becomes a prostitute.

Prostitutes are considered shameful. It becomes worse when a woman becomes a prostitute not because she wants it, but because she has been tricked and lured into prostitution. It is also what Reun feels about herself. She feels guilty of giving her virginity to a liar who promises her love and a better life in Bangkok. Her job always becomes an obstacle to be with the man she loves. It is because she considers herself as a worthless woman without any good thing in herself. It can be seen from Reun’s answer when Wit, the aristocrat man, asks her to marry him.

In this situation, Reun deals with double approach-avoidance conflict. Worchel and Cooper (1979) stated that “this type of conflict can involve having to choose between two goals which each of it has its own negative and positive aspects” (p. 461). It is a dilemma for Reun to choose between marrying him or not. Each choice has both negative and positive aspects. If Reun accepts Wit’s proposal, she will be happy of having him as her husband. The thing that becomes
the negative aspect of this choice is people will despise him as a man of a
prostitute. People’s mockery on him will hurt Reun’s heart. On other hand, if
Reun rejects Wit’s proposal, she will be terribly sad, loosing someone whom she
loves with every piece of her heart. Therefore, this choice has its positive effect.
Reun will not be hurt by people’s mockery on Khun Wit. It is written in
Surangkhanang’s (1994) The Prostitute:

‘If I were like some girls who think only of themselves, you would have to
belong to me. Wit, my darling, I’m labeled a worthless, despicable girl. It
would be difficult to keep you all to myself. Your worth and reputation are
more important than my wishes. Even if I were just an ordinary girl, and
not a prostitute who has sunk to such depths, wouldn’t you still belong to
someone else? For you to be mine,’ she moaned sadly (p. 29).

Even though Wit loves Reun so much and so does Reun, it is difficult to
Reun to accept Wit’s love. The thing that becomes an obstacle is he comes from a
respectable family. She thinks it will ruin Wit’s status if he marries her. She thinks
that she is not the one who is suitable for him to marry. After being a prostitute,
Reun feels such a soul trapped in a worthless body. It makes it hard for her to
accept love or affection from men. Reun feels she does not deserve to get him.
Khun Wit deserves to get a much better woman who also comes from a
respectable family. After rejecting Khun Wit’s proposal, Reun feels empty inside
her heart, missing the only man whom she loves.

The blood drained from Reun’s face. She leaned against the window still
for support. It was at this time of night that he used to come and see her
and be near her and tease her. Where did he go now to enjoy himself now?
With respectable girls, no doubt. Beautiful, innocent ones, much better
than herself. It was only right that he should have that kind of girl for his
wife. That way his life would be successful and not in the sorrowful mess
it would be if he took a prostitute like herself as his wife. The children born
to that girl would receive love and affection as full members of the Adina
family, unlike the tiny baby that she was now going to give birth to. Her
baby would come into the world with the heart-searing label ‘bastard’ or ‘son of a whore’ attached to it (p. 80).

b. Samorn’s Conflict in Becoming a Prostitute

Feeling guilty is also felt by Samorn, friend of Reun who is also a prostitute. Samorn also feels vulnerable. Being a prostitute is not also her dream yet it is what she has to do to earn living. Her life depends on how many customers who want her and also on Ba Taht’s “generosity”. If she gets many customers, Ba Taht will give her more money. It is a rule to every girl in that house. In this case, Samorn has to deal with double approach-avoidance conflict. As what Worcel and Cooper (1979) stated “this type of conflict can involve having to choose between two goals which each of it has its own negative and positive aspects” (p. 461). Samorn will not get money if she does not want to work as a prostitute yet deep down in her heart she does not like to be a prostitute. Even though she has to face the bitterness of her life, Samorn tries to cheer Reun up. Samorn convinces Reun that she is not the only one who feels like worthless girl in the world. Surangkhanang (1994) in her novel draws the bitter life of Samorn in dialog below:

‘Come on, Wahn, don’t be too sad. Crying won’t do any good at all. What do you expect me to do? I’m just nobody, dependent on her, too. Do you think anyone likes seeing someone else going through what you are experiencing now? It would be best to calm down and think things over carefully. Wahn, you’re not the only one, you know. I’ve been through it, too’ (p. 61).

Samorn becomes Reun’s best friend. Furthermore, her affection to Reun is like affection given by her own sister. Because of their similar background stories, they try to strengthen each other by giving support. In every difficult time,
Samorn always tries to comfort Reun and calms her. Samorn really treats Reun just like her own sister.

c. Reun’s Conflict in Considering of Becoming a Prostitute Again

As prostitutes, Samorn and Reun do not have exact number of income every month. It depends on how many customers they get. On the other hand, they have to pay for the rent, the baby’s needs, food and also their own needs. Moreover, in that time only Samorn who works for money. Samorn does not allow Reun to work. All she has to do is taking care of her baby and also the house. On the contrary, Reun will not allow Samorn to do the housework.

Samorn acted as if she were the man of the house. Each night she went out to earn money in the same way she had since her days at Ba Taht’s. It was a job forced on her by necessity she could not just quit. She did not make very much. Just enough to live on and pay the rent without having to starve. During the daytime, if she did not have to go out, Samorn would help Reun to look after the baby (p. 116).

Reun tries to spend the money wisely. She does not want Samorn to work harder just to make a living for her and also her baby. She feels so sorry for Samorn of doing such a sinful job to earn a living. But one thing that comes every month, waiting to be paid. They have to pay for the rent. It costs 7 baht for a month. Every month, there will be a middle-aged woman who collects money for her boss. That time she comes to Samorn. Reun meets the woman because Samorn is not in a good condition.

‘Ive come for the rent,’ she continued. ‘Last time’ Morn asked to put off payment until today. Here you are. Here’s the receipt. You’ve had almost half a month.’

When Reun made no attempt to take the receipt but just sat there in silence, the rent-collector knew immediately that something was wrong.
'What’s the matter? Why haven’t you got the money for me? The rent is only 7 baht a month.’
‘I’m… I’m going to have to ask if we can postpone paying for a bit longer,’ Reun said, the words slipping pathetically from the mouth (p. 127).

Due to Samorn’s condition, Reun tries to think about getting a job. She cannot just sit in the room and doing nothing except taking care of the baby. The problem with the rent-collector has made her think a lot. She knows that in a couple of days, the rent-collector will come again and try harder to get the money. Besides, they also need money for their daily needs and also Samorn’s medicine.

Reun finally gets the idea. She realizes nothing she can do except going back to her former job, as a prostitute. Being a prostitute is her only way to get money in a short time. Besides, she does not know another way to get money in Bangkok except by selling her body. Inside her heart, she does not want to be a prostitute. Conflict faced by Reun in this situation is double approach-avoidance conflict. Worchel and Cooper (1979) stated that “this type of conflict can involve having to choose between two goals which each of it has its own negative and positive aspects” (p. 461). If she does not work as a prostitute again, she will not get some money. The positive effect of not becoming a prostitute again is she does not need to do that shameful job. Reun, whether or not she likes it, has to be a prostitute again to get money for her daughter, Samorn and also herself. Surangkhanang (1994) drew this situation in her novel.

‘Yes, ‘Morn, I have to go back to that wretched life because I can’t bear to see you suffer. You’ve been so good to me… You’ve continued to support and feed both me and my child, and now, when you are ill and we scarcely have anything to eat and no medicine I can’t just sit back and watch someone who has been so kind to me suffer scorn and hardship. So, I must gout to earn some money’. She spoke in a trembling voice and the tears
that had been welling up in her eyes began to stream down her cheeks (p. 136).

d. Samorn’s Conflict with Her Health Condition

Being a prostitute is not as easy as what people may think. A prostitute who does not have a pimp has to find their customers. They usually go to a place to meet their customers. It is also what Samorn does. In the past days, she worked in Ba Taht’s brothel house and men who want to get pleasure come to that place. Samorn rarely has to go outside and meet the customers. But since she has left Ba Taht’s brothel, she has to go outside more often to meet her customers.

Samorn does the best she can do to earn a living for her and also for Reun and also her daughter. She does not allow Reun to work except cleaning the house and taking care of her baby. Samorn is the only one who gets the money. She does not get enough sleep because she has to go outside in almost every night. Her bad health condition appears in her appearance. In this kind of conflict, Samorn also faces double approach-avoidance conflict. Worchel and Cooper (1979) stated that “this type of conflict can involve having to choose between two goals which each of it has its own negative and positive aspects” (p. 461). Samorn has to choose between two goals. The first one, she can take a rest for a few days, but they will not have money to live. The second, she can keep working and find some customers yet her health condition becomes worse. Surangkhanang (1994) draws Samorn’s sorrow as below:

She neither slept nor rested as she had before. Her physical appearance began to deteriorate visibly. Reun begged her to rest a little, but she refused. She could not stop, because if she did, it would mean hardship for
her, for Reun, and for her bright-eyed little niece. She had to struggle on until she got some money (p. 120).

Samorn chooses the second option. She keeps trying to work. Actually her bad health condition really affects Samorn. She has to struggle more to find customers to buy her daily needs, Reun’s and her daughter’s. She also has to get money to buy some medicine to cure her illness.

2. Interpersonal Conflicts

Besides facing intrapersonal conflicts, Reun and Samorn also have to deal with interpersonal conflicts. As Worchel and Cooper (1979) have stated in their book, “interpersonal conflict occurs between two or more people. This kind of conflict is commonly harder to solve than interpersonal conflict since this kind of conflict involves in two or more people” (p. 462), Reun and Samorn have many interpersonal conflicts. They have to face the conflicts among them and the pimps, customers, and other people.

a. Reun Against Khun Wit

Khun Wit is the man who can really steal Reun’s heart. She loves him and so does he. They actually love each other. Each day Khun Wit’s love to Reun grows deeper. His love to Reun makes him brave enough to propose her. It is clearly seen in the way Surangkhanang (1994) writes Khun Wit’s proposal to Reun.

‘I know you love me. But we can’t go on loving each other and carrying on like this. I intend to take you away from here to a place of our own,
where you will have my name and be my wife.’ The young man spoke sincerely, his voice full of optimism (p. 23).

Reun in that time is really worried about other people who may despise her. She thinks that she does not deserve to have Khun Wit as her husband. Moreover, Khun Wit’s father is a respectable phaya, a non-hereditary title conferred by the king, usually on government officials; a person bearing that title. She does not want people despise Khun Wit because of his marriage to a prostitute.

‘Khun Wit,’ Reun interrupted quietly, ‘it’s not in the hope of getting something in return that I love you. All I want you to know is that I, whom the world would condemn for feeling no real love and for selling sex for a living, love you. I really love you. That’s all’ (p. 23).

In this situation Khun Wit still tries to convince Reun not to think about others thoughts about them. He just wants her to accept his proposal. On the other hand, Reun still feels that she is just a prostitute who is sinful and she does not deserve Khun Wit to be her beloved husband. This conflict belongs to a relationship conflict.

Devito (2004) has written in his book that “relationship conflicts are equally numerous and include conflicts concerned with the relationships between the individuals, with such issues as who’s in charge, the equality or lack of it in the relationship, and who has the right to establish rules of behavior” (p. 312). Siegert and Stamp stated that, “another study found that four conditions led up to a couple’s ‘first big fight’: uncertainty over commitment, jealousy, violation of expectations, and personality differences (as cited in Devito, 2004, p. 312).
In this situation the conflict between Reun and Khun Wit comes from their uncertainty over commitment. Khun Wit wants to make a real commitment with Reun through marriage. On the other hand, Reun does not want to be Khun Wit’s wife. She realizes that she is merely a prostitute. Her background is totally different from Khun Wit who comes from a respectable family.

b. Reun Against Ba Taht

Ba Taht is Reun’s and Samorn’s pimp. Ba Taht does not only have them as the source of money for her. She has some girls in that house who are also working as prostitutes. The only thing that matters to her is just money. She will always get upset when one of her girls does not give her income. It also happens to Reun.

Because of her sincere love to Wit, Reun does not want to serve other men. She only gives herself to him. It is not a problem for Ba Taht when Wit still regularly comes to her house since he always gives bonuses for her. It becomes a problem when Wit does not appear for quite long time. Moreover, Reun does not want to serve other men. Because of that reason, Ba Taht looses her income. It makes her upset. She comes to Reun and says irritating words to her. This conflict appears because of different interests between Reun and Ba Taht. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) stated “specific, tangible wants or perceived needs are the most common source of disagreement” (p. 14). Ba Taht wants her to accompany customers so that she can earn money. In the contrary, Reun wants to give herself only for Khun Wit. Surangkhanang (1994) draws the conflict as below:
'There’s no such thing as love for the likes of us. Money, that’s all there is. Just money. Remember that, my dear.' As she spoke, she stressed the word ‘money’. ‘You can believe me, too. I’ve let you have it your way lots of times. Now you must help me a bit. So let’s see you powdering your face quickly, now, and then you can follow me down. He’s waiting bellow for you’ (p. 82).

Reun finally goes downstairs and sees the man. Because of her irritated feeling caused by Ba Taht and also because of her bad physical condition, she cannot stand with the man. She goes back to her room and slams the door. Reun makes the customer mad and it also makes Ba Taht mad at her. Ba Taht feels that Reun becomes arrogant because when Wit still comes there regularly, he is the most prolific man. He gives Ba Taht much money. The fact that now Reun does not want to serve other men really makes Ba Taht upset.

‘It’s all the same, whether I’m strict or whether I go easy on you. Do you want me to really sort you out? You go putting on airs and playing hard to get, and then the more I try to be nice to you, the more arrogant you get. I told you, right from the start, that if you stayed here, you had to help earn your keep. How can you expect to go picking and choosing like that? My godfathers! There you are, waiting for Khun Wit, and you’re only going to go with Khun Wit, because you’re his favorite…. Huh!’ She gave a loud mocking laugh. ‘And has he been to see you, then, eh?’ (p. 85)

This kind of conflict belongs to simple conflict. Beebe et al. (2005) stated that simple conflict stems from differences in ideas, definitions, perceptions, or goals. Someone and another person understand each other, but they still disagree on something (p. 223). Reun actually feels not in a good condition because of her pregnancy. She also feels left by Wit. It seems like her mind and soul go outside her. Even though Reun is not in a good condition, Ba Taht keeps pushing her to serve the customers. No matter the situation, there will be no excuse for the girls.
not to serve the customers. Working for Ba Taht means no a day-off. They have to
please the customers whatever the situation. The only thing that important for Ba
Taht is money. She does not even care to the girls’ condition. The conflict
between them becomes worst when Ba Taht once again reminds Reun to “earn a
living” by selling her body. This kind of conflict is one of ego conflict. Beebe at
al. (2005) in their book also stated that “fights that begin as pseudoconflict or
simple conflict can easily lapse into more vicious ego conflict. And as each person
in the conflict becomes more defensive, the issues become more tangled” (p. 223).
This conflict is written by Surangkhanang (1994) in her novel:

‘Oh, dear,’ said Reun. ‘I’m really not well, honestly. You can see for
yourself. Wait till I’m a little bit better, please.’ She pleaded stubbornly in
the hope of putting it off, although she had no idea what the future world
hold.
‘I’m not waiting any longer. I’ve already waited, lots of times. It’s like
waiting for the cows to come home. Aren’t you even the least bit
embarrassed at staying here, eating and sleeping here without giving me a
single bit of help as far as earning some money is concerned?’ (p. 86)

Ba Taht is a cruel pimp. She does not care about the condition of the girls
in her house. In fact those girls, who work as prostitutes, already have given much
money for Ba Taht and also her son, Toi. Toi is a quite smart boy. He goes to
school. The funny rather silly thing is Ba Taht pays her son’s school fee from
running such a shameful business called prostitution. She pushes the girls to serve
men’s lust.

‘Maybe this will be enough for little Toi’s school fees next term. I heard
him asking for it yesterday morning. You’re funny, you know, Ba. Your
own child, you love and take care of and you find the money for him to
study because you want him to be successful in the future. And then you
come squeezing the money out of the girls, forcing them to do this
shameful job, without a moment’s rest. And when anyone gets ill, you
won’t believe them. Toi might well be someone high up one day, as you hope, but no one will know as well as I do about his former life, and that he made it on the money which prostitutes like us sweated our guts out for. Prostitutes everyone despises. Yes. Damned prostitutes’ (p. 88).

This saying really comes from Reun’s heart. It seems that Reun really sick of Ba Taht meanness. Like many pimps, Ba Taht does not really realize or maybe they do not want to realize that all the things that they have got from every single sweat from their prostitutes. Reun’s saying makes Ba Taht feel a little bit shame and angry. Reun’s saying also makes other girls in that house realize that they have been working so hard just for Ba Taht and her son, Toi.

Ba Taht feels more frustrated by thinking that after hearing Reun’s saying. Ba Taht thinks that other girls may do as the same as Reun does. Reun has undermined her authority within the house. To make Ba Taht not asking for money again, Reun gives her 10 baht. Reun realizes 10 baht will not last in a long time. After spending the money, Ba Taht will come again and ask for more.

Reun was only too well aware that the 10 baht she had given Ba Taht would merely put off the evil moment for a short while. Once the money was all gone, Ba Taht would be back again, pestering and cursing her (p. 89).

Becoming a prostitute is not Reun’s dream. Unfortunately, it is her faith to be a prostitute. She also has to accept the reality that Ba Taht is her boss. She has to “earn a living” by selling her body or she will be kicked out off the brothel.
c. Reun Against Kesorn

After leaving Ba Taht’s house, Reun later lives in some places. One of them is in Kesorn’s house. Kesorn is also a prostitute. Reun lives in Kesorn’s house and works as a maid. Actually Kesorn does not really want to hire Reun as a maid there. She thinks that it just wastes money. She hires Reun just because of Samorn, her friend, asks her to do so.

Kesorn’s unwillingness makes her easily get angry to Reun. A single mistake, even the simple one, makes Kesorn mad to Reun. Moreover, Reun who is pregnant at that time, cannot work fast. Sometimes she also does mistakes because of her condition. In this case, the conflict between Reun and Kesorn belongs to simple conflict. Beebe et al. (2005) stated that simple conflict stems from differences in ideas, definitions, perceptions, or goals. Someone and another person understand each other, but they still disagree on something (p. 223). In this situation, Kesorn knows that Reun is pregnant. It affects her condition and also her speed in doing something. Eventhough she knows Reun’s condition, she does not want to understand it. On the other hand, Reun needs Kesorn generosity to let her stay in Kesorn’s house. The situation is written by K. Surangkhanang (1994) in *The Prostitute*.

But Reun had to endure Kesorn’s threats and tongue-lashings whenever she did something too slowly, or which displeased her employer. Reun’s speed and nimbleness were gradually deserting her and her movements became increasingly slow thing. Kesorn would call her to come and do something else, and if she was not quick enough, Kesorn would scold her angrily (p. 100).
Kesorn’s saying makes Reun sad. It is because Kesorn wants perfection for Reun’s work. On the contrary, Reun is pregnant. She cannot work well with the condition. Actually, Reun tries so hard to do all the things well, but Kesorn seems not seeing this.

‘So what’s on your mind, then? It’s your fellow, is it? What do you want to go bothering yourself with him for, when he’s left you? He’s not worth getting upset over. You never want to go falling in love with a man. Just take me. Now there’s no way I’m going to love any man. If he’s got money, he’s more than welcome to take me wherever he wants. Why did you have to go and get yourself a whining little kid? Once you’ve got one, you won’t be able to find it a father. Just look at you, Reun. If it weren’t for Morn, I wouldn’t be wasting my money employing you. You’re a nuisance, wandering around with a belly that size. I feel embarrassed in front of visitors. As for the work you do, it’s not worth the money. Just look at this dress here. I told you get it ready yesterday, but you haven’t.’

Kesorn’s words were like boiling water being poured over Reun’s heart. She gritted her teeth and fought back the tears. She had arranged the clothes in the wardrobe yesterday, but they were untidy again because last night, Kesorn had pulled them all out when she was looking for the one she wanted to wear when she want out (p. 103).

Beebe et al. (2005) stated that “there are three types of conflicts. They are pseudoconflict, simple conflict and ego conflict” (p. 222). This situation belongs to ego conflict. Beebe et al. (2005) has also stated that “ego conflict comes from simple or pseudo conflict which gets bigger. Ego conflict happens when the conflict gets personal” (p. 223). In the beginning, the conflict is also about Kesorn’s unwillingness in hiring Reun and also her unsatisfaction of Reun’s work. The conflict becomes worst when Kesorn reminds Reun about her bitter life by saying cruel words. A simple conflict between them becomes ego conflict because of Kesorn’s terrible words to Reun.
d. Reun and Samorn Against Mae Peu-ut

Mae Peu-ut is Reun’s neighbor in Worajak. She is the one who is asked by Reun to look after her daughter. Actually Mae Peu-ut does not like Reun and Samorn. It is because Mae Peu-ut knows that they are prostitutes. There are some sources of interpersonal conflict. In this case, the conflict among them comes from relationship factor. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) stated that “people may resist cooperating if they do not trust others, do not feel respected by others, do not believe that the other person is honest, or do not feel listened to” (p. 15). Mae Peu-ut knows that Reun and Samorn are prostitutes. She does not like them. It is seen in how K. Surangkhanang (1994) draws the perception of Mae Peu-ut about them:

That afternoon Reun agreed to pay the neighbor, Mae Peu-ut, Nai Klin’s wife, to look after her child. In fact, Mae Peu-ut did not particularly like Samorn and Reun, even though both were kind and had done nothing to upset relations with the neighbours. The reason she disliked and despised them was because Samorn was, as they say, ‘on the game’ (p. 138).

Even though she does not like them, she cannot reject the money. That is why Mae Peu-ut accepts Reun request to look after Eet, her beloved daughter. The conflict arises when Reun in the beginning wants to pay only 5 baht. Mae Peu-ut seems not happy with that number. In order to make sure her daughter will get good treatment, Reun finnaly agrees to pay 6 baht to Mae Peu-ut. Reun says that there will be extra money for buying milk. The milk has to be the ‘Bear Brand’. It is a good quality of milk. As any other mother, Reun also wants good quality of milk for her lovely baby.
Another conflict rises up when Reun coincidentally looks at the tin of cow’s milk with low quality.

What caught her maternal eye was another tin of cow’s milk. It was a poor-quality brand which they sold in the market. The lid was off and there were dirty milk stains down the side. It was standing in a plate half-filled with water, and there beside it, was Eet’s bottle of milk. Was it possible that Mae Peu-ut would deceive her? That she would take the money for 40-satang tins and then go and buy ones costing 13 or 14 satang instead? (p. 142)

After recognizing Reun in her house, Mae Peu-ut asks Reun about Samorn’s condition to distract her attention from the tin of low-quality milk. Reun is actually still thinking about what she has seen when she is having conversation with Mae Peu-ut.

By arriving home, Reun tells Samorn what she has seen in Mae Peu-ut’s house. She tells her that probably Mae Peu-ut gives her baby low-quality milk along this time to get some more money. Samorn seems not getting shocked about what Mae Peu-ut has done. She tells Reun not to get angry and confront her because Mae Peu-ut will probably take care of Eet half-heartedly after it. Samorn feels it funny when she knows Mae Peu-ut, someone who does not like prostitutes, tries to get profit from prostitute’s money.

Here we are, a couple of prostitutes, and everyone looks down on us, including this couple, who’ve many times said disparaging things about us and who don’t want to have anything to do with us. Yet, it’s strange, you know, they don’t feel the slightest bit of shame at cheating us over the money for the baby’s milk, which we earn from our sins, from doing something bad and disgusting in order to make a living. Huh! Sin it is that has to support virtue (p. 143).
Another conflict appears when Eet gets ill. She gets a cold. She has fever for several days. Fortunately she gets better by the day when Reun visits her child. Reun loves her little daughter very much. She will be worried even if a mosquito bites Eet. She asks Mae Peu-ut whether or not she has brought Eet to a doctor. Mae Peu-ut has not brought her to a doctor because she does not have money, so she does not dare let the doctor treats her. Reun gets angry and she cannot control her emotion. She is very worried about her daughter’s condition. Besides, Mae Peu-ut threatens Reun to sell Eet’s necklace given by Wit, the man whom she loves.

‘Why on earth not? If you had, Eet might have been better by now,’ said Reun.
‘Because I didn’t have any money,’ Mae Peu-ut replied.
‘Or,’ she added in an offhand manner, ‘would you have liked me to have sold Eet’s necklace, then?’ Reun was no longer in full control of her temper and Mae Peu-ut’s words infuriated her. ‘You’re not to do a thing with that necklace. If you hadn’t got any money, why didn’t you tell me? I’d have given you some. If she’d been really ill and you just kept quiet about it like this, would I have lost my child, then?’ (p. 155)

Samorn’s words seem to be real. She once says that she does not like Mae Peu-ut because it seems that she is not reliable. Samorn has a feeling that Mae Peu-ut will do anything for her own sake. Samorn’s thoughts become reality when Mae Peu-ut lies to Reun. She needs more money to buy milk. Mae Peu-ut says Eet is getting older so she needs more milk. In fact Mae Peu-ut needs more money to bet on horses so she provokes Reun.

Reun’s curt reply was sufficient to raise Mae Peu-ut’s hopes of getting the money. In fact, there was still some milk left, but she needed the money for betting on the horses at the Nang Lerng race track, the following afternoon, Saturday. There was nowhere she could get any money, so she planned to use the milk money from Reun (p. 158).
Reun, a poor prostitute, has to satisfy men’s lust to get some money. She hates being a prostitute. She does that only for the sake of her lovely daughter. She tries to do everything to make her daughter’s life better than hers. Even though she cannot take care of her baby by herself, she gives her affection by providing money for her baby’s needs. Mae Peu-ut knows it very well. That is why she dares to lie to Reun that she runs out of milk for Eet. Reun, a single parent and also a prostitute, tries to do everything to make a good life for her child even with being a prostitute. In other hand, Mae Peu-ut does trick to Reun to get more money for betting on the horses.

Among the teeming crowds struggling to buy tickets at the race track next day could be seen Mae Peu-ut, the wife of Nai Klin. Red-faced, she was pushing her way through people in front, holding up five 1-baht notes and shouting to the man selling tickets. The sight of banknotes being held up in the midst of such a crowd might have saddened the observant onlooker if he or she had known that they were the banknotes Reun had got by forcing herself to sell sex when she was unwell in the belief that her daughter was starving. Sin it was that supported virtue (p. 158).

e. Reun and Samorn Against a Rent-collector

After escaping from Ba Taht’s house, Samorn decides to live together with Reun and also her little baby. They rent a small room in Worajak Road. The room is divided into 2 parts. The front part is used by Samorn while another is used by Run and also her baby.

The owner of the room does not collect the money by herself. She asks a middle-aged woman to collect it. The middle-aged woman is not a kind one. She does not care whether or not the people whom she asks for money from are having difficulties.
It also happens to Samorn and Reun. Samorn is the only person who works and tries to make a living for all of them. In that time, she is not in a good condition so that she cannot go to do her job. Reun asks the woman to postpone paying the rent. The woman is mad. Aside they have postponed it for a month; she does not care about their problems. All she wants is money. The conflict among them arises due to the differences of interests. Samorn and Reun want to postpone paying the rent while the rent-collector wants them to pay without postponing again. Isenhart and Spangle (2000) stated that “specific, tangible wants or perceived needs are the most common source of disagreement” (p. 14). The different wants between them lead them into a conflict. The conflict is clearly on how Surangkhanang (1994) creates the dialogue of the rent-collector:

‘You’ve already put it off once and now you’ve wanting to put it off again,’ the woman said. ‘I come along one day to collect the rent and you want me to come back next. You’re not going to give me the rent for just one month, then you want me to collect for two months together. Nowhere else is it as difficult to collect for two months together. She stuffed the receipt back into the fold of her sarong and her expression hardened as she glanced contemptuously at the two girls. ‘So in the end I have to pay my tram fare here all for nothing. It seems funny to me why, if you haven’t got the money to pay the rent, you don’t just go and live in a brothel, once and for all.’ She spoke bluntly with chilling words (p.128).

Working to make a living for 3 people is not an easy task for Samorn. Working to make a living for 3 people is not an easy task for Samorn. Moreover, she is not in a good condition. The conflict among the rent-collector, Samorn and Reun makes Samorn’s condition becomes worst. She forces herself to work for the sake of Reun and Eet. She does not want the woman come to the house again and they still do not have money to pay the rent.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter the writer draws the conclusion of the study. The answer to the formulation of the problem will be answered in this chapter. Besides the answer to the problem formulation, the writer also presents some suggestions both for future researches and also for the implementation of *The Prostitute* in teaching Basic Reading 1.

A. CONCLUSIONS

Literary works are made as portrayals of reality. K. Surangkhanang has drawn the reality of prostitution in the 1930s in her novel entitled *The Prostitute*. She draws the struggle of Thai prostitutes through conflicts that they face. Both of intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts are written to give the readers a clear portrayal of prostitution in that era.

To analyze the conflicts faced by the major characters, psychological approach is really appropriate to use. This approach gives understanding about what intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts are. Having this kind of understanding can help the writer to analyze the conflicts. Besides the theories of conflicts, the theory of prostitution also helps the writer well in giving general understanding of prostitution itself.

Reun and also Samorn as the major characters in *The Prostitute* face both intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts. They have to deal with their fate of
becoming prostitutes. Each of them comes into prostitution with different reasons. Reun is tricked into coming to Bangkok and later she becomes a prostitute while Samorn voluntarily becomes a prostitute because she needs money to earn a living for her husband. Reun and Samorn have to face some intrapersonal conflicts. One of the intrapersonal conflicts faced by Reun is when she is considering Khun Wit’s proposal. She feels that it is so dilemmatic. She herself wants to be Khun Wit’s wife. On the other hand, she does not want Khun Wit, the man whom she loves, gets mockery from other people because of marrying a prostitute. Basically the intrapersonal conflicts faced by them come from their regret of becoming prostitutes. They also have to deal with interpersonal conflicts with their pimps, customers, a rent-collector and other people in their life.

K. Surangkhanang has written a sympathetic yet touching portrayal of prostitution in Thailand in the 1930s. The conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn can give us a new perspective about the struggle of a prostitute to earn a living by selling her body to the customers.

B. SUGGESTIONS

This section is divided into two parts. The first part includes the suggestions to future researchers while the second part includes the suggestions in the implementation of *The Prostitute* in the learning activity of Basic Reading 1 class.
1. Suggestions to Future Researchers

*The Prostitute* is a touching novel about the life of Thai prostitutes. It can give the readers a portrayal of prostitution in that era in a dramatic way. There are many interesting aspects that can be picked to be the research problems for further researchers.

Other researchers who are interested in this novel can broaden the ideas of analyzing this novel. If this study focuses on the conflicts, both the intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts, others can try to analyze the symbols, characters, and other things in this novel. If it is possible, other researchers can also compare prostitution in reality in that era with what it has in the novel.

2. Suggestions in the Implementation of *The Prostitute* in the Learning Activity

*The Prostitute*’s main idea is the life of Thai prostitutes. The main issue of this novel, which is prostitution, can be a good theme for group discussion. In public speaking class, for example, this topic can be a good idea in conducting debate in the class. The lecturer can assess his/her students’ based on the rationale of the students’ ideas and also their performances. The group discussion can also be held in prose class, extensive reading class, and other classes which are possible to make it as a topic.

In this study the writer suggests the novel as the material for basic reading. 1. The writer picks pages 140-143 since these pages portrayal one of the conflicts faced by Reun and Samorn, the major characters of this novel. The learning activity which can be held is written below.
a. Pre-Reading Activity

- Greeting
- Distributing the handouts
- Asking and answering pre-reading questions

b. Whilst Activity

- Skimming the text
- Writing what the text is about
- Scanning the text
- Writing the names of characters in the story
- Answering questions for details, doing vocabulary exercise, and stating true or false statements

c. Post-Reading Activity

- Discussing the answers of the exercises
- Making reflections
- Closing

By picking this Thai novel as the object of the study is one of the ways to make Asian literary works become more worldwide known. The writer hopes that there will be more people who are interested in reading Asian literary works as a form of appreciation to many good novelists in Asia.
REFERENCES


PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI
APPENDIX 1

BIOGRAPHY OF K. SURANGKHANANG

Kanha Watanaphat was born on 26 February 1911 in Thonburi, the eldest of three children. Her father, Phra Suriyaphakdi, was a high-ranking civil servant. She was educated at St Francis Xavier Convents and Rachin Bon schools and on completing her secondary education became a teacher of Thai at the exclusive Rachini Lang School. In January 1936 she married the journalist and writer, Puan Buranasinlapin, and within a year, resigned from her teaching post in order to devote her energies to writing full time.

No longer restricted by the expectations imposed on her as a teacher, Kanha set to work on The Prostitute. Accompanied by her husband, she visited a brothel in order to observe conditions at first hand. For one of the main characters, she drew on a true story a colleague had told her about a wife forced to turn to prostitution to feed herself after her husband’s imprisonment. The novel took just three months to complete.

The novel created a considerable stir in Thai literary circles. To make prostitutes the central characters in the story and then portray them in a more favorable light than apparently respectable members of society was controversial enough; that the author was herself a young woman from a respectable and sheltered background made the work all the more remarkable. The plot itself follows the conventions of the popular romantic fiction of the day, but the author’s lively hands of employers, rent-collectors, money-lenders, and child-
minders reflect the author’s serious attention and raise the work above the purely sentimental. Today, The Prostitute is generally acknowledged by scholars of the Thai novel as one of the major early works in the Thai canon.

In the years that followed the publication of The Prostitute, K. Surangkhanang became a household name in the Thai literary world, a popular and prolific writer of novels, short stories, and magazine articles, as well as being the owner of several publishing companies and a regular newspaper columnist. Her most famous novels include Ban sai thong (1950), Potchaman Sawangwon (1950), Dok fa (1953), Kulap daeng (1955), and Khemerin-Inthira (1959). In all, she wrote over forty novels and almost a hundred short stories, several of which have been made into films or televisions plays. In 1986 she was honored with the title ‘National Artist in Literary Arts (The Novel)’.

(Taken from Introduction part of The Prostitute)
SUMMARY OF K.SURANGKHANANG’S THE PROSTITUTE

Wahn was a country girl who lived in a harmony with her family. One day she attended Songkran Day, a tradition when people offered food to the monks at the temple. The merit-making ceremony at the temple was a public festival, an occasion for getting dressed up and showing off new clothes and a chance for people in the district to get to see each other.

On that Songkran Day, Wahn saw an elegant-looking young man. He was extremely slim and rather delicate in appearance. His name was Khu Wichai. He was not from the district, which meant that he could only be from Bangkok. Wahn was really attracted by his appearance. Moreover, he was also charming. His charm could easily make Wahn fall in love with him. Wichai said that he loved Wahn. Wahn began to fancy that she really loved him. In that time what she thought about love was sexual desire, so she willingly gave herself to the man she loved.

Wichai asked Wahn to go with him to Bangkok. Wahn accepted it. When they had arrived there, Wichai asked “her aunt” named Ba Taht to take care of Wahn for a moment in her house. He said that Wahn should stay there for sometime when he begged his family to accept Wahn. After leaving, Wichai never came back to Ba Taht’s house. Ba Taht said to Wahn if she still wanted to live there, she had to earn a
living. Earning a living in Ba Taht’s house meant that she had to sell her body to the customers. Since that time, Wahn became a prostitute.

Wahn changed her name onto an attractive name, Reun. She also changed her appearance. Becoming a prostitute was not one of her dreams. Her failure led her to face the bitterness of being a prostitute. She blamed herself from being so naive and became a prostitute. She also had to deal with many conflicts with her pimps, customers, and a rent-collector and other people.

She became pregnant by an aristocrat man named Khun Wit. Unfortunately, he never knew that he had a child from Reun. The conflicts faced by Reun became harder because she had a baby. She tried so hard to raise her beloved daughter by selling her body to men. Accompanying by Samorn, Reun tried to face the bitter of her life. One day she met Khun Wit again and asked him to take care of their daughter. Seeing Eet leaving with her father brought joy to Reun. Finally she could give happiness to her beloved daughter and reunited them. In her happiness the soul of Reun, the prostitute, left this world into a new world where joy and happiness would fill her day forever.
APPENDIX 3

LESSON UNIT PLAN

KPE 110 BASIC READING I

Subject : Basic Reading I
Semester : 1
Material : Literary text (taken from K. Surangkhanang’s *The Prostitute*)
Meeting : 1 meeting
Time Allocation : 2x50 minutes

I. Competence Standard : On completing the course the students are able to 1) improve their reading comprehension ability (previewing, predicting, skimming and scanning), 2) improve their speed in reading, 3) develop their vocabularies, 4) develop oral reading skills by reading aloud with correct pronunciation.

II. Basic Competence : Students are able to improve their reading skills, get the details of the story, extend the vocabulary mastery and read aloud the texts with correct pronunciation.
III. Indicators:

1. Students are able to mention the main idea by skimming the text.
2. Students are able to state the characters in the story by scanning the text.
3. Students are able to answer the questions in details.
4. Students are able to find the meaning of some difficult words from the text.
5. Students are able to state whether or not the given statements are true.
6. Students are able to read loudly and fluently with correct pronunciation.

IV. Learning Objectives:

1. Students can mention the main idea by skimming the text.
2. Students can scan the text to find the names of characters in the story.
3. Students can answer questions in detail correctly.
4. Students can guess the word meaning from the text.
5. Students can state whether or not the given statements are true.
6. Students can read aloud the texts with correct pronunciation.

V. Learning Materials:

The reading text taken from K. Surangkhanang’s *The Prostitute*

VI. Teaching Method:

1. Questioning
2. Lecturing
VII. Learning Method:

1. Discussion
2. Individual work
3. Pair work

VIII. Learning Activities:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIME ALOCATION</th>
<th>METHOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Reading Activities (13')</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Greeting</td>
<td>1'</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Distributing the handouts</td>
<td>2'</td>
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<td>~ Asking and answering the pre-reading questions</td>
<td>10'</td>
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<td>Whilst-Reading Activities (58')</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Reading the text using reading strategy (skimming)</td>
<td>5'</td>
<td>Individual work</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Answering the question (what the text is about)</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Individual work</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Reading the text using reading strategy (scanning)</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Individual work</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Answering the questions (the names of characters in the story)</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Working in pairs:</td>
<td>30'</td>
<td>Pair work</td>
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<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>answering the questions which encompass details of the story, vocabulary exercise and stating whether or not the given statements are true</td>
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<td>Individual work</td>
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<td>~ Reading aloud the text with correct pronunciation</td>
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<td>Post-Reading Activities (29’)</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Discussing the answers</td>
<td>17’</td>
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<td>~ Making reflection on students’ difficulty in learning process</td>
<td>10’</td>
<td>Individual work</td>
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<tr>
<td>~ Closing</td>
<td>2’</td>
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IX. Learning Media:
1. Handout
2. Dictionary
### X. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>(NOT ASSESSED)</td>
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| II.A | • Students give correct answer.  
       | • Students answer the question with little mistakes or incompletely.  
       | • Students do not answer the question or students’ answer is incorrect. | 5   | 3   |
|      |          | 0     | 0                   |
| II.B | • Students mention 5 names of the characters.  
       | • Students mention 4 names of the characters.  
       | • Students mention 3 names of the characters.  
       | • Students mention 2 names of the characters.  
       | • Students mention 1 name of the characters.  
       | • Students do not answer the question. | 5   | 4   | 3   | 2   |
|      |          | 1     |                     |
| II.C | • Students give correct answer.  
       | • Students answer the question with little mistakes or incompletely.  
       | • Students do not answer the question or students’ answer is incorrect. | 2   | 1   | 0   |
|      |          |       |                     |

PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI

PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students’ answer is incorrect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| II. D | • Students give correct answer.  
      | • Students do not answer the question or  
      |   students’ answer is incorrect. |
|      | 1  
      | 0  
      | 10 |
| II. E | • Students give correct answer.  
      | • Students do not answer the question or  
      |   students’ answer is incorrect. |
|      | 1  
      | 0  
      | 10 |
| II. F | • Students pronoun the sentences correctly.  
      | • Students pronoun the sentences with little or many mistakes. |
|      | 1  
      | 0  
      | 10 |

**TOTAL** 50

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**XI. Learning Sources**


APPENDIX 4
TEACHING MATERIALS

I. PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Discuss the answers of these questions with your friends.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word ‘prostitute’?
2. Based on your opinion, what are the things that lead someone in becoming a prostitute?

II. WHILST-READING ACTIVITY

A. Skim the story and write briefly what the story is about.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

B. Scan the text below and write the names of the characters in the story.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
THE PROSTITUTE

At dusk, seeing Samorn’s condition slightly improved, Reun went out, because she did not want the sound of Eet’s cries echoing in her ears. It was dark before she returned and Mae Peu-ut’s door was closed. She listened intently, but could hear no sound of her daughter fretting. It was daylight before she managed to get to sleep; she could not help worrying that Mae Peu-ut would not be capable of looking after Eet the way she wanted her to. It was boiling the water for the milk that she was most concerned about. It wasn’t just that it would cause ordinary diarrhea if Mae Peu-ut was careless about making sure that it was boiled first; diarrhea could develop into something else more serious. Furthermore, when she went to bed, Mae Peu-ut would think only of mosquitoes, and even if she did hear any, she would think that just one would not be able to suck out very much blood. She would probably let it take its fill of blood from her little baby, her darling little child who would scream because of the bite and would not be easily calmed because the voice trying to offer her comfort would not be the voice of the mother she was used to. And when the child would not calm down, Mae Peu-ut would get annoyed and start pinching her on the arms and legs as Reun had seen some women do to their children. Her child would be covered in terrible dark bruises.

If her darling child could feel as its mother did now, how hurt would it feel that its mother was abandoning it to the care of someone else, instead of looking after it herself? It would blame her for bringing a child into the world without offering it any of the happiness other mothers give their children. She accepted this fate, a fate born of thoughtless action and lack of foresight. She alone accepted it, the child’s father sharing no part in it, for he did not know, had absolutely no idea, that somewhere he had a child in need of his care and protection.

Two or three days later, Eet really was ill. When Reun took her to the clinic, she learned that it was a result of changing over to tinned milk; the child’s stomach was not yet accustomed to this kind of food. After taking the medicine from the clinic, Eet was soon back to normal and her fretfulness disappeared. Gradually, she became quite used to the couple; but she was not distant with her mother. Reun came to play with her every day as a matter of routine and some days would take her to see Samorn, who was, little by little, recovering from her sickness.

Mae Peu-ut and Nai Klin at first did all they could to gain Reun’s trust. In the morning when Eet woke up, Mae Peu-ut bathed her. She soaped her all over, washing her down with warm water until she was nice and clean and then dried her and rubbed talcum powder on her. She gave her a bottle of warm cow’s milk to drink every three hours, as the nurse had advised, and then let her sleep for a while. She gave the child her care and devotion as if it really her own. One day, Reun had nothing to do. She had already prepared the rice and fish for Samorn and was thinking about her child. Like any other mother, she wanted to play with her child, especially now that Eet was beginning to babble away once she was propped up. She was becoming even cuter.

Reun walked quietly into Mae Peu-ut’s home without realizing, as she was busy in the kitchen, preparing the evening meal. Eet was lying stretched out on the wooden floor, happily playing with a puddle of water. Reun picked up her child, automatically glancing over towards the wall as she did so. What caught her maternal eye was another tin of cow’s
milk. It was poor-quality brand which they sold in the market. The lid was off and there were dirty milk stains down the side. It was standing in a plate half-filled with water, and there beside it, was Eet’s bottle of milk. Was it possible that Mae Peu-ut would deceive her? That she would take the money for 40-satang tins and then go and buy ones costing 13 or 14 satang instead? Before Reun’s doubts could grow any deeper, Mae Peu-ut hurried out from the kitchen.

‘Oh Reun, it’s you. I was inside, getting some food. Oh dear! You’ve knocked the water over, then, have you, my little darling? Dear, oh dear!’ she said, laughing good-humouredly. ‘Do you see, the cup of water was over there and she’s gone and pulled it over and tipped it all over her tummy. What a mess!’ But when she caught sight of the can of milk which she had absent-mindedly left out, her expression immediately changed. She did not know whether Reun had seen it or not. She sat down in such a way as to block Reun’s view and asked, ‘How’s Morn? Much better now, is she?’

Yes, much better now,’ replied Reun. ‘Another two or three days and I should think she’ll be back to normal.’ Mae Peu-ut’s manner banished any doubts Reun might have had. She did not want to think that someone was not being straight to her, because apart from the unhappiness it would cause her, it would also increase her feelings of animosity towards that person. She chatted away in a neighborly manner as she played with the child and forgot all about the can of poor-quality milk until the evening when she left. But before leaving the house, she glanced over to where the tin of milk had been. It was not there. It had disappeared. Immediately, all Reun’s doubt returned. Where had the can of milk gone? If Mae Peu-ut had moved it somewhere else when she was chatting with her, then she had done so without turning round and drawing any attention at all to the tin. Reun walked back preoccupied to where Samorn was sitting. She could not stop herself from telling Samorn all her doubts about the milk.

‘It’s best to pretend you don’t know what’s going on,’ Samorn murmured after a while. ‘Just think of the child’s happiness. Saying something won’t do any good. If she gets annoyed, it will only make things difficult for us and the kid. On the other hand, you could buy four or five tins of Bear Brand milk for her yourself. Where there’s greed, it’s not just over large sums of money. It can be just a few satang. When you think about it, it’s sad. Here we are, a couple of prostitutes, and everyone looks down on us, including this couple, who’ve many times said disparaging things about us and who don’t want to have anything to do with us. Yet it’s strange, you know, they don’t feel the slightest bit of shame at cheating us over the money for the baby’s milk, which we earn from our sin, from doing something bad and disgusting in order to make a living. Huh! Sin it is that has to support virtue.’

(Taken from The Prostitute, p. 140-143)
C. Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Eet?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

2. Did Eet’s father take care of her?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

3. What made Eet get ill?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

4. Did Reun tell Samorn about a poor-quality brand of milk in Mae peu-ut’s house?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

5. What did Samorn suggest Reun to do?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
### D. Match the words below with the meaning on the column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>echo</td>
<td>a. say something in a low voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hum</td>
<td>b. make something go away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pinch</td>
<td>c. make somebody believe something that is false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fate</td>
<td>d. small pull of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devotion</td>
<td>e. talk quickly or in an excited way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>babble</td>
<td>f. great love, care and support for somebody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>puddle</td>
<td>g. person’s future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deceive</td>
<td>h. suggesting that somebody or something is not important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>banish</td>
<td>i. press something tightly between your thumb and finger or two surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disparaging</td>
<td>j. make a low continuous sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>k. sound reflected off a surface so that it seems to be repeated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E. State whether the statement is true (T) or false (F) based on the story.

1. (T/F) Mae peu-ut was Reun’s daughter.
2. (T/F) Reun’s daughter lived with her.
3. (T/F) Eet’s illness was because of the bad weather.
4. (T/F) Reun saw a tin of poor-quality brand of milk in Mae peu-ut’s house.
5. (T/F) Reun came to play with her daughter everyday.
6. (T/F) Mae peu-ut in the beginning gave Eet milk every 4 hours.
7. (T/F) Samorn’s condition became worst.
8. (T/F) Reun came to Mae peu-ut’s house when she was taking a bath.

9. (T/F) Reun did not tell Samorn about what she saw in Mae peu-ut’s house.

10. (T/F) Samorn worked as a chef.

F. Read aloud the following sentences with correct pronunciation.

1. It was boiling the water for the milk that she was most concerned about.

2. Her child would be covered in terrible dark bruises.

3. She accepted this fate, a fate born of thoughtless action and lack of foresight.

4. After taking the medicine from the clinic, Eet was soon back to normal and her fretfulness disappeared.

5. In the morning when Eet woke up, Mae Peu-ut bathed her.

6. It was poor-quality brand which they sold in the market.

7. Was it possible that Mae Peu-ut would deceive her?

8. Reun walked back preoccupied to where Samorn was sitting.

9. She could not stop herself from telling Samorn all her doubts about the milk.

10. Saying something won’t do any good.