

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

A short story is one of literary works that comes to complete the history of literature field. As stated by Reid (1997, p. 1) that “over the last 150 years the short story has come to figure conspicuously in the literature of several countries”.

It could be said that a short story appeared since long time ago. Gradually, short stories have different characteristics of the genre or the style of the author depends on the era. Therefore, Reid (1997, p. 1) affirmed that short stories could appear “in diverse periodicals as well as in books, it is probably the most widely read of all modern genres and not only light-weight entertainers but also many distinguished fiction-writers during this period have found it congenial.”

A short story is one of short-narration literary works. As Reid (1997) defined that short story is generally a kind of fictitious prose-narration that the content is briefer than a novel. There is a beautiful story inside depends on the author’s style because the author wants to see the world in certain way. It can be concluded that a short story is a media to send the author’s sense about what happened in the world to the reader. Short story also has a cycle, “central to the dynamics of the short story is the tension between the once and the many” (Ingram, 1997, p. 19).

Short story is an art form that has a phase to change the essence depends on the era and culture. By the time it can be developed in terms of technique or genre. Some of short stories interpret about social or criticize about something

strange in certain era. In the way to interpret something, the author sometimes uses several techniques. It can be interpreted through the characters or the text.

Ernest Hemingway as the author of short stories also gave the sense in his works about what happened in his era through the character, characterization, dialogue and plot to give the tension in his stories. He used some methods to decode his experience in text, especially through the characters. Character is a sign to reflect the existent person in literary work and art. Eder (2010) mentioned that characters remind one of real person but they seem to consist of mediated sign only and they do not appear to exist in reality. Character, of course, has a strong relation with characterization. According to Dahiya (1992), the art of characterization is about 'telling' and 'showing'. Even as, 'telling' what the author describes and evaluates on physiognomy, gestures, actions, thoughts, habits, and feelings of the characters. It is also 'showing' in which the author presents the characters to reveal through their actions and expressions, and leaves it to the readers to assess the characters.

Characterization has two types: direct and indirect. Direct characterization is when the author clearly stated how the character is like. Indirect characterization is the opposite. It will be implicitly through the texts and dialogues. Eder (2010) argued that indirect characterization invites the reader to look a character trait that motivates the action, the circumstances and relationships. Though, more information comes in to play, for one piece of information may be able to be an invisible hint and has associated with character in a text. For direct characterization involves explicit naming of the traits. "Many characters have

name that acquire a characterizing function only in the course of text, when the action and properties of the character turn out to be reflected by its name” (Eder, 2010, p. 37). Some of Hemingway’s short stories used indirect characterization.

However, *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway is possible to discover the characterization by the text and dialogue.

### 1.1.1 Ernest Miller Hemingway and His Short Stories

Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago on July 21, 1899 Boon (2008). Clarence Edmond ‘Ed’ Hemingway, his father was a devoutly religious physician. Ed Hemingway introduced Ernest the outdoors to hunt and fish. Grace Hall Hemingway, Ernest’s mother, was a singer and she got debuts at New York’s Madison Square Garden. When Hemingway was a child, he sometimes dressed in pink gingham dress and flowered hat by her mother to make him and his older sister, Marcelline, appeared to be twins. Ed and Grace look like having a different sense. Boon (2008, p. 11) said that “Ernest Hemingway’s parents, Ed and Grace, doted on their son in different ways. His father introduced him to the joys of outdoors; his mother, to music and the arts”. Like a youth in general, Hemingway found his talent.

Hemingway’s childhood is marked by two key elements: his talent for storytelling and his desire to cast himself as a masculine hero. At the age of five, he told his grandfather that he had single-handedly stopped a runaway horse. By the time he graduated from high school, he regularly embellished stories about himself, a tendency that would remain with him for the rest of his life (Boon, 2008, p. 11).

From those two elements, Hemingway got talents from his mother and his father.

It could be seen in Hemingway's future which he became a journalist and a volunteer.

Bloom (2000) also mentioned that after Hemingway graduated from high school he became a reporter for the Kansas City *Star*. Then he joined Red Cross and served with an ambulance unit in Italy in 1917. Grolier (2004) also mentioned in 1919, Hemingway was back home and he secured a part-time job as a feature writer for *Toronto Star*, and in the Fall of 1920, he became contributing editor of a trade journal in Chicago. In 1921, he married to Hadley Richardson and in December they sailed to France. Late in 1923, they returned to Toronto and in the early of 1924, Hemingway resigned from the *Star* and returned to Paris and launched his career as the writer.

Hemingway still had a long journey after he returned to Paris. As it is written in Grolier (2004), around 1923-24 Hemingway seriously wrote two slender chapbooks of prose and poetry, but he was little known before the New York appearance of *In Our Time* in 1925, which included the first stories of Nick Adams. During the following year, Hemingway was busy with *The Torrents of Spring*, a parody-satire of Sherwood Anderson, and his novel *The Sun Also Rises*, which made him, became a leader of 'Lost Generation', a group of expatriate American writers who lived in Paris during the 1920s. Hemingway's next two collections were *Men Without Women* published in 1927 and *Winner Take Nothing* in 1933.

Hemingway's dominant works were short stories. *Men Without Women* and *Winner Take Nothing* were two of Hemingway's short story collection. Grolier (2004, p. 198) mentioned "Ernest Hemingway [...] created a distinguished body of prose fiction, much of it based on his adventurous life". It can be concluded that Hemingway's works are dominantly short stories because he had many adventures in his life and short story was the best way to put all the experience on it. The next two short stories of Hemingway were *The Snow of Kilimanjaro* and *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, both of them were published in 1936.

*Hills Like White Elephants*, one of Hemingway's short stories in *Men Without Women* collection became the specialty of Hemingway's work. Hemingway in this short story mentioned indirect characterization of each character. It is also found in Hemingway's others works, *The Snow of Kilimanjaro* and *Indian Camp*.

**1.1.2 Hills Like White Elephants: A Synopsis**

Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants* is a short story that is totally full of dialogues. This short story was published in the 1927 collection *Men Without Women* and become the best fiction of his work. Like the authors who want to reflect and describe the condition and situation of the world in certain way through their works, *Hills Like White Elephants* represents the situation in the 1920s. Hemingway wants to show what happened at that time, during the era after World War I.

*Hills Like White Elephants*, a short story of which the setting is at a train station in the Ebro river of Spain. There is an American and a 'jig' girl who has a

conversation while waiting for the train to Madrid. 'Jig' according to urban dictionary is sexual active female that identically with dirty and drinking beer. It

looks like in the stories that the American and the girl drink a beer *Anis Del Toro* which the girl compares it with licorice. Licorice is belonging of 'liqueurs'.

Liqueurs are the most diverse of spirits, and they also are among the oldest. Over the centuries liqueurs have held a prominent role in folk medicine. These potent spirits have been used medicinally to cure a bad stomach or protect against fainting. Liqueurs have also been put to work on bigger issues such as finding a mate or mending a broken heart (Blue, 2004, p. 256).

Blue (2004) remarked *Anis Del Toro* or *Anisette* is an anise-flavored 'liqueur' that is mainly consumed in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and France. *Anis Del Toro* is colorless and unlike some other anise-based liqueurs, contains no licorice. It is sweeter than the most anise-flavored liqueurs.

The girl who looks across the hills, which is like white elephants and the American starts his conversation and says that he wants to stay with the girl. But, there is something bothering them. The American asks the girl to do the operation.

But in other side, the girl does not want to. They have a complicated dialogue and urge each other about what will happen to them then until the woman whose owner of the bar reminds if the train will arrive. In the end the American leaves the girl and she feels thankful to the woman. Ernest Hemingway presents *Hills*

*Like White Elephants*, a short story with ambiguous characterization that is possible to have more than one of perspectives about characterization in each character.

## 1.2 Problem of the Study

Without the direct characterization that given by the author, the implicit characterization of each character can be identified through the text in Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

- (1) To find the characterization of each character through the text in Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*.
- (2) To explore more information about each character by relating the dialogue and the characters in Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*.

## 1.4 Significance of the Study

Ernest Hemingway was an expert at playing characterization only by the dialogue. Therefore, the study of Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants* is important to execute to show that there is a relationship between story, characters and emotion without direct characterization given by the author.