



**MORAL QUALITIES ON RACHEL WHITE AS THE MAIN
CHARACTER IN *SOMETHING BORROWED* BY EMILY GIFFIN**

THESIS

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2015**



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presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University as One of the Requirements
to Get the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Study

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DEDICATION

In the sincerity of my heart and with the deepest love and respect, I dedicate this thesis to:

1. My greatest father ever, Hepriyanto Soebagio Dunand, SH, who always supports my success during all this time and encourages me in my study. Thank you for your advices and struggle to protect me .
2. My dearest mother, Kusmi Elva, SH, who always supports and gives me endless prayer, thank you for your love and affection. You are my greatest inspiration. I do thank you for everything.
3. My lovely Brother, Hayyu Arezza E, S.sos, who always supports and understands me very well.
4. My lovely little sister, Rijsa Mufliha K, who always scolds, cheers me up and makes me keep fighting.
5. My big family who cannot be mentioned one by one, thank you for your togetherneess.
6. My friends in the Academic Year 2010, all of my best friends, and others that I cannot mention one by one, who have given me their valuable support, advice, and help during the process of writing this thesis.
7. My Alma Mater.

MOTTO

Morality is not properly the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but
how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness.

(Immanuel Kant)



DECLARATION

I hereby state that this thesis entitled “**Moral Qualities on Rachel White as the Main Character in *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin**” is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I guarantee to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, November 3th 2015

The writer

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

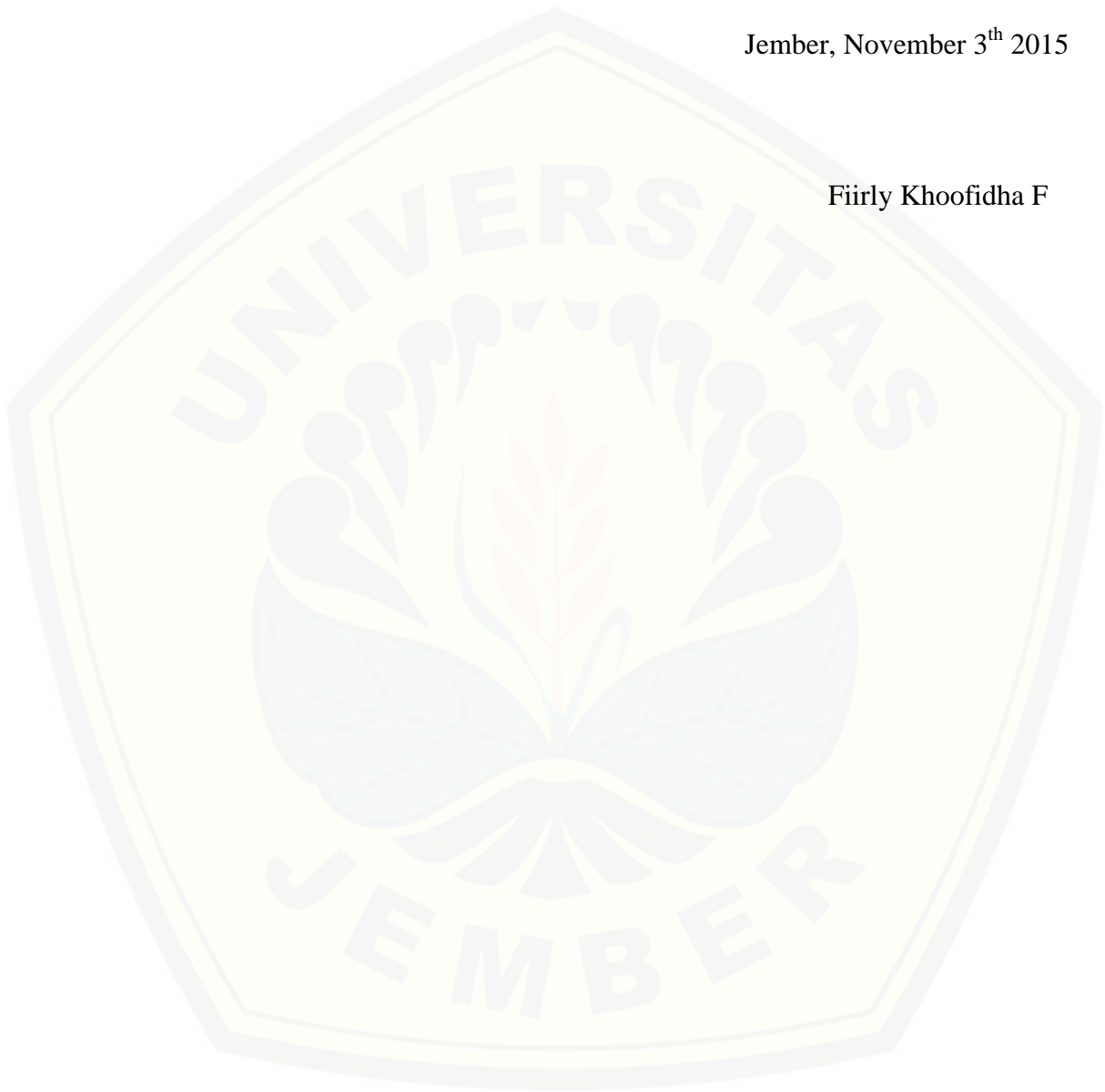
First of all, I praise up sincere gratitude to Allah. I thank God for the blessings so that I can finish this thesis, entitled “Moral Qualities on Rachel White as The Main Character in *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin”. It is only His gracious gift and power that enables me to accomplish and finish this thesis. Secondly, I would like to convey my deepest thanks to those who have given me support and intellectual contribution to finish this study. On this occasion, I want to convey my gratitude to:

1. Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.ED., as the dean of the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.
2. Dra. Supiastutik, M. Pd, the Head of English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University for giving me information about English skill.
3. Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum and Drs.Imam Basuki, M.Hum., as my first and second advisors, thanks for their encouraging advices, guidance, patience, knowledge and inspiration.
4. Drs. Hj. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd and L. Dyah Purwita Wardani S W W, S.S., M.A., as my first and second examiners, thanks for their guidance, knowledge, and advices for the improvement of this thesis.
5. Dr. Akhmad Hariyono, M.Pd, as my academic supervisor, thanks for his advices during my academic years.
6. Thanks to all the lecturers of English Department who have given me the valuable knowledge during my academic years.

7. All the staffs of Faculty of Letters, the Librarians of Faculty of Letters and of the Central Library Jember University, who have given their good service to me.

Jember, November 3th 2015

Fiiirly Khoofidha F



SUMARRY

Moral Qualities on Rachel White as The Main Character in *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin; Fiirly Khoofidha Fanasti, 10011010110; 2015; 46 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Something Borrowed is a novel written by Emily Giffin that was published in 2004. This novel focuses on the story of Rachel's life that shows Rachel's moral qualities. The aspects of Rachel's moral qualities include patience, independent woman, friendship, and discipline that are categorized into good moral while envy and jealousy, betrayal, and lie are included as bad moral. Rachel's moral qualities are influenced by family and social environment factors. Family environment factor is coming from her parents who always teach her to do goodness, be patient in her life, and to live by the rules. Besides, social environment factors is a factor which is closely related to social activities. Then, this thesis is ended by analyzing Rachel's moral qualities that bring the impacts toward her life.

The type of research in analyzing *Something Borrowed* is qualitative research. Qualitative research in this thesis is derived from the dialogues of the novel which have been sorted, and carefully selected in accordance with the topic of the study. The study is done through library research and also taken from internet websites to support the informations that are relevant to the topic. This study uses inductive method so this analysis will show the way of answering the problems to discuss from the specific to the general conclusion. In the analysis of Rachel's moral qualities, this study uses moral theory by Immanuel Kant as the theoretical foundation that includes good wiil, duty, reason and freedom, and conciousness. This theory is relevant to match with Rachel's moral qualities.

Basically, good and bad morals are owned by human being, includes Rachel as the main character in the novel *Something Borrowed* that depends on the dominant moral between good and bad. It would appear appropriate to the context of the situation. Therefore, as human being, we should be able to control ourselves in order to improve our moral qualities by not doing bad deeds which are regarded as bad moral in society.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
FRONTISPIECE	i
DEDICATION	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vi
SUMMARY	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Background of the Study	1
1.2 The Scope of the Study	3
1.3 The Problem to Discuss	3
1.4 The Goal of the Study	3
CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	5
2.1 Previous Researches	5
2.2 The Overview of Moral	7
2.2.1 Good Will	8
2.2.2 Duty	10
2.2.3 Freedom and Reason	11
2.2.4 Conciousness	12
CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHOD	13
3.1 The Type of the Research	13
3.2 Data Collection	14
3.3 Data Processing	14
3.4 Data Analysis	15

CHAPTER 4. MORAL QUALITIES ON RACHEL WHITE AS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SOMETHING BORROWED BY EMILY GIFFIN.....	16
4.1 Rachel White’s Character	16
4.1.1 Good Moral Characters	18
a. Patience	18
b. Independent Woman	22
c. Friendship	23
d. Dicipline	27
4.1.2 Bad Moral Characters	28
a. Envy and Jealousy	29
b. Betrayal	33
c. Lie	35
4.2 Family and Sosial Environment as the Factors Influencing Rachel’s Moral Qualities	36
4.3 The Impacts Moral Qualities Toward Her Life	40
4.3.1 Rachel Loses Her Friend	40
4.3.2 Rachel Gets Dex, the Man who is Darcy’s Fiance	41
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION	43
REFERENCES	45

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This thesis tries to analyze the moral qualities of Rachel as the main character in the novel entitled *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin. This chapter discusses the background of the study, the scope of the study, the problems to discuss and the goals of the study, which will make the readers understand the whole of the discussions.

1.1 The Background the of Study

Novel is one of the most popular literary works. Novel is a literary work that is written in narrative forms. This literary work has two elements, which they are related to each other. They are intrinsic elements and extrinsic ones. Intrinsic elements include theme, characterization, setting, plot, and point of view. While extrinsic elements are elements outside of the intrinsic elements, it means the element does not relate to the literary work itself. Extrinsic elements include the author's biography, background of the creation, and social circumstances at the time literary works created. In a novel, the author usually describes about human life conflicts. The story of the novel is not just merely a fiction, but sometimes it represents the author's life. The authors usually insert a message within the novel to be interpreted by the readers.

Moral is one of the values in life that can be found in the novel. Dagobert D. Runers defines moral as:

The term moral is sometimes used as equivalent to “ethics.” More frequently it is used to designate the codes, conduct, and customs of individuals or of groups, as when one speaks of the morals of a person or of a people. Here it is equivalent to the Greek word *ethos* and the Latin *mores*. (Moekijat, 1995:44)

The term moral derives from the Latin word ‘mos’ which means attitude and habits. This attitude contains the significant meaning of good and bad behaviour.

Moral means values or norms that became a role model of a person or a group in regulating their behaviour. So, moral qualities are the standard of an abstract system that can determine a person has good or bad attitude or behaviour in social conventions.

Rachel White is the main character in the novel *Something Borrowed*. In this novel, Giffin describes Rachel as a single woman who is thirty years old and she is a good woman. She has a friend since childhood named Darcy. Darcy is a woman who is considered lucky by Rachel since childhood, because Darcy is prettier than her and always gets what she wants. Besides, Darcy always has everything that her peers wanted, of course, is also wanted by Rachel. Her glamorous lifestyle in Manhattan makes her always be superior than Rachel. However, Rachel realized that it is the series of advantages owned by Darcy. Darcy also has other advantages. Darcy is a person who knows how to get what she wants. She has always been optimistic in getting something, although it makes people around her feel hurt. Rachel is a friend who relents to Darcy and lets her always win in any case. Sometimes Rachel feels disappointed by her attitude, but she remains patient with Darcy. Rachel is a lawyer. She is a hard working woman even though she is not suited with her job. Rachel and Darcy's friendship continues until they are mature. However in thirtieth Rachel's birthday party, unintentionally Rachel sleeps with Darcy's fiance named Dexter after the party is over. Rachel and Dexter do it because they are drunk. After the incident, Rachel and Dexter establish infidelity.

The Rachel's life in the novel *Something Borrowed*, of course, has a moral value to the readers. Rachel is told as a good woman at the beginning of the story, eventually having an affair with Darcy's fiance who is her best friend since childhood. Rachel's attitude changes are influenced by several factors that lead her to do so. Basically, humans carry a moral in two sides, which are good and bad in them. Likewise with Rachel, Rachel has good and bad morals. Rachel's good morals include patience, independent woman, friendship, and discipline. While Rachel's bad morals consist of envy and jealousy, betrayal, and lie.

It is based on the fact above, this novel is interesting to analyze especially concern to the main character's moral qualities. It is because the story of the novel shows the complexity of Rachel's moral qualities. Besides, this novel is still rarely analyzed and is newly released, namely in 2004. This thesis is expected to provide a broader explanation of morality of the novel, particularly to both literary readers and enthusiasts in criticism perspective. In relation to the main study, this thesis considers to apply the Immanuel Kant's theory of moral.

1.2 The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is basically very essential in this research in order to avoid the uncontrolled discussion. The scope of the study has the purpose to limit the problems to discuss, so it can make the readers easier to get better understanding of the topic discussion. This research focuses on the analysis of Rachel's moral qualities as the main character in *Something Borrowed* on Immanuel Kant's theory of moral.

1.3 The Problems to Discuss

Based on the background of the study above, this thesis tries to analyze the moral qualities of Rachel as the main character in the novel. The specific problems to be discussed are:

1. What are Rachel's moral qualities?
2. What are the factors influencing Rachel's moral qualities?
3. What are the impacts of Rachel's moral qualities toward her life?

1.4 The Goals of the Study

A research certainly has a purpose or a goal. In this research, there are some goals that I want to reach. The first, this research will show us what Rachel's moral qualities are implied in the novel *Something Borrowed*. The

second is to know the factors influencing Rachel's moral qualities. The last purpose of this research is to find out the influences of Rachel's moral qualities in her life.



CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review is useful to give us more information about the previous research, some important theories and concepts related to the topic of discussion. It is used to support the analysis of the problem and to make the discussion clear.

2.1 The Previous Researches

Previous researches are necessary to be written in this thesis to understand the gap of the following research. This chapter gives many explanations about the crucial additional information from the previous researches that have relationship with this research and explain the readers that this thesis is originally different from the previous researches. The first previous research was written by Devi Erva Diyanti entitled “*An Analysis Of Gemma’s Moral Qualities In Libra Bray’s A Great And Terrible Beauty*”. This previous thesis analyzed about Gemma’s moral qualities. The previous research talked about Gemma as the main character in the Bray’s novel entitled *Great and Terrible Beauty*.

Gemma has good and bad moral qualities. Her moral qualities include some aspects. Those aspects are solidarity, bravery, responsibility, care, love, which are categorized into good morals. Gemma as a human being cannot be apart with bad morals like disobedience, rudeness, stubbornness, and violation. Those aspects are influenced by hereditary factor which are coming from parental issues and environmental factor which are closely related to the social activities. In the end, Gemma’s moral brings consequences to her life. In analyzing this thesis, the writer uses moral approach to find and understand moral norms that are shown through characters' behaviour. By using this approach, the study analyzes deeper about moral relations which happen in Gemma as the main character.

The prior research and the current research use the same perspectives, but both are different. The difference of both is in the object of the study. Every novel has different story, setting, plot, characters, and also conflicts. So, if the object of study is different, it makes the content and the conclusions of both researches are different. The problems analyzed in the prior research focused on the main character's moral qualities, the factor influencing and the consequences of the main character's moral qualities, and the moral teaching that can be learned from analyzing Gemma's moral qualities in the Libbra Bray's *Great and Terrible Beauty*. While the current research concerns on the Rachel's moral qualities as the main character, the factors influencing Rachel's Moral Qualities and the impacts of Rachel's moral qualities in her life that implied in Emily Giffin's *Something Borrowed*. The previous research gives contribution to this thesis. It also contributes in the use of moral theory of Immanuel Kant that includes good will, duty, reason and freedom, and consciousness.

The second previous research was written by Pingkan Christantina, entitled "*False Feminism on Darcy Rhone and Rachel White Characters in Something Borrowed.*" Christina explored false feminism of the characters' *Something Borrowed* in her thesis. The steps of the analysis were done through the elements of fiction such as character, social setting, and symbol. The previous research used feminism theory in general to elaborate the characters feminist trait and their relation to feminism idea. Besides, gynocriticism was also applied to relate the background of the author's life with the novel to support the analysis. In discussing the topic, the research method of this thesis was qualitative research by using library research related to *Something Borrowed* by Emily Griffin.

The previous research and this research are different, although Christina analyzed the same novel *Something Borrowed*. However, the previous research used the different point of view. The previous research used feminism theory in general and this research uses moral theory by Immanuel Kant. The problems of both are different. The focus of the previous research was to find out the non-feminist characteristic which appears on Darcy Rhone and Rachel White who looks like feminist, also to find out whether the author's personal life that affects

Something Borrowed. It makes the previous research and this research different because the previous research used the different point of view. The conclusion of the discussion was revealed that Rachel White and Darcy Rhone were not feminist but they were false feminists. They looked feminist only from outside.

2.2 The Overview of Moral

Discussing about moral is not easy, because moral does not only talk about a person's behaviour, but also converse many aspects of life such as religion, belief, discipline, social, milieu, value, custom, judgment, and fashion of a certain place. Moral is used to determine good and bad deeds or actions done by human being in personal conduct, while ethics discuss about the systems or norms to evaluate their action. Dagobert D. Runes in *Asas-Asas Etika* states ethics, also called as moral philosophy, it means that the study or discipline which focuses on judgment of approval and disapproval, judgment of rightness or wrongness, virtue or vice, desirability of wisdom of actions, dispositions, ends, objects, or states of affairs (Moekijat, 1995:7). Ethic is a branch of philosophy that concerns on human behaviour, which is referred to as moral philosophy.

Morality will show us the right and wrong or good and bad someone's conducts or behaviours. In broad sense, morality has a relationship with the values of right and wrong or good and bad in accordance with the rules and principles which are accepted in society. Morality is dynamic and changeable. It follows the progress of people, culture, and the civilization of the world. The phenomenon makes the subject interesting and arouses people in moral discussion. According to Curzer (1999:6), morality is a code of ethics or system of values that provide an understanding refers to right and wrong actions as well as the passions, desires, beliefs, words, character and the other things related to these actions.

From the definition above we can conclude morality can be interpreted as a standard of right and wrong that cannot be uttered, but it only can be determined by the behaviour in a judgment. This judgment will perceive their moral qualities. Morality is the principle of life that teaches them kindness and truth behaviour in

life. Morality is something that is feasible and desirable, in the context of morality by considerations of right and wrong as the foundation of a basic moral. K. Bartens in Principles of Ethics states that the total responsibility, full awareness and conscience are needed to apply moral values (Moekijat, 1995: 76-78).

In a novel, the moral is always reflected in the behaviour of the characters. Basically, morality is always carried by the characters in performing their role in a story. In this study, I restrict the scope of the study only to find Rachel's moral qualities as the main character. In order to make the research of this thesis more accurate, there is theory to support the analysis of this thesis. It consists on the Immanuel Kant's theory that is included of the good will, duty, reason and freedom, and consciousness. This theory is relevant to match with Rachel's moral qualities, the main character of *Something Borrowed*. The theory will be interpreted in the following:

2.2.1 Good Will

As being mentioned before, ethics or moral philosophy concerns on goodness as well. In Kant's theory of moral the only thing in the world that can be called goodness without qualification is a good will. People with good will often accomplish good deeds, but producing beneficial outcomes do not always make goodness as the result. A good will is good of itself. In doing of good deeds, sometimes everyone will find obstacles and problems. Although in the end is not as desired and even causes damage, the good will behind the effort is still good. Good will is naturally something good because it becomes a reason for someone to do goodness.

Everyone has the desire and passion, where passion sometimes involves people to commit a crime without them knowing it.

closer investigations into human nature shows what propensities in it are particularly relevant to virtue; it shows, for example, that "affects" can indeed coexist with what the *Groundwork* called a "good will," now specified as a virtuous disposition, whereas "passions" enter more readily into kinship with vices, which are incompatible with a virtuous disposition (Kant, 1991:17)

The good will is a virtuous deed. It means that does a good deed for someone without expecting any reward. Good will is an act done with sincerity. However, people usually find obstacles when they want to do good will, which is the bad will. Therefore, people should further improve the disposition of good will with a higher scale, so that the goodness will be done well.

harmony of a being's will with its final end, requires him first to remove the obstacle within (an evil will actually present in him) and then to develop the original predisposition to a good will within him, which can never be lost. (Only the descent into the hell of self-knowledge can pave the way) (Kant, 1991:236)

Theory of good will relate to analyze Rachel's moral qualities in the novel *Something Borrowed*. This theory is applied when Rachel shows love and care for everyone around her, especially to Darcy, her best friend. Rachel always helps Darcy whenever needed. Although sometimes Rachel is not happy with Darcy's nature that always imposes her will, she cannot refuse Darcy's demand that sometimes difficult to do. Although Darcy often lets her down by her actions, Rachel still does goodness for her. It is because friendship is one of good will form that brings happiness. This can be seen in real life, when a friend needs help of us do his work, but we are not too pleased with it. In such cases, we are tested whether we will help him or not. Good will is essentially the deed that requires a bit of sacrifice for other people. This concept is usually done to establish good communication. Friendship is taken as an example that refers to Kant:

Friendship (considered in its perfection) is the union of two persons through equal mutual love and respect. It is easy to see that this is an ideal of each participating and sharing sympathetically in the other's well-being through the morally good will that unites them, and even though it does not produce the complete happiness of life, the adoption of this ideal in their disposition toward each other makes them deserving of happiness; hence men have a duty of friendship. But it is readily seen that friendship is only an Idea (Kant, 1991:261)

Good will is a concept of giving something to others with sincerity based on what they need without hurting them. As usually, it happens in a friendship. It is clear that to achieve happiness, people should consider what they should do and

consider the results of their actions, which will be categorized as good or bad moral

2.2.2 Duty

This theory has a slight similarity with the theory of good will. The previous theory emphasizes more on willingness while this theory stresses on idealism or law. The idealism here is a sense of duty of a man to do something good or useful for others. The agent does the action for the sake of moral responsibility, not because of other tendency. Kant in *A Critique of Practical Reason* describes duty as “the action which is objectively practical according to this law and excludes inclination from its determining grounds is called duty” (Kant, 1956:83). Kant mentions only two kinds of action, having acted according to duty and from duty. “The former, legality, is possible even if inclinations alone are the determining grounds of the will, but the latter, morality or moral worth, can be conceded only where the action occurs from duty, i.e., merely for the sake of the law” (Kant, 1956:84).

Immanuel Kant in *Introduction to Ethics* again supports the theory. In this occasion he focuses more on “others” or “humanity”. It is said that “so act as to treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of any other, in every case as an end in itself, never as means only” (Wall, 1974: 90). For example, someone trapped in a room when fires, then there is someone trying to save him. Basically, helping people is an obligation in terms of law. However, before thinking to save other people, the savior should consider her own safety.

“in all law giving (whether it prescribes external or internal actions and whether it prescribes them a priori by reason alone or by the choice of another) there are two elements, **first** a law which represents action that is to be done as *objectively* necessary, that is, which makes the action a duty; and **second**, an incentive, which connects a ground for determining choice to this action *subjectively* with the representation of the law. Hence, the second element is this: that the law makes duty the incentive. By the first the action is represented as a duty, and this is a merely theoretical” (Kant, 1991:46-47).

Theory of duty can be translated into a responsibility that should be taken by someone with adjusting to the context of the situation when the incident occurred. In this case, moral is absolute in the society, but must be subjective when in context of a real situation. The range of morality in fact is very large. What are included in the theoretical review above are the principles that support the analysis. The understandings are taken from Immanuel Kant theory in which his theories are relevant with Rachel's moral qualities in the novel.

2.2.3 Freedom and Reason

Freedom is our rights. The point is that our individual rights cannot be taken by anyone, including the government and the country. Those rights are included to the life right, the right to be happy, the right to argue, and the right to choose respective religions. However, the freedom does not mean we are free to do anything without thinking about the comfort of others. There are laws that limit in what we do. We cannot act and do something without following the applicable laws. Morality always presupposes the liberty.

Freedom—independence of the laws of nature—is certainly a deliverance from restraint, but it is also a relinquishing of the guidance of law and rule. For it cannot be alleged that, instead of the laws of nature, laws of freedom may be introduced into the causality of the course of nature. For, if freedom were determined according to laws, it would be no longer freedom, but merely nature. (Kant, 2010:274).

From the quotation above, Kant states his ideas especially in all that is practical, that is, which rests upon freedom, and its turn ranks under cognitions that are the peculiar product of reason.

The second part of *The Metaphysic of Morals* is the Doctrine of Virtue, the system of duties based on "inner freedom" or freedom in the act of choice itself. Here it is a question of the agent's moral disposition, of the virtues to be acquired and the vices to be avoided. But Kant's conception of virtue as "moral strength of will" requires consideration. (Kant, 1797:17)

From the statement above, humans may be minded to violate or take one of people's freedoms without knowing it. It was reasonable, but it should be

considered that it would cause a negative impact on life together. Then, it should be able to be avoided.

2.2.4 Consciousness

Everyone has a consciousness, it is very important to be basic consideration before doing something. It is also a representation of an ego that is closely related to the internal feeling. According to Kant that:

The consciousness of self (apperception) is the simple representation of the ego ; and if by means of that representation alone, all the manifold representations in the subject were spontaneously given, then our internal intuition would be intellectual. This consciousness in man requires an internal perception of the manifold representations which are previously given in the subject; and the manner in which these representations are given in the mind without spontaneity, must, on account of this difference (the want of spontaneity), be called sensibility. If the faculty of self-consciousness is to apprehend what lies in the mind, it must all act that and can in this way alone produce an intuition of self. (Kant, 2010:60-61)

Based on the statement above, consciousness can be defined as the result of a process of someone's reasoning after analyzing each event in their daily activities. This theory is often applied in everyday life, for example, in the case of Rachel in the novel that is drawn as a discipline woman. By her consciousness she becomes discipline and wants to live in accordance with the applicable norms. It is resulted by the relation between mind, reason, action, and feel. It refers to Kant's that action will be done based on a reason and consciousness mind. Furthermore, consciousness has close relation to the reason. Refers to this case, this theory is applied as the next level of theoretical reason. Consciousness has an important role to determine the actions of Rachel as the main character in *Something Borrowed*.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This thesis uses a method as a way of doing a research. The research method is very crucial in the research process, because it determines the success of a research. This explanation below explains about the type of research, data collection, data processing, and data analysis. All of these procedures make this thesis easier to understand.

3.1 The Type of the Research

The type of research in analyzing *Something Borrowed* is qualitative research. It focuses on collecting and analyzing information in many forms, mainly non-numeric, and it concerns on exploring smaller numbers of instances and examples which are seen as being interesting or illuminating, and aims to achieve 'depth' rather than 'breadth' (Blaxter, 2006:65). This research uses qualitative research because the data is in the form of words and sentences, so the data of this research are qualitative data. They are not in the numeric form. Qualitative data in this thesis are derived from the dialogues of the novel which have been sorted, and carefully selected in accordance with the topic of the study. Those are some narrated sentences and any other written illustration of Rachel's moral qualities. The data are taken from dictionary, internet, and theoretical books related to the topic.

The research uses qualitative research method to interpret and analyze the data of *Something Borrowed*, and also the moral qualities of the main character. Firstly Rachel's moral qualities will be explained in this thesis. Secondly, this is to show the factors influencing Rachel's Moral Qualities. Lastly, this also aims to find the influences of Rachel's good and bad moral Qualities towards her life.

3.2 Data Collection

In writing this thesis, it needs information from many sources. Primary and secondary sources are used to collect data and information related to the topic which is discussed in this research. The primary sources of data of this thesis is a novel entitled *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin, which tells about the friendship and true love. While the secondary sources data are from some books, jurnal, and paper that are relevant to the topic which talks about morality.

All of those data above are obtained from the library of Faculty of Letters and the library of Jember University. It concerns with the materials as well as data and information that are taken from many books, dictionaries and also references to support the research. According to Smith (1993:204), the library research is the research done in room of researcher or in the library room where the researcher obtain the data and information about his object of research through books or other visual equipments. The data are also taken from internet websites to support the information that relevant to the topic.

3.3 Data Processing

The data and resources are taken from the materials such as books, articles, journal, dictionaries, internet and the previous researches. Moreover, this research also uses quotations taken from those data resources to strengthen the explanation of the analysis. The quotations are derived from some experts which explain the moral qualities. Besides, the quotations are also taken from the novel *Something Borrowed* itself that refer to the moral qualities of Rachel as the main character.

The data will be processed by sorting, then the particular data before will be analyzed by explaining about the moral qualities of the main character. This thesis only uses the data which have significance to the problems. It is to get the specific or detail explanation in the discussion in this thesis. Based on the