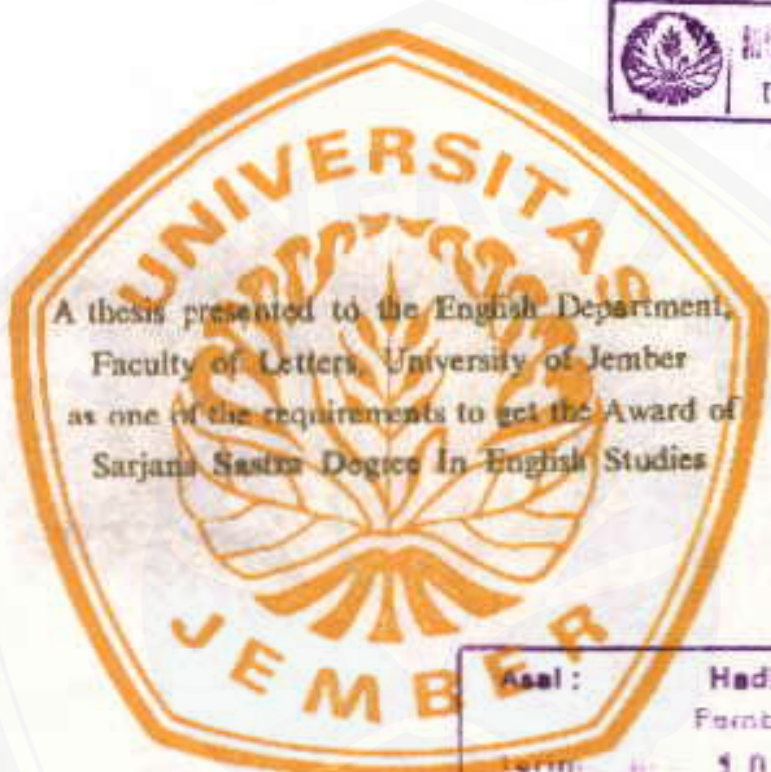


**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S INNOCENCE LEADING
TO HIS SOCIAL CONFLICTS IN STEVENSON'S
*KIDNAPPED***



A thesis presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, University of Jember
as one of the requirements to get the Award of
Sarjana Sastra Degree In English Studies

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Fatimah Indrawati
NIM. 990110101066

**JEMBER UNIVERSITY
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APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the examination committee of the
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Secretary



(Dra. Supiastutik)



Jember, 7 January 2005

Chairman



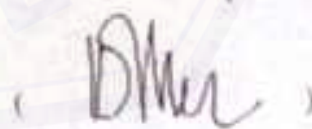
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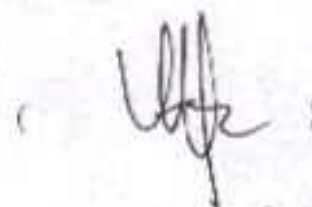
1. Drs Ridak Yunus



2. Drs. Hj Meilia Adiana, M. Pd



3. Drs. Wisasongko, M.A.



I would like to dedicate this thesis to:

- My beloved parents for their love and support*
- My beloved brothers*
- My almahatar*



Motto:
An old bird is not caught with chaff

(English proverbs)

TABLE OF CONTENT

FRONTISPIECE.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET.....	ii
PAGE OF DEDICATION.....	iii
MOTTO.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	vi
Chapter I : Introduction	
1.1 The Rationale.....	1
1.2 The Problem to Discuss.....	2
1.3 The Scope of the Study.....	2
1.4 The Goal of the Study.....	2
1.5 The Approach to Use.....	2
1.6 The Method of the Analysis.....	3
1.7 The Organization of the Thesis.....	3
Chapter II : The Biography of the Author and the Synopsis of the Novel	
2.1 The Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson.....	5
2.2 The Synopsis of <i>Kidnapped</i>	7
Chapter III : The Meaning of the Terms	
3.1 The Meaning of Character.....	11
3.2 The Meaning of Innocence.....	12
3.3 The Meaning of Social Conflicts.....	13
Chapter IV : The Main Character's Innocence Leading to His Social Conflicts	
4.1 The Main Character's Innocence.....	14
4.1.1 His Innocence upon His Relationship with Ebenezer.....	14
4.1.2 His Innocence upon His Voyage.....	19
4.1.3 His Innocence upon His Journey.....	27
4.2 The Main Character's Social Conflicts.....	33
4.2.1 His Conflict against Ebenezer.....	33

4.2.2 His Conflict againts the Sailors.....	40
4.2.3 His Conflict againts the Highlander.....	50
Chapter V : Conclusion.....	53
Bibliography.....	55



Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 The Rationale

Literature is a work of art in the form of writing. Literary works produced based on human's experiences. They might tell about experiences of daily life of the author himself or people's experiences observed by the author. Literary works are one of the ways to express the author's feelings and thoughts. Therefore literature is also called as the reflection of human's life.

There are three kinds of literary works, poetry, drama and prose. Among the three kinds of literary works, prose is the longest one. According to Jones a novel is a long story written in prose (1968:80). Although novel is too long to read, readers might find a certain thing that can't be found in other form of literary works. In *How to Analyze Fiction* Kenney states: "A novel is decidedly not meant to be read as a single sitting. Because of its length, the novel is particularly suited, as the short story is not to deal with the effect in the character passage time". (1996:105)

Kidnapped is one of the best adventurous novels ever written in 1886 by a Scottish poet, novelist and essayist, Robert Louis Stevenson. The novel tells about a young boy named David Balfour and his first journey of his life. The journey begins when David leaves his village to see the world outside his village after his parents' death. When he is about to leave the village, the chief of the village tells him that he has an uncle. The chief suggests David to see his uncle and find his shelter with him. David has no idea that he has got a last remaining kinsman he never knows before. He does not even know how his uncle looks like and where he lives. This man named Ebenezer. When they finally meet each other, David finds that his uncle is an old decrepit and miserly man and soon realizes that he is also a liar. Without David's knowledge, Ebenezer tricks and send him away into the boarding of a ship and sails away to Carolina. Through the journey on ship, David finds himself gets into conflicts with both the crew and the captain of the ship as he never travels before. Through this journey David experiences things he

never had in his life before. Because of his innocence, he experiences many social conflicts with people he meets along the journey to find his way back to Ebenezer.

1.2 The Problem to Discuss

The discussion of this thesis focused on the main character's innocence. For example, his innocence can be seen when he starts off his journey to find his uncle who David has never known, how David behaves awkwardly during his voyage and also when he finds that the Highland is different from the Lowland. The novel begins when a boy named David Balfour has to deliver his late father's letter to a man named Ebenezer Balfour. When he finally meets the man whom actually is David's uncle, he starts to have his adventures. He has been tricked by Ebenezer to go with him to a ship named Covenant. Ebenezer leaves David there alone without knowing anybody on the ship. Therefore the thesis also discusses about the main character's conflicts that he experiences along his journey which are caused by his innocence.

1.3 The Scope of the Study

In order to achieve the best understanding of the thesis, the discussion of the thesis is limited on the main character's innocence and his social conflicts. The main character in this novel is a 16 year-old boy named David Balfour.

1.4 The Goals of the Study

The first goal of writing this thesis is to give information about Robert Louis Stevenson's literary works especially *Kidnapped*. Second, it gives information about the main character's innocence and his social conflicts. Third, this thesis will apply any given theories from the lecturers related to the main topic of this thesis. Lastly, this thesis is also a way to improve the writer's writing skills.

1.5 The Approach to Use

To discuss the main character's innocence leading to his social conflicts as the main topic of the thesis, the writer uses psychological approach. According to Wilbur Scott in *How to Analyze Fiction*, psychological approach can generate three kinds of illumination. It deals with the creative process, the study of the author's life and to explain fictitious characters. Psychological approach also can

be used to consider the effect of the work on the reader and how that effect might depend on unconscious feelings. (Cole, and Lindemann, 1990:199) So psychological approach is applied in this thesis in order to analyze David Balfour's character, behavior and his state of mind which influence his action towards the society. It is also useful to represent the author's experience of life through the novel

Sociological approach is also suitable to apply in this thesis since literary works are reflecting or commenting on social reality. It is also very helpful because the culture, to which writers belong, helps to determine their understanding of the life. (Cole & Lindemann, 1990:190) The sociological approach is used to analyze David's relationship with his society and how the conflicts occur among them. It is also useful to give a vivid picture of the social condition in which the story happens.

1.6 The Method of Analysis

Since this thesis discusses about the main character's innocence leading to his social conflicts, the inductive method is suitable to apply. It is used to draw a conclusion from specific problem into general one. The particular case taken from this novel is when the main character, David Balfour does what his chief of village tells him to. His chief tells him that he has got his last remaining kinsman, named Uncle Ebenezer. Since David never knows how his uncle looks like and where he lives, David experiences some new things he never had caused by his innocence. Although he finally meets his uncle, his problem does not stop. By his uncle's trick's, he experiences more problems and gets conflicts with people surround him.

So according to the explanation above, the writer takes a conclusion from the main character's innocence as the particular problem then goes to the social conflicts which are experienced by the main character as the general problem.

1.7 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction of the thesis. It gives a brief information of the contents of the thesis. The second chapter consists of the biography of the author and the synopsis of the

novel. The third chapter explains about the meaning of the terms. The fourth chapter contains of the main discussion of the thesis. The last chapter draws a conclusion of the whole discussion of the thesis.





Chapter II

The Biography of the Author and the Synopsis of the Novel

2.1 The Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis (originally Lewis) Balfour Stevenson was born in Edinburgh on November 13, 1850. He was the only child of Thomas and Margareth Isabella Stevenson. His father, grandfather, and two uncles were civil engineer who specialized in harbor and lighthouse works. Since the men of the family were civil engineers, then he was also intended to be an engineer too. Unfortunately, Stevenson's poor health encouraged him to abandon the study of engineering at Edinburgh University. However, he studied civil engineering and then law just to please his parents. He was admitted advocate in 1875 but never practiced.

Since Stevenson was already determined to be a professional writer, he made friends with men who were mostly artists. They were Sidney Colvin, William Ernest Henly, William H. Low, Leslie Stephen, and Charles Baxter.

Stevenson began to suffer from severe respiratory problems when he was in his early twenties. So in attempt to relief his symptoms, he spent much of his life traveling to warmer countries. In 1876, he made a trip through France by canoe then he wrote his first book, *An Inland Voyage*, which described a canoe tour in Belgium and France appeared in 1878. The description of a tour taken with his donkey was written in *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* published in 1879. During this journey, he met and fell in love with Mrs. Fanny Osbourne, a woman 10 years older than him. He met her while she was studying art at Grez-sur-Loing, near Fontainbleau. Fanny was the widow of Samuel C. Osbourne of San Francisco. She returned to California in August 1878. A year later, Stevenson followed her to California and then they were married soon after Fanny's divorced in May 1880.

Since Stevenson was suffered from tubercular, the couple spent years mainly at health resort at Davos in Swiss Alps, Hyeres on the French Riviera then settling in Bournemouth, England for three years in 1884. By these times he had published widely in periodicals and many of the stories, essays, and travel pieces

pieces were collected in volume form such as *Virginibus Puerisque* in 1881, *Familiar Studies of Men and Books* and *New Arabian Nights* in 1882. His first full-length work of fiction, *Treasure Island*, published in book form in 1883, which brought him to fame and increased the publication of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in 1886. This was followed by his popular Scottish romances, *Kidnapped* (1886), its sequel *Catriona*, (1893) and *The Master of Ballantrae* (1889).

In 1887-1888 he spent his winter in Saranac Lake in Adirondack Mountains of New York State. He stayed there for a while to get his TBC treatment under the care of Dr. Edward Trudeau. The treatment succeeded that in June 1888 Stevenson and his family sailed from San Francisco on the schooner yacht *Casco* for the South Seas Cruise. In the 18 months of travel they saw some places such as the Marquesas, Tahiti, Australia, The Gilberts, Hawaii and Samoa. Samoa seemed to be the most attractive place he had seen especially in climate, scenery, and people. There in December 1889, Stevenson bought an estate, which he called 'Vailima' about three miles from Apia, on the island of Upolu. It was his home for remaining 5 years of his life, during which time his TBC was quiescent. He gained a reputation as a storyteller, especially among the native Samoans. He died there suddenly from a brain hemorrhage while working on his unfinished masterpiece, *Weir of Hermiston* in 1894.

Stevenson also published many other volumes, including *The Merry Men* in 1887, many travel books, a historical romance *The Black Arrow* in 1888, *Island Nights' Entertainment* in 1893. Together with his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne he wrote *The Wrong Box* in 1889, *The Wicker* in 1892, and *The Ebb Tide* in 1894. He also published volumes of poetry including *A Child's Garden of Verses* in 1885 and *Underwood* in 1887. The adventure story of *St. Ives* was completed by Arthur Quiller-Couch and published in 1897. By the end of his life, he had mastered an enormous range of fictions, from historical adventure and swashbuckling romances to gothic-style horror stories.

From the biography above, people will learn more about the author's life and his other literary works. Stevenson not only wrote novels and poems but also

some travel essays which worth him a lot of money. People will find out that Stevenson was ill almost for all his life and that he always made journeys to relieve from his illness. So undoubtedly, the life of the author gives valuable additional information to understand more about the subject being discussed.

2.2 The Synopsis of *Kidnapped*

The story begins when David Balfour, a 16 year-old boy leaves his hometown, Essendean to see the world outside. When he is about to go, Mr. Campbell, the minister of Essendean tells him that he has an inheritance his father gave for him. The inheritance is the house of Shaws in which now is in the hand of Ebenezer Balfour. So Mr. Campbell gives David a letter to deliver it to Ebenezer himself. He convinces David to go to Cramond in which the house of Shaws is situated.

So David is willing to leave for Cramond though he does not know where it is. He asks everyone along the street the way to Cramonda. Everyone he asks about it looks at him in a strange way. He finds out that it is not because of his appearance, it is all because there is something wrong with the house of Shaws itself. When David asks a barber about a man named Ebenezer, the barber tells him to stay away from Ebenezer. Finally an old woman leads him to the way to the house of Shaws. David finds that the house is awful. As the night falls he arrives in the door of the house. He knocks the door until someone appears at the window. The man at the window asks David what he comes there for. The man lets David enter after he tells the man that he has a letter for a man named Ebenezer.

The man of the house is described as a mean, stooping, narrow shouldered and clay faced creature between fifty and seventy years old. He is long unshaved and neither takes his eyes away from David nor looks at him fairly in the face. The man asks David to give him the letter. David refuses to give it unless he sees Ebenezer himself. The man confesses himself as the man named Ebenezer; the one David has been looking for. Ebenezer suspects David that he is there for money. David tells Ebenezer that he is there to find his family rather than to get the money. Ebenezer seems to have no hospitality in treating David as his

newfound-nephew. It makes David angry when the man seems to have no attention of David's presence. Ebenezer gives David a room to sleep in without giving him any lights.

On the next day David finds a letter that was written by his father in the house. He asks his uncle whether he and his father were twins. Surprisingly, this question shocks and makes Ebenezer angry. He says that he is older than David's father. After this quarrel, both of them are stealthily observing each other. It makes David sure that there is something unfriendly about his uncle. He is sure that his uncle will give him some money if he does what his uncle tells him to do. David is ready to do anything for his uncle to show him his gratitude for giving him the money. So, Ebenezer gives David his first order. He sends David to the house's tower to take him some papers without giving David any lights. Being in fear, David goes up to the tower in a whole darkness. The tower is completely dark that makes almost fall down the stairs. Fortunately, David is helped by a flash of lightning to find his way down the stairs.

When the morning comes, Ebenezer takes David to go with him to a ship named Covenant to see a man named Elias Hoseason. Ebenezer convinces David to see this man and sign some papers to give it to a lawyer named Mr. Reinkellor. Since David has never seen and been in a ship, he has a strange feeling when they finally arrive on the ship. While the captain of the ship is showing him everything on the deck, David cannot see his uncle anywhere on the ship. He finally sees Ebenezer is sitting on the other boat pulled for the town. When David cries for help, he sees his uncle turns around and shows him a face full of cruelty and terror. It is the entire thing that he sees before he becomes unconscious.

David has a new duty on the ship. He has to serve meal for captain Hoseason and his other two shipmates named Mr. Shuan and Mr. Riach. David meets a new stranger on the tenth day of sailing. The stranger offers him to set him to France but the captain refuses it. The captain and his mates hold a meeting in the cabin. David finds out that they have a plan to kill the stranger. David tells the stranger who is known as Alan Brock about the captain's plan. Together they fight against the captain and the whole crew. They finally win the battle. One night

a big tide catches the ship and makes it strike the reefs. The whole crew is thrown away to the sea including David. David casts away separately from Alan on an empty island of Iona. He finds nothing but emptiness along the island. Day by day he tries to survive by himself. He tries to find his shelter from the rain and sun among the hills and creeks. He is both thirsty and hungry but he finds nothing to eat or drink. Above of all he still hopes to find any human being on the island. After walking for a few days, David arrives in Highland. He finds everything seems to be different from his land.

When David sets on shore under Lettermore forest, he sees four travelers. He asks them the way to a place named Aucharn since he has never been there before. When one of the men who is known as Colin Campbell is about to answer, suddenly there comes a sound of a gun firing among the trees. Colin Campbells falls down on the road and then dies. David witnesses all of this murder from the moment Colin gets shot until the time he passes away. David is also sees the murder who is described as a big man wearing a dark coat.

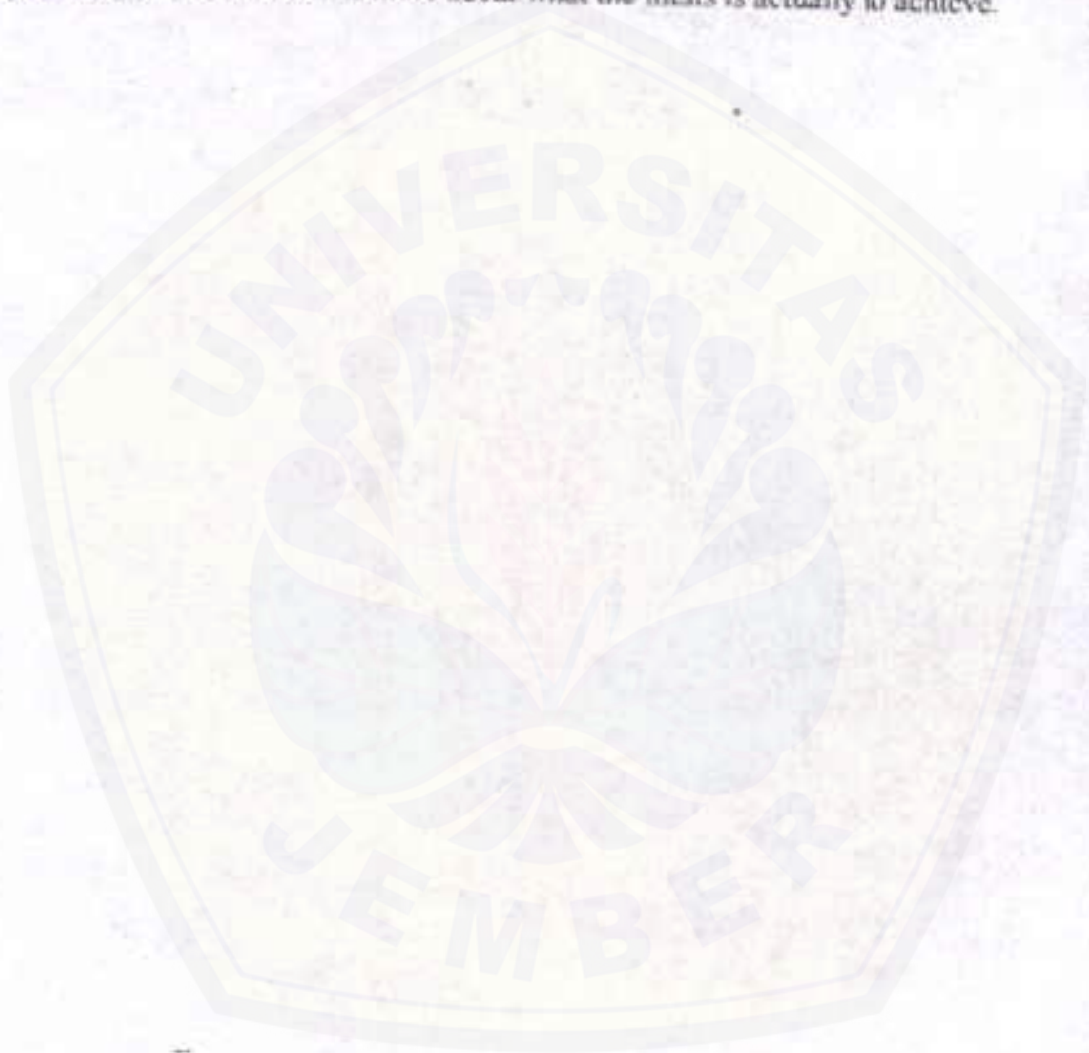
When David gets back to his senses, he is told by a voice to run among the trees. Surprisingly, he finds Alan there. Together they start running chased by Colin's soldiers. During the escape, they are helped by one of Alan's friend named James Stewart. He gives them good clothes and some money to continue their escape. He even tells them to get out of Scotland.

During the journey, Alan teaches David how to use sword since David has never use any sword before. Another Alan's friend named Clunny also helps them. They stay in Clunny's house for a night before they continue their journey on the next day. During their stay in Clunny's house, Alan spending David's money by playing card with Clunny. Alan has a lot of money during the game. However, David succeeds in convincing Clunny to lend them some money to continue their journey.

Then they go on with only a little money left. Along the journey from Clunny's house, they have quarrel. The quarrel is caused by David's disappointment of Alan's fault of losing his money. On the other hand Alan feels angry and ashamed of what he has done.

A month later, they finally find Mr. Reinkellor, a lawyer David has been looking for so far. He tells the lawyer what has happened from the time that he meets his uncle. He tells Reinkellor that Ebenezer has shipped him off to be saved. Helped by Reinkellor, together they find their way back to Ebenezer.

The synopsis above contains the story of the novel in brief. It surely will help the readers to understand more about what the thesis is actually to achieve.





Chapter III The Meaning of the Terms

3.1. The Meaning of the Main Character

It is important to define the meaning of the terms as a part of this thesis. To understand the terms is important in order to avoid a wider discussion of the thesis. Therefore, this chapter limits the discussion only to the meaning of the main character, innocence, and social conflict.

Character is one of element of fictions, which takes an important part in any literary works including novels. Meredith and Fitzgerald state:

"All traditional novels use characters to dramatize the story"
(1993:20)

Thus in *Handbook of Psychological Terms*, Harriman states:

"Character is a personality evaluated from the stand point of an ethical code; in biology, the observable effect of genes."
(1959:98)

Stanton states:

"The term 'character' is commonly used in two ways: it designated the individuals who appear in the story, and it refers to the mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals." (1964:17)

Meredith and Fitzgerald continue:

"Thus, the prime source for fictional character is life- real people who have been observed, studied, understood, and, in the way novelists embrace character, loved. The more tries to understand people and the more conflicts within the human heart, the more one will know about character and life." (1993:112)

In *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Shaw states:

"Character also refers to moral qualities and ethical standards and principles. In literature, character has several other specific meanings, notably that of a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc."

(1972:71-72)

It is clear that character is a part of a novel that may influence the whole story. Characters in the novels are taken from human's life, which have been observed by the authors. Characters in literary works can be seen through what they do or what they say. Their actions and dialogues may impact the readers' who are interesting in literary works. The characters' action may make the readers to love them or even hate them.

In *Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, the word of "main" means: chief; most important (1974:511).

So, main character is a character who takes the most important part in the novel. His actions, thoughts, and feelings are showed from the beginning to the end of the story.

3.2 The Meaning of Innocence

According to *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, the word innocence means:

- a) Freedom from sin or moral wrong
- b) Free from legal guilt
- c) Free from guile or cunning; simplicity
- d) Lack of sophistication; naïveté
- e) Harmlessness
- f) Ignorance (1997:697)

In *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*, Gove states that innocence is:

1. a person free from unacquainted with sin; esp.: a young child.
2. a person guiltless of a crime charged
3. a naïve, artless, or unsophisticated person
4. a person who lacks the requisite experience, training or knowledge. (1997:597)

According to the definitions above we may say that innocence is a human's character which means that he is as pure as a child. A child does something without considering whether it is wrong or right because of his mental immaturity. He merely learns how to act without knowing why he does so (Hurlock, 1959:105)

Innocence also means that a person who lacks of knowledge, a person who makes mistakes because he lacks of experiences. Innocence means a person who never commits a crime that he does not deserve to be a prisoner.

3.3 The Meaning of Social Conflict

In life, human beings always have conflicts with others. Conflict is one of things that authors always involve in their literary works to make the story more interesting for the readers. According to Shaw conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction (1972:91).

There are three kinds of conflict that might be experienced in life. It includes physical conflict, internal or psychological conflict and social conflict. Harriman in his *Handbook of Psychological Terms* states that conflict means:

"In Lewin's theory, a rivalry between approach-approach, approach-avoidance, or avoidance-avoidance motives; in psychoanalysis, tensions arising from incompatible unconscious wishes simultaneously operative" (1959:105)

Thus in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language*, Gove states:

'Conflict is taken from Latin "*conflictus*"

- a: clash, competition, or mutual interference of opposing or incompatible forces of qualities
- b: an emotional state characterized by indecision, restlessness, uncertainty, and tension resulting from incompatible inner needs or drives of comparable intensity.
- c: the opposition of persons or forces upon which the dramatic action depends in drama or fiction.

(1956:476-477)

So according to the quotations above, it is concluded that conflict is a kind of fight or quarrel which happens between a man against a man, or a group of men against others because of a strong disagreement among them. In drama or fiction conflicts always occur in order to make the story more interesting.



Chapter V

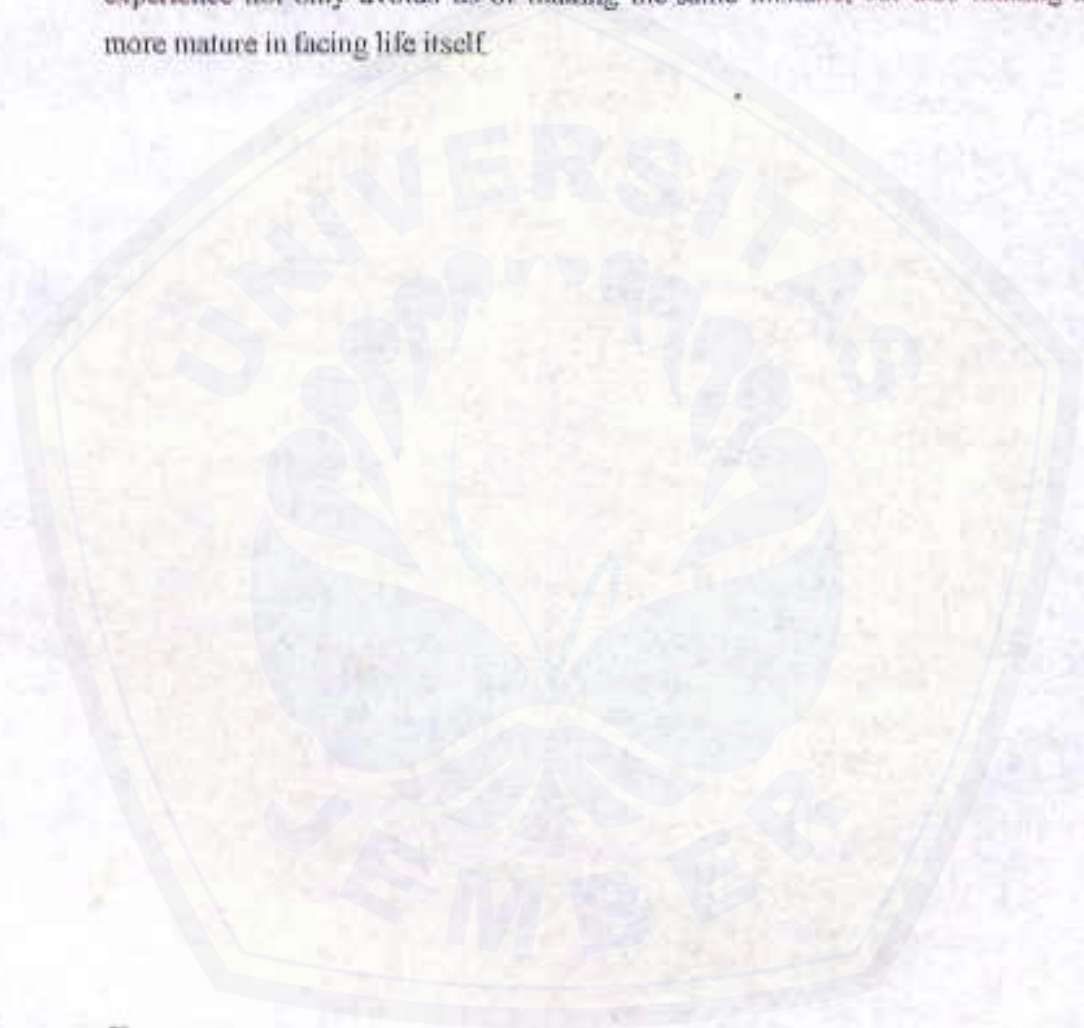
Conclusion

Novel is the longest literary works compared to drama and poetry because it takes more time to read. It is impossible for any human being to live and do everything by himself therefore, it is necessary for him to socialize with his surrounding in order to get help, make friends and even learn something new from his environment. Unfortunately, not all people have good personality. Some people are sincere in treating others but some people do not in which can be seen in *Kidnapped*. *Kidnapped* is one of Stevenson's best selling novels, which tell about the adventure of a young boy, named David Balfour. David is an orphan who thought that he had nobody else in this world after his parents' death. Suddenly, his life changes when he is told that he still has uncles remains. David is both happy and curious about the man that he never met since he was a baby. When David meets Ebenezer, he is surprised to know that the man is not as good as he thought. David is tricked and sent to a boarding ship which sails somewhere for a slavery trade. Through the voyage, David suffers from the sea sickness and being intimidated by the crew. When a storm hits the ship, David is left stranded on a mysterious island by himself. He struggles alone by doing anything to survive. Then he finds himself being in new surroundings in which people behave differently from those in his country.

On his way to find his shipmate named Alan Breck, David is suspected for being involved in the murder of Colin Campbell, a well-known Hanoverian Government. Alan and David runaway from the soldiers' chasing. Helped by Mr. Reinkellor, an estate lawyer, David obtains his inheritance of the house of Shaws.

The main character in this novel is David Balfour. He experiences many sad things because of his innocence. First, David does not know who his uncle really is, and then he has been trapped by Ebenezer's trick since David thought that Ebenezer was a good man. It makes sail onto a stranger ship with some unfamiliar crew who always treat him badly. Second, since David has never sailed, he suffers from physically and mentally as well. Third, he does not know

what to do since he witnesses the murder of Colin Campbell and being innocent for not doing it. From the story above, the writer gets the moral message. It is not easy to find a good person in this world to be a friend. We have to avoid making contact and socialize with bad people. Otherwise, they can influence us to be bad either. Moreover, it is concluded that we can learn some things from our experience in meeting such kind of people. Therefore, learning from our experience not only avoids us of making the same mistake, but also making us more mature in facing life itself.



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