AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRAGIC HERO
IN THOMAS HARDY'S
TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

A THESIS
In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching

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A. Synopsis

B. Map of the Wessex
ABSTRACT

Literature is taught step by step at the English Department of Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, from Literature I, II, III, and Literary Appreciation. By studying literature students would get knowledge about culture of the other countries and learn how to analyze a literary work. With literature, they will also get the illusion of imaginative world, create their own world, and they are trained to grasp the aesthetic quality of the literary work.

After comparing with the other literary genre, the writer chooses novel to be analyzed. Novel is dominated by its growing realistic conception of the individual in an actual society. In the Tess of the D'Urbervilles novel, people can learn about human's struggle against fate and about flaws.

The interesting thing of this novel story is that it tells a noble family (the Durbeyfields), who has been the only lineal representative of the ancient and knightly family of the d'Urbervilles, that still exists. Tragic events come to the family continually, especially to Tess, the eldest child. Unfortunately, the Durbeyfields does not get a high honor and a privilege like the other noble ones get because its noble blood is unknown. Tess struggles for herself and her family. In her struggle, fate and flaws destroy her life and the d'Urbervilles knights.

The writer is interested in studying the tragic hero in Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy. The hero, namely Tess, encounters many tragic events that are conditioned by fate and that are caused by her own flaws. The hero's struggles until her end teach us to never give up with difficulties.

From analyzing fate in the tragic hero (Tess)'s life, the writer finds out that Tess is a tragic hero because of inevitable condition that happens naturally (related to weather, geographical condition, surroundings, Tess' beauty, etc), coincidently (the horse died, letter slipped under the carpet, John died, etc); and inevitable condition of the rapid development (e.g.: industrial revolution) in the world; and condition of image of women in that era in which women are appreciated because of her purity. Those things involve the role of environment, the hero herself, coincidence, and society.
About Tess' flaws, The hero's flaws are caused by her condition in which she must choose between two alternative as soon as possible, then she mostly takes a fatal step. Her pride and faith also support her bad judgement. Her defect and bad judgement lead her to her tragic life. Tess' flaws in making decisions related to her relationship with Angel, Alec, Angel's parents, her own parents, and her belief.

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses intrinsic criticism, extrinsic criticism, psychological criticism, and feminist criticism. With the intrinsic criticism, she draws attention to the work itself, on the text. The extrinsic criticism deals with outside the text. Feminist criticism deals with the image of women. Psychological Criticism involves psychological theories about human's soul and its development. The methodology is based on Wilfred L. Guerin's, Earle Labor's, Lee Morgan's, and John R. Willingham's methods.