

The Portrayal and The Consequence of Tracy Whitney's Absurdity in *If Tomorrow Comes* by Sidney Sheldon

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Abstract

This study aims to describe about the portrayal and the consequence of the absurdity in Tracy Whitney's life in *If Tomorrow Comes* novel written by Sidney Sheldon. Tracy Whitney is described as a free and an independent woman who had a perfect life. However, the perfect life is suddenly changed into miserable life. She is being trapped by the gang of mafia in her town and nobody cares for her. This study used descriptive qualitative as the methodology with library research as the approach of the study. Albert Camus' absurdism theory is also used as the main theory in analyzing the literary work. The results shows that the life of the main character that suddenly change from harmonious life into miserable life is found as an absurd situation. The feeling of hopelessness and alienated makes the life of the main character becomes absurd. Moreover, in the consequence from the absurd situation the main character chooses to revolt and accepting her condition.

Keywords: absurd, change, life

Introduction

Every human being wants to get a freedom in their life. It is the right that every human had and fight for. They have rights in order to maintain their life, including the way of thinking, choosing, and making decision. Through freedom, humans can choose what they want to be or to do in their life because there is no determination to it. They are free to shape themselves and their lives and create their own values through their decision in life (Maureen, 1997). Indeed, they have to be responsible for the decision they have made, no matter if it will make their life better or even worse. However, not all people can reach the freedom itself. People who are not getting the freedom in real life, will try to get it by creating another world. They are making a world where they can express everything, such as; their thought, their creativity, their opinion, their critique, and so on.

The researcher is using one of the novel from an author named Sidney Sheldon. Sheldon was born in Chicago during the Great Depression on February 11th, 1917. He was known as an author with crime fiction genre. Most of his works is come with woman as the main character. As what was reported in his interview, Sheldon said that the reason he used woman as his main character because he wanted to change the myth of the “dumb blonde”. He believed that woman is not only pretty in the face but also pretty in the brain. Moreover, he was inspired by the women in his life; his mother, his old wife—Jorja, and his new wife—Alexandra, who had strong personalities and physically attractive. One of his novels which shows the figure of a beautiful smart woman is. *If Tomorrow Comes*. *If Tomorrow Comes* tells about the freedom of a woman, named Tracy Whitney, who was getting unfair treatment from people around her. Tracy lived in a harmonious life before she was trapped by a gang of mafia. She was accused for thievery and premeditated murder, and being prisoned for fifteen years. No one helped her, even her boyfriend, Charles, was ignoring and leaving her. Feeling that her life was destroyed, Tracy felt hopeless and alienated by people around her. Yet, Tracy did not want to give up. She tried to face her downfall by working as a thief just like what she was accused before. The condition that happen to Tracy can be categorized as a revolt toward human’s freedom in showing his existence. Humans as a conscious being are thrown into the world which full of absurdity (Cendana, 2005). They exist without any explanation of why they live and what is their purposes. A world without purpose, value, or meaning is literary senseless, worthless, and hopeless. Mostly people, who were in an absurd situation, will choose to kill themselves because they cannot cope with the absurd condition. However, by killing or doing suicide to end the absurdity of life does not encounter the absurd itself. Rather, it is only become more absurd (Lewis, 2009). Therefore, Camus stated there are three consequences from the absurd; revolt, freedom, and passion. These consequence are the truly freedom of human being from the absurd situation.

In order to enrich the knowledge, the researcher reviewed some previous studies which have relation to this study in some aspects. The first previous study came from Windi Astuti who analyzed the same novel by Sidney Sheldon *If Tomorrow Comes*, but with different focus. She examined about the feminist ideas which represented in Tracy Whitney’s character. She found that the feminist ideas were drawn in Tracy Whitney character as an educated, independent, obstinate, heroic, struggle, courageous, and decisive woman. Another work came from Erni Nurhayati Soraya who revealed about woman’s rebellion through feminist perspective that portrayed in the novel by Sidney Sheldon *If Tomorrow Comes*. Soraya found that woman can endure the oppression condition in life. Woman is struggling with her own effort in order to get her right and prove that she can do what the man do. Soraya also conclude that rebellion is the reflection of the feminism. Similar to the two previous studies above, this research is also using the

novel written by Sidney Sheldon entitled *If Tomorrow Comes*. This research also focuses on Tracy Whitney character as the main object in analyzing the novel. Whereas, the differences between this research and those two previous studies above is this research concerns in the life of Tracy Whitney as the main character and how Tracy Whitney lives her miserable life in her own. While the two previous studies above are focusing on the feminist side of Tracy Whitney. From the background above, the issue that the researcher takes is about the changing of Tracy Whitney's life; from harmonic life into miserable life.

Literature Review

Absurdism

Absurdism was coined for the first time by Albert Camus, which concept has its root from the philosophy of existentialism. Absurdism, which influenced by the philosophy of existentialism, was developed after the World War II. It started when the absurdity was deeply felt by people who lived in the post World War II. They were starting to questioning about the purpose of their existence. They felt that their rights as a human being are not respected anymore, which can be seen through the huge number of innocent people who were tortured, raped, and even killed by other humans. These make the values of humanity that had already existed become meaningless. It created a feeling that their lives were purposeless, meaningless, and senseless, or in other word, absurd (Kurniawan, 1994). The word absurd is considering as no purpose, no goal, or no objective. It refers to the situation which is incomprehensible, uncertain, senseless, and chaotic (Kurniawan, 1994). Absurd also can be said as a condition in which human existed from the nothingness – which later he will give himself essence, and came toward the nothingness or in other word death (Abrams, 1999). Absurd is known as the condition when a man desperately demands meaning and clarity of the world around him, but he finds himself confronting a universe that is irrational and meaningless (Raskin, 2001). It is related to human condition in which he faces with nothingness, that is, the encounter of human's need and the silence of the world (Davachi, 2009).

Camus also argues that the absurd arises because the world fails meeting human's demand about the meaning of life (Nagel, 1971). It is when a hope of a man does not go as he expected or hoped. To Camus, man is confronting his obscurity in the world and since he cannot change it, then he rebels against it. Hence, it can be assumed that absurdity is the confrontation between man and the irrational world (Davachi, 2009). Through his work, *The Myth of The Sisyphus and Other Essays*, Camus described about the concept of absurdity in Sisyphus' life. Sisyphus is the figure from greek mythology whom the gods condemned to rolling a rock to the top of the mountain;

“The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of the mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor” (75).

It can be seen that, Sisyphus is an example of the human condition who is struggling hopelessly to achieve something. The punishment which given by gods to Sisyphus is a kind of hopeless and futile action. Sisyphus has to roll a rock to the top of the mountain, even though he knows that the rock will always go back down. But Sisyphus does not surrender with the punishment and still do it over and over again. In his action, Sisyphus finds that he is truly free and the gods cannot control his thoughts. He can scorn the gods’ attempts to punish him, to be authentic to his inner self and choose to be happy. Sisyphus does not try to escape his absurd task, but instead resists suicide. However, the story of Sisyphus gives something to learn. Although in his life, man is faced with many kinds of problems which make he feels hopeless, disappointed, stress, even alienated, he must keep living his life and avoid to do suicide. By avoiding the suicide, it means that he is respecting his own existence in the world. According to Camus, the depressing existential problems of a man, including anguish, suffering, sickness, disease, anxiety, death, and so on, which conspire to render human existence becomes meaningless. Therefore, living the absurd means a total lack of hope, a permanent rejection, and a conscious dissatisfaction (Lewis, 2009). Many people already think about their futures – even their families’ futures, but the futures that they have already planned are not going as they want. Hence, they will feel hopeless, disappointed, frustrated, and even alienated.

Hopelessness

Hopelessness is the feeling of despair which happen when there is no hope in life and find that life is not worth living anymore (www.differencebetween.net). It is defined as the feeling of a person in which he does not have any confidences and hopes in his life. As what Camus said in his essay; If I were tree among trees, a cat among animals, this life would have meaning, or rather this problem would not arise, for I should belong to this world. I should be this world to which I am now opposed by my whole consciousness and my whole insistence upon familiarity. This ridiculous reason is what sets me in opposition to all creation (Camus, 1955). It means that hopelessness is considered as the feeling of failure in obtaining the hopes. The hopeless person will considers himself as a failure because he cannot overcome the obstacles and difficulties in his life. The feeling of hopeless occurs when a person thinks that his life is not going as he expected or wanted. 2.2.2 Alienation Alienation refers to the act or the result of the act in which someone becomes strange to something or somebody around him. According to Keniston,

most usage of alienation share the assumption that some relationship or connection that once existed that is 'natural', desirable or good, has been lost (Saleem, 2014). As what Camus said in his essay;

... in a universe suddenly divested of illusions and lights, man feels an alien, a stranger. His exile is without remedy since he is deprived of the memory of a lost home or the hope of a promised land. This divorce between man and his life, the actor and his setting, is properly the feeling of absurdity (Camus, 1955).

It means that a feeling of alienation happens because man cannot go back to his old condition in which he still accepted in society. A man is feeling strange with his surrounding and being estranged by the people around him. The feeling of being alienated leads to the absurd situation. When a man feels alienated, he will go and look for another life. Generally, people who live in absurdity will choose to end up their lives by killing their own selves. They believe with ending up their lives, they can avoid the long painful and disease in their life. However, doing suicide is not a solution to encounter the absurd. For Camus, suicide is a confession of a man that his life is not worth living. Suicide is not an option, not a solution to facing the absurd. He construing it as cowardly (Lewis, 2009), and for him suicide is repudiation (Camus, 1955). Another choice is by doing religious solutions. Camus defines this religious solution as a philosophical suicide. In this case, a man wants to escape from reality and try to find a peace in his life. He chooses to get rid of the world rather than himself. Camus believes that to adopt a religious or supernatural solution to the problem of the absurd is destroying the reason of living, which is as fatal as physical suicide. For him, suicide, either it is physical or philosophical, is not authentic or valid solution to the problem of the absurd because doing a suicide means that human rejects the revolt and the protest against injustice and senselessness (Lewis, 2009). The last solution to the problem of the absurd is accepting and embracing the absurd itself. Since absurd is unavoidable, therefore the proper response is by accepting the absurd courageously (Lewis, 2009). Camus stated that the appropriate way to deal with the absurd situation is by doing a revolt. Camus argued that the existential authenticity demands that people are admit to theirself that their plans and projects are for the most part hopeless and vain. This is the existential revolt to affirm the absurdity of life and continue living (Timrayner, 2016). Revolt is an attitude of heroic defiance or resistance to anything that oppresses human beings. It considers as a refusal to accept the loss of human lives and a pressure on viewing death as a scandal (Raskin, 2001). It is a constant confrontation between man and his own obscurity (Camus, 1955). Through revolt, humans can challenge the world for something new. No matter if the result is satisfying or not. The most important point is the process of the revolt itself which gives meaning in humans' life. Just like what Camus said in his essay; It may be thought that suicide follows revolt – but wrongly. For it does not represent the

logical outcome of revolt... Revolt gives life its value. Spread out over the whole length of life, it restores its majesty to that life. To a man devoid of blinders, there is no finer sight than that of the intelligence at grips with a reality that transcends it. It means that, doing revolt is better than suicide. Even though humans still do not know about the result from their revolt but through revolt, humans can find their meaning and values in life. They do not think about the upcoming condition from their revolt, whether it is good or bad. Therefore, Camus defines three consequences from the absurd, those are; revolt, freedom, and passion (Camus, 1955). It means that, when human is revolting towards the absurdity in his life, thus he will get his freedom which then becomes his passion. Revolting the absurd does not mean escaping from the absurd, but accepting the absurd itself. Humans will keep living the absurd because they cannot go back to the situation before. From there, human will get his truly freedom and enjoy his condition.

Methodology

This study applies qualitative methodology and uses library research approach. The main source for the analysis is the novel from Sidney Sheldon entitled *If Tomorrow Comes* that is published in 1985 (Sheldon, 1985). While the secondary source is taken from books and journals. The data analysis can be done in following steps; (1). Reading the novel carefully in order to understand the novel well, (2). Selecting and collecting the data related to Tracy Whitney's characterization and life, (3). Analyzing the collected data by dividing into three sections of analysis, the first is analyzing the characterization, the second is analyzing the absurdity in the character's life and the third is analyzing the consequence from the absurdity in the character's life, (4). Making conclusion from the result of the analysis.

Results and Discussion

The Absurdity of Tracy Whitney's Life

Tracy Whitney used to have a harmonious life before a gang of mafia destroyed and turned it into a life which is miserable. The changing of Tracy Whitney's life happens when she is looking for justice for her mother, but unfortunately she is also getting trapped. The sudden change in Tracy Whitney's life arouses the feeling of hopelessness and alienation. In the explanation below, the researcher will describe about the harmonious life of Tracy Whitney and how it turned into a miserable life. In *If Tomorrow Comes*, Tracy Whitney is described as a twenty-five years old woman who is smart and beautiful. Tracy Whitney thinks that the life that she had is already perfect, even though she had already lost her

father a few years ago. For Tracy, the definition of a perfect life is having a mother who loves her child so much, having a promising job, and having a man that she loved, loves her back. Tracy is very happy with her life. She feels like she is the most luckiest and happiest person in the world. Everything that she wanted is going to be real, such as her marriage with the man she loved:

“I feel like a princess in a fairy tale, Mother,” Tracy Said. “I never believed anyone could be so happy. Tomorrow night I’m meeting Charles’s parents.” She deepened her voice as though making a pronouncement... (02)” “It’s indecent for anyone to be this happy, Tracy Whitney thought. I’m marrying the man I love, and I’m going to have his baby. What more could anyone ask? (04)”

From the quotations above, it can be seen that Tracy is really happy with what happen in her life. She feels that she had everything she wanted in her life. At first, Tracy was in doubt if she can marry with Stanhopes’ family, a well-known family in Philadelphia. But then her doubt is faded when Charles is asking her to marry him. Their meeting began at the financial symposium where Charles becomes the guest speaker. Tracy who does not agree with Charles’ opinion raises her hand and speak out her opinion. They both finally continue the discussion in the dinner together. Tracy thought that Charles will be same with the other rich man, but he is different. From there, the relationship between them is become closer. In her job, as the head of the cable-transfer department in Philadelphia Trust and Fidelity Bank, Tracy is considered as the precious employee. Her ability in operating the computer to move a huge amount of money from one bank to the other bank in the world, makes her retained in the office. It is shown when Clarence Desmond, an impotent executive, asks her to keep working in the office:

“... I assume you’ll be returning here to work with us. After the honeymoon, of course. We wouldn’t want to lose you. You’re one of our most valuable employees (10)”

The quotation above shows that Tracy is one of the most wanted employee in the office. She knows that the job she had is a promising job for her in the present and in the future later. These things are making Tracy satisfied with what was owned by her in her life. She will not lose her job, even if she will have a break from work for honeymoon later. The job in Philadelphia Trust and Fidelity Bank will always welcome her. However, Tracy’s life did not go smoothly like she wanted. Her life starts to change when she heard about her mother’s death. Her mother was found dead in suicide in the night when she talked about the marriage with Charles’ family. One of the loyal employee in her mother’s company, Otto Schmidt, tells about everything that happen to Doris Whitney before she dead. He said that Joe Romano was the one who was behind it all. Even though Romano did not kill Doris pshically, but Romano mentally killed her. Doris Whitney lost everything that she

had, her company, her house, and also she had many debt that she cannot pay. Moreover, she had an accusation of fraud:

“There’s more. The district attorney served your mother notice that he was going to ask for an indictment against her for fraud, that she was facing a prison sentence. That was the day she really died, I think. (20)”

Tracy who was burn with emotion finally decides to come to Romano’s house. She wants Romano to clean her mother’s name. But before going to Romano’s house, Tracy bought a thirty-two caliber revolver. Her plan is asking Romano to clean her mother’s name in a peaceful way, if he rejects it, Tracy will treathening him with the revolver:

“...The plan she had worked out was simple. She was going to reason with Joe Romano, ask him to clear her mother’s name. If he refused, she would threaten him with the gun and force him to write out a confession. She would take it to Lieutenant Miller, and he would arrest Romano, and her mother’s name would be protected (25)”

Unfortunately, what was planned by Tracy is not going well. Romano who is smarter in cheating and framing people can easily take Tracy down. The gun fell from Tracy’s hand and Romano begins to control Tracy. He wants to rape her but she grabs the gun on the floor and she accidentally pull the trigger. Before leaving the house, Tracy is calling the ambulance for Joe Romano. However, it is not that easy to release from Romano. Tracy is getting under arrested in the airport when she wants to fly back to Philadelphia. Tracy is trying to explain to the police but no one wants to hear her explanation. In the court, Tracy also tries to defend herself by telling the truth, but the public prosecutor cuts Tracy’s explanation by reading the indictment of Tracy Whitney:

“Now was Tracy’s moment to explain to someone in authority the truth about what had happened ..., ‘Your Honor, it wasn’t murder. I shot him, but it was an accident. I only meant to frighten him. He tried to rape me and –‘ The district attorney interrupted, ‘Your Honor, I see no point in wasting the court’s time. This woman broke into Mr. Romano’s home, armed with a thirty two-caliber revolver, stole a Renoir painting worth half a million dollars, and when Mr. Romano caught her in the act, she shot him in cold blood and left him for dead. (33)”

It can be seen Tracy did not get any chance to explain what is really happening. She was innocent, but got an accusation of armed robbery and murder. She did not know anything about the painting and she also did not meant to kill Romano. Judge allows Tracy to hire a lawyer to defend her in the next trial. But, because she does not have much money to hire a lawyer, then she agrees to use a lawyer that chosen by the court. The lawyer which chosen by the court is Perry

Pope. Just like Joe Romano, Perry Pope is also the member of the mafia led by Anthony Orsatti. Tracy who does not know about that thing, once again, entering the trail of the mafia. Perry Pope is pretending to be on Tracy's side. He is supporting Tracy to defeat Romano as well as Orsatti:

“He said slowly, ‘I’m going to try. I’d give anything to put them all behind bars... There’s only one judge Orsatti has never been able to buy. His name is Henry Lawrence. If I can arrange for him to hear this case. I’m pretty sure I can make a deal for you... He hates Orsatti and Romano as much as I do. Now all we’ve got to do is get to Judge Lawrence. (36)”

Tracy is putting her hope and faith toward Perry Pope. She feels that only Perry Pope who can help her out from the problem. It is only Perry Pope who puts attention to her story and wants to help her. Perry Pope is also sending Tracy some flower arrangements with a spirit card on it, which makes Tracy more certain with him. In the next day, Pope tells Tracy that he was successful in getting judge Lawrence as their judge but with a requirement. Tracy must accept the indictment towards her, even if she did not do it. At first she was rejecting the requirement because she does not want to admit the things that she has never done. But, Perry Pope keeps persuading her slowly. Finally, it makes Tracy want to do the requirement that he told, that is admitting the false indictment of her:

“By pleading guilty... Judge Lawrence will sentence you to three months in prison... If they put you on trial for armed robbery and attempted murder ..., you could be sentenced to ten years... It’s your decision,’ he said. ‘I can only give you my best advice. It’s a miracle that I got away with this. They want an answer now. You don’t have to take the deal. You can get another lawyer and--- ‘ No’ She knew that this man was honest. ‘I’ll--- I’ll take the deal (37-38)”

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Perry Pope is very good in persuading someone. He knows how to take someone's heart. Tracy, who is already putting her hope and faith to Perry Pope, agrees with Pope's suggestion. She believes that Pope is a honest and a good man. He is a man who already gives all of his strength just to help Tracy, someone whom he just met. However, Tracy's choice turns out failed. By admitting the accusation, Tracy makes herself entering the jail. It means that the mafia does not need to bother by throwing Tracy into the jail because she already walks herself into it:

“... because for the next fifteen years you’re going to be incarcerated in the Southern Louisiana Penitentiary for Women.’ Tracy felt the courtroom begin to spin. Some horrible jokes was being played. The judge was an actor typecast for the part, but he was reading the wrong lines. He was not supposed to say any of those things. She turned to explain that to Perry Pope, but his

eyes were averted. He was juggling papers in his briefcase, and for the first time, Tracy noticed that his fingernails were bitten to the quick (39)”

The quotation above shows that Tracy feels she was being fooled by the mafia. How can she believe in people whom she just met in a short time. Now, Tracy cannot do anything because she is already admitting all those false accusations toward her. She is going to be the prisoner for the next fifteen years, her name will be listed on bad record list, and she is not clean anymore. The princess' life in the past now has changed into the monster's life. Everything that she has planned for the future is already gone. Her marriage with Charles will never happen, just like her mother and her baby who will not back to life again. From all of those incidents that she had experiences above make Tracy feels different from the way she was before. She is now a criminal, instead of a good citizen. She lost everything that she had; her mother, Charles, and also her baby. Those things lead Tracy has a feeling of hopelessness and alienation. Furthermore, the feeling of hopelessness and alienation can lead to the absurd situation because what a person want does not go as he wanted to. It is similar with what Camus has said that absurd was born from the confrontation between the man's desire and the world (Camus, 1955). The situation in which Tracy's desire is not match with what the world's want is called as an absurd situation. It can be seen when Tracy is trying to look for a justice for her mother. Unfortunately Tracy is also getting into the trap instead of get the justice that she wanted.

1. Hopelessness

Hopelessness is the feeling of despair which happen when there is no hope and find that life is not worth living anymore (www.differencebetween.net). The feeling of hopelessness can be happened when something is not going as the person has expected. The condition of hopelessness is described in Tracy Whitney's life. Tracy, who has never become a criminal or committed a crime, is getting an accusation of an armed robbery and murder. Moreover, when she is falling into the problem, she does not have anyone to support her. There is no one who cares, listens, and helps her out from the problem. Even Charles, the man who claimed that he loves Tracy, is not there for help:

“I can't be locked up here for fifteen years, Tracy thought in despair. I want to die. Please, God, let me die. But I can't die, can I? I would be killing my baby. It's your baby, too, Charles. Why aren't you here helping me? That was the moment she began to hate him. (52)” The quotation above shows that Tracy's hopelessness happens when she has to stay in the prison for the next fifteen years and when Charles breaks her hopes by telling her “I never really knew you.. You'll have to do whatever you think best with your baby”(42).

Tracy, who was sad because of the problem that strikes her, needs someone to support her and to calm her down. But what she got is something harmful, something that breaks her mental and spirit. The way Charles speaks to Tracy makes Tracy drown in despair. The feeling of hopelessness makes Tracy think that her life has over, has already been destroyed. All that she wants is death. She does not want to be in the prison for fifteen years long. However, since she has a baby in her womb, her spirit to keep alive is still available. She knows that her baby has right to live and deserve to live.

Furthermore, the condition of the prison, which is very different with the condition outside, makes Tracy uncomfortable living there. She was put in a cell which contains four prisoners with a seatless toilet in the corner, a little table with a cracked mirror over it, four lockers, and four bunks with a dirty and smelly mattress

The hopelessness occurs when Tracy feels unable to go through for the next fifteen years live in the prison. Not only the place which is smell and dirty that makes Tracy uncomfortable living there, but also the system inside the prison, such as the emergence of the forbidden love between the prison guard and the prisoner, the prisoner and the prisoner, and also there is bullying towards the new prisoner. Sometimes, there is also fight among the prisoners competing to get the domination and power in the prison. Besides, Tracy is losing her chance to get her normal life back since the mafia has already destroyed her life. They closed all Tracy's opportunities to live normal like she was before. By entering the jail, she will have a bad record in her life which can ruin her reputation. This thing makes Tracy becomes hopelessness of her life.

2. Alienation

According to Keniston, most usage of alienation share the assumption that some relationship or connection that once existed that is 'natural', desirable or good, has been lost (Saleem, 2014). Alienation is drawn in Tracy Whitney's life when she is accused as a criminal. Tracy who was once free to do everything that she wanted, now becoming a prisoner who has limited access for things that she wants. Becoming a prisoner is something which makes the life of Tracy Whitney different:

“... Tracy looked at the faces of her fellow passengers. One was defiant, and another bored; others wore expressions of despair. The lives they had lived were about to come to an end. They were outcasts, headed for cages where they would be locked up like animals. Tracy wondered what crimes they had committed and whether any of them was as innocent as she was, and she wondered what they saw in her face. (44)”

“... Tracy thought numbly. I'm finished. I'm a number. Nameless, faceless (49)”

“... who are you?’ ‘I’m --- I’m Tracy Whitney.’ She had almost said, ‘I was Tracy Whitney.’ She had the nightmarish feeling that her identity was slipping away. A spasm of nausea swept through her, and she gripped the edge of the bunk to steady herself. (55)”

From the quotations above, Tracy feels like she is becoming another person, a person who is different from she was before. She feels like an alien who was being isolated from the world. She also feels alone with no one helps, cares, or notices her. The feeling of being alienated grows stronger since she is never been in jail before and now she has to be in jail for fifteen years long, and it makes her feel strange with it. Not only in the prison, Tracy also feels being alienated after getting out from the prison. Tracy still has a feeling as an outcast, the feeling of being a stranger. This thing happens because she has ever become a part of a jail’s occupant. She cannot find any kind of jobs since her name is no longer clean. She is now an ex-prisoner and everybody scared with an ex-prisoner. Even Clarence Desmond, who ever said that Tracy is the best employee and he does not want to lose her, is also rejecting:

“‘Hello, Mr. Desmond. Well, I’ve come back,’ Tracy said brightly. ‘What for? ... You thought I’d give you back your old job?’ ‘Well, yes, sir. I haven’t forgotten any of my skills. I can still---’ ‘ Miss Whitney ... I’m sure you can understand that our customers would not wish to deal with someone who served time in the penitentiary for armed robbery and attempted murder... I think it unlikely that given your background, any bank would hire you (159)”

Whereas, Desmond ever said to Tracy that she is the most valuable employee in the office, but when she returns, Desmond rejects her. Tracy is no longer someone desirable, she has lost something good on her just because she was an ex-prisoner. Not only Desmond who rejected her, but the other jobs are doing the same.

Also she ever get another accusation from the place that she worked. She was accused for doing a thievery in one of the hotel room when she was cleaning the room. The manager accused her for stealing because she is the ex-prisoner. There are many jobs that reject Tracy and it is only because she has a bad record in her life. Tracy is becoming a stranger in both of her hometown, Philadelphia, and New York. The societies know who Tracy is, and she always becomes the suspect one if there is an incident related with criminality. Therefore, from those explanations above, it can be concluded that the feeling of being alienated happens from the gang of the mafia who destroys Tracy Whitney’s life before. They have changed her into a criminal and make her had a limited acces to live normal in society.

The Consequence from The Absurdity in Tracy Whitney's Life

This section explains about the consequence from the absurdity in Tracy Whitney's life. As what Camus has said that there are three consequences from the absurd; revolt, freedom, and passion (Camus, 1955). Revolting is known as affirming the absurdity of life and continuing living (Timrayner, 2016). Through revolt, a person challenges the world for something new. He does not care whether it is right or not, or whether the result is satisfying or not but the most important point is the process of his revolt itself. That is what give his life meaning. The changing of Tracy Whitney's life from the harmonious life into the miserable life is almost making Tracy ended her life. The feeling of being alone, different, and nobody helps, make Tracy feels hopeless of the world and being alienated from the world. However, Tracy then realizes that she has to keep living. There is no use to get what was on the past; where her mother is still alive, she is still working in the bank, also still having a relationship with Charles, because that was already in the past.

Tracy realizes that one of the way to face the bad luck is by following the bad luck itself. Tracy finally keep living her day in the prison with patient until she gets her liberation. She does not need to wait for fifteen years to get out from the prison because she has saved the daughter of the warden, hence she gets her liberation faster. However, the liberation that she got is not really make her free because she still cannot do everything that she wanted. She does not have enough money for living, and also she has no permanent job. Tracy is still being alienated by the societies around. The societies saw her as a dangerous woman because she was an ex-prisoner. They do not know the reality that happen towards Tracy, they only know what they see. Just like when Tracy is working as an assistant housekeeper in The Wellington Arms hotel and getting incrimination of stealing the jewelry in Mrs Marlowe's room, one of the guest in the hotel. Even though, Tracy was telling the truth that she is not stealing anything from the room, but the assistant manager does not believe her and keep blaming her. She is accused as the crimmial because of her bad record as an ex-prisoner. Not only the job in the hotel, but also the other jobs that she has tried before. From those incidents, Tracy starts to think that perhaps it is better to go into the criminality since everyone already labelled her as a criminal.

From the quotation above it can be seen that society sees her as a criminal although she is innocent about it. Even when she was jailed before, she is just an innocent women who gets an accusation of a robbery that she has never done. Her experience in jail makes her get label from the society as a criminal. Hence, Tracy who always gets an accusation of a criminal, decided to continue it. Tracy works as a thief under the command of Conrad Morgan. Tracy gets his address from one of her inmates. Since Tracy needs money for live, then she do the thievery job.

Although she knows that her job is dangerous, that her job can bring her back to the jail, but she keeps doing it. Her job as a thief is becoming her new life.

Tracy then has her new life as a thief. She had done some dangerous thievery and she liked it. The way Tracy becomes a thief like the one she was accused before is similar with the concept of absurdism by Camus that is by accepting the absurd condition. By accepting the absurd condition, human shows his revolt and he will find his values from the revolt itself. Revolt that is drawn in this novel is the choice of Tracy Whitney in working and becoming a thief just like what she was accused and labelled. By working as a thief, Tracy finds her freedom. She can do what ever she wants and go wherever she wants too. Tracy is free to do anything in her life. It can be seen in the quotation below

Tracy gets her freedom, her real freedom, when she is becoming the criminal. She is no longer thinking about whether it is right or not, about getting caught or not, about the amount of the money. All what she think is just about the result, how she can finish her job and satisfied her client. Whereas the passion occurs along with the freedom that she felt. When she feels free, she will feel comfortable with the job, and that is mean she is already addicted to the job, and it is so hard to stop it:

“...At first it was because I needed the money. And then it became something else; I’ve given away quite a bit money. I love matching wits against people who are successful and bright and unscrupulous. I love living on the cutting edge of danger.’ (396)”

It can be seen that Tracy is already enjoying her job as a criminal. She does not aim for the money anymore, but for the challenge of it. She is already addicted with the criminality, even though it is very dangerous and full of risk. She is doing the job for fun, for her happiness. Thus, her job as a criminal now become her passion. When it comes to become her passion, then it is hard to make it stop. It is shown in her conversation with Jeff, a conartist that has special relationship with Tracy. Jeff is asking Tracy to quit from the thievery and criminality world, and become a good citizen:

’True. What do we tell Gunther?’ ‘You’ve already told him. We’re not in that line of work anymore.’ ‘Shouldn’t we at least find out what he’s thinking?’ ‘Tracy we agreed that---’ ‘We’re going to Amsterdam anyway, aren’t we?’ ‘Yes, but---’ ‘Well, while we’re there, darling, why don’t we just listen to what he has to say?’ Jeff studied her suspiciously, ‘You want to do it, don’t you?’ ‘Certainly not! But it can’t hurt to hear what he has to say...’ (399-400)”

However, the conversation between Tracy and Jeff above shown that Tracy did not want to stop from the thievery’s world. It is not because the money that she got from the thievery but the experience, the challenge, and the danger in it. Even

though Tracy did not admit it directly, but from her answers above it shows that she still have eagerness to keep doing the thievery. It is proved that her revolt to go out from the absurdity of life by becoming a criminal, just like what she has accused before and what the society has seen on her, gives her a passion. Her choice to become the criminal shows her freedom and passion. She feels free, and she can do whatever she likes and wants. Therefore, it can be concluded that the consequence from the absurdity in Tracy Whitney's life is by doing a revolt, and from the revolt Tracy is finding her freedom and her passion. Instead of committing suicide like her mother, Tracy is choosing to walk on everything that happen to her in her life. She undergo and accepts her sentence in the prison. Also, she is living her life as a conartist because from there she gets her happiness.

Conclusion

This study aims to find out about the absurdity in Tracy Whitney's life. From the result above, it can be concluded that the absurdity portrayed when Tracy is looking for justice for her mother, but instead of getting the justice, she is trapped. Tracy's life that once harmonious life, becomes miserable. She lost everything that she had, like; her mother, her boyfriend, her baby, and her job. She is also getting an accusation for being a robber and a murderer, and get prisoned. All of those problems, make Tracy feels hopeless and alienated of her life. There is nobody comes to help, to listen, or to be on her side in her sadness, that is what makes her hopeless. Whereas, her feeling of being alienated appears when she feels different and rejected by the society around her.

The consequence drawn that the appropriate way to deal with absurdity is by doing a revolt. Tracy chooses to revolt, instead of committing suicide, because she realizes that she cannot walk back. The only thing that she can do is walking on her life in the present time or in other words she accepts the absurdity in her life. Tracy is becoming a thief, like she was accused before. For her, doing a job as a thief gives her freedom and challenge her life. Moreover, she also recognizes that working as a thief is her passion now.

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