

CHAPTER I V

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The researcher explains about her analysis and finding in discovering theme in *Anton Chekov's The Proposal*. According to Kenney (1966:94) theme can be discovered by a thorough and responsive reading of the story involving awareness of relations among the parts of the story and relations of parts to whole. Based on this theory the researcher analyzes the theme from the plot, setting, and characters in this drama.

4.1 Analysis Theme from Plot

According to Bonn (2010:128) plot is the author's selection and arrangement of incidents in a story to shape the action and give the story particular focus. Furthermore he adds that it refers to the main events that take place throughout the story. The researcher analyzes the theme from the plot based on Letheridge and Mildore's views (2004:98) that literary text usually develops the theme within certain structure which can be created through plot development

Based on the statements above, the researcher analyzes the plot in the *Proposal* by Anton Chekhov for discovering the theme. This story began with Lomov's arrival in Chubukov's house. Lomov is Chubukov's neighbor and best friend. He is 35 years old, single and a rich man who is looking for a wife. He comes to Chubukov's house to make a proposal to Natalya (Chubukov's daughter). This part is also part where the author introduces the character and setting in Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* or it is called exposition.

[LOMOV enters, wearing a dress-jacket and white gloves. CHUBUKOV rises to meet him.]

LOMOV: I've come to ask the hand of your daughter, Natalya Stepanovna, in marriage.

When Lomov is talking with Natalya to propose her, something happened. Natalya and her father feels angry and offended because of Lomov`s statement about oxen meadows, a land that is recognized as their family`s land. When Lomov said it, that is the beginning of the conflict in this story. It is called rising action.

LOMOV: And, as you know, my land is a near neighbor of yours.

They debate for the land till they abuse each other so that the proposal was failed and Lomov went back to his house because he feels bad. After arguing with Natalya and Chubukov his heart was sick and he went back angrily. When they debate and debate and the tension increase till Lomov feels bad with his heart and went back to his house is the climax of this drama.

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: Oxen Meadows are ours, not yours!

LOMOV: No, mine.

CHUBUKOV: Your grandfather was a drunkard, and your younger aunt, Nastasya Mihailovna, ran away with an architect, and so on.

LOMOV: And your mother was hump-backed. [Clutches at his heart] Something pulling in my side. ... My head. ... Help! Water!

When Natalya knows that Lomov comes to her house for making a proposal for her, she feels sorry. Here the story move to resolution and this is called falling action. After that she comes to Lomo`s house to make apology. This is the resolution of this story. In The Proposal Anton Chekhov arrange the plot like a mountain that climb, down, and climb and down again. After resolution the author start again the rising action when they talk together, for the second time they debate again for other things. They debate for proving the best dog between

Natalya`s or Lomov`s dog till Chubukov comes and join in this debate and abuse each other again like before.

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: Squeezer is heaps better than Guess!

LOMOV: your late wife used to beat you

CHUBUKOV: And you're under the slipper of your housekeeper!

When they debate, something happened to Lomov. He falls down after debating with theme. This is the second climax in this story. At the moment, Natalya is very worry, panic, and afraid that something worse happened with him. This part is called falling action.

LOMOV: There, there, there ... my heart's burst! My shoulder's come off. ... Where is my shoulder? I die. [Falls into an armchair] A doctor!

[Faints.]

He's dead ... dead!

I'm the most unhappy of men! Why don't I put a bullet into my brain? Why haven't I cut my throat yet? What am I waiting for? Give me a knife! Give me a pistol! [LOMOV moves] He seems to be coming round. ... Drink some water! That's right. ...

And finally, the resolution is when Chubukov wants Lomov and Natalya to marry and he gets his couple.

CHUBUKOV: Hurry up and get married and she's willing

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: Yes, yes, I'm willing. ...

CHUBUKOV: Kiss each other!

From the plot above which tells about a man who is looking for an ideal or real love, he comes to a woman`s house, meet and get her father`s pardon to propose his daughter. It indicates a seriousness of a man to start a family till finally he gets his love. It can be seen that the theme in this drama is a man who is looking for an ideal wife who has higher or similar social status and economic stability with him for starting a family. From the conflict which are faced by Lomov and Natalya about the land that makes them debate. Their debate is like

couple marriage debate. They are landowners but they fight and debate hardly for proving and being the owner of oxen meadows and it is not only that, they also debate about their dog. They argue each other to prove which the best dog is. All of the conflicts that they are faced in this drama show that both of them do not want to give up and considered lower than other till they debate and fight hardly. They want to show their social status and economic stability that they have each other. After analyzing every parts of the plot in this drama, from the beginning till the end of this story tell about a man who comes to a woman`s house to propose her and get her father`s approval. He chooses a woman who has same social status and economic stability for starting a family because admission of social status is very important for them. From these conflict, it can be seen that Chubukov`s and Lomov`s family have good economic stability like people from middle or upper class generally. Explanations above prove that social status and economic stability is one of the themes in this drama. So the researcher concludes that the plot of this story reveal the theme a man who is looking for a wife who has higher or similar social status and economic stability for starting a family.

4.2 Analysis Theme from Setting

Abrams (1999:284) states that setting is the general location, historical time, social circumstances in which its action occurs and physical location in which it takes place.

The setting of this drama is in Chubukov`s country house especially in drawing room. It is mentioned in the beginning of this drama explicitly. Like Abram`s view that analyze the time, place and situation are elements of a story

can influence the character and reveal the theme. So the researcher analyzes the setting to discover the theme in this drama.

[A drawing-room in CHUBUKOV'S house.]

Anton Chekhov describes setting of this drama in Chubukov`s drawing room. From this information, the reader know that this drama take place in Chubukov`s house and it can be assumed that Chubukov is a person who comes from the upper or middle class. It is looked at from the period when this drama was written in 1916. In this period World War II was happening. At the time world was faced economic crisis. From the period when this drama was written too, the researcher assumes that at the period 25 years old is a critical age for a woman to marry. Beside that house is also a symbol of their wealth Based on Letheridge and Mildore`s statement (2004) that the environment in which a character moves can function as a means of characterization and space can also serve as a symbol. So it can be concluded that someone who has a drawing room in his or her house is a rich person that has good economic stability and has good social status.

LOMOV enters, wearing a dress-jacket and white gloves. Why are you so formal in Evening dress, gloves, and so on. Can you be going anywhere, my treasure?

These show that Lomov is a rich man same like Chubukov, Lomov also has a good social status. This is proved by the dress that is used by Lomov when he comes to Chubukov`s house. The dress that is used by Lomov also shows the seriousness of Lomov to make a proposal to Natalya. He uses formal dress because he wants to get pardon of Chubukov to propose his daughter. This is effort of him to look for a wife. Lomov wants to propose a daughter of someone

who has good status social and rich so he has to wear something that suitable with this moment and show that he is a proper man for Natalya. This is appropriate with Yanni`s view (2002:1187) that character identify can be seen from what they do, say, and look likes and all aspects of the characters like speech, dress, gesture, movement must work together. So the dress that is worn by Lomov shows he is rich and he comes to propose someone.

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: You must excuse my apron and néligé ... we're shelling peas for drying. Why haven't you been here for such a long time? Sit down. [They seat themselves] Won't you have some lunch?

Atmosphere in this drama that is built by the author in the beginning is familiar. Setting at the Chubukov`s house and the time when Lomov comes there in lunch time. It indicates a familiar atmosphere when Lomov comes to Chubukov`s house to propose Natalya and they chat intimately like a family. The setting in this drama that take place in Chubukov`s house, when lunch time refer to the familiar atmosphere because at the time and place shows that Lomov is serious to propose Natalya. That is the effort of him to get her father`s approval. Other atmosphere that is built when Lomov tries to propose Natalya shows that he is very nervous. Several times when he speaks he has to stop to drinks some water, he also speaks not to the point to Chubukov and Natalya.

CHUBUKOV: Oh, don't go round and round it, darling! Spit it out! Well? LOMOV , I am getting excited. I shall drink some water It's cold ... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination

This situation is showing that Lomov is very nervous when he is going to propose Natalya. Seen from Letheridge and Mildore`s view (2004) that setting can provide a certain atmosphere and the atmosphere can be used to provide characteristic background for a character. So setting and atmosphere here can

describes and show clearer to the reader when a man who tries to get approval and propose a woman. In this drama also show the setting change when Lomov went back to his house.

[Goes to the door.]

Moving of setting in different place here, move the plot toward, give other sense to the reader, and show the conflict, tension, and atmosphere in the drama. This is like Bannon`s opinion (2011) that moving scenes to a different place can be used to create new sources of conflict or tension and make the story more interesting. So in this part show the climax and tension of this story. When Lomov back to his house angrily because he feels bad after debating with Natalya and Chubukov and after that, the second debates appear.

From the setting that was described by the researcher above. It can be conclude that the theme is determined by the setting. This is like Bavota`s view (2014) that the actions and events taking place in a narrative are consequential in determining its theme. So the researcher assumes that the theme which is revealed through the setting is a man who is looking for a wife who has higher or similar social status and economic stability with him for starting a family. This is seen from place in Chubukov`s house, time in lunch time, period when this drama was written in 1916 , and moving of place in this drama that tells a man who is serious to look for a wife and he comes to a woman`s house, in lunch time for getting her father`s approval. The period shows that at the time, 35 and 25 years old is a critical age for a man and woman to marry. So, all of the setting above, refers to a same theme, a man who is looking for a wife who has higher or similar social status and economic stability like him for starting a family.

4.3 Analysis Theme from Character and Characterization

Characterization is the process by which an author creates vivid, believable character in a work of art (Bonn, 2010:27). Kenney (1966:94) character is obviously of major importance for theme and many the realists take a different approach by relying on implied characterization. This is pivotal to the theme of their character-driven narrative. It means that theme can be discovered by analyzing character and characterization in the story. So the researcher analyzed the characters in Anthon Chekhov`s The Proposal.

Yanni (2002:1186) assumes that major characters are central characters to development and resolution of the conflict. In other words, the plot and resolution of conflict revolves around these characters. Based on the, plot, setting, and statements above that was described before, the researcher guesses that the main or major characters in *The Proposal by Anton Chekhov* are Lomov, Natalya, and Chubukov. This is looked at the title that drawing the point of this drama. From the plot, the researcher finds that Anton Chekhov creates the characters as landowner, rich, and they have good economic stability and social status. For discovering the theme from the characters, the researcher analyzes the Character`s action, thought, behavior, conversation, and what they are look like. This is appropriate with Yanni`s view (2002:1187) that all aspects of the characters like character responds of other characters, what other says and do to or about other speech, dress, gesture, movement, what they do, say, and look likes must work together and they can describe who characters are and how characters are like. The characters in this drama, keeping their dignity by fighting and debating a

land which is recognized as their land. Anton Chekhov describes them as rich persons and comes from high social class.

STEPAN STEPANOVITCH CHUBUKOV, a landowner,

Chubukov is a landowner. 70 years old, and Natalya's father. It means he is rich; He is not a good father because he is spoiling Natalya. When Natalya and Lomov debate about something, he always comes to support Natalya and he does not give them advice and be a mediator for them. Here also can be assumed that he a person who is considering that wealth and social status is very important. Because when Lomov and Natalya debate, Chubukov always comes and join in the debate for keeping his dignity and wealth.

First debate

*Enter CHUBUKOV.]
the Meadows are ours!*

Second debate

*Enter CHUBUKOV.]
He's the best dog in the district*

Although Chubukov knows about Lomov's badness family, he still want to Lomov marry with Natalya. This is evidence that Chubukov is a person who considers that social status and wealth is the most important.

*I've been hoping for it for a long time. It's been my continual desire.
Lomovs have had lunacy in your family
Your grandfather was a drunkard, and your younger aunt, Nastasya
Mihailovna, ran away with an architect, Your father was a guzzling
gambler*

Other evidence which can prove what Chubukov is like for example, when he knows that Lomov wants to propose his daughter he was very happy. Because he knows that Lomov is a rich man like him. So he thinks that his daughter marries with him her daughter's life will be guaranteed, their wealth will increase and they will be richer than before.

CHUBUKOV: My dear fellow, whom do I see! Ivan Vassilevitch! I am extremely glad. I'm so glad and I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son.

CHUBUKOV: [Aside] He's come to borrow money! Shan't give him any!

Chubukov said that he loves Lomov as his own son but when he guesses that Lomov comes to borrow money he said would not give him. He also said that he have been hoping they marry for long time but he just wait till Lomov comes and said to him for keeping their family dignity.

NATALYA STEPANOVNA, Chubukov's daughter, twenty-five years old

Anton Chekhov describes her as Chubuko's daughter, 25 years old. According to the researcher Natalya is a woman who is emotional, spoiled, and easy to be offended. This statement is based on her behavior, action, and reaction. For example, when Lomov states that oxen meadows is his land and his dog is better than Natalya's dog, she will be offended, angry, and debate with him. But, after debating, she feels sorry and make apology because she knew that Lomov comes to propose her (in the first debate). In the second debate she did like before. She feels sorry about their debate when she looks at Lomov falls down. This statement is made based on this data

First debate

Papa, please tell to this gentleman who owns Oxen Meadows, we or he? To propose to me? Ah! [Falls into an easy-chair and wails] Bring him back! Back! Ah! Bring him here

Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch

Second debate

Papa, tell us truly, which is the better dog, our Squeezer or his Guess. He's dead. [Pulls LOMOV'S sleeve] Ivan Vassilevitch! Ivan Vassilevitch! What have you done to me? He's dead. [Falls into an armchair] A doctor, a doctor! [Hysterics.]

This also prove that Natalya is a woman who not grown up yet, childish, and spoiled because in every debate with Lomov she always want to get her father`s support for helping her and proving that she is right.

*Quick, quick! I'm ill! Fetch him! [Hysterics.], I'm dying! Fetch him!
No, it was you
Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch. I remember now: Oxen Meadows really are yours*

From the quotations above, the researcher assumes that Natalya is a spoiled woman who grown up yet because she is Chubukov`s single daughter. This is proved by her action. She can gives her fault to other people, rectify her statements easily. She also always ask her father`s support in the debate. Other description about Natalya is also revealed by Lomov.

*Papa gave 85 roubles.
LOMOV: Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. it's impossible for me not to marry. I'm already 35-a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. You must excuse my apron*

According to Lomov Natalya is an excellent housekeeper, beautiful, and she has well education. She has well education, it means she has good economic stability because at the period when this drama was written an only person who comes from upper or middle class and has good economic stability that can get education. Although Natalya has well education and young but she chooses to be a housekeeper. Money and land are also a symbol of wealth. So this is proving that Natalya is a rich woman because she comes from a rich family and her father is a landowner so that she does not need to work though she has well education. This also becomes the reason of Lomov to propose Natalya because she is rich and she has good social status like him. Lomov decides to propose her is not because love but in his critical age is impossible for him not to marry. So he

chooses for being Natalya as his wife because as her neighbor he knew well that Natalya is rich and she has same social status.

NATALYA STEPANOVNA: We've had the land for nearly three hundred years. These Meadows aren't worth much to me but I can't stand unfairness

Natalya`s statement above implicitly show that her family is a rich family since hundreds years before. She wants to show that is not only Lomov`s family who is rich since past. She also wants to prove that she is not lower than Lomov.

last year we lent you our threshing-machine, although on that account we had to put off our own threshing till November, but you behave to us as if we were gypsies

From statement above, Natalya shows her family`s kindness and sacrifice to Lomov. She also said that Lomov make them as if they are gypsies. Gypsies are nations that are oppressed and they are also accused of being a thief. Because Natalya does not want to be like gypsies she debates hardly with Lomov for proving that the land is hers. From the various explanation above the researcher assumes that Chubukov and Natalya can be classified as round and dynamic character. It is seen from their personalities that change during the drama and fully developed in this drama. When they face a conflict with Lomov, it changed their attitude.

IVAN VASSILEVITCH LOMOV, a neighbour of Chubukov, a large and hearty, but very suspicious landowner, he is 35 years old and looking for an ideal, or real love

From the information above it can be known that Lomov is a rich man, He comes to Chubukov`s house to propose Natalya. It means that he is single and looks for a wife because he is in a critical age to marry. When he tries to propose Natalya he shows that he is a nervous man.

*I am getting excited. I shall drink some water. One moment ... this very minute
I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination*

He is a hearty man because his heart always palpitates and sick after debating with Natalya.

First debate
Here's my hat. ... My heart! ...
Second debate
Oh, my heart My feet ... temples ... sparks. ... I fall, I fall! [Falls into an armchair] A doctor! [Faints.]

Lomov is a man who looks at someone from the social status and economic stability. So, he will not come to his neighbor's house without a purpose although they are neighbor. If he does not want to propose Natalya he will not come to her house. This statements below will making clearer that Lomov consider that he has better social status and economic stability than Chubukov's family.

you behave to us as if we were gypsies

Natalya feels that Lomov make her family like gypsies who can be abused. So, if he has not to marry, he will not want to propose Natalya.

*Now, you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours
Why haven't you been here for such a long time
Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. ... What more do I want*

Statements above, prove that Lomov proposes Natalya is not because love. He decides to marry because his critical age and finally he chooses Natalya because she has better social status than other. Though, honestly he considers that Natalya is lower than him. It can be seen from his opinion about Natalya to choose her as a wife.

The other data that show and prove that he is a rich man and he has good social status are:

Lomov: I inherited my land and my land is a near neighbour of yours a hunter

Natalya Ivanovna, I don't want the Meadows, but I am acting on principle. If you like, I'll make you a present of them. My land is worth little to me, but the principle ...

Lomov states that his land is near with Natalya's land. From Lomov's statement above the researcher guess that Lomov is a principle man who is hard, he has big dignity and he does not want to be lower than other. He does not change his statements from the beginning till the end of debate. The researcher assumes that Lomov and Natalya are rich based on quotation above. Because land is a symbol of wealth and it show their social status. It is explained that they inherited their land from their family. Because they are landowners, it can be said that they are rich; they have good economic stability and social status. Lomov says it when he tries to propose Natalya. Because he wants to say to Natalya what he has, he is rich, and Natalya is not need to worry about her life when they are married. Land is a symbol of wealth and Lomov also says that the land is worth a little for him and he can give it to Natalya if she wants to be his wife. The statements make clearer that Lomov is a royal man. The statement that shows Lomov is a hunter prove that he comes from upper or middle class. It refers to his social status because hunt is an activity that did by someone from high social class.

my aunt's grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity to the peasants

From that statement above, Lomov shows that his family is a rich and kind family since before and they are hero for the peasants. It suggests that Natalya will not regret if she is married with him. Peasants here make clearer that Lomov comes from upper class.

After analyzing the characters in *Anton Chekov's The Proposal* the researcher concludes that character of Chubukov, Natalya, and Lomov can be classified as round and dynamic character. Because these characters can be seen more than one side and change during the story such as Chubukov as a father who is spoiling his daughter, he is also a person who considers social status and economic stability is the most important. That is the reason he wants her daughter marry with Lomov. After debating with Lomov he does not like him but finally he agrees if Lomov and Natalya marry. Natalya as his daughter, she is a woman who is ready to marry. But she is emotional, easy to offend, not grown up yet and childish woman. She fights and debates hardly with Lomov but, when she knows that Lomov wants to propose her easily she makes apology to Lomov. And the last is Lomov. Firstly he does not want to propose Natalya but, at the end, he chooses Natalya to be proposed because he is a man in critical age that is looking for a wife who has social status like him. He is a hearty, hard, and principle man. The characters above, debate and abuse for keeping their dignity and they do not want to be lower than other. This is like Yanni's statement (2002:1186) that round character is anyone who has a complex personality, reveal more than one aspects of human nature, unpredictable in behavior and speech and it is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person. These characters are usually dynamic.

After analyzing the characters, plot, and setting in *The Proposal* by Anton Chekhov for discovering the themes inside it, The researcher concludes the themes by understanding the plot of this story, where is the event take place, who are the character, what they say, do, think and, wear, All of the elements that are analyzed by the researcher refers to the same theme that is a man who wants to looking for a wife who has higher or similar social status and economic stability with him for starting family that are created by the author as the themes in *The Proposal* through characters, setting and plot.