

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter divides into five parts of introduction such as background of study, focus questions, objectives of study, significances of study, also scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a reflection of the society is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Duhan (2015) an essayist from India, stated in *The Relationship between Literature and Society* that literature indeed reflects the society life. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the society realize its mistakes and make amends (Duhan, 2015). Literature imitate human action, displaying what people think and react each other in the society.

In literature, we find stories designed to portray human life and action through some characters who, by their words, action and reaction, convey certain messages for the purpose of education, information and entertainment. The characters presented in a literary work are variative. It can be male or female, rich or poor, old or young, even literature can surpass it all by presenting a fictional character other than human (Duhan, 2015). But it is impossible to find a work of literature that excludes the attitudes, moral and values of the society, since no writer has been brought up completely unexposed to the world around him.

Carolyn Steele Agosta is one of writer who is able to provide unique fiction. Her short stories have appeared in such publications as Skirt! Magazine, BuzzWords, Peninsular, Speak Up Magazine, Independence Boulevard, Sexy Shorts, Mind the Gap, and others. Several of her stories have also been produced as independent films and radio plays, including for BBC4 Radio. Her short stories have been gathered into a collection, titled *After the Wink* and other stories (Agosta, 2011).

After the Wink is a short story that tells about woman in her midlife who worried about being ‘*invisible*’ in the society. This story narrates the story of a 42-year old woman, mother of three children, and responsible wife who has attentive husband. The true-to-life and ironical story discloses the widespread phenomena with which many women face at mature age. The heroine is not ready to become old, though her age and public opinion destroy her woman entity, associated with the capacity to be liked by the men (Agosta, 2011).

Midlife is a construct that in recent years has been defined in a variety of ways. Throughout the literature that defines midlife, varying interpretations of what this developmental stage actually encompasses are still being debated. According to Levinson (1996) middle adulthood or midlife is defined as “the period of life from ages 40-65” (Levinson, 1996:20). Midlife can also be defined as a period of reflection and growth for many who look to the future for the fulfillment of desires and goals of the past. This period of growth is often associated with a major life crisis or transition. (Schlossberg et al., 1995).

In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing *After The Wink* by Carolyn Steele Agosta using midlife crisis theory, particularly observing about Carl G. Jung's midlife phases casted in the heroine. Usually elder women who had already menopause will assume that they do not need sexual relationship. Unlike the elder men where up to age 60 years still require sexual intercourse. This is where Agosta's unique work laid. She captured woman midlife in the *After The Wink* and presents the heroine who is in midlife feels like she is still in 20 years old. Her sex turmoil is on the top as quoted follow,

“It's true, I've been noticing men a lot lately. Their arms, particularly. Don't ask me why, but I've suddenly become fascinated with men's arms. Forearms, lightly furred, with those lines of tendons and the swell of muscle below the elbow that women just don't have. And men's hands, square and capable. I see them everywhere. In restaurants, at gas stations, in the middle of the aisle at the freakin' K-Mart, for god's sake. It's embarrassing to know I'm lustin' in Lawn & Garden” (Agosta, 2011:1).

The first characteristic of middle age is called frightening period. It is acknowledged that as it approaches to older age, the middle age period feels more frightening than the whole of human life crisis. Therefore, middle-aged people will not admit that they have reached that age, until the calendar and mirror force them to admit it. They have many reasons applied to them, for fear of entering middle age. Some of them are believed many unpleasant stereotypes of middle age, the traditional beliefs about mental and physical damage that allegedly accompanied by the cessation of reproductive life, as well as various pressures on the importance of youth for culture (Stevens, 1990).

The period of the middle age is the time of emotional stress in many ways. According to Bernice Nengeartein in Callhoun and Acocella (1990) this

period is a time when people can be satisfied or dissatisfied with their achievement. Although for others there are some times when this period is the beginning of decline. It seems that middle age is one of the times in one's life where many great events occur that compel them to reorganize. The rearrangement may be due to some major changes in physiological, psychological, sexual and social changes that accompany the three changes (Callhoun and Acocella, 1990).

According to Potter and Perry in *Clinical Nursing Skills and Techniques 8th edition* (2006), in the midlife, there will be physical changes such as musculoskeletal, nervous, cardiovascular, respiration, vision, sight, taste, smell, touch, integument, gastrointestinal and reproduction. Psychological also changes such as intelligence and decreased memory and attitude (Potter & Perry, 2006). Other changing is in financial, status, relations, work, fear of death, lifestyle changes and self-concept change. This study is interesting to be analyzed because it can provide the complexity of women in their midlife. The researcher's analysis will deal with midlife crisis in Carolyn Steele Agosta's work entitled *After The Wink* by highlighting on the main character's changes, and those proven paths is Jungian Analysis.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are factors that caused the main character experiences midlife crisis in *After The Wink* by Carolyn Steele Agosta?
- 2 How are five phases of midlife crisis revealed in *After The Wink* by Carolyn Steele Agosta?

1.3 Objectives of Study

1. To explain factors that made character *I* experience midlife crisis as casted in *After The Wink* By Carolyn Steele Agosta.
2. To reveal five phases of midlife crisis of Carl G. Jung in *After The Wink* by Carolyn Steele Agosta.

1.4 Significance of Study

Theoretically, this study will give a better understanding about the analysis of midlife crisis in Carolyn Steele Agosta's work, *After The Wink*. This study also gives knowledge and more information to the readers about psychology particularly about midlife crisis experienced by women. Practically, it is expected that the results of the study will contribute to the further studies and the reference as the measuring road for the similar discussion.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is midlife crisis theory by Carl G. Jung. The limitation of this study is the utterances or the monologue of character "*I*" in the Carolyn Steele Agosta. The data in this study is the utterances and narrator's explanation in the story.