

THEMES IN JAMES JOYCE'S SHORT STORY "DUBLINERS"

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Abstract: *The purpose of this study was to know the themes found in James Joyce's short story "Dubliners" and to know how the themes are reflected by the characters in James Joyce's short story "Dubliners" Related to the purpose of the study, the writer used descriptive qualitative design. The data for this research is the form of text extraction from the short stories taken from the Dubliners, James Joyce Collection. The Flow Model that proposed by Miles and Huberman was used in this study to analyse the data. The result of this study showed that there are fifteen different themes in fifteen short stories of Dubliners, they are The death of The Priest in The Sisters, Adventure of the schoolboy in An Encounter, A boy's struggle for a girl in Araby, Sacrifice from a young girl in Eveline, An ambition of a young man in After The Race, A man who wanted to prove something in Two Gallants, Desire to escape in The Boarding House, A man's frustration with his current life in A Little Cloud, A miserable drunk worker in Counterparts, compassionate woman in Clay, A forbidden love in A Painful Case, The canvassers talk about their candidates in Ivy Day In The Committee Room, An ambitious mother in A Mother, Men's effort for their friend in Grace, and His wife's first love in The Dead. The theme was reflected commonly by the main character from each short stories. It might come from the dialogue or conversation they made with other characters or the narration from the story itself.*

Keyword: *theme, short story, character*

Abstrak: *Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tema-tema yang terdapat dalam cerita pendek "Dubliner" karya James Joyce dan untuk mengetahui bagaimana tema-tema tersebut terefleksikan dalam tokoh-tokoh yang ada dalam cerita pendek "Dubliner" karya James Joyce. Berkenaan dengan tujuan penelitian tersebut, peneliti menggunakan dekriptive kualitatif sebagai rancangan penelitian. Data pada penelitian ini adalah bentuk ekstraksi teks dari cerita-cerita pendek yang diambil dari "Dubliner", koleksi dari James Joyce. Dalam penelitian ini, digunakan Model Alur dari Miles dan Hubberman untuk menganalisis datanya. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada 15 tema yang berbeda dalam 15 cerita pendek "Dubliner", yaitu Kematian pendeta dalam The Sister, Petualangan anak sekolah dalam An Encounter, Perjuangan anak laki-laki demi seorang gadis dalam Araby, Pengorbanan seorang gadis kecil dalam Evelin, Ambisi pria muda dalam After The Race, Seorang pria yang ingin membuktikan sesuatu dalam Two Gallants, Hasrat untuk melarikan diri dalam The Boarding House, Keputusan seorang pria terhadap kehidupan yang dijalannya dalam A Little Cloud, Seorang pekerja pemabuk yang menyedihkan dalam Counterparts, Wanita yang baik hati dalam Clay, Sebuah cinta terlarang dalam A*

Painful Case, Pembicaraan para juru kampanye tentang kandidat mereka dalam Ivy Day In The Committee Room, Seorang ibu yang ambisius dalam A Mother, Upaya para pria untuk temannya dalam Grace, dan Cinta pertama istrinya dalam The Dead. Tema-tema tersebut pada umumnya terefleksikan oleh tokoh utama dari setiap cerita pendek. Refleksi tersebut berasal dari percakapan yang mereka lakukan dengan tokoh-tokoh yang lain atau dari narasi akututur dari cerita itu sendiri.

Kata kunci: tema, cerita pendek, tokoh

INTRODUCTION

Theme was the general idea, it meant that it was the reason why the author write the short story and how he or she begin to develop it. Theme covered some elements, such as issues, problems, or questions. Generally, a short story would show the theme explicitly and immediately to us in the beginning of a short story, so that we could get the conclusion what the theme of the short story is. In this part the researcher would present about the general overview of theme, such as definition of theme and type of theme.

Definition of theme

Theme is the main element in story. Every story should have a theme, because it makes the story stay in the idea. Theme is definition of the author's idea, then it is developed throughout a story. Santosa (2002 as cited in Molyaningrum, 2011) said that it is very important for a short story to have a theme, caused without a theme, reading a story will be like the same as walking around a wide opened desert without compass. Theme is also the central idea of the story and it makes it the subject matter. Inside the theme, it consists some element or aspect such as, issues, problems, or questions. According to Zulfahnur, Kurnia, and Adji (1996) in Molyaningrum (2011), theme make the writer being able to imagine how the story will be developed and ended.

Theme functions as the 'starting point for the message' (Halliday, 1985 as cited in Wang, n.d) the element which the clause is going to be 'about' has a crucial effect in orienting listeners and readers. It could be said that discovering a theme in a story is a difficult job. There is no method in discovering a theme in story, especially in a short story. But, sometimes the theme is explicitly stated somewhere in the story, either it is stated by characters' dialogue or narration in the text.

Types of theme

According to Snyder (2004) in Molyaningrum (2011), there are some common themes in literature. *Alienation and loneliness*, it is the act of alienating or the condition of being alienated. In Franz Kafka's text "The Metamorphosis", we can find the character of Gregor finds that he is responsible for the support of his family. It is stated that he is forced to forget his love relationship.

Another type is *ambition*, it is a strong desire to achieve something and this is obviously evident in the play of "The Tragedy of Macbeth" by William Shakespeare where the character of Macbeth strives to make himself King. Then, *Betrayal*, it is the breaking or violation of a presumptive social contract, trust, or confidence that produce moral and

psychological conflict within a relationship among individuals, between organizations or between individuals and organizations.

Courage, also known as bravery is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk/danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. A novel by Stephen Crane entitled "The Red Badge of Courage" shows you about the bravery of a soldier in Civil war. *Faith* is what a person believes or strong belief or trust in God or Spiritual things. One of the examples is a novel by American writer John Irving. The character in his story has an absolute faith in God. *Family* is one of the most common theme in story. The theme usually expresses about the family life and most of them about the meaning of family for us in this life.

Then, *freedom*, it is the condition of being free. One of the story that have freedom as the theme is *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Mark Twain tell story about the freedom of slavery. Freedom is important to Jim and Huck Finn (character in the story) since he has spent his life as a slave, and then he run away from his master. *Friendship* is the state of being friends (or friendly). The examples for this theme is the story entitled "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini.

Another one is *love*, it is fond or tender feeling or strong of passionate affection for a person of the opposite sex. "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare is the most famous love story in the English literary tradition. *Prejudice* can be defined as an adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge of the facts or an irrational hostile attitude, fear or hatred towards a particular group, race or religion. "Pride and prejudice" by Jane Austin is the example.

Journey, this follows a character or characters through a series of episodic adventures as they travel. Gulliver's Travel is a good example. Another type is *sacrifice*, it means destruction or surrender of anything for the sake or something else. Throughout *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, the theme of sacrifice is used to help the reader realize the meaning of life.

The last one is *war*, war is fighting between nation or groups within a nation using military force. The theme can be seen in *The Book Thief* by Australian writer Markus Zusak.

Explicit theme and Implicit theme

A short story commonly had only one major theme, whether they were explicitly presented in the story or whereas implicitly presented in the story. Richard Nordquist (n.d.) said that explicit means clearly expressed or readily observable and implicit means implied or expressed indirectly.

It was called explicit theme when the theme was clearly expressed or stated in detail at some point in narrative. While, implicit theme is implied. Some details hints at it, but do not clearly express it. Generally, the theme is implied through for example characters, plot, setting, and stylistic choices (Bauer, n.d.).

It might look simple to find the theme when the author explicitly presented the theme. The reader could easier determine what the appropriate theme of the story they read. While, it need more comprehension when the author implicitly states the theme in the story.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative design.

Descriptive qualitative design is a type of research that aim on the description about the observed object. The result of the study is descriptive data in the form of written word. The researcher takes descriptive study to make description about the theme that reflected in James Joyce's collection of short stories "Dubliners". This study is focused on the theme that exist and reflected in text. The theme possibly appears in the character's monologue/dialogue or the metaphor of the text itself. The study is thematical criticism, so that the researcher analysed by finding the most dominant themes in all short stories in "Dubliners". The data for this research were in the form of text extraction from the short stories taken from the Dubliners, James Joyce Collection. Thematical criticism deals with comparative work for more than one text, so that the text extraction will be collected according to tendency of the themes in the fifteen short stories. The textual analysis of short stories will refer to dialogue, narration, character words, and symbol that are considered having themes..

In analysing the data, the researcher uses The Flow Model analysis that proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994:10). They defined analysis as consisting of three concurrent flows of activity; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. Data reduction is a process of selecting, and simplifying the data that the researcher gained. The researcher will read fifteen short stories in "Dubliners" by James Joyce and then the researcher will simplify after selecting the data. The researcher will simplify the data finding by selecting the possible sentences or phrase from every story in "Dubliners" that considered having theme. Data display is an activity which the researcher

organize and compress the data assembly that will help the researcher makes a conclusion. In this research activity, the researcher will organized the selected data that considered having theme from the previous step. The researcher will display the data that have been reduced in organized form before compress them. The data will be presented in narrative form, as the most frequent form of display for qualitative data. In the last activity there are conclusion and verification. These activities are the result of the analysis. The activity is made based on the data that we get after doing reduction and display activity. In this point, the data that have been analysed were analysed and checked again. It is meant to see the most dominant theme that present in every story of "Dubliners"

FINDINGS

Research finding is used to state the themes found in James Joyce's Dubliners and the themes reflected by the character in James Joyce's Dubliners. There are fifteen short stories that has been analysed by using Miles and Huberman's Flow Model. The analysis were conducted and found that there were some themes in Dubliner. The following describes the themes found in Dubliners and how they are reflected by the characters.

The Sisters

The researcher has found that the theme of *The Sister* is *The death of The Priest*. The researcher determined this theme because the death of father flynn became the main idea of this story. The death of The Priest has affected the life of the living. They tried to remember how the priest lived, and what he had left after his death.

"The fancy came to the boy as it told him that the priest was smiling at the end of his journey. The face he saw was totally different from what he was fancying. "The fancy come to me that the old priest was smiling as he lay there in his coffin." (Joyce,1999:4)

The theme also was reflected by the character as the boy kept trying to understand the feeling he had after the death of Father Flynn. His death made him remember how the priest threatened when he was still alive, the fact that it was like teacher and student. The boy's memories revealed that the priest has given him many lessons, and his death has got him shocked.

An Encounter

The theme of *An Encounter* is *Adventure of the schoolboy*. The two schoolboys decided to go to an adventure around Dublin. The desire of an adventure was shown since the event when they play game of Indian together, where they were referring the game as wild west. Until the desire was satisfied with their adventure in Dublin after their absence in school.

"When the restraining influence of the school was at a distance I began to hunger again for wild sensations, for the escape which these chronicles of disorder alone seemed to offer me." (Joyce, 1999:7)

The researcher saw that the boy has expressed his desire by saying that. He had feeling for a wild sensation, a sensation he would get by going somewhere for some adventure. The theme was reflected by the character of schoolboy. The schoolboys reflected the theme by showing their desire with wild west by playing game of Indian. Another reflection also came from their adventure in Dublin by leaving school without

permission. The adventure even still continued after their meeting with a stranger on that day.

Araby

The theme of *Araby* is *A boy's struggle for a girl*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea of the story is the nameless boy had a crush on the girl nextdoor, and wanted to give her a gift by struggling so hard.

"Every morning I lay on the floor in the front parlour watching her door. The blind was pulled down to within an inch of the sash so that I could not be seen." (Joyce,1999:11)

He had a chance to get close with her and had to struggle to give her a gift from the Araby Bazaar. Some barriers, such as his uncle drunk and closing bazaar became the reasons why he could not give her a gift. He was late, and he was angry because of that. Eventhough he could not get for a gift, but still his struggle to get that was expressed through the story of Araby. The character of the boy reflected the theme *A boy's struggle for a girl*. The main character showing his desire of love for this girl, Mangan's sister and wanted to show that desire by giving her a gift from Araby bazaar. The boy showed his struggle against the barriers by still wanted to go eventhough it was already late, and with small sum of money for the train and he headed off.

Eveline

The theme of *Eveline* is *Sacrifice from a young girl*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea of the story is sacrifice of a young girl named Eveline to take care of house as long as she could.

“Strange that it should come that very night to remind her of the promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could.” (Joyce,1999;16)

A Promise she made to her mother that keep her to stay at that town. Eventhough life went hard there she still keep her word. She sacrifice a chance to start a new whole life with Frank, as he could bring her to get out from this misery life at Dublin. The difficult decision she had to made, because she know that the life Frank brought to her was much better than her current life. The main character reflected the theme *Sacrifice from a young girl*. The reflection of the theme could be seen when the promise to her mother before she died to take care of house has always been kept. She also reflected the theme when she sacrificed her valuable chance to start a new life with Frank. She refused Frank's persuasion to leave the town by let him go alone with the boat.

“She set her white face to him, passive, like a helpless animal. Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition.” (Joyce,1999;17)

After The Race

The theme of *After The Race* is *An ambition of a young man*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea of the story is an ambition of a young man named Jimmy Doyle to get a higher class of social eventhough he was already rich enough. “Then he had been sent for a term to Cambridge to see a little life.” (Joyce,1999:17) He met Charles Ségouin at this place, which was rumoured by his father was the wealthiest in France. Jimmy started to enjoy as he found great pleasure in the society. Jimmy got closer to him as they were in the same college. The ambition made him

invested his money and involved in motor business.

“Of course, the investment was a good one, and Ségouin had managed to give the impression that it was by a favour of friendship the mite of Irish money was to be included in the capital of the concern.” (Joyce,1999:18)

The researcher analysed that the main character Jimmy reflected the theme of *An ambition of a young man* by showing his action on effort to get a new higher class in society. His investment and involvement in his friends business reflected his ambition. He also reflected that by keep playing card eventhough he already lose the game, then became the heaviest losers in that group.

Two Gallants

The theme of *Two Gallants* is *A man who wanted to prove something*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea of the story is the character named Corley was asking by his own friend about a girl Corley wanted to go with.

‘But tell me,’ said Lenehan again, ‘are you sure you can bring it off all right? You know it’s a ticklish job. They’re damn close on that point. Eh?... What?’ (Joyce,1999:22)

While Lenehan kept asking about that, Corley made sure that he could handle it. The main idea went through the story as Corley let Lenehan the girl he bring off. He prove to Lenehan even more as he shows Lenehan what he had got from that girl.

“Corley halted at the first lamp and stared grimly before him. Then with a grave gesture he extended a hand towards the light and, smiling, opened it slowly to the gaze of his disciple. A small gold coin shone in the palm.” (Joyce,1999:26)

The character reflected the theme, such as the dialogue they had to each other reflected the theme of *A man who wanted to prove something*. Lenehan who kept asking if Corley would be able to bring it off made Corley wanted more to prove to Lenehan if he can. Corley was like challenged by that question and finally he showed Lenehan what he got.

The Boarding House

The theme of *The Boarding House* is *Desire to escape*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is the man character Mr.Doran had desire to escape. He tried to escape from the problems he was facing. The escape plan was marrying Polly or running away. The theme went all through in most of the story as Mr.Doran has a respectable job in a great Catholic wine-merchant's business he did not want to ruin his career by marrying the girl, but he also had affair to the girl. Running away was not good plan, and it would just made everything even worse. Marrying him was a good plan, as he was confronted to her mother Mrs.Mooney and he also thought that he might be happy with her.

"He comforted her feebly, telling her not to cry, that it would be all right, never fear. He felt against his shirt the agitation of her bosom." (Joyce,1999:29)

The character named Mr.Doran reflected the theme of *desire to escape* by worrying about his own career, and think further about what happened if he married the girl. He worried if it would ruin his current career, and think about escape plan such as marrying her or running away. The reflection which character showed, came from desire to

escape. The desire itself came from difficult problem he faced that time.

A Little Cloud

The theme of *A Little Cloud* is *A man's frustration with his current life*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about a frustrating man who saw his life was not as good as his friend life. Little Candler just found that his life was flat, and his meeting with his old friend Gallahar confirmed it. "There was no doubt about it: if you wanted to succeed you had to go away. You could do nothing in Dublin." (Joyce,1999;31)

Stories Gallahar told Candler gave Candler a frustration feeling. He knew that he could not achieve his dream anymore in this city, moreover because he was already married with his wife.

"The wailing of the child pierced the drum of his ear. It was useless, useless! He was a prisoner for life." (Joyce,1999;38)

He could not travel around, go somewhere, either become a poet. The life Gallahar told is the life he really wanted, he was envious for that when his life was contrary with that. He wreaked his frustration to his baby, the baby start to cry and he felt the he was a prisoner for life. His emotional feeling began to calm as his wife came and hold the baby. He was ashamed with his action when tears of remorse falls from his eyes. The main character Chandler reflected the theme by being jealous to his friend success and his frustration he wreaked to his baby. He realized that his life was not as good as his friend life. He got jealous with that, he also wreaked to his own baby that made the baby scream out and made his wife Annie angry with that. At the end of the story, his frustration of life

resulted him to be ashamed for his action and begin to tears of remorse from his eyes.

Counterparts

The theme of *Counterparts* is *A miserable drunk worker*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is a worker who always drunk every time he could. The man named Farrington is a worker in his office, he often got scolded for his own fault. He did not took serious with his own job, and he often drunk. He even took a resting time to go to bar and have some drinks.

"He felt that he must slake the thirst in his throat. He stood up from his desk and, lifting the counter as before, passed out of the office. As he was passing out the chief clerk looked at him inquiringly." (Joyce,1999:40)

He left his job remained undone, and when he got back he got scolded again. His addiction with alcohol made him had no focus for the job. He even planned to borrow some many again to cashier when he had no money left for a drink.

"Yet he must get money somewhere or other: he had spent his last penny for the g.p. and soon it would be too late for getting money anywhere. Suddenly, as he was fingering his watch chain." (Joyce,1999:42)

His addiction of alcohol made him even sold his watch for some penny. He sold it and spent it on the bar for some drinks. At home, he also scolded his own son without reasons and beat him with a stick. The theme *A miserable drunk worker*, could be reflected with Farrington's habitual with alcohol that made his job as a worker remained undone. He always take a time to have some drink, he even dreamed about the

night he would spent his money for a drink when he was still working that day. He also offer made his boss mad.

"Tell me," he added, glancing first for approval to the lady beside him, "do you take me for a fool? Do you think me an utter fool?" (Joyce,1999:42)

Eventhough his boss got angry with him, Farrington even did not take it seriously. He just answered calmly to every word his boss said to him.

Clay

The theme of *Clay* is *compassionate woman*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about a woman named who give all her efforts to help each other to be happy. She worked in a charitable institution, and people there called her as a peacemaker.

"She was always sent for whenthe women quarrelled over their tubs and always succeeded in making peace." (Joyce,1999:46)

Joe was a man Maria helped to raise, he love her so much as he treated her his own mother. He always invited her to his home everytime, such as Hallowe's eve like that night. People like Maria, at that night she also brought the kids cake. Kids liked the cakes. Maria realized that she missed some cakes she bought that day, she looked for that intensively and she almost cry because of that. At the end of the party, Joe and his wife asked her to sing, and while she was singing it made Joe cried.

"His eyes filled up so much with tears that he could not find what he was looking for and in the end he had to ask his wife to tell him where the corkscrew was." (Joyce,1999:49)

The characters in *Clay* reflected the theme of *compassionate woman*. The main character Maria reflected the theme by showing her affection and effort to make everyone around her to be happy. His job on a charitable institution also reflected the theme.

One day the matron had said to her "Maria, you are a veritable peace-maker!". (Joyce, 1999:46). Joe even said that "Mamma is mamma, but Maria is my proper mother." (Joyce, 1999:46)

A Painful Case

The theme of *A Painful Case* is *A forbidden love*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about the love that was forbidden. Mrs. Sinico was a wife of Mr. Sinico. The feeling they had raised especially Mrs. Sinico feeling toward Mr. Duffy had gone too far. Their intensive meeting had trigger this, as at the time when Mr. Duffy realize that was wrong and assumed that Mrs. Sinico had misunderstood.

"Mr Duffy was very much surprised. Her interpretation of his words disillusioned him." (Joyce, 1999:51)

The researcher found that Mrs. Sinico still loved him even though they had separated away. The news that Mr. Duffy read titled "A Painful Case" just shocked him. He did not think that she would commit suicide. Her husband did not know why she changed so drastically. Mr. Duffy knew this, and at the end he just could remember all the memories they did together. The researcher found that the main character Mr. Duffy reflected the theme. His rejection over Mrs. Sinico's desire to get closer to him made him realize that that was wrong.

He bade her good-bye quickly and left her. (Joyce, 1999:51)

His commitment to leave her reflected that their love was forbidden, but Mrs. Sinico could not accept that as she committed suicide. Then, Mrs. Sinico also reflected the theme when she committed suicide and everybody even her husband did not know her reason. It became reflection that Mrs. Sinico did not want to tell that she love another one.

Ivy Day In The Committee Room

The theme of *Ivy Day In The Committee Room* is *the canvassers talk about their candidates*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about a group of canvasser in the committee room who discuss about their candidates. Eventhough there was no the candidates who joined the group but their discussion took theme of their candidates. They discuss about their candidate vision, mission, and even their plus minus.

"Has he paid you yet?"
"Not yet," said Mr O'Connor." (Joyce, 1999:55)
"He walked over quickly to the fire, rubbing his hands as if he intended to produce a spark from them. 'No money, boys,' he said." (Joyce, 1999:56)

The characters in *Ivy Day In The Committee Room* reflected the theme, when every single canvasser gave their opinion about candidates they supported. The opinion about plus or minus of their candidates reflected that they were discussing about them.

A Mother

The theme of *A Mother* is *An ambitious mother*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about a mother who push herself and her daughter potential to the their

limit. Mrs.Kearney was a mother of Kathleen, a pianist who played at the concert. Mrs.Kearney was an educated woman as she study at a well name institute, she was very ambitious on his career and life. She even got married just because people started to talk about her. She gave her daughter great education and supported her career as a pianist. The problem with the payment related to the concert became her focus then. She put her efforts and even dignity just to fight for the payment she has not got yet.

'I haven't seen any committee,' said Mrs Kearney angrily. 'My daughter has her contract. She will get four pounds eight into her hand or a foot she won't put on that platform.' (Joyce,1999:72)

She let her dignity gone just to prove that she was serious. Eventhough she did not get another half of payment she proved that she was very ambitious with what she fights for. The reflection that character give for the themes could be seen when the main character Mrs.Kearney gave her effort to his career when she was young and her daughter when she became a mother. She gave reflection as an ambitious mother when she put her effort to make her daughter looked good at the concert. And it also could be seen when she pushed the committee to finish another half of her daughter payment.

Grace

The theme of *Grace* is *Men's effort for their friend*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about the efforts of some guys who tried to change their friend life. Their friend Kernan who was a drunkard had a miserable life that also effect his wife life. His friends came to offer help and Mrs.Kernan agree with the plan. The

efforts they took were about to change Mr.Kernan faith to become a good catholic. The researcher found that the theme implied in most of the story as his friends made a move by showing him the goodness of being a catholic.

'There's no mistake about it,' said Mr M'Coy, 'if you want a thing well done and no flies about, you go to a Jesuit. They're the boyos have influence. I 'll tell you a case in point...' (Joyce,1999:82)

The character reflected the theme by showing their efforts on plan to make his friend's life better. The reflection could be seen when they showed Mr.Kernan how the catholic was.

"He said, 'we worship at different altars, he said, but our belief is the same. Struck me as very well put.'" (Joyce,1999:84)

"There's not much difference between us," said Mr M'Coy. 'We both believe in—' (Joyce,1999:84)

"But, of course," said Mr Cunningham quietly and effectively, 'our religion is the religion, the old, original faith.'" (Joyce,1999:84)

From those quotation the researcher could see that his friends tried to fix him by changing his religion. They assumed that catholicism would be great for him.

The Dead

The theme of *The Dead* is *His wife's first love*. The researcher determined this theme because the main idea is about Gabriel's wife's first love. He started to know that night at the dinner. Eventhough he was angry inside, he tried to hide it from everyone.

'It was a young boy I used to know,' she answered, 'named Michael Furey. He used to sing that song, "The Lass of Aughrim". He was very delicate.' (Joyce,1999:116)

At home, he tried to ask her about the boy she used to love and got answer that made himself awkward and felt silent. Their evening ends with Gretta sleeping and Gabriel admitting that he has never felt so strongly for a woman that he would die for her, as Michael Furey did. He knew that his wife's first love used to love her so much. The characters reflected the theme, Gabriel realized that his wife still had feeling to her first love. He asked her if that boy was her lover.

DISCUSSIONS

This discussion was about main themes found in James Joyce's short story "Dubliners" and how these themes were reflected by the characters in "Dubliners". Based on the research findings, the researcher had found that from fifteen short stories there were fifteen different themes in Dubliners collection of short stories. They were *The death of the Priest*, *Adventure of the schoolboy*, *A boy's struggle for a girl*, *Sacrifice from a young girl*, *An ambition of a young man*, *A man who wanted to prove something*, *Desire to escape*, *A man's frustration with his current life*, *A miserable drunk worker*, *compassionate woman*, *A forbidden love*, *The canvassers talk about their candidates*, *An ambitious mother*, *Men's effort for their friend*, and *His wife's first love*. All these fifteen theme appeared in these fifteen short stories of Dubliners' Collection. They were *The Sisters*, *An Encounter*, *Araby*, *Eveline*, *After The Race*, *Two Gallants*, *The Boarding House*, *A Little Cloud*, *Counterparts*, *Clay*, *A Painful Case*, *Ivy Day In The Committee Room*, *A Mother*, *Grace*, and *The Dead*.

Santosa (2002 as cited in Molyaningrum, 2011) said that it is very important for a short story to have a

theme, caused without a theme, reading a story will be like the same as walking around a wide opened desert without compass. Theme is also the central idea of the story and it makes it the subject matter. All these fifteen short stories had their own theme, it meant also that all these fifteen short stories had fifteen different theme.

The theme of *The Sisters* was *The death of the priest*. The boy was faced of the death of the priest named Father Flynn. People said that he was a teacher for the boy, and also his friend. The priest reflected the theme with his own death, and also the boy reflected with his response to the priest death. In *An Encounter*, the researcher found *Adventure of the schoolboy* as the theme. Two schoolboys wondered for a real adventure, and school life did not satisfied their desire for that. Their action on real life suggest us that they wanted something wild, not just an ordinary life at school. The reflection could be seen from these two characters of schoolboy. In *Araby*, the theme was *A boy's struggle for a girl*. Researcher determined this theme because these nameless boy had affair to his friend's sister. He had to face the struggle when he hoped to bring something as a gift from bazaar named Araby. Eventhough he did not get what he want, but the researcher found that the boy's struggle became the main idea at the story. Then *Eveline*, the theme was *Sacrifice from a young girl*. The sacrifice that Eveline had to make to keep her promise to her mother. She just sacrificed the new life with her lover Frank. Eveline gave impression that she loved her mother much more Frank, and that might be the reasons she chose to stay at the town. In *After The Race*, the themewas *An ambition of a young man*. A man named Jimmy was so ambitious. He

made a movement just to make her class of social got higher. Eventhough he was rich enough, his meeting with Surgeon at the university made him wanted more. His ambition could be seen when invested and involved in his friend business.

In *Two Gallants*, the theme was *A man who wanted to prove something*. Corley wanted to prove that he was able to bring the girl off. He told Lennehan to watch, and saw what he got from the girl. In *The Boarding House*, the theme was *Desire to escape*. The theme appeared when the man named Mr. Doran faced the problems. The problem itself came from Polly's mother, Mrs. Mooney. Mrs. Mooney knew the affair of his daughter and Mr. Doran and told theme to get married. We could see that Mr. Doran still loved his career and did not wanted to married yet. *A Little Cloud*, the theme was *A man's frustration with his current life*. Little Chandler was envious to his friend Gallahar who achieve a success. He wanted that life but he assumed that his marriage with his wife made him a prisoner of life. The frustration clearly could be seen when he shouted to his own baby.

In *Counterparts*, theme was *A miserable drunk worker*. The main character Farrington clearly reflected the theme, as he have some drink everytime he could. Eventhough it was a working time he already planned about going to bar. His addiction had ruined his job. In *Clay*, theme was *compassionate woman*. The woman was Maria, a worker in charitable institution. She was called a peacemaker by a matron in that institution. Not only that, we can also see his compassion when people around him being happy when she came. Joe knew that and that was also why he called her mother. In *A Painful Case*, the theme was

A forbidden love. The love between Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Sinico became forbidden because she already had a husband. The feeling was wrong, he knew that and he decide to break this. Eventhough they had separated, she could not accept this and committed to suicide. In *Ivy Day In The Committee Room*, the theme was *The canvassers talk about their candidates*. The researcher found that all the topics the canvasser talked about in their meeting in the committee room commonly about their own candidates. They talked about money, politics and also plus or minus of the candidates. In *A Mother*, the theme was *An ambitious mother*. Once again there was another theme about ambition. Mrs. Kearney became an ambitious mother. She put everything for his career, and only married when people talked about her. She also put everything on his daughter, she supported her daughter career as a pianist. The researcher also saw that Mrs. Kearney also reflected the theme when she kept asking her daughter payment eventhough it had thrown away his dignity.

In *Grace*, the theme was *Men's effort for their friend*. His current life was worse. His friend tried to help him by encouraging him to get in Catholic. His friends assumed that he would be better if he knew Catholicism further. *And The Dead*, the theme was *His wife's first love*. Gabriel realized that his wife Gretta still had feeling with her first lover. Gabriel got angry inside for that at the first time. Until he realize that what he had done for her all that time was not strong enough to be compared with what Michael Furey had done for her.

CONCLUSION

Viewed from the previous discussion, then the researcher made

conclusion based on the previous discussion. The researcher found that there are fifteen different themes in the fifteen short stories of Dubliners, they are *The death of The Priest, Adventure of the schoolboy, A boy's struggle for a girl, Sacrifice from a young girl, An ambition of a young man, A man who wanted to prove something, Desire to escape, A man's frustration with his current life, A miserable drunk worker, compassionate woman, A forbidden love, The canvassers talk about their candidates, An ambitious mother, Men's effort for their friend, and His wife's first love*. They fifteen come in the fifteen short stories; *The Sisters, An Encounter, Araby, Eveline, After The Race, Two Gallants, The Boarding House, A Little Cloud, Counterparts, Clay, A Painful Case, Ivy Day In The Committee Room, A Mother, Grace, and The Dead*.

The theme was reflected commonly by the main character from each short stories. It might come from the dialogue or conversation they made with other characters or the narration from the story itself. Finally, the themes are very effective as Joyce conveys a pessimistic view on Irish life and introduces the reader to his opinion through the themes and stories he created.

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