

A STUDY OF AMBITION THROUGH ELEMENTS OF SETTING AND CHARACTER IN THOMAS HARDY'S *THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE*

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Abstract. Makalah ini membahas studi tentang ambisi Clym Yeobright dalam karya Thomas Hardy berjudul *The Return of the Native*. Tujuan penelitian adalah menganalisis apa penyebab timbulnya ambisi, usaha untuk mencapainya dan akibat dari ambisi Clym. Penelitian dilakukan dengan pendekatan intrinsik terhadap unsur karya sastra, yaitu plot, karakter dan latar. Metode kualitatif deskriptif diterapkan dalam analisis untuk mencari jawaban atas permasalahan ambisi Clym. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ambisi Clym untuk menjadi pengajar dan mendirikan sekolah bagi orang-orang miskin dipengaruhi oleh kondisi Egdon Heath. Usaha keras untuk mewujudkan ambisinya mendapatkan berbagai rintangan, bahkan ia harus kehilangan istri dan ibunya. Gantinya menjadi pengajar, Clym kemudian menjadi pengkhotbah. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan menambah wawasan tentang tema kehidupan yang digambarkan melalui karya sastra.

Keywords: *Literary analysis, intrinsic approach, thematic analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Human desire has become one interesting topic of study in many areas, including literary study. Bahm (1995:135) states that the presence of desire seems to be an essential characteristic of human nature and existence. Since man was born, God has planted in him the sense of desire, such as desire for food, sex, honor, prestige, love, security, and so on. By giving the sense of desire in man, God intends to make him able to improve himself since desire can drive a man to have some certain action toward a goal. As a result, man can reach a higher level of completeness, fulfillment, and improvement (Tatenhove, 1984:21).

However, desire does not always bring goodness in a person's life, particularly if the person put his strong desire, also called ambition above all other considerations. Morris (1975:25) stated that ambition is strong desire to achieve goal in life or getting something for certain reason. It provides the motivation and determination necessary to give direction to life or strong desire for success, achievement, and

distinction. Ambitious people seek to be the best at what they choose to do for attainment, power, or superiority. Ambition can also be defined as the object of this desire.

One's ambition can be influenced by the background of life, family, even the social condition where they live. Sometimes, someone who has an ambition will be ready to everything to reach it. They do not care about the effects of the ambition toward their life. Therefore, ambition can be good is not only to make someone has certain purpose in life, but also can be bad thing if someone becomes very selfish in reaching the ambition. As Keith Drury states in <http://www.inwes.edu/Tuesday/7-ambit.htm> that ambition generally falls into two sorts, namely a good and bad ambition. A good ambition is to have a good effect on people because a good ambition will support someone who involves in this situation cares and will not hurt someone else to get their ambition. They never think to take revenge with someone who wants to keep their dreams. On the other hands, a

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bad ambition means ambition crosses the line from human aspiration into selfishness. They will automatically be a slave of their ambition itself. He will make efforts, even to the point of becoming evil and greedy and committing crime.

Ambition can motivate someone to have certain purpose in someone's life. Freedman (1982:244) says, emotion can be related to the ambition because both ambition and emotion use personal feeling.

Ambition is a complex process and trait in humans and can be triggered by negative and positive factors. Negative factors can be fear of failure in social life and fear of rejection in personal life (<http://www.googleads/wed/ThePsychology-of-Ambition.html>). Ambition is connected with struggle (<http://www.google/fri/dictionary.cambridge.org>). Experiencing difficulty in struggle is a part of common act to get the goal in many ways.

The topic of ambition is portrayed in Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native*. This novel tells about the ambition of the main character, Clym Yeobright, who wants to build a school for people and become a teacher in Egdon Heath upon returning from Paris, leaving his good job as diamond seller, despite his mother's objection. In Egdon Heath, he was acquainted with a smart and beautiful lady named Eustacia Vye, who, after a short meeting, became his wife. His decision was again objected by his mother, who saw her bad attitude. Problems came later, when he invited Eustacia to build a school, but she wanted to leave Egdon Heath for Paris. Here, Clym had to make one among three choices: career, love or his parent, which he could not get all.

The problems to be analyzed in the study are: what is Clym's ambition, how does he reach his ambition and what is the result of his reaching his ambition? The study is expected to enrich reader's

knowledge and understanding as a reflection of human attitude especially about ambition and what it can do to one's life.

The present study focuses mainly on two elements of intrinsic approach to literary analysis: character and setting. According to Harahap (2007:23), character is a vehicle for the author in order to convey to the reader about her/his view of the world. The reader can learn about individual characters from their own words and action, from what other characters said about them and the way others act towards them. Character in a novel can be differentiated into several kinds based on point of view. A character can be categorized into several at once, for example as main character protagonist and character antagonist; flat and round character, main and peripheral character (Foster, 1990:73)

The setting of the story can mean many things besides the obvious where it takes place include the location, the background, and the regional aspect. It can designate a particular time, and historical era, a political situation. From the setting or the story we know the beginning of the story set and setting also affects what the characters do. Hamalian (1967:59) stated that the setting is not only a particular time and a particular place, but also includes the background: aspect of atmosphere, a series of details, nuances which give a certain shape to theme and plot. In other words we can say that setting is usually integrated into other aspects in a story, into plot, theme, character, and philosophical implication. Setting in literary work is important because it may stir the readers' imagination as well as reveal the significance of the action. The element of setting can be differentiated into three principle elements: setting of place, setting of time, and setting of society. Although each of these elements

offers situations but actually they are close and influence each other.

METHOD

The study uses qualitative research, which is descriptive, in the form of word picture rather than number, often with quotation and tries to describe particular situations of view of the world is like in the narrative form (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982:29). Qualitative methodologists refer to research procedures that produce descriptive data; people's own written or spoken words and observable behaviors, qualitative method allow us to know people personally to see as they are developing their own definition of the word (Bogdan and Taylor, 1975:4). Finally, qualitative method enable us to explore concepts whose essence in cost in other research. The qualitative research is very useful for literary appreciation such as, assessing character, analyzing plot, conflict or theme of drama, poem, short story or even a song. John W. Creswell (2003) states that qualitative procedures rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and draw on diverse strategies of inquiry (Creswell, 2003:179). Qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them (Denzin, 1994). The result of analyzis is based on the confirmation of the theories and the data is taken from the novel itself (Roth, 1986:75).

The study also adopts intrinsic approach because it analyzes the intrinsic elements of literary work, such as: theme, plot, character, setting, and point of view. The data is taken from the novel itself, Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native*. Rene Wellek states that intrinsic approach is essentially a study of literary work based on analyzing the internal elements that build that work. Wellek and Warren

(1962:332)points out that the natural and sensible starting point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literary themselves. After all, only theworks themselves justify all our interest in the life of an author, in his social environment, and the whole process of literature.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study found six points in the analysis: characters, setting, the condition of Egdon Heath, Clym's ambition, Clym's efforts to reach his ambition, and Clym's failure to reach his ambition.

1. Characters

There are six major characters in the novel: Diggory Venn, Clym Yeobright, Thomasin Yeobright, Mrs. Yeobright, Damon Wildeve and Eustacia Vye.

a. Diggory Venn:

The handsome, young reddleman in love with Thomasin Yeobright. He is Thomasin's guardian angel, thwarting several of Wildeve's attempts to take advantage of Thomasin's sweet nature. Even though he is not considered a suitor for Thomasin in Mrs. Yeobright's eyes, Venn continues to love Thomasin as ardently as he had two years before and vows to do whatever it takes to make her happy, even if her happiness means being married to Wildeve. The sixth book of the novel was added at the demand of Hardy's public, and has Diggory Venn finally be rewarded with marriage to the woman he loves, Thomasin. Venn knows the Heath well and is accustomed to it, using the landscape to his advantage to thwart Wildeve. He can run through the familiar heath at night and during bad weather.

b. Clym Yeobright:

The 'native' who 'returns' to Egdon Heath from Paris. Clym is well-educated and well-to-do, intelligent and thoughtful. The only son of Mrs. Yeobright, Clym is devoted to his mother, even when she violently opposes his marriage to Eustacia. Clym is glad to return to the heath. He feels that his business in Paris is shallow and idle and wants to do something significant with his life, unlike his wife Eustacia. But he is attracted to Eustacia for her beauty and her passionate nature and is drawn to the mysterious and dangerous aura she exudes. When Clym's eyesight weakens, he takes a furze-cutting job, which shames his wife and mother but is quite consoling for him. He is glad to work on his beloved heath, and he wants to feel useful. He is so devastated by his mother's death that he drives Eustacia away. Clym tries to make up with Eustacia by writing a letter, but he writes it too late and the letter does not reach Eustacia before she dies. Clym feels responsible for the deaths of Mrs. Yeobright and Eustacia. He secretly thinks about marrying Thomasin, but he decides that Thomasin should marry the man she loves, Venn. Clym finally finds his vocation as a wandering preacher.

c. Thomasin Yeobright:

Mrs. Yeobright's niece and Clym's cousin (and former sweetheart). She is a fair, sweet girl with simple tastes and needs. She thinks very highly of her family's opinions--she asks her aunt and Clym if she should marry Venn, but she also has an independent mind and free will. Thomasin declares that she will marry Wildeve, even though her aunt does not approve, and she tells Clym that she is going to marry Venn whether he approves or not. Thomasin is practical and thoughtful, a good listener and advisor to Mrs. Yeobright and Clym. Having been born and raised on the heath,

Thomasin, unlike Eustacia and Wildeve, is content living here. The heath means to her a 'nice, wild' place where she can raise her baby and teach her to walk, but also a place where she might catch cold.

d. Mrs. Yeobright:

The middle-aged, proud mother of Clym and aunt to Thomasin. She is genteel and educated, a curate's daughter. She feels superior to the heath-folk and looks down on them with condescension, though her opinion is not taken lightly--her approval and rejection of Clym's and Thomasin's lovers matter to them. She is appalled and shamed that Clym is a furze-cutter, and wonders how he can possibly degrade himself with a job connected to the bushes of the heath. The heath is her death--Mrs. Yeobright dies from heat and exhaustion. Her last words express her belief that she is a 'broken-hearted woman cast off by her son.'

e. Damon Wildeve:

The handsome, young man who enjoys playing with women's affections. Formerly a civil engineer, he becomes the owner of an inn. He and Eustacia take pleasure in tormenting each other, but they also share a hatred for the heath and a desire for glamorous cities and travels. Wildeve marries Thomasin to get revenge on both Eustacia (for rejecting him) and Mrs. Yeobright (for thinking him not worthy of her niece). He enjoys taking advantage of Thomasin and Mrs. Yeobright, but Diggory Venn thwarts several of his attempts. Wildeve also enjoys having money. He privately schemes with Eustacia to flee the heath, but he plans to elope with her, with the fortune he inherits from a dead uncle. He ultimately dies, trying to rescue Eustacia in the weir.

f. Eustacia Vye:

The nineteen-year-old sultry, sensuous beauty whose passionate, uncurbed nature is uncontrollable. She desires to love a man worthy of her, a man and who will take her from the dreary, miserable world she knows living on the heath. She loves Wildeve because he is the only one she thinks is worthy of her, but when she hears that Clym Yeobright is arriving from Paris, she sets her sights on him, scheming to meet and later marry him. She marries Clym because she believes he will eventually return to Paris. Eustacia is proud of her class; she feels superior to the heath-folk. She rejects Wildeve because of his class and feels humiliated running away with him. She is disgraced beyond humiliation when Clym becomes a furze-cutter; she cannot believe that her husband would actually consider taking a job so intimately connected to the heath she hates. Her hatred and disgust of the heath is as ardent and bitter as Clym's love for the heath is tender and affectionate. Eustacia feels that the heath will be her death: she feels as if she cannot survive in a place that cannot accept her and that she cannot accept. She ultimately dies by drowning in the weir.

2. Minor Characters

There are eleven minor characters: Captain Vye, Grandfer Cantle, Christian Cantle,

a. Captain Vye:

Eustacia's grandfather, a retired naval officer. He is somewhat erratic and offbeat. He does not know how to control Eustacia's passionate, wild personality. He is sometimes tactless; he does not think before he speaks, and says what he feels, unbothered about offending people. It is Captain Vye who first suspects that Thomasin and Wildeve are not married

when he sees Diggory Venn's van traveling to Blooms-End.

b. Grandfer Cantle:

The heath-man who serenades newlyweds and Christian's father. Grandfer Cantle plans to serenade Thomasin and Wildeve when they return to Egdon; he later sings to Thomasin and Venn on their wedding-day.

c. Christian Cantle:

The young heath-boy who works for the Yeobrights. He tells Clym that Mrs. Yeobright had gone to see him on the day she died.

d. Susan Nunsuch:

The mother of Johnny who believes that Eustacia bewitches her son. She sticks a needle in Eustacia at church and she later makes a wax effigy of Eustacia to burn.

e. Humphrey:

The furze-cutter who advises Clym. Humphrey talks about Clym in front of Eustacia. He suggests to Clym that he become a furze-cutter to earn extra money. He also tells Clym that he believes Clym and Thomasin would make a good couple.

f. Timothy Fairway:

The heath-man who seems to be in charge of many heath activities. The weekly hair-cutting, the bucket-raising, and parties are administered by him.

g. Olly Dowden:

The woman with whom Mrs. Yeobright walks to the Quiet Woman Inn. She tells Mrs. Yeobright that she does not think Wildeve and Thomasin are a good match. She later helps out at the inn when Eustacia's and Wildeve's bodies are pulled out of the weir.

h. Johnny Nunsuch:

The little boy who believes in curses and myths of the heath. He keeps Eustacia's bonfire lit on November 5th until she tells him to stop. He is scared of the reddleman because he believes the reddleman is connected to the devil. Johnny is the last person Mrs. Yeobright talks to before she dies, and he repeats her words that she is a mother cast off by her son for the villagers, especially Clym, to hear.

i. Sam:

The heath-man who tells Clym about Eustacia.

j. Charley:

The lovesick boy infatuated with Eustacia who works for the Vyes'. He willingly allows Eustacia to perform his role one night at the Yeobrights', so that she can meet him. He loves her so much that he helps her get inside her grandfather's locked house and tries to comfort her, bringing her food and lighting a fire for her. He also lights a bonfire for her as a surprise, thus summoning Wildeve unknowingly. When Eustacia dies, Charley is devastated. Clym gives him a strand of Eustacia's hair, which he cherishes lovingly.

k. Rachel:

Thomasin's nurse. She wears Thomasin's gloves to the May-pole festivities and loses a glove. When Venn learns that the glove belongs to Thomasin, he gives Rachel money to buy a new pair of gloves, but he still searches for the lost one.

3. Setting

a. Setting of Place

Most of all, the story took place in Egdon Heath. The writer will provide some of setting of place in the novel *The Return of the Native*:

Rainbarrow: The largest barrow on the heath--the villagers refer to it as 'Rainbarrow.' Eustacia is first seen standing on top of its summit in the beginning of the novel, and later Clym preaches from this same place, using the summit as his pulpit. The heath-folk light the first bonfire here on the 5th of November.

Budmouth: The fashionable seaport city where Eustacia is from. She misses the vitality and the excitement of life there--the music, the dancing, the various cultures of the officers passing through. Venn offers Eustacia a job in Budmouth as a paid companion, but Eustacia refuses, as she is too proud to accept a job. She later schemes to escape the heath and flee to Budmouth.

Blooms-End: Mrs. Yeobright's home is located here. Eustacia catches her first glimpse of Clym when he passes by her on his way here and later meets him again at the Yeobrights' Christmas party when she performs as a mummer. Mrs. Yeobright lives here alone after Clym moves out to marry Eustacia. Later, Clym moves back into his mother's home when Eustacia leaves him, and Thomasin joins him after Wildeve's death. Thomasin and Venn celebrate their marriage here.

Mistover Knap: Captain Vye's home is located here. Eustacia lives with him until she marries Clym and later returns when she and Clym argue. The Christmas mummers practice at the Vyes' fuel-house because the Vye property is roughly the center of the heath. Captain Vye chooses this spot to live because he can see the English Channel in the far distance.

Quiet Woman Inn: Wildeve is the owner of the inn. The heath-folk gather here many times, to gossip and gamble.

Shadwater Weir: The dam in the pool of water where Eustacia falls and drowns. Clym and Wildeve jump in to save her, but they, too, get caught in the current. Venn

pulls all three out, though only Clym is revived.

4. Setting of Time

The story began on Saturday afternoon in November 5th 1842.

5. Setting of Society

Heath Customs 1: On the night of November 5th, the heath-folk gather furze and make them into bonfires. All across the heath, bonfires can be seen, the light from the fire shining brightly against the night sky. Once the heath-folk light the first bonfire on Rainbarrow, the other heath inhabitants light their own fires.

Heath Customs 2: The villagers gather around the bonfires, sing, and dance wildly. The tradition of lighting bonfires on November 5th is a holiday for the heath-folk. This holiday tradition is a celebrated custom of Egdon Heath, a custom which Eustacia Vye detests.

Heath Customs 3: Some children of the heath believe that reddlemen have connections to the devil. Johnny Nunsuch is no exception; he is scared of Diggory Venn and gives as much information as he can about Eustacia Vye before he can finally leave and feel safely out of the reddleman's reach.

Heath Customs 4: Another heath custom is the Christmas mummers' play performed every year. Eustacia usually despises the Christmas mumming, as she does with every heath custom, but this year she is interested in it, once she hears that the first Christmas performance is at the Yeobrights'. That the mummers are masked completely means that Eustacia can scheme to find a way to perform as a mummer and spy on Clym.

Heath Customs 5: Thomasin braids her hair in seven strands on her wedding day. She and the other heath-women braid their

hair according to the importance of the day (the more important the day, the more strands in the braid).

Heath Customs 6: The heath-men gather at Timothy Fairway's place for their weekly hair-cutting. The hair-cutting custom is another tradition that the heath-folk cherish and value.

Heath Customs 7: Susan Nunsuch believes that Eustacia is bewitching her son. To exorcize the bad spirit of Eustacia, she sticks a needle in Eustacia's arm during church.

Heath Customs 8: The bucket-fetching process is yet another important heath custom. When Captain Vye's bucket has fallen into the well, the heath-men gather rope from their homes and lower the men into the well with the rope tied around them.

Heath Customs 9: The raffle at the Quiet Woman Inn is a heath tradition the men participate in. They each put a shilling in the raffle and one man wins the money for his sweetheart.

Heath Customs 10: Furze-cutting is an important tradition to the heath-folk. Many men cut and gather furze for bonfires, but Eustacia and Mrs. Yeobright are horrified and ashamed that Clym becomes a cutter.

Heath Customs 11: The gipsying is a custom the villagers enjoy heartily. The heath-folk very much enjoy singing, dancing, and socializing; this gipsying, which is a picnic and dance, allows them the chance to take advantage of the heath landscape.

Heath Customs 12: The villagers make a remedy for Mrs. Yeobright's adder wound. The remedy consists of boiling the oil of a freshly-killed adder and applying it to the wound. Clym is doubtful that the remedy will work, but applies it because he trusts the villagers.

Heath Customs 13: Susan Nunsuch makes a voodoo effigy of Eustacia and

inflicts pain on the effigy by sticking needles in it and then melting it--with satisfaction. Susan wants to counteract the evil curse she believes Eustacia set on her ailing son.

Heath Customs 14: The May-pole revel is a favorite tradition of the heath-folk. Thomasin especially takes delight in the beautiful flowers and the sight of the May-pole. Thomasin's delight and happiness at the May-pole revel coincides with her uplifted and cheerful spirits.

Heath Customs 15: The heath-folk celebrate Thomasin and Venn's wedding with certain heath customs: they make a fresh feather-bed for the newlyweds and they serenade them.

6. The Condition of Egdon Heath

The Return of the Native starts with a description of Egdon Heath. "It is a face on which time makes but little impression." It is vast, colossal, stretching like a huge giant. It is dark. Night descends earlier on Egdon Heath and dawn appears a little late. It is gloomy and it seems to exhale darkness. It is a friend of the storm and the wind. It is uncultivated and barren and nothing but ferns, furze, lichen and prickly shrubs grow on it. Its face is haggard. Here nature is in its wildest aspect. It is monotonous and dull. Its chief characteristic is its unchanging character. On its face many tragedies have taken place, but they were so many bubbles in the ocean of its life.

The novel describes Egdon Heath in various seasons of the year and in various hours of the day and night. Hardy describes the sights and sounds of Egdon Heath in minutes detail, the changing color of its leaves, the shape and color of its flowers and fruits and berries, its hollows and mounds and vallies, the insects, the birds and the animals, that inhabited it, especially the

heath croppers of which Johnny Nunsuch was so much afraid. The roads that pass on through Egdon Heath, the Old Roman graves and historical relics are all described with fidelity. The adder that bites Mrs. Yeobright is a part of it and the pool in which Eustacia is drowned is also provided by it. In the Egdon Heath, the most important is the sound of the wind seeping through the heath hells at night. The sound is weird and fearful and intensifies the horror of the scene.

Egdon Heath influences all the characters of the play. Eustacia hates it and calls it her Hades, her cross, and it proves to be her death. It makes Eustacia gloomy, self-centred, rebellious and bitter. It makes her sound hungry for pleasure and makes her desperately hungry for amusement which is so scarce on Egdon Heath. It is the very antithesis of her desired and aspirations and she longs for the wider, more varied and gayer life of a city, like Paris. She fights against Egdon Heath but is ultimately crushed by it and meets her watery grave in one of its pools.

Clym loves Egdon Heath as much as Eustacia hates it. He is the 'native' of the soil and very object appears to him friendly. He is sufficiently an intellectual to appreciate its dark and mysterious beauty. He has knowledge and artistic sense enough to observe and enjoy its truth and beauty. The conflict of character between Eustacia and Clym is best illustrated by their different attitudes toward Egdon Heath. When he grows blind, Egdon Heath provides him with an occupation. It makes him a philosopher and a poet.

Wildevle dislikes Egdon Heath because it is too dull. But otherwise he does not care much about it. Hatred of the place is a point of affinity between Wildevle and Eustacia.

However, Thomasin is quite at home in Egdon Heath. She would be unhappy anywhere else. To her it is a familiar old

place. But she cannot appreciate its beauty as Clym can.

Diggory Venn is a practical man and does not care much for nature. But he knows Egdon Heath intimately and is a frequent visitor to it. He makes good use of it.

The Rustic Character is the products of the heath like its flowers and insects. They are a part of it. They have the innocence, the simplicity, the cheerfulness, as also the crudeness, of primitive, human nature.

8. Clym's Ambition

a. Clym's Life

In *The Return of the Native*, Clym Yeobright's father was an humble farmer, but his mother, Mrs. Yeobright, the daughter of a Curate came of a superior family. Clym was a fine intelligent, cultured and deeply introspective young man. He is patient and generous, but also deeply determined, and fierce when angered. Clym Yeobright was thirty-three years old when he came back for Christmas to his native hometown, Egdon Heath, from his previous life in Paris where he works as diamond seller in Paris. Clym loves Egdon Heath, and the people there love him too. His other side is that Clym does not really know himself. He thought of himself as a rational and controlled person, but in reality he is ambitious, lacking in thinking of the risk of his act.

Upon his homecoming for Christmas, "Clym found the heath was a place of life and beauty at every season of the year. ...He loved to be near the birds, animals and plants that made the heath beautiful for him" (Hardy, 1995:32). He then changes his mind from a two-week Christmas visit to live in Blooms-End, Egdon Heath, leaving his good position as the manager of a large diamond company.

b. Clym's Ambition

In *The Return of the Native*, ambition is the main theme of the novel. Clym Yeobright had a great dream of accomplishing certain things that defy his mother's advice. Clym Yeobright is an example of the individual that was driven by ambition. Ambition drove him to strive for what he wants and never give up on his dream. Clym has a new plan during his stay in Egdon Heath to help poor people with education.

"I want to help people," Clym told his mother. "Selling diamonds helps no one but myself. I want to help poor people. To do this in the way I want to, I must become a schoolmaster." (Hardy, 1995:32)

His desire to be a schoolmaster is objected by his mother, who thinks that being a schoolmaster is wasting (Hardy, 1995:33). But Clym finds a reason to persuade his mother that his choice to be a schoolmaster is the good one. An incident of witchcraft practice on Eustacia Vye makes him more determined.

"These are the people I must teach," he told her. "How can they believe in witches? This is a terrible thing to have happened." (Hardy, 1995:34)

After his first meeting with Eustacia, Clym's ambition of teaching people become stronger. He wants to be a schoolmaster, and to find a partner of teaching. Considering her as capable of teaching, Clym was interested in meeting with Eustacia Vye and invites her to join.

9. Clym's Efforts to reach his Ambition

The first effort to teach people has done by Clym. He invites Eustacia to teach people in Egdon Heath. He hopes that it is a positive idea that he will make his ambition true. He considers that it is a good way of reaching his ambition. Considering her a

young and smart girl, Clym's sure that Eustacia will help him build a school and teach the people of Egdon Heath. Despite his mother's warning that she will disappoint him for her being lazy and unhappy woman, Clym insists that she is a good partner.

"I don't agree, Mother," Clym answered. "Eustacia could look after the pupils of a boarding school. I could teach them and go on studying for my own examinations" (Hardy, 1995:39)

Clym really wants to build a school for feels sad about the people in Egdon. His decision to invite Eustacia to teach people together is based on his conviction that that Eustacia will help and care about his work.

10. Clym's Failure to reach his Ambition **a. The Causes of the Failure**

Problems, including Clym's, become obstacles of his plan. First, is his relationship with Eustacia. A few months after their introduction, they are falling in love and Clym wants to marry Eustacia, but Eustacia will marry him if he takes her to Paris. He can't fulfill Eustacia's desire to go to Paris, because he has lived in Egdon Heath and never want back to Paris.

"Both you-and my mother want me to go back to Paris!" Clym exclaimed. "But I can't. My work is here, as a schoolmaster." (Hardy, 1995:41)

On the other hand, their relationship worries Mrs. Yeobright that they will go to Paris after married and leave her alone in Egdon Heath. She is sure that Clym prefer Eustacia to his mother. But Clym persuade her that he will stay in Egdon Heath and continue his ambition.

"No, Mother, I have told you. I am not going back to Paris. I am going to open a school in Budmouth. Eustacia will help me. She is a

fine woman and will make me a good wife." (Hardy, 1995:42)

Clym's next obstacle is his mother jealousy and refusal of his wife, Eustacia. She considers that he only gives his love to Eustacia, and this makes her angry at him.

"I am your mother, Clym, but you have forgotten your love for me. You think only for her. Why did you come back to bring me nothing but unhappiness?" (Hardy, 1995:42)

Before starting the school, Clym begins reading books for many hours during the day and late at the night which eventually gives him a strange pain in his eyes. Upon the doctor's advice, he has to stay indoor with shaded eyes for a month and he cannot read for some time. This is one of the reasons of his cause failure of build a school. When he meets a furze-cutter, he is offered a job as a furze-cutter to make enough money to live on. Now, Clym, who was a diamond-seller in Paris, completely changed. He is sad when he remembers his mother and Eustacia but he finds peace at work.

One incident happens to Mrs Yeobright return from an failed visit to Clym's house. As no one opens the door for her, she left and on her way back she was dead of snake bite. But Johnny has her own version that the old woman died "a broken-hearted woman, sent away by her son" (Hardy, 1995:65). This makes Clym angry at Eustacia and refuses to listen to her explanation.

"You shut the door. You kept my mother out of my house because you had a man with you. You sent my mother away to die. Tell me that is the truth," Clym said in a cold, hard voice. (Hardy, 1995:66)

Three weeks after Mrs. Yeobright death, Clym is ill. In his fever, he regrets blames himself for marrying Eustacia, although she

is always besides him during his illness. Being unable to stand the situation, Eustacia decides to leave Clym and live with her grandfather.

“Do you really want to leave me?” Clym asked when Eustacia was ready to leave.
“I do.” (Hardy, 1995:67)

Eustacia’s departure becomes the cause of Clym’s failure. Without her, Clym’s failure really failed of building a school for people in Egdon Heath. A partner who had been pride by him had lived him alone. He cannot do anything by himself.

After a few weeks, Eustacia meets with Wildeve. He still loves Eustacia, and now stealing a lot of money from his wife, he wants to carry Eustacia to another place with all of his money. Eustacia agrees with Wildeve’s secret plan to go away together at night from Egdon Heath. Thomasin informs the plan to Clym and then Clym and Captain Vye go searching for them with a lantern. When they meet Wildeve and inquire him of Eustacia, a loud splash is heard from the direction of the weir. Eustacia falls herself into the weir. Immediately Wildeve jump into the weir to save her from the rushing water. Clym also swims towards them. The two weir-keepers help pull Clym, Eustacia, and Wildeve out with a pole. However, Eustacia and Wildeve are dead, and only Clym is still alive. Eustacia’s death brings regret to Clym.

“She is the second woman I have killed this year,” he said. “I was the cause of my mother’s death. Then I spoke cruelly to my wife and she left me. When I asked her to come back, it was too late. How I wish that I had died with her!” (Hardy, 1995:76)

All of his beloved women had died. Clym realizes too late that his beloved women also love him so much, and is a partner for reaching has ambition. Now,

Clym fails in reaching his ambition. He cannot build a school for people in Egdon Heath. His dream to educate people is gone. He cannot do anything without Eustacia. He only regrets himself and wishes to die with Eustacia.

b. The Effects of the Failure

After the death of his mother, Mrs. Yeobright, and his wife, Eustacia, Clym still stays with Thomasin and spends many hours walking alone on the heath. Then, Diggory Venn, who is a reedleman, now becomes a rich man. Thomasin wants to marry him and Clym agrees with it. After their wedding party, Venn and Thomasin go to Venn’s house and Clym stays in Blooms-End again. Clym lost his ambition to be a schoolmaster. He dedicates his life to become a preacher in Egdon Heath. He stays on the heath and tells all the people about God. On Sunday after Thomasin and Venn’s wedding, he stands up to the top of the Rainbarrow. The people listen to him because they know his sad story.

CONCLUSION

The Return of the Native provides many explanations about character, setting, and Clym Yeobright’s ambition. This novel has two characters, major and minor characters. The setting of the novel is divided into three: setting of place, setting of time, and setting of society. The main topic of the analysis is about Clym’s ambition of teaching people in Egdon Heath, the condition of Egdon Heath that gives the reason of Clym’s ambition, Clym’s life, namely Egdon Heath, Clym’s appearance and his reason for wanting to teach people. Clym meets Eustacia, a beautiful and smart woman, who later becomes his wife and they stay in a small cottage in Blooms-End. Because of too much reading books, Clym gets an eyes shaded. He has to stay inside for a month until he is better. Upon his

mother's death, Clym blames Eustacia for her bad treatment on Mrs. Yeobright. Conflict between them culminates and Eustacia left Clym. Later she meets Wildeve and they both plan to leave for Paris. Upon their night leaving, Clym finds out about it. An accident happened, and Eustacia falls down into Shadwater Weir. Clym and Wildeve try to save her, but unfortunately Eustacia and Wildeve are dead. After all his sorrows, Clym decides to end his ambition as a schoolmaster and dedicates himself to preaching to people in Egdon Heath.

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