

**THE MAIN CHARACTERS' COMMITTING SUICIDE
ON NEVIL SHUTE'S *ON THE BEACH*:
A MORAL PHILOSOPHICAL STUDY**

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*
in English Letters**



By

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2008**


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Defended before the Board of Examiners
on November 29, 2008
and Declared Acceptable

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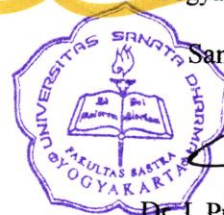
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LIFE IS A GAME, PLAY IT

LIFE IS A CHALLENGE, MEET IT

LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY, CAPTURE

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ABSTRACT

Lina Permanasari (2008). **The Main Characters' Committing Suicide on Nevil Shute's *on the Beach*: A moral Philosophical Study.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

On the Beach was written in 1957. The novel is about the atomic radiation as the effect from nuclear war which takes Melbourne, South Australia as the setting of the story. The story is interesting to be analyzed because the novel is categorized as a science fiction novel which is based on Shute's experience in military affairs. This story also shows the tragic decision that the main characters take to solve their conflicts. This novel is also interesting because through this literary work, Shute wants to deliver a message from moral philosophical point of view.

There are four main objectives which the writer wants to analyze. First, the writer wants to describe the main characters' characteristics in the story. Each character will reflect their attitude in facing the conflict. Second, the writer will explain the conflicts that appear in the novel. The explanation of the conflicts will be focused on the conflicts that give contribution to the attitude of the main characters' committing suicide. Third, the writer will give details about the way the main characters deal with the conflicts. Fourth, the writer will reveal that a nuclear war gives many bad effects which can destroy human life. From this novel, the author will also deliver a message that we must think twice before we start a nuclear war.

The method used in this study is library research. The approach that the writer employs is the moral philosophical approach. This approach is used to reveal the message from moral philosophical point of view which can be found from the characters' characteristics and the attitude of main characters' committing suicide in the story.

In this study, first, the writer describes the characteristics of Peter Holmes, Marry Holmes, Dwight Towers, Moira Davidson, and John Osborne as the main characters in this novel. After that the writer explains the conflicts of the story. There are two kinds of conflicts, they are intrapersonal and interpersonal conflict. Those conflicts have a significant role to influence them to commit suicide. Then, the writer explains the way the characters deal with the conflicts. Here, almost every characters experience changing characteristics because of the radiation sickness. They become hopeless in facing their days because there will be no future anymore and it brings them into suicide. Last, the writer revealed something from the novel. The writer finds a message from moral philosophical point of view that a nuclear war brings bad effects to the human life. The novel gives a depiction that a nuclear war can destroy the world. All the unmovable things are contaminated with the radiation dust which is very dangerous to human beings. In the other side, the nuclear war also brings people into death by committing suicide as what is portrayed in the story. The writer also finds that the author wants to deliver a message by creating this novel. He wants every single country think twice before she starts a nuclear war because the effects of it are very disastrous.

ABSTRAK

Lina Permanasari (2008): **The Main Characters' Committing Suicide on Nevil Shute's *on the Beach*: A Moral Philosophical Study**. Yogyakarta: Jurusan Sastra Inggris Universitas Sanata Dharma.

On the Beach ditulis oleh Nevil Shute pada tahun 1957. Novel ini berisi tentang radiasi atom sebagai imbas dari perang nuklir yang berlatar belakang di Melbourne, Australia. Novel ini sangat menarik untuk dibahas karena novel ini dikategorikan sebagai novel fiksi yang bersifat ilmiah yang berdasarkan atas pengalaman Shute dalam dunia militer. Cerita ini juga memperlihatkan keputusan para tokoh yang tragis dalam pemecahan konflik. Novel ini juga menarik karena melalui karya sastra ini, pengarang ingin menyampaikan sebuah pesan yang berdasarkan pada pandangan moral filosofi.

Ada empat tujuan yang ingin diuraikan oleh penulis. Yang pertama, penulis ingin mengupas ciri-ciri yang terdapat pada tokoh dalam cerita ini. Setiap tokoh akan mewakili sikap mereka dalam menghadapi konflik. Yang kedua, penulis akan membahas konflik yang muncul di dalam novel. Pemaparan konflik akan difokuskan pada konflik yang berpengaruh pada tindakan bunuh diri para tokoh. Yang ketiga, penulis akan memberikan gambaran rinci cara mereka menghadapi konflik. Yang keempat, penulis akan mengungkapkan bahwa perang nuklir membawa efek yang buruk yang dapat menghancurkan kehidupan manusia. Dari novel ini, pengarang juga ingin menyampaikan pesan bahwa kita harus berpikir ulang sebelum memulai perang nuklir.

Metode yang digunakan dalam analisis ini adalah metode kepustakaan. Pendekatan yang digunakan penulis adalah pendekatan moral filosofis. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk mengungkap pesan dari pandangan moral filosofi yang dapat ditemukan dalam penggambaran karakteristik dari para tokoh dan dari tindakan bunuh diri dalam novel.

Dalam analisis ini, penulis memberikan ciri-ciri karakteristik Peter Holmes, Mary Holmes, Dwight Towers, Moira Davidson, dan John Osborne sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel ini. Setelah itu, penulis akan memaparkan konflik dalam cerita ini. Ada dua macam konflik di dalam cerita yaitu konflik dalam pribadi dan konflik di luar pribadi. Konflik tersebut memiliki peran penting yang mempengaruhi tokoh untuk mengambil tindakan bunuh diri. Kemudian, penulis akan memaparkan cara tokoh menghadapi konflik. Di sini, hampir keseluruhan tokoh mengalami perubahan karakteristik yang dikarenakan oleh penyakit radiasi. Mereka menjadi putus asa dalam menjalani hari-harinya karena tidak akan ada lagi hari esok dan ini membawa mereka pada tindakan bunuh diri. Terakhir, penulis akan mengungkap sesuatu dari novel ini. Penulis menemukan pesan yang diambil dari pandangan moral filosofi bahwa perang nuklir membawa efek yang buruk pada kehidupan manusia. Novel ini menggambarkan bahwa perang nuklir dapat menghancurkan dunia. Segala benda mati terkontaminasi oleh debu radiasi yang sangat berbahaya bagi kehidupan manusia. Di sisi lain, perang nuklir juga akan membawa manusia pada kematian dengan cara bunuh diri seperti yang tergambarkan dalam cerita ini. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa pengarang ingin menyampaikan pesan dengan cara mengarang buku novel ini. Pengarang ingin setiap Negara harus berpikir berulang kali sebelum memulai perang nuklir karena efeknya mendatangkan malapetaka.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In the world of reality, human beings have to live with their own destiny when they were born in this world. They can not choose to be born with their own desire. They can not escape from every obstacle, when it comes to them. The only thing that they have is an active role to make a better life. In other words we have to do something useful, to struggle in every path that we step. For instance, someone who was born in a poor family must be able to create a new better life by being a hard worker, or to study hard or other struggles which can bring him to a better future.

Through what Mrs. Roosevelt said in the following quotation, we can see the value of our existence in the society:

“I think that somehow, we learn who really we are and then live with that decision” (<http://pirate.Shu.Edv/uvallarje/contact.Htm>).

From the quotation above, we can see that such a kind of statement has a purpose that we have to recognize well who we are, and then we have to be responsible of what we have chosen as our decisions by accepting all kind of things in this life. On the other hand, there are some people who cannot accept where and how they live in. When they cannot accept the reality of life, they have a kind of contradiction and conflict in themselves. The contradiction here can be influenced by the condition of life which is far from with what they expect to have. In certain

condition of having contradiction influences them to do something extreme like committing suicide.

“Not all people who commit suicide are depressed, and not all depressed people attempt suicide. But many depressive do think about suicide, and some of them translate these thoughts into action” (Kasschau, 1995: 376).

From the quotation above, it shows the experiences of human being in the real life, while in the world of literature, especially a novel, an author creates some characters by their own characteristics. They are made on purpose to make the story of the novel becomes interesting to read. Therefore, the characters' characteristics in the novel have similarity with human beings characteristics in the real life. There are some who are characterized as brave, loyal, diligent, or responsible persons, and many others characteristics. The same case also happens in the work of Nevil Shute that he makes some different characteristics.

The novel *On the Beach* written by Nevil Shute tells us about the atomic radiation from nuclear war after World War II. The story takes place in Melbourne, South Australia. There are five main characters in the novel. The first main character is Peter Holmes, a Lieutenant Commander in the Australian Navy as the Liaison Officer to an American nuclear submarine U.S.S Scorpion. Second is Peter's wife, Mary Holmes. The third is Dwight Tower, a captain of U.S.S submarine. The fourth is Moira Davidson who is a friend of Mary. The last is John Osborne, a scientist of the submarine.

First, Peter is very confused whether he should take his duty or not because he has to leave his wife, Mary, and his little daughter, Jennifer, since that time, the radiation beginn to reach the southern Australia. Actually, people in the

southern Australia have the same problem as Peter and Mary. They are depressed because of the effect of the atomic nuclear of the World War II. At the beginning stage, they feel terrible headache, then they vomit everyday, and finally they are weak because their body do not produce blood. At the end of the story, all the main characters here decide to commit suicide rather than to live in depressed life because of the radiation. Peter and Mary take the suicide pills and give the lethal injection to their little daughter. Dwight dies while sinking his submarine in the international water. John Osborne takes a cyanide pill while sitting in his Ferrari and Moira takes her final pill to end her suffer.

The writer is interested to analyze this topic because this novel is categorized as a science fiction novel. Based on Asimov in Broderick's book, science fiction is a branch of literature that deals with the human response to change in the level of science and technology. The changes involved would be rational ones in keeping with what was known about science, technology and people (1995: 5). Nevil Shute makes this novel based on his experiences in the military affairs. He uses his experiences in military knowledge, engineering technology, and also medical terms to make the characters and the details of *On the Beach* more realistic. This novel is also interesting to analyze because the story shows the tragic decision that the main characters take to solve their conflicts. Another reason is that although this novel is categorized as a science fiction novel, but through the study of psychology the writer can reveal Shute's message of the effect of the nuclear war. In other words, this novel delivers important meaning not only to the readers but also to all human races about the

dangerous effect of the war. The dangerous here is not only limited on the destruction of physical matter, but also the psychological side or the most important thing is the continuity the living beings.

B. Problem Formulation

The writer will arrange four questions which may help the writer to analyze the novel. Through these four questions, the writer hopes that the analysis will be easier to be discussed. Those four questions are:

1. What are the main characters' characteristics in the story?
2. What is the conflict of the story?
3. How do they deal with the conflict?
4. What can be revealed through the main characters' committing suicide as the reaction toward the conflict?

C. Objectives of the Study

In the first section, the writer will describe the characteristics of the five main characters in the story. Those five main characters here have different characteristics. Each character will reflect their own attitude in facing the problems.

In the second section, the writer will explain the conflict appears in the novel. Actually, there are many conflicts that they have with their own life, both internal and external, but there is just one center problem that they have. Therefore, the writer will make a limitation in discussing the conflict. The writer

will only discuss the center problem which later becomes a conflict, that is they have to prefer suicide or to continue life in suffering.

In the third part, the writer will analyze how those characters deal with the conflict. The writer will reveal the characters' different ways in facing the conflict through the psychological aspect.

In the last part, the writer will reveal the reaction of the conflict and the way the main characters deal with it, that finally they choose committing suicide. In other words, the writer will show that the characters' committing suicide becomes the manifestation of their inability to face the reality.

D. Definition of Terms

This part is made in order to give explanation to the readers about the terms in the title. The purpose is to make the readers understand about the meaning of certain terms, therefore the readers can follow the discussion in this thesis well.

Based on *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of English Language Unabridged*, the word *committing* can be interpreted as "to do; to effect or perpetrate; as, to commit murder" (1983: 365).

Smith in his book *Abnormal Behavior*, explains the term of *suicide*. He defines some meaning of suicide: "the act of intentionally destroying one self", "a violent self-inflicted destructive action resulting in death", "the act of killing oneself"(1983: 129).

Ross in his book *Moral Decision – An introduction to Ethics*, the term *moral* has a meaning “first concerning or based on principles right or wrong behavior and the difference between good and evil” (1992:862)

In the *Webster’s New Explorer Dictionary and Thesaurus* there is stated that the term *philosophical* is “defined as a critical study of fundamental beliefs and the ground of them” (1999: 391)

The word *study* in *Concise English Dictionary* means to apply the mind in order to acquire knowledge or skill to make one’s object: to be solicitous about: to scrutinize: to take into consideration: to think out (1994: 989)

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

In literary criticism, the critics give comments and idea about literary works. Literary criticisms have their functions as the way to criticize the literary works in order to make readers understand about the author and the work itself. In every study, literary criticism is needed to support the idea or the topic discussed. Therefore, in writing this thesis, the writer also needs to convey several criticisms on Shute's novel *On the Beach*. The quotations below are several criticisms that the critics say about the novel.

When it was first published in 1957, the novel *On the Beach* received mixed reviews by many critics. The eminent critic Edmund Fuller deemed *On the Beach* "an austere, grim, moving, important book that could become real". Fuller asserted that Shute had skillfully written a suspenseful novel in spite of the fact that the reader knows how the book will end. His success in this is manifested in the concern we feel for his characters; for concern, identification, and anguish-not surprise are the essence of the suspense (<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-onbeach/crit.html>).

La Faille also gives comment on Shute's novel *On the Beach*. He said that when the novel was first published in 1957, it immediately attracted the attention of the science fiction community because of its brilliant and horrifying depiction

of the end of human life after an atomic war (<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide/onbeach/essay2.html>).

The other criticism comes from David Grosman who gives a statement about the theme of the novel which focuses on how the people face up to the prediction of certain death and, in this case, the death of all mankind. He also adds such quotation “The novel does have some interesting points, mostly in its prediction of what would happen in the aftermath of a nuclear war. I grew up in the 1980s, with its obsession with nuclear winter, something which was being portrayed at the time as a radical new idea, so it is interesting to see that it was pre-dated by at least 30 years in Shute's novel. It's also useful to compare the two approaches. In Shute's novel, the mankind will be wiped out by a nuclear war” (<http://www.nmbtv.dircon.co.uk/books/2002>).

From the quotations above, we can see the first criticism focuses on his success in developing the characters and the essence of the suspense story. The critic says that Shute makes the novel in a good way which makes it become the shocking story by depicting the details of the characters and in the process of identifying the story. The second criticism focuses on the first publication of the novel itself which attracts the community of science fiction because of the distressing depiction of the end of human life. This criticism also shows that there was a good response of Shute's work at that time which we can see from the enthusiasm of the society in perceiving the novel. The last criticism is more or less the same as the second criticism, but here the critic also says about some

interesting point of the prediction after the nuclear war and the portrayal that all human life will be wiped out by the atomic radiation.

Throughout the criticisms above, we can see that they also have similar opinion that is the dangerous effect of the war. They think that the war will give significant destruction.

B. Review of Related Theories

In discussing the problems, the writer uses some theories to support the understanding the topic.

1. Theory on Character and Characterization

Character is one of the elements of literary works. Generally, a character is the characteristic of the actors in the story which can be identified from the text, the way they speak, their behavior, their dresses, their actions, attitudes and from the dialogues of the story. According to Robert Stanton in his book *An introduction to Fiction*, the term “character” is commonly used in two ways: it designates the individual who appears in the story and it refers to the mixture of interest, desires, emotions, and moral principle that makes up each of these individuals. Most of the stories contain a central character, which is relevant to the event in the story. We could understand one character by seeing his or her actions, behaviors, the way of speaking, attitudes, and from the dialogues of the play (Stanton, 1965: 17-18).

In the book of *Concise Dictionary and Literary Terms*, character is the aggregate of traits and features that form the nature of some persons or animal. In literature, *character* has several other meanings, notably that of a person

represented in a story, novel, play, etc. Still in the same book, *characterization* is the creation of images of imaginary persons in drama, narrative poetry, the novel and the short story. Writers use several basic means of characterization: a character is revealed by (1) his action, (2) his speech, (3) his thoughts, (4) his physical appearance, (5) what other characters say or think of him (1972:50-51).

Abrams divides characters into two types. The first one is the main or major character. A major character is usually the center of the story. He or she is the most important character in the story. Usually the acts of the story are focused on this character from the beginning until the ending parts. The core of the story is highlighted through this character experience. The second type of character is the minor character. Minor character appears in a certain setting, just necessarily to become the background for the major characters. Their roles are less important than the major character because they are not fully developed characters and their roles in a story are just to support the development of the major characters (1981: 20).

The existence of characters in a literary work is very important. The author sometimes writes his/her novel based on real life. It means that he/she has to describe all of the characters of his/her novel as realistic as possible. The creation of these imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as lifelike is called *characterization* (Holman and Harmon, 1986: 81).

According to Baldick, character is a person in a narrative or dramatic work. It is different from characterization. Characterization is the way in which a character is presented. Therefore, a character is the result, while characterization

is the process (1991: 81). Baldick also defines that there are three methods of characterization in fiction. The first method is the explicit presentation. In this method, the author tells the readers about the character through direct exposition or analysis, which informs how the character is. The second method is the presentation of the character in action. In this representation, the author only uses a little or no explicit comment, so that the readers are able to conclude the attribute of the actor from action. The last method is the representation from within a character without comments on the character by the author. In this method, the author suggests that the reader will come to a clear understanding of the attribute of the character clearly through the impact of actions and emotions on the character's inner self (Baldick, 1991: 81).

2. Theory on Conflict

A conflict is a special sort of frustration because it requires you to choose among alternatives. It isn't the direct blocking of desire, as is frustration. In a conflict, you are always weighing alternatives. For example, on the way home you thought about stealing the toothpick and dismissed the idea. Instead, you went to your parents for money, even though you weren't sure of getting it from them. Finally you borrowed the money, only to find that you still have some bad feelings about buying the toothpick. A person with a conflict is not directly blocked from the chosen goals but must choose among alternatives goals (Warga, 1983: 112).

The author of literary work builds his history around the conflict. The conflict may be an argument between opposing forces like man against man, man

against nature, man against “fate” or perhaps an internal between the two opposing man’s personality (Pooley, 1968: 9).

Beaty and Hunter say that the most people try hard to avoid conflict. The people prefer to live without complication. Nevertheless, no one escapes conflict for long, even without wars or large scale disagreement (1989: 778).

A conflict is a struggle between two opposing forces, ideas, or belief. There are two kinds of conflict, they are inner or internal conflict and external conflict. The inner or internal conflict means a struggle within heart and mind of the protagonist, while the external conflict means the struggle between the protagonist and an outside force (Redman, 1964: 363).

Conflict can be examined in two ways: intrapersonal and interpersonal. Intrapersonal conflict refers to conflict one has with ones self. It concerns the disrupting effects of conflicting tendencies too action. Interpersonal conflict examines conflict between individuals and is a key competent in the study of negotiation (Brown 1983: 473).

Bouling adds that interpersonal conflict can also arise as a result of a particular circumstance of the work environment or as a consequence of an intragroup conflict (1962: 164).

3. Theory on Suicide

There are three categories of suicide according to Davidson and Neale. The first is egoistic suicide. Egoistic suicide is committed when a person has too few ties to the society and community. These people are alienated from others, cut off from the social support that are important to keep them functioning adaptively

as social beings. The second is altruistic suicides which is in contrast, are viewed by Durkheim as responses to societal demands. Some people who commit suicide feel very much a part of a group and sacrifice themselves for what they take to be the good of society. For example: Japanese pilots who do heroic suicide of kamikaze in World War II. The third is anomic suicide. It may be triggered by a sudden change in a person's relation to the society. A successful executive man who suffers severe financial reverses may experience anomie, a sense of disorientation, because what he believed to be the normal way of living is no longer possible for her. Anomic can pervade society in disequilibrium, making suicide more likely. (Davidson and Neale, 1986: 223).

Most people commit suicide because they see it as the only solution to an unbearable situation. They are experiencing intense psychological pain, are completely frustrated in their attempts to meet their psychological needs, and have fallen into a state of hopelessness from which they see no other means of escape. (Wilson, 1996: 206).

Suicide is the common reaction to the feeling of hopelessness, despair and negative view of oneself and others. The feeling of hopelessness happens when an individual has to deal with some situations of which the outcome is uncontrollable to the individual. The individual often develops negative thought and concludes that all the things that he does are useless and he cannot avoid the unpleasant outcome. The individual soon develops negative view toward himself and others. The next step, the individual feels the feeling of hopelessness and thinks that there is no solution to the situation and that the desirable outcome will never come in

the future. The individual will feel a sense of unworthiness of living such a life and tend to think of suicide as the only way out. The stressor in the feeling of hopelessness is the negative life events (1995: 555-556).

It is assumed that suicide is drastic solution to those problems. Three times as many women as men attempt to suicide, but men most frequently succeed in their action. The result differs in both sexes because they use different methods. Men tend to commit suicide by jumping of the building or shot themselves with a gun. Women tend to lethal method such as overdoses of sleeping pills or cutting their wrist (Barron, 1995:557).

James C. Coleman of University of California at Los Angles declares that there are four causes of suicide. He calls it as stress factors in suicide. Paykel, Prusoff, and Myers detected these causes in 1975. They are interpersonal crises, failure and self-devaluation, inner conflict, and loss the meaning and hope. *Interpersonal crises* are interpersonal conflict and disruption. These conflicts are often found within the marital conflict, separation, divorce, or the loss of loved through death may result in severe stress and suicidal behavior. *Failure and self-devaluation* is the feeling of having failed in some enterprises which often involving occupational aspirations and accomplishment. *Inner conflict* is when a person is situated on a debate with his own mind. He may be anxious and confused, struggle with the meaning of life and death, and decided that he should not continue the struggle any longer. *Loss of meaning and hope* is when a person has no desire to live (Coleman, 1976: 607-608).

There are numerous motivations for suicide among them, they are desire or need to escape from stress, deformity, pain, or emotional vacuum. Death is not the only purposes of suicide. The common purposes of suicide are to seek solution and a cry for help. The common emotion of suicide is hopelessness, in which the individual feels that at some point in the future things will be no better than any right now (Davidson and Neale, 1996: 251-254).

4. Theory on Moral

According to Ross, moral is first concerning or based on principles right or wrong behavior and the difference between good and evil” (1992:862). Furthermore, moral is not just differentiating between what is good and what is bad, but moral has deeper meaning than that. Cochrane, Hamm, and Kazepidez say that moral thinking is about the fundamental value by which to live (1979: 7).

In *A handbook of Critical Approaches of Literature*, The basic position of critics like Plato, Horace, and Samuel Johnson is that the larger function of literature is to teach morality and to probe philosophical issues. They would interpret literature within a context of the philosophical thought of period or group (1999: 25).

In *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, utilitarians have concluded that euthanasia may be morally right. Their arguments are:

1. The morally right thing to do, on any occasion, is whatever would bring us about the greatest balance of happiness over unhappiness.
2. On at least some occasion, the greatest balance of happiness over unhappiness may be brought about the mercy killing.

3. Therefore, on at least some occasion, mercy killing may be morally right (Rachels, 1999).

In the book of *Ethics in the Situation*, Davitt explains that it is a matter of indifference whether I kill myself or not. Killing myself becomes good or bad only from my motive for preserving or destroying my life, and for the foreseeable consequences which follow from it. In sum, it is the subjective “why” and the foreseen “consequences” which makes the objective “what” of killing myself good or bad. If I am sick with a terminal disease, I may decide that I should remove myself as a burden to my family. My continued existence is a drain on their physical and mental resources (Davitt, 1970).

In Cousins’s essay *The Right to Die*, Dr. Van Dusen, a president of Union Theological Seminary who committed suicide together with her wife, said in his letter that the way they were taking would become more usual and acceptable as the year pass. They were sad, but they think that suicide was the best way and the right way to go in a reason that they were increasingly weak and unwell and did not want to die in nursing home. Cousins adds that Van Dusen and his wife have the right to decide when to die. They are not turning against the life as the highest value; what they are turning against is the notion that there are no circumstances under which life should be discontinued (Cousins, 1975).

5. Literature from Moral Philosophy Point of View

Literary works always offer moral messages that connect with human’s noble behavior, struggle with the right and the dignity of human beings. These

human noble behaviors can be displayed through characterization of attitudes and the behavior of the characters in the novel (Rohrberger,1971: 48).

In a literary work, there will be moral philosophy which sometimes the readers are not aware of it. The moral philosophy which the author wants to be said is put inside the story. The existence of moral philosophy is something useful because it carries out something to the readers. It can be revealed from the different characters' behaviors or even from the incident that is occurs in the story. Through the story, the author gives some messages to the readers to be able to learn the moral side from it. There must be a connection between the author's work and the reality in our society as a moral philosophy (Rohrberger, 1971: 49)

C. Theoretical Framework

There are four theories that will be used to help the writer to analyze the object of the study. They are theory on character and characterization, theory on conflict, theory psychology on suicide, and theory on moral.

Theory on character and characterization will help the writer to describe the main characters and their characteristics in the novel. By using this theory, the writer will analyze the habits deeper and the behaviors to get the cores of their inside characteristics.

Theory on conflict is very helpful to find the details of internal and external conflicts which occur in the story. This theory is useful to help the writer to answer the second problem formulation.

Theory on suicide is a theory which explains the kinds of suicide, the cause, and motivation for suicide. This theory is helpful to reveal the character's behaviors in facing the conflict.

Theory on moral philosophical is a theory in finding what is good and what is bad through the characteristics or through the incident in the novel. This theory helps the writer to identify the moral values emerge in the novel.

Theory literature from Moral Philosophy point of view is needed to see the essence of literature from moral point of view. It will be connected moral philosophy which exists in a novel through its characters' characteristics or through the incident happens in the story.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The writer chooses one of Nevil Shute's works *On the Beach* as the object of study. The novel *On the Beach* was written in 1957 and first published in the same year. As a science fiction novel, *On the Beach* attracted the science fiction community because of its brilliant idea in depicting the situation in Australia after the nuclear war. The novel becomes the famous one among Shute's works since its first publication.

In this thesis, the writer uses the edition which is published by Longman group in 1972. This novel is one of criticism about the nuclear war by making the depiction about the situation and people surrounding Melbourne after the nuclear war ended.

This novel was categorized as "the most important and dramatic novel of the atomic age" based on Washington Post and Times Herald. It was also nominated as "the great international bestseller" because it was sold over 3,000,000 copies all over the world (www.trully-free.org).

This novel tells about the people in Melbourne Australia who have to face conflict which is to live in suffering because of the radiation or to end their life by committing suicide. Finally, the five main characters in the novel choose to commit suicide by their own ways. The action of committing suicide is also supported by the government of Australia who distributes suicide pills available

on the dispensaries. The Holmes takes suicide pills to end their life and euthanize their daughter by lethal injection. Captain Dwight Towers prefers to sink his submarine in the international water. Moira Davidson takes her final pills with a shot of brandy. The scientist John Osborne takes a cyanide pill while sitting on his Ferrari.

B. Approach of Study

The study of literature and the study of moral philosophy have different fields as the subject of the study. They employ their own theories, terms, or sources as the bases for their study. However, these two different studies can be related by the existence of the approach. In other words, approach of the study will legitimize the usage of theories in the study of moral philosophical to analyze literary works.

This analyses basically deals with moral philosophical value which can be revealed from the characters' characteristics, the conflicts, and the characters' committing suicide in the story. We can not separate moral philosophy from the human life because moral philosophy always occurs in our daily life. Therefore, the writer uses moral philosophical approach to analyze the novel. Moral Philosophical approach is approach which insists on asserting and stating what is thought. The basic position of moral philosophical approach is to teach morality and to probe philosophical issues. They would interpret literature within the context of the philosophical thought of a period or group. The important thing is the moral philosophical taught (Guerin, 1979:39).

It seems reasonable to employ historical-biographical or moral philosophical analyses among other methods in getting the total meaning of a literary work seems to call for them. Such approaches are less likely to err on the side of over interpretation is a particularly grievous critical error.

B. Method of the Study

In this thesis, the writer uses the library research to collect the data sources. The main source of this thesis is *On the Beach* by Nevil Shute. The other sources are essays and criticism which are from the books in the library and from websites. The books from library are used to support the theory on character and characterization, theory on conflict, theory psychology on suicide and theory on moral. The books for theory on character and characterization are *An Introduction to Fiction* by Robert Stanton, *A Glossary of Literary Term* by M.H Abrams, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* by Christ Baldick. The books of psychology are *Psychology* by Robert A. Baron, *Abnormal Psychology* by Davidson and Meale, and *Abnormal Behaviors: Outlined Reference* by Jim Smith. The writer also quotes a data that can not be found from library from the websites at ([Http://students.ed.uiuuc.edu/catey/storyconflicts.html](http://students.ed.uiuuc.edu/catey/storyconflicts.html)).

In analyzing the novel, there were some steps to be applied. The first step was reading the novel to understand the novel clearly. The second step was analyzing the characters' characterizations. The third step was finding the conflict of the story. The fourth step was exploring the five main characters' characteristics and then analyzed their behaviors in dealing with the conflict. The next step was analyzing the way of the action of the characters in doing suicide

and matching it to the reactions toward the conflict, then from that step the writer can get some points to be revealed. The last step was making a conclusion based on what the writer discussed in this thesis.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of four parts of analysis where the writer will try to answer the four questions formulated in the problem formulations. In the first part, the writer will describe the five main characters of the story. In this part, the writer will also analyze the changing of the characters' characteristics when they are facing the conflict. In the second part, the writer will explain the conflict that the characters deal with. Conflicts is an important part in this analysis because through the conflicts, we can reveal the characters' characteristics to know deeper their characteristics. In the third part, the writer will discuss the way the characters deal with the conflict. We can see several different ways of dealing the conflict based on their characteristics inside themselves. In the last part, the writer will reveal the connection between the reaction to the conflict and the way the main characters deal with it to show that the characters' committing suicide become the manifestation of the inability in facing the reality.

A. The Characteristics of the Five Main Characters

In the theory of character and characteristics, it is stated that character can be define as a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc. In the previous discussion, the writer has explained that there are five main characters in the novel. From those five different characters, the writer can conclude that there are also several different characteristics which every character has. The writer will use the theory of characterization from Baldick to explore the characters'

characterization. According to Baldick's theories, there are three methods to characterized characterizations in a fiction. They are the explicit presentation, in which the author tells the readers about the character through direct exposition or analysis, which informs how the character is; the presentation of the character in action, in which the author only uses a little comment, so that the readers are able to conclude the attribute of the actor from action; and the representation from within a character without comments on the character by the author, in which the author suggests that the reader will come to a clear understanding of the attribute of the character clearly through the impact of actions and emotions on the character's inner self.

The writer will also discuss the changing or different characteristics of the characters when the issue of radiation reaches southern hemisphere. The changing characteristics later can be revealed from their attitude and the way they think in solving the conflict.

1. The Characteristics of Peter Holmes

Peter is described as a devoted husband. As a leader of a family, Peter also should have a kind of responsibility toward his family, moreover he has a little daughter in early age. Therefore, everything that he does must be for his family as what quoted below.

The thought of Mary and his little daughter troubled him now and prompted him to ask, "How long is the appointment for, sir?" The admiral shrugged his shoulder slightly. "We could say a year. I imagine it will be your last posting, Holmes." "The younger man said, "I know sir. I'm very grateful for the opportunity." He hesitated and asked, "Will; the ship be at sea for much of that time, sir? I'm married, and we've got a baby. Things aren't too easy

now, compared with what they used to be, and it's a bit difficult at home. And anyway, there's not so long to go." (p.6)

From the quotation above, we can see that as a devoted husband, he must have responsibility toward his members of family. In this case, he has a wife and a little daughter. He worries about his family when he is not at home. As what he said in the quotation above, things are not too easy now because the condition is worse than before. He would devote himself for the sake of his family. As an example, he must go for about four miles to fetch the milk and cream by his trailer, even though they have a car; it is also because fuel is not available again in Melbourne.

Another evidence that he always devotes himself for his family happens when he has a conversation about his cruise with his captain. He worries his family because he must be responsible to them and his thoughts of them. His worry is because he is going to the sea for about eleven days at first, after that he will be at sea perhaps for two months. The worry about the ailments of the baby, about the way to get milk, about the firewood supply in cold weather, and also about if the radiation reaches Melbourne faster than the estimation can be seen in this quotation below.

The young officer sat in thought for a moment revolving his mind the shopping, the ailment of baby, the milk supply. It was summer weather; there would be the fire to be cut. If the second cruise began about the middle of February he would be home by the middle of April, before the weather got cold enough for fires. Perhaps the farmer would see Mary right for firewood if he was away longer than that, now that he had got him the wheels for his trailer. It should be all right for him to go, so long as nothing further went wrong. But if the electricity supply failed, or the radioactivity spread south more quickly than the wise man estimated.....Put away that thought (p.7)

In facing the conflict when the issues of radiation might come nearly, Peter is still responsible to his family and he still shows his worry because he loves them much. He worries if he can not come back to his family, because the trip of the submarine will take a long way. He is worry about his wife and his little daughter, in case he can not come back while the radiation is reaching Melbourne. He is always worry that Mary can not choose the right thing without him. Therefore, he comes to the chemist to get the right way to end the problem. Peter wants Mary to know things before he goes to his long duty.

Peter said "I wanted to have a talk with you about this radiation disease. I've got to go away. I'm sailing in the Scorpion, the American submarine. We're going a long way. We shan't be back till the beginning of June, at the earliest. It's not a very easy trip. There's just possibility that we not come back at all."

"I have to make sure Mrs. Holmes understands about things before I go."
(p.85)

Several days before the cruise starts, Peter becomes hopeless because of the unbearable depressing situation, therefore he starts to explain to Mary that taking the suicide pills is the best way to solve the problem rather than to live in sickness because of the radiation. He hopes that Mary understands what the right thing to do while he is in the sea, but suddenly she gets angry because she thinks that her husband would like to murder her and their daughter then after that Peter can be free to go with another woman.. He finally gets angry too and adds the reason sharply why Mary must take the pill. He said that while he is not at home, Mary should face problem by herself, and at that time maybe Peter would be dead already at the sea. It can be a proof that Peter at that time has his own hopelessness about the radiation. It is natural that in the quotation below he said in

sharp way in a reason of his hopelessness and emotion to face the problem and it is also because Marry does not understand what he is talking about. Peter thinks that the radiation will wipe all his future with his family, therefore why just waiting until the sickness kill his family, and why don't we end the life because there is nothing we can do with this life.

“It is the end of everything for all of us”, he said. “We’re going to lose most of the years of life that we’ve looked forward to, and Jennifer’s going to lose all of them. But it doesn’t have to be painful for her. When things are hopeless, you can make it easy for her. It’s going to take bit courage on your part, but you’ve got that. This is what you’ll have to do if I’m not here”

“If I’m here I’ll have it myself. If I’m not here you’ve got to face things on your own, it’ll be because I’m dead already. Just think of that and try to get that into your fat head. I’ll be dead.” (p.89)

2. The Characteristics of Mary Holmes

Mary is Peter’s wife and a mother of Jennifer. She is described as a good mother. The proof that she is a good mother is shown by her responsibility to take care of the baby. It can be seen in this quotation below when she gave her little daughter calamine lotion because Jennifer also got burned on the beach. The attitude in giving the calamine shows that she loves her baby daughter much, though it seems a simple thing to do to the baby. In this case Mary tells to Peter about that bad event as her obligation to tell to his husband about every little thing which happens to herself and to Jennifer.

“I got so burned yesterday. I put some calamine stuff on Jennifer last night, but I really don’t think she ought to go down to the beach again today.” (p.1)

Mary is also characterized as a kind-hearted woman. She always cares to her friends. We can see later on the quotation below about Mary’s kindness. She

treats somebody else as she treats her family. She prepares a beach picnic supper for the evening entertainment for his guests without any objections, though she has a little daughter to treat. She makes the evening entertainment outside the house because she wants to keep Jennifer safe from the measles that men's have. This also proves that Mary is over protective to her little daughter's health. She does not want her to get any measles or another disease when having contact with other people.

They found at the flat that Peter and Mary Holmes had arranged a beach picnic supper for the evening's entertainment. Not only was it cheaper than a party and most pleasant in the heat of summer, but in Mary somewhat muddled view the more the men were kept out of the house the less likely they were to give the baby measles.(p.58)

As a good wife, Mary also cares to the existence of her family and she always thinks how the future of her family would be. She likes to minimize the expense for her family every month, so that she can save more than usual. When Mary and Peter are watering the garden, suddenly Mary has got an idea. She thinks it would be wise if they can grow vegetables in their garden. Even though they just have a little space for growing vegetables, but it would help them to save more every week. Besides, she would like to take out the trees in their garden, so that they can make a kitchen garden there. From all the explanation above, we can conclude that Mary is a wife with full of great idea to make her family's expense thrifty.

“We've got so little space for growing vegetables,” she said. “They are so expensive in the shop. If we could take those trees out and cut back the wattle, we could make a kitchen garden here, from here to here.” She indicates with her hands. “I'm sure we could save nearly a pound a week by growing our own stuff. And it'd be fun too.” (p.62)

Mary is afraid with the issue of radiation. She does not like to think about the radiation much before it really comes to her. She does not like to hear about the people sickness as the impact of the radiation and also the things to solve it, because the issue will ruin all her dreams. When Peter tries to make her know about it, Mary is a little bit angry to him because it is still an issue and it can ruin her future dreams, therefore in this following quotation, Mary does not want Peter say about the radiation.

“You can tell me about it nearer the time. When we know it is coming. Mrs.Hildred says her husband heard from somebody that it isn’t coming here after all. It’s slowing down or something. It’s not going to get here”
 “Can you tell me about it the nearer time? When we know it’s really going to happen?” (p.87)

When Mary got the radiation sickness and start vomiting that day, Mary tries to be tough though actually she starts to feel hopeless because her sing is just a relief toward his hopelessness. She starts to sing cheerfully, and when her husband give comment to her way she sang, she said that it is just a kind of relief.

When he came out to their bedroom she was in the kitchen busy with the breakfast. To this amazement, he heard her singing, singing a cheerful little song that inquired who’d polishing the sun. He stepped into the kitchen. “You sound cheerful,” he remarked.
 She came to him. “It’s such a relief.” She said, and now he saw she had been crying a little as she sang (p.163).

We can see from the quotation above that actually she has a heavy burden in suffering the sickness, but she tries to overcome it as a way to make herself comfortable, even though finally she is crying as she sings because she is worried if she would leave Peter and Jennifer nearly.

Finally Mary becomes fragile when the radiation comes. When she gets the sickness, she really turns into weak person. It is shown by when she tells her

husband that she thinks she would not be able to go to bathroom the next day and she decides to end her life at that night together with her little daughter.

3. The Characteristics of Dwight Towers

In the story, Dwight Towers is a captain of the submarine. He is described as a quiet and soft-spoken man in the age of thirty-five. He has England accent.

He had met the captain of *Scorpion* two or three times in the last few months, a quiet, soft-spoken man of thirty-five or so with a slight New England accent (p.5)

Dwight is a religious man. It can be seen in this quotation below when he got conversation with Peter in the weekend.

“Like another swim this morning?” Peter asked his guest. “It looks like being another hot day.”

The American hesitated. “I rather like to go to church on Sunday morning. It is what we do at home. Would there be a Church of England church around her any place?” (p.23)

From that statement above, it can be concluded that Dwight is a kind of religious person. When Peter asks him to swim on Sunday morning on his weekend, Dwight prefers to go to church to follow a Mass rather than to swim with Peter. That is the way Dwight always did when he was with his family.

The picture of his family that is going around in his thought is getting stronger when he sits in the church. This attitude emphasizes that Dwight is a family oriented man who wants to be with his family every time. When he is in the church, he misses his children and his wife much. He thinks about his return on September. At that time, he will be very glad to see his family again after nine months away from them. He thinks about his son’s birthday on July, and he feels sorry if he could not send the rod for him. He is also going to say sorry about his

daughter's birthday on April. He expects Sharon, his wife, would be able to explain to her that her father was away at sea. He remembers all about his family and his home, therefore he does not pay attention to the Mass. The attitude of disobeying the Mass reveals that Dwight is not a kind of good person though he is a religious man.

In the tranquility of the church he sets himself to think about his family, and to visualize them. He would be going back to them in September, home from his travels. His birthday was July the 10th. Dwight couldn't send the rod for his birthday, and probably he couldn't take it with him, though that would be worth trying.

Helen's birthday was April the 17th; she would be six then. Sharon would explain to her on the day, would tell her that Daddy was away at sea, but he'd be coming home before the winter and he'd bring his present then (p.24).

Dwight is a generous father. It is proven by his effort in looking for a birthday present for Helen. He was not only thinking about the presents at the church, but he is trying to make it real. He does it because of his love to his children and actually in his deep heart, he misses his family so much as stated in the quotation above. Therefore, he tries so hard from one shop to another to find the Pogo stick.

He went out and tried McEwen's, but they, too, were out of Pogo sticks. He tried to another shop with similar results; Pogo sticks, it seemed, were off the market. The more he frustration he encountered, the more it seemed to him that Pogo stick was the really he wanted, and that nothing else would do. He wandered into Collins Street looking for another toy shop, but here he was out of the toy shop district in a region of more expensive merchandise (p.97).

Not only to his children, Dwight is also generous to his wife, Sharon. He does not mind to spend much money to his wife. It is proven when unintentionally, he finds a nice bracelet in the jeweler's window when he tries to

find Pogo stick for his daughter. He cares about his wife. He chooses Emerald bracelet for Sharon and he does not mind about the price. Finally, he takes one with fabulous price. He thinks Sharon would like it because he knows well that she does not have that kind of bracelet in her jewel box.

“I was thinking of bracelet. Emeralds diamond, perhaps. Emeralds, anyway.”

“What sort of price had you in mind?”

“I don’t know. I want a nice bracelet.”

“What was one, there?” ask Dwight

“That is more expensive, sir. It’s a very beautiful piece. That one is two hundred and twenty five guineas.”

It glowed on the black velvet. Dwight picked it up and examined it. She had nothing like it in her jewel box. He knew that she would love it.

“I’ll take that.” (p.98)

Dwight shows his responsibility not only in his family but also in his job in *Scorpion*. It is shown when he prefers to go back to his office than to stay more days on Moira’s home. He thinks a lot about his submarine and his files in his room that need attention as the quotation below.

“I think I have to get back to the ship this afternoon and see if she’s sunk at her mornings?”

“You son’ think you could stay another day?”

“I’d like too, honey, but I don’t think I’d better. There’s a pile of paper on my desk that needs attention.” (p.77)

From the quotation above, we can also see the other characteristics of Dwight. This quotation is another evidence of the bad side of Dwight. In this quotation, we can see that Dwight spends his night in Moira’s home. It reveals that Dwight is a bad guy. Moreover, he calls Moira honey.

4. The Characteristics of Moira Davidson

In the novel, the physical appearance of Moira Davidson is described as a girl with blonde hair and she has a white face and good looking. She is a fun girl as stated below.

She was slightly build girl with straight blonde hair and a white face, a daughter of a grazier with small property at a place called Harkaway near Berwick. She arrived at the station in a very smart four-wheeled trap, with a good looking, high spirited grey mare between the shafts (P.13).

Though she has good looking she has a bad habit which is always drink a lot of brandy in a reason it is good for the guts as this quotation below.

He asked, "What can I order for you?"
 "Double brandy"
 "I never drink a brandy like that," he remarked. "What's it like?"
 "No kick," said the girl said, "but it creeps up on you. Good for the guts. That's the reason why I drink it." (p.15)

She is described as a desperate woman. When she knows the unfairness of the war, she is very desperate that she will never see the place that she loves much. All in her life she dreams one day she can go outside Australia to see Rue de Rivoli, but because of the war she must forget her dream in a reason that there is not any Paris, London, or New York now. She expresses her desperation through this quotation.

"It's not fair. No one in the Southern Hemisphere ever dropped a bomb, a hydrogen bomb, or a cobalt bomb or any other sort of bomb. We had nothing to do with it. Why should we have to die because other countries nine or thousand miles away from us wanted to have a war? It's so bloody unfair."

"It's not that I'm afraid of dying, Dwight. We've got to do with it sometime. It's all the things I'm going to miss..." She turned to him in the starlight. "I'm never going to get outside Australia. All my life I've wanted to see the Rue de Rivoli. I suppose it's the romantic name. It's silly because I suppose it's just a street like any other street. But that's what

I've wanted, and I'm never going to see it. Because there isn't any Paris now, or London, or New York." (p.22)

Another quotation also expresses her hopelessness in facing the coming days. Although she has a will to take shorthand and typing course, but she still has a thought that she does not have time to finish it because the radiation is going nearly to the south. She also thinks even though she is able to finish it earlier, the course will be useless because there will be no job in next year in Australia. Moira's hopelessness is caused by knowing the situation that many of her friends who used to go to the office are now living at home as they were retired because there are a lot of offices which have closed.

"The university. I was going to do a course of shorthand and typing. But what's the sense in working for a year at that? I would not have time to finish it. And if I did, there aren't any jobs." (p.38)

Moira is a kind-hearted woman. It is strengthened by the following quotation when Dwight can not find Pogo stick for his daughter's birthday present. Moira gives a promise to help him to find it one in Melbourne but if the time is possible to find it. When Dwight asks her to forget it because it is not important, then Moira says it is important and she promises to get it one for Dwight even if she has to make it.

"Leave it," he said. "It was just a crazy idea I had. It's not important."
 "It is important," she said. "It is important to me." She raised her head. "I can get it one for you by the time you come back," she said. "I'll do that, even if I have to get it made. I know that isn't quite what you want. But would that do?"

"That's mighty kind of you," he said huskily. (p.101)

Moira is kind to Dwight because she loves Dwight much and she wants Dwight to be hers. Her care is depicted when Dwight is going to spend the night with

Moira's family. Before they catch the four-forty train, they spend the time in the Australia Hotel to have some drinks. Moira is aware that there is something wrong with Dwight. She knows that Dwight got cold because his body is in hot temperature, then she rings her mother to light up the fire in Dwight's room and to call Dr. Fletcher to come to examine Dwight. She wants Dwight to get better soon, so that she asks her mother to prepare all things to make Dwight better. Her action in taking care Dwight is like a trick to attract his heart, therefore by doing this, she hopes that Dwight will turn to her.

In the little telephone booth, she said, "I think he's got flu Mummy. He's frightfully tired, for one thing. He'll have to go to bed directly when we get home. Could you light a fire in his room, and put a hot-water bag in the bed? And, Mummy, ring up Dr. Fletcher and ask if he could possibly come round this evening, I shouldn't think it's anything but flu, but he has been in the radioactive area for over one month, and she hasn't seen a doctor since he got back. Tell Dr. Fletcher who he is. He's rather an important person now, you know." (p.121)

When the radiation is coming nearer, Moira is getting dependent to Dwight. She realizes that Dwight is very important to her life. She says that she does not know what life would be if there was not Dwight in her life. Feeling of dependence to Dwight is stronger when Dwight tells Moira that he will go back to Connecticut to gather with his family. Moira understands well that she is not someone for Dwight, so that she can not say more when Dwight tells her about his return. She has a thought that a little togetherness with Dwight is better than there was no togetherness because Dwight gives many inspirations in her life because she has a strong feeling of love to Dwight.

"I'm going home quite soon," he said. "I've been away for a long time, but it's nearly over now. You know the way it is. I've got a wife at home I love....."

“I know,” she said. “I’ve known that all the time.” She was silent for minute, and then she said, “You’ve been very good for me, Dwight. I don’t know what would have happened if you hadn’t come along. I suppose half a loaf is better than no bread, when you’re starving.” (p.142)

5. The Character of John Osborne

John Osborne is a civilian scientific officer of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization. He is very tall and thin. He has mousey sort of hair and wears spectacles. According to Moira Davidson, he is dippy and absolutely mad. She knows well John Osborne because he is one of her relation. His aunt married one of her uncles.

The captain raised his eyebrows. “What does he look like?”

“Very tall and thin. Mousey sort of hair. Wears spectacles.” (p.27)

“Did you say John Osborne?”

“That’s right. Do you know him?”

“He’s a sort of relation-his aunt married one of my uncles. Is he in your party?”

Definitely. He joined us as scientific officer.’

“He is dippy,” she informed him. “Absolutely mad. He’ll wreck your ship for you.” (p.30)

John Osborne is tough man when the before he gets the radiation sickness. He receives life as the way it is. He does not have feeling of confusion in facing the problem, but he does take the radiation easy to face. For example when John, Peter, and Dwight have a conversation about the radiation, Peter says that he can not imagine it will be the end of the world with all things damaged. On the other way, John emphasizes with all of his heart, with laugh, and straightly that it is not the end of the world but it is just the end of us. It is a kind of receiving the fact without fear when he said such a kind of statement, though it is a big problem for the existence of human life.

John Osborne laughed. “It is not the end of the world at all,” he said. “It is only the end of us. The world will go on just the same, only we shan’t be in it. I dare say it will get along all right without us.” (p.48)

John is not annoyed with the radiation can be shown by the following quotation. In the condition that every people worry about the radiation effect, on the contrary John wants to have a bit fun with his Ferrari. When John is ready to try his car to Harkaway, Peter tells him not to kill anybody while driving the Ferrari, then John emphasizes once more by saying that every body will die in a couple of months time, therefore he wants to have fun with his Ferrari first before the radiation kill him. He does not want someone worries him. He just wants to do what he loves to do.

“They’re all going to be dead in a couple of months time anyway,” said the scientist. “So am I, and so are you. I’m going to have a bit fun with this thing first.” (p.125)

John is described as a bit crazy and extreme person with his Ferrari and his surroundings. He knows that it is a race car, but he drives it on the road in high speed though he knows that His Ferrari does not have horn and lights at all. He is a bit crazy not to consider about the situation and the risk on the road, moreover he wants to go to Harkaway which is in suburbs. The situation in suburbs is different with the city. In the city, the crowds part to let the Ferrari get through, but in the suburbs children have grown accustomed to play in the empty roads and have no notion to get out of the way, moreover John drives his car in the dark by five o’clock.

.....The Ferrari had no horn and no need for one because she could be heard coming a couple of miles away; more important to John Osborne was the fact that she had no lights at all, and it was dark by five

o'clock. If he was to get out to Harkaway, do his business, and be backing the daylight, he must step on it. (p.125)

Lastly, John does not show his toughness, in the other hand, he shows that he is weak and gives up by his condition. He leaves his house after the passing of his mother. Together with it, he feels very sick then he decides to take the red pills in the chemist shop to be brought in his garage and he ends his life there.

B. The Conflict of the Story

The discussion of the conflict in this part is crucial to analyze the changing characteristics of the main characters, and also the basic reason to answer the way the main characters end their lives. Based on the theory on the two previous chapters, conflict can be divided into two parts, they are interpersonal conflict and intrapersonal conflict. The interpersonal conflict is considered as person to person conflict. It means a struggle between persons who perceives incompatible goals and it cause those persons having different perceptions.

There is a basic problem that brings the main characters to commit suicide. The basic problem of the story is the radiation which can cause death for human beings or even leave things poisonous. By the time around August, the radiation starts to reach Melbourne with several cases in Tasmania and New Zealand.

He laid the note aside and took up the report. It said that in Melbourne about fifty percent of the population appeared to be affected. Seven cases were reported from Hobart in Tasmania, and three from Christ-church in New Zealand (p. 160).

As the effect of the radiation, people will get the severe sickness which makes them suffer all the time. People will die not only because they breathe the dangerous substance from the air but also because all things are contaminated

radioactive dust. Those who have weak tolerance will easily get the symptoms. They will have nausea at first, then vomiting everyday, having diarrhoea and finally death because of exhaustion. And the other effect of the radiation is people will have leukemia at the end.

The scientist glanced at him. "I've got it now. You've got it, we've got it. This door, this spanner-everything is getting touched with radioactive dust. The air we breathe, the water that we drink, the lettuce in salad, even the bacon and eggs. It's getting down now to the tolerance of the individual. Some people with less tolerance than others could easily be showing symptoms in a fortnight's time. Maybe sooner." (p.139)

"Tell me, just what does happen to you?"

"Nausea," the chemist said, "That's the first symptom. Then vomiting and diarrhea. Bloody stools. All the symptoms increase in intensity. There may be slight recovery, but if so it would be very temporary. Finally death occurs from sheer exhaustion. He paused. "In the very end, infection or leukaemia may be the actual cause of death. The blood-forming tissues are destroyed, you see, by the loss of body salts in the fluids. It might go one way or the other." (p. 85)

1. The Interpersonal Conflict

According to Redman, The external conflict means the struggle between the protagonist and an outside force. The other term for external conflict is interpersonal conflict. The main idea in the interpersonal conflict is conflict between two individuals in the study of negotiations. Although the external conflict belongs to the conflict which brings them to suicide, but actually it does not give significant role to influence the character to commit suicide. This conflict exists in the story just because there is different goal that they want to achieve and it is not the main conflict that brings them into suicide. In this novel there are two cases of the interpersonal conflicts which finally bring the main characters commit suicide. The first case happens between Mary Holmes and her husband, Peter

Holmes. They have a quarrel when Peter wants to have a talk with Mary about the radiation sickness that people get from the radiation. Peter has his own idea that the talk is very important to have the best thing for his family because the radiation can come sooner when he is in the sea, but in other hand Mary does not want him to talk about it in the early time before the radiation comes. Finally, Mary lets him to talk about the radiation. Then, Peter takes out the suicide pills from the red carton he gets from the dispensary and explains to Mary what she must do when the times come and Peter is not at home. Mary understands it that the pill is the best thing to end all suffers. At the end of the conversation, they have a quarrel again. Mary has a different perception that Peter does not love Jennifer because he orders her to kill their daughter and for the consequences, she threatens him to murder him if he tries to say one more word in their quarrel. Moreover, she thought that it can be a trick to Peter to go with another woman when Jennifer and she are dead.

.....”Are you trying to tell me what I’ve got to do to kill Jennifer?”

He knew that the trouble was coming, but he had to face it. “That’s right,” he said. “If it is becomes necessary you’ll have to do it.”

She flared suddenly into anger. “I think you’re crazy,” she exclaimed. “I’d never do a thing like that, however ill she was. I’d nurse her to the end. You must be absolutely mad. The trouble is that you don’t love her. You never have loved her. She’s always been a nuisance to you. Well, she’s not a nuisance to me. It’s you that the nuisance. And now it’s reached the stage that you are trying to tell me how to murder her.” She got to her feet, white with rage. “If you say one more word I’ll murder you!”

He got to his feet. “Have it your own way,” he said wearily.

She said furiously, “There’s a trick here, somewhere. You’re trying to get me to murder Jennifer and kill myself. Then you’d be free to go off with some other woman.”

“Don’t be a bloody fool,” he said sharply. “If I’m here I’ll have it myself. If I’m not here, if you’ve got to face things on your own, it’ll be because

I'm dead already. Just think of that, and try and get that into your fat head. I'll be dead." (p.89)

From the quotation above, we can see that by the time the radiation comes nearer, the characteristics of Mary Holmes changes into see things by the negative side. She accuses her husband that he does not love her and their daughter by order her to give a lethal injection to Jennifer. Moreover, she also accuses him that he just wants to go freely with another woman after Mary and Jennifer are dead. Her anger just explodes suddenly if she does not in the same view with Peter. It is because she loves Peter and Jennifer much but in other hand she can not accept the reality that someday she must murder Jennifer and Peter leaves her for other woman.

Another case which shows the interpersonal conflict is shown by Moira Davidson and Dwight Towers. Those two persons have the two different perspectives in ending their life. Moira tells Marry that she loves him much and she plays every dirty trick to get him away from his wife in America because Moira can only get happiness from Dwight. For this matter, when Dwight tells Moira that he is going to get his hometown quite soon but Moira can not accept the reality that she will lose Dwight forever, so that Moira asks Dwight whether she is allowed to come with him in the submarine or not when the time comes. Unfortunately, Dwight does not allow her to come to America with his submarine.

"I'm going home quite soon," he said. "I've been away long time, but it's nearly over now. You know the way it is. I've got a wife at home I love, and I've played straight with her two years that I've been away. I wouldn't spoil that now, these last few days." (p.142)

From that quotation, it is clear that Dwight still love her wife and her family because he always misses his family as what he did in the Mass few months ago. The quotation above also shows Dwight's family-oriented although he has a close relation with Moira in Australia by calling her honey. In the other hand, the interpersonal conflict appears when Moira's willing to have her last life with Dwight in his submarine is refused by him with a reason that American government does not allow a stranger to come in American submarine.

“May I come with you in the submarine?” She said.
 “I’ve been asked the same thing by four men this morning,” he said. “I’ve refused them all, because Uncle Sam wouldn’t like it. I’ve run this vessel in the navy way right through, and I’m running her that way up till the end. I can’t take you, honey. We’ll each have to take this on our own.”
 (p.171-172)

Those incompatible goals above between Moira and Dwight are seen as their interpersonal conflict. Moira who sees from her perspective that she is able to get his heart to make him away from his wife is apparently wrong because Dwight still keep his heart to his wife. Moreover, Dwight has his own perspective that Moira and he can not have their last life together but they must face it in their own ways.

2. The Intrapersonal Conflict

a. Peter Holmes

The intrapersonal conflict can be understood as the conflict that goes on within one's self. There are several intrapersonal conflicts that the main characters have in the novel. Each of the characters has their own conflicts. The following explanations and the quotation show the avoidance-avoidance conflicts because they show something that the characters dislike to do it.

The first intrapersonal conflict is shown by Peter Holmes. He always worries his family because he does not want any bad thing happen to his family when he is not at home. He is thinking about his family when the radiation comes meanwhile he is in the sea. Then he asks the scientist about the coming of the radiation. The scientist says that it may come quicker or slower. And for that reason, Peter does not want his family becomes panic when it comes, therefore he wants his wife knows what the right thing to do if he is not at home.

Peter said, "If we get away upon this cruise by the end of next month, we should be back about the beginning of June. I'm thinking about Mary and the kid. Think they'll be all right till we get back?"

"You mean-the radioactivity?"

The scientist stood in thought. "It may come quicker or slower. So far it's been coming very steadily all around the world....."

Peter bit his lip. "It's worrying. One doesn't want to start a flap at home. But all the same, I'd be happier if they knew what to do if I'm not there." (p.84)

The quotation above reflects that Peter has a conflict in worrying about his family. His intuition as a head of household comes out, but he has a conflict which is he does not know how to make his family to be comfort and know what to do to the radiation sickness when he is not at home. He loves his family, therefore he does not want any of his family flap. Now, he is trying to solve his worry by asking the chemist about the thing to end the sickness.

The other intrapersonal conflict that Peter is confused what to do when he knows that each member of his family is starting to get the radiation sickness. Peter as the head of household worries his family when he knows that all the members of his family are getting unwell. His lovely daughter is crying in the middle of the night until dawn, then vomits in the next morning. His wife, Mary,

is feeling terrible and seems that she starts to be sick. Mary starts to vomit that night. Peter also knows himself that he is getting sick because he is hot and suddenly sick again, then he vomits in the back yard. The situation then makes him to have a reaction toward this problem.

Tuesday night was a disturbed night for the Holmes. The baby began crying at about two in the morning, and it cried incessantly till dawn. There was a little sleep for the young father or mother. At about seven o' clock it vomited.(p.161)

She was feeling terrible, and now she wanted to be sick. Peter was busy in the kitchen; she could go quietly to the bathroom without him knowing.(p.162)

He was hot, and then suddenly cold again, and then he knew that he was going to be sick. He went quietly to the bathroom, but the door was locked; Mary must be in there. He went out of the back door in the rain and vomited in a secluded corner behind the garage. (p.162)

b. Mary Holmes

Mary starts getting sick too and it is shown by the above quotation. It depicts that Mary's condition is very bad. She vomits in the middle of the night. She asks Peter why he is wet, and he answers that he was vomiting outside in the middle of the rain. When she knows that her husband is sick, she reports him that she is just sick too. This quotation below will strengthen the sickness that she has.

He could not keep up a dissimulation. "I've just been sick," he said. "I don't suppose it's anything."
"Oh, Peter! So have I." (p.162).

Besides having a conflict of the unwell condition, the effect of the radiation also brings her to the feeling of regret. She regrets that she can not afford to have time to buy a bench for their garden. She regrets much because Peter likes their garden to be pretty with that seat. It is also depicted that the garden is now grey and wintry and windswept.

He found her standing by the French window looking out into the garden that she loved so much, now grey and wintry and windswept. "I'm sorry that we never got that garden seat," she said irrelevantly. "It would have been lovely just there, just beside that bit of wall." (p.162)

That depiction of the garden reflects her inside feeling and the surroundings. The grey color of her garden reflects her grief. The portrait of a wintry and windswept garden reflects her truly heart which gloomy and depressed because the radiation confuses and flies her future dreams.

She is very weak and in a bad condition before she wants to commit suicide that day. Her body is very cold and trembling and we can imagine how weak she is if she can not go to the bathroom by herself as what is quoted below.

A spasm shook her, and he help her to the bathroom.....Mary was in a bad way, too.....She called him from the bathroom, and he went to help her. He brought her back to the great fire that he had made; she was cold and trembling (p.168)

Her weakness finally makes her to have the feeling of hopelessness rather than having positive thinking to see the future.

Then she said, "There's no hope at all, is there? For any of us?"
She said, "I don't believe I'll be able to get to the bathroom tomorrow. Peter dear, I think I'd like to have it tonight, and take Jennifer with me (p.169).

The quotation above reveals that Mary's characteristic is changing. In this unbearable situation, she turns into weak and she realizes that there will be no hope to see her future. She already forgets her dreams with her family and her garden after she suffers that severe disease, therefore she tells her husband to have the suicide pills that night.

c. Dwight Towers

In the story, Dwight is characterized as a firm person. The issue of radiation sickness does not annoy him, because he has a strong believe in God as we know that he always follow the Mass in the Church. He never talks about the dangerous effect of the radiation sickness. He receives it as he knows that the radiation sickness is as the consequences in having cobalt bomb in a war. The only thing that becomes a problem for him is that he wants to go back to Connecticut to meet his family. He feels homesick during his mission in Australia, but he has to wait for several months again to make his dream becomes real.

“I’m going home quite soon,” he said. “I’ve been away a long time, but it’s nearly over now. You know the way it is. I’ve got a wife at home I love, and I’ve played straight with her the two years that I’ve been away. I wouldn’t want to spoil that now, these last few days.” (p.142)

From the quotation above we can know that Dwight is very missing his family.

His desire to meet his family is also shown by this following quotation when he has a talk with Moira once again.

“I’m going home. This is a grand country, and I’ve liked it here. But it’s not my country, and now I’m going back to my own place, to my own folks. I like it in Australia well enough, but all the same I’m glad to be going home at last, home to Connecticut.” (p.154)

The words that he says reflect that he is family oriented husband who always thinks everything about his family’s life. Those sentences are said in front of Moira Davidson in order to give emphasis that he do love and miss his wife and his children. It is also a release of his yearning for his family that he really wants to meet them in that confused situation.

d. Moira Davidson

Moira is very confused when the time comes. Her memories are full of Dwight. She wants him to be her husband another day when things are different. But still she hesitates whether it could be or not because at this time his heart is in Connecticut with his wife and his children. She hopes and dreams that his heart can turn to her in the next five years when the memories of his family begin to fade, then she could make him happy again by giving him another family.

She closed the door, and stood for a few moments holding the pull-over to her. Dwight was as he was, a married man whose his heart was in Connecticut with his wife and his children; it would never be with her. If she had had more time things might have been different, but it would have taken many years. Five years, at least, she thought, until the memories of Sharon and of Junior and of Helen had begun to fade; then he would have turned to her, and she could have given him another family, and made him happy again. (p.153)

From the quotation above, we can see that Moira has a pressure in her love story, so that it changes her life. She loves and wants a man who is in a marital status. She realizes that it is very hard to make him turns to her. When her heart is in the under pressure like this, she just can keep it by herself. This hard situation, she shows her dependent characteristics to Dwight. She feels that she can not live without Dwight. She wants him to be beside her always. Therefore, in the day before he leaves Australia, she asks him whether she is allowed to go with him in, but he does not allow her. These things make her more hopeless. When everything is messy, when she realizes that she is not able to live without Dwight and she is aware that she will loose her dreams; she can not sleep well that night because her brain is full of those things. In the middle of the night, she goes to the bathroom to

vomit four times. She feels that she is sick. The only way to reduce the pain for short time is drink brandy.

She slept very little. In the course of the night she visited the bathroom four times, and drank half a bottle of brandy, the only thing she seemed to be able to keep down. (p.171)

e. John Osborne

John Osborne is described as a man who is not very annoyed with the radiation, but in the last story, he feels very lonely and thinks much about the radiation sickness. A man who is stubborn as John can turn into weak person by showing his loneliness and confuse after the death of his mother. His tears in his mum's bedroom reflect his sorrow because starting at that time he must life alone without anyone else. It shows that John cannot life alone and he deplores her death because he is out of home to the office. His regret emerges when he reads the last note from his mother, she said that she spoils to him in the last days of his life and it is such a burden for her. Then tears go down from his eyes.

In the bedroom he found his mother lying on her back with her eyes closed, the bed very neat and tidy. He moved a little closer and touched her hand, but she was dead.... A few tears trickled down his cheeks, but only few. Mum had always been right, all his life, and now she was right again. He left the room and went down to the drawing room, thinking deeply. (p.160)

After the passing of his mother, he books a bedroom in the club for a week to live in. When Peter meets him in the Pastoral club, he tells him that he already got the disease. Therefore, he lives in the club rather than in an empty house. This quotation will show that John got the radiation sickness.

Peter said, "John, I'm sorry to worry you. How are you feeling?"

“I’ve got it,” said the scientist. “I’ve had it two days. Haven’t you?”
(p.163)

From the two quotations above, we can see that John is in a cruel situation. When he is still in a grief because of the passing of his mother, he got the disease. The passing of his mother does not give much contribution to his committing suicide. The main contribution which is also the biggest problem for him is his disease. The writer has discussed in the previous analysis that the disease is very terrible and John just can wait in a days until the disease destroys his body. This situation brings John into suicide.

C. The Characters’ Way of Dealing with the Conflict

Every character surely has his or her own ways and actions to deal with the problem. In this part, the writer wants to analyze the main characters’ ways or actions in facing the problem by psychological side which is later, the way they deal with it, automatically shows their changing personality.

1. Peter Holmes and Mary Holmes

Peter has his own way in facing the problem. He directly goes to the chemist whom he knows well to ask about the radiation disease. Then the chemist gives an explanation about the symptom first. The first symptom is vomiting and diarrhea, then those symptoms will increase in intensity. He says may be we can slightly recover, but then death occurs from sheer exhaustion. The chemist adds that in the very end, infection or leukemia may be the actual cause of death. For a moment Peter thinks about it, then he asks whether the chemist has something to end it or not. The chemist says that he has something to end the sickness and it

will be announced by the wireless a week before the radiation reaches the districts. Then he will give it to those who want to have. Then the chemist goes to the stock room and he is back with a case full of little red boxes of two sizes.

“You’ve got some stuff for it, haven’t you?” Peter asks.

The chemist went through into the back room through a locked door. There was a packing case in one corner. The case was full of little red boxes, of two sizes. He handed it to Peter. “That is for anybody who will take a pill,” he said. “You can take that and show to Mrs. Holmes. One cause death, almost immediately.”

“Thank a lot,” he said. “What does about the baby?”

The chemist took the other box. “The baby, or pet animal-dog or cat.” He opened the second box and took out the small syringe. “I’ve got a used one I can put it for you, here. You follow these instructions on the box. Just give the hypodermic injection under the skin. She’ll fall asleep quite soon.” (p.85-86)

We can see about Peter’s anxiety to his family. Peter’s action in worrying his family shows Peter’s responsibility to his family’s life. The action of asking about something to end the life is not something ridiculous or wicked for him, but it is only because he wants to make himself calm down when he is not at home, where his wife knows what to do to end the suffer from the radiation.

Peter’s next problem is about the radiation sickness which has explained above. It seems that Peter can not handle his problem because in his thought, to commit suicide is the best way to solve the problem. Therefore, to end the severe spasm and vomiting everyday, he agrees Mary when she asks him to end it that night. Then, he goes to the kitchen for the last time to fill the thermos jug with the boiling water and reads the directions on the three red cartons very carefully. After that he enters the bedroom and he thought that Mary is right, to end it quickly. He gives her daughter an injection, then he swallow the pills together with his lovely wife to end all suffer. She was right, he thought; it was better to do

things quickly and not agonize about them. He gave the baby the injection in the arm.

He got into bed with Mary, mixed the drink, and took the tablets out of the red cartons. "I've had a lovely time since we got married," she said quietly. "Thank you for everything Peter."

He drew her to him and kissed her. "I've had a grand time, too," he said. "Let's end on that."

They put the tablets in their mouths, and drank. (p.169-170)

It shows that Peter experienced the different characteristic when he faces the problem. Peter's personality turns into weak. He can not wait till the faith parts them, but he prefers to end their life at that night. The action of committing suicide is an ending of his worry of the radiation sickness. Basically, as a lieutenant commander of naval officer, he should have a strong personality in facing the life, but in fact he experiences the changing personality in facing the radiation that brings him into the unbelievable decision.

The writer has discussed in the previous part that Mary always tries to have positive thinking about the radiation. But the fact is in vice versa that she finally gives up in facing the radiation sickness. In the story, it is Mary who persuades him to end their life that night. She cannot create any positive thinking anymore about the radiation because the effect of the radiation is terrifying. It proves that in the end of the story, she cannot defend her positive thinking in it.

She sat looking down at the child for a minute, and then lay back wearily. "I'd rather think about her like she was, when we were all well. Give her the thing Peter, and let's get this over." (p.169)

From the quotation above, we can also draw a conclusion that Mary experiences fickle thought. First, when she had a talk about the cyanide pill with Peter, she was very temperamental to accuse Peter wanted to murder their daughter. She said

that whatever the condition, she would nurse her until the end of time, but when the time comes, the fact is that she never be able to keep her promise, and on the contrary, she persuades her husband to end all at that night.

2. Dwight Towers

As a captain of the submarine, he looks tough in facing the problem, but deep inside his heart, actually he feels very homesick, keeping his yearning to his family. He is not patient to meet his family. The time comes to release his bubbling over with his yearning. He will back to his hometown in Mystic in America. When Peter ask Dwight whether he will meet him again in Australia, Dwight answers with a straight point that he will sink his submarine in Bass Strait and gladly going back to Mystic in America. This quotation below will be a proof that he would never see Australia anymore.

“Do you expect to be returning to Australian waters?”
The American shook his head. “No, sir. I’m taking my ship out in Bass Strait to sink her.” (p.157)

The word “sink” in the above quotation is a symbol of something that is gone away. The fact of Dwight’s desire to go back to America implies something that brings him into death in the different way. Instead he never wants to have the cyanide pills or any lethal injections, but the way he chooses finally will bring him into death either in the sea or in America, moreover he already got that disease before he leaves Melbourne. He just wants to postpone the death in a reason that he really wants to meet his family first.

This quotation below also strengthens Dwight’s decision to going home in America.

“Will I see you again, sir?”

“I don’ think you will,” said the captain. “I’m going home now, home to Mystic in Connecticut and glad to go.” (p.159)

The conflict about the effect of the radiation does not change his mind and his personality. Dwight is as the same as in the beginning story. He never turns to be weak though he got the disease and he never tries to seek something to end his life. But the following quotation implies that finally death will occur in Dwight. The following quotation is Moira’s point of view, but through it, we can see that Dwight makes his promise real to go back to Mystic.

It showed three minutes past eight. At about ten minutes past ten Dwight would be going home, home to the Connecticut village that he loved so well. (p.172-173)

She could not see detail but she knew that Dwight was there upon the bridge, taking his ship on his last cruise. (p. 173)

Presently she could see the submarine no longer; it had vanished in the mist. (p.174)

The two quotations above convey symbols about Dwight’s condition. It states that Dwight will take his last cruise. Last cruise to Australia and to America. There will be no cruise anymore because everything is gone including the people and the surroundings. The statement from Moira that the submarine is vanished in the mist means Dwight is gone away by the sad situation.

2. Moira Davidson

The feelings of desperate, lonely, and dependent to Dwight fill her mind in her last days. Moreover, the radiation sickness that she had for several days makes her becoming weaker. In the day of Dwight’s going, Moira decides to commit suicide to end her suffers, both mentally and physically. It is also because her mother and her father will also end their life at that day because of the very

bad condition as what is quoted in the previous part. Her plan to commit suicide is done in the same day when she told it to Dwight. When she is rejected to come with Dwight, her mind is more complicated with everything after Dwight's going. She tells Dwight that she will always think of him when he is in America. It indicates that she loves him much and actually she needs Dwight by her side. She feels very lonely without Dwight and she thinks that she can not face this hard situation without Dwight. Her thought of committing suicide emerges especially because she did not have anyone else that she loves. She would see nothing if she goes back to Harkaway. There just would be the cattle and the sad memories without the presence of her parents. Then, she decides to take the pills with brandy while she is in the bridge to see Dwight's submarine submerged. She chooses this way because she feels nothing anymore and she knows that Dwight is also dying in his submarine. This is how Moira end her life.

Then she took out the red carton from her bag, and held the tablets in her hand. Another spasm shook her, and she smiled faintly.

She took the cork out of the bottle. She said earnestly, "Dwight, if you're on your way already, wait for me."

Then she put the tablets in her mouth and swallowed them down with a mouthful of brandy, sitting behind the wheel of her big car. (p.174)

The decision to commit suicide brings her into her past life when she was child. In her childhood, she was a girl who used to follow the ritual in the Church. She never forgot to pray to the Lord. But when she was adult, she never did that ritual until she went to the church with Dwight. Before she commits suicide, she remembers her past childhood religion. She thinks that everybody must do that. She feels sinful to the God. Before she swallows the cyanide pills, she murmurs the Lord's Prayer.

Her childhood religion came back to her in those last minutes; one ought to do something about that, she thought. A little alcoholically she murmured the Lord's Prayer. (p.174)

From the quotation above we can draw a fact that committing suicide brings someone into religion, even she never did that in her adulthood, but religion is something important to us in our life. In this case, Moira does a praying because she realizes that everyone must do that, besides she regrets her sins and wants to ask forgiveness because she has forgotten God.

3. John Osborne

In facing the conflict, the only thing that he thinks the best way to end his life is by smashing up the Ferrari in the race rather than die in a sick or taking the pills. When he has the Australian Grand Prix race, his thought of committing suicide emerges. After he wears the crash helmet and fastening the seat belt, in his mind appears the opinion that this place is where he get killed. He likes to drive his Ferrari in a crazy way and death in his car. In his point of view, it is better than vomiting everyday to death.

In his mind was the thought – This is where I get killed. Better than vomiting to death in a sick misery in less than a month's time. Better to drive like hell and go out doing what he wanted to. (p.133)

After the passing of his mother, he feels very lonely, and then he places himself to commit suicide. Even though he is a scientist who knows what exactly happened and maybe he knows the way out for some cases, but in this case he really gives up. He does not know the way to solve the problem. The only way to dismiss this problem is by doing suicide. Though he had a perspective that driving a car like a hell is the best way to commit suicide rather than die in a sick misery

or taking the pills, but finally he changes his perspective and goes to the lifeless chemist shop to have some pills from it.

He passed the open door of a chemist's shop and hesitated for a moment; then he went in. The shop was unattended and deserted. In the middle of the floor was an open packing case full of the little red cartons, and a heap of these had been piled untidily upon the counter between the cough medicines and the lipsticks. He picked up one and put in his pocket, and went on his way. (p.165)

After he took the pills on the chemist shop, he goes to his garage where he puts his Ferrari. He then makes maintenance to his lovely car, but in the middle of his work, the spasm shakes him. When the maintenance is finish, he still stays on it. He feels reluctantly to leave it because he loves his car very much. That car wins for him the race and it is the climax point of his life. It is evening when John Osborne attempts to commit suicide on his car. Finally, he ends his life by taking the pills on that evening before the spasm shakes him again.

He took the red cartons from his pocket, took the tablets from the vial, and threw the carton on the ground. No point in going on, this was the way he'd like to have it.
He took the tablets in his mouth, and swallowed them with an effort. (p.166)

From the way the characters deal with the conflict above, we can conclude that they do that because they see it as the only solution to an unbearable situation where they are experiencing intense psychological pain and finally they fall into a state of hopelessness. According to Davidson and Neale, the way they commit suicide is categorized as anomic suicide which is caused by a sudden change in a persons' relation to the society and what they believed to be the normal way of living is no longer possible for them. In this case, the sudden change in a persons society is because of the radiation dust.

D. Revealing the Characters' Committing Suicide as the Reaction toward the Conflict.

In this part, the writer will reveal something from the characters' committing suicide as their reactions toward the conflict. One of them is a great effect of the war to the human beings and the entire world. Besides, the writer will also reveal something that the author wants to say implicitly about the war. This conclusion of this analysis is drawn by combining and analyzing the situation of some part of the world in the novel, the conflicts that the characters have, and the way the characters solve the conflict.

In this novel, it is stated that some places in Australia and America are already empty without anybody living there. The environment has been ruined by the radiation as the effect of shooting the nuclear bomb. In Port Darwin, the team in the submarine sees nothing there. When the captain calls through the hailer, there is nobody answering the call. There is no animal in the surface or in the air, there is nobody seen out from their houses and the scientist guesses that they are all dying in bed because the radiation level is too great outside. Before they commit suicide, there is a report that fifty percent of population in Melbourne appears to be affected, seven cases are reported from Tasmania and three cases from New Zealand which are in the most south place of the hemisphere. All unmovable things like doors, windows, or even eggs, bacon, salad, and lettuce are contaminated with radioactive dust. It is because thousands hydrogen and nuclear bombs which consist of cobalt elements are dropped against the enemy. In the story, there is told that Russia and China are the countries which start that

radiological warfare. Those two countries are in a hostility to seize industrial assets. Chinese industries increase over last twenty years at that time, and Russia wants Shanghai because all the ports in Russia are frozen in winter. Therefore Russia starts a war against China to have Shanghai as a good prospect to make exporting traffic easier and besides, Russia is afraid of an attack by China.

According to the expert, suicide is the common reaction to the feeling of hopelessness. In this novel, most of the characters suffer the feeling of hopelessness because they have disease from the radiation. They do suicide also because they realize that there will be no future anymore. All the things in this world; human beings, another living matters or even unmovable things; are wiped out by the radiation. Therefore, the main characters in the novel prefer to commit suicide rather than continuing life in a reason that they can not solve the problem of the severe disease of the radiation. The action of the main characters in the novel shows that the effect of the war brings a bad result in human life, in which it can influence good people to end their life. In this case, the effect of the war is shown by the great effect of the nuclear bomb.

Many people in the novel want to commit suicide when they suffer the radiation sickness. The Holmes family finally commits suicide when they are not capable to solve the conflict. The war has spread the radioactive dust which is very hazardous toward human life. Life in the northern hemisphere has been destroyed by the radioactive dust and the southern hemisphere is going that way too. Radioactive dust is being blown south by the wind and it is only a matter of time before it covers the entire globe.

In the novel, all human beings finally die and the main characters there prefer to commit suicide because they suffer terrifying radiation sickness. Peter and Marry are the first two persons of the characters who commit suicide. They are already weak because they vomit again and again everyday with the spasms shake them. John Osborne becomes the second who commit suicide. His way in ending his life is the same with Peter and Marry. He takes the suicide pills from the chemist shop and commits suicide in his Ferrari. The last person who commits suicide is Moira. She does this because there is nobody anymore to make her alive. Her best friends like Peter and Marry are already gone, both of her parents promise to end their life in the same day when Dwight leaves her. Therefore, in her thought, there is nothing anymore to be her strength and she prefers to end her life in that day. The only person who ends his life in different way is Dwight Towers. He does not takes any suicide pills or lethal injection toward himself, but he prefers to sink her submarine back to his hometown in Connecticut whether everybody is sure that he will die in his submarine because a few days before he leaves Melbourne, he already got the sickness. From the depiction of the cases above, we can see that actually a war brings many bad effects to the entire world, either for human beings or things. A war produces radioactive dust which is spread all over the world and it poisons every little thing that we touch and eat. Besides, by its radioactive dust which is inhaled by human beings, it makes them die in a short time and influences people to commit suicide because inhaled contaminated air will destroy the blood that forming tissues. From the depictions of the broken places in the entire world and also the depiction in how all mankind

finally death shows that the effect of the nuclear war is very dangerous and terrifying to the entire world.

Through depiction of how the world ends in this novel, the author wants to say implicitly that human beings need to think wisely before starting the war. He wants to send a message to all country that effect of the nuclear war is very disastrous as what is portrayed in this novel.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Some people think of suicide because they see it as the only solution to unbearable situation of hopelessness which they see no other escape. This situation happens in the five main characters of *On the Beach*. They see it as the only way to escape. Peter Holmes, Marry Holmes, Moira Davidson, and John Osborne finally commit suicide because they realize that there is no other way to escape their life.

The major conflict of this story is the radiation disease which is an effect of nuclear war. This radiation is very annoying because it can destroy the blood in our body and it cause infection or leukemia that brings into death. Besides, each character has their own conflicts during the radiation sickness. Some characters experience changing characteristics during the sickness comes to them because they can not accept the reality that they will die in more or less a month after they get the disease. There are several different ways of the characters in facing the conflict, but they got the same purpose that is to end their life because there is no other way to escape their sickness.

Peter Holmes is described as a kind and ingenious man. He is also a devoted husband who is responsible to his family. Several days before he goes to the duty, he becomes very worry in almost situations because he is afraid that he can not come back because of the radiation. In the end of the story, he becomes hopelessness in facing the unbearable depressing situation then he decides to

commit suicide. Marry Holmes is a good mother for Jennifer. She is also a kind-hearted woman. Marry is always thinking positively especially to the radiation. She tries to be tough in facing the radiation sickness, but finally she is hopeless too. She is not able to defend herself in that severe sickness and she decides to commit suicide together with her husband and her daughter. Dwight Towers is a captain of the submarine. He is described as a soft-spoken man in the age of thirty. He is a religious man and a family-oriented man. He is a generous father to his children and to his wife. Though, he is not a kind of good person. It is proven in his close relationship with Moira. Moira Davidson is described as a good looking girl with blonde hair. She has a bad habit which is always drinking a lot of brandy. She is also a desperate girl and she is always hopeless in facing her days because of the radiation. In other hand, she is a kind-hearted girl. John Osborne is a civilian scientific officer. He is tall and thin. He is not annoyed with the radiation coming. He is described as a bit crazy and extreme man with his Ferrari.

Peter Holmes and Marry Holmes experience a quarrel as an interpersonal conflict when he tells his wife about the suicide pills before he performs his duty. In this incident, Marry experiences changing characteristics to be temperamental and having negative thinking to Peter. She does not want to give any lethal injection to their daughter. She accuses Peter that he will go with another woman when she and Jennifer dead. But they give their daughter injection because Jennifer is getting sick. They also use those pills to end their life.

Moira Davidson also suffers an interpersonal conflict with Dwight Towers. They experience incompatible goals. Moira loves Dwight much,

therefore when he plans to go back to Connecticut, she asks him to go with him in his submarine, but Dwight rejects her. Besides, she also suffers the interpersonal conflict that is she can not be Dwight's even she did some dirty tricks to attract him. She also feels lonely because in the same day of Dwight leaves Melbourne, her parents are very weak and say that they will end their life that day. In the same day, she ends her life by taking the suicide pills with brandy while watching Dwight's submarine sink to the international water.

The condition of John Osborne is getting unwell after the passing of his mother. He leaves the house that night and rents a room in a club to live in. The next day, when he wants to see his Ferrari, he passes the unattended chemist shop and he picks one of the red cartons in the floor. He feels too ill when he reaches his garage. Then he decides to end his life by taking the pills on his Ferrari.

Dwight Towers experiences a conflict of missing his family. He is very eager to go back to Connecticut to meet his family. He never has any negative thinking that his family is already dead because of the radiation. When Dwight leaves Melbourne to go back to his hometown, actually he is already sick, but he prefers to sink his submarine. Even Dwight does not take any pills to end his life, but from the analysis it is clear that later, Dwight finally also commits suicide and dies because of his weak body.

From the explanation above, we can draw a conclusion that the actions of the main characters show that the effect of the nuclear war brings bad results for human life. The environment has been ruined by the nuclear bombs. All the unmovable things like doors, windows, eggs, lettuce are contaminated with

radioactive dust. The most dangerous effect of the nuclear war is it influences people to commit suicide.

Revealing the action of committing suicide brings us to the message that the author conveys implicitly in this novel. Shute in this novel wants to say that the war, especially the nuclear war does not only take effect physically but more than that, the war takes effect psychologically also. In other words, the effect of the nuclear war is very disastrous to human life. Therefore, we need to think wisely before starting the war.

The conclusion of the analysis is through the characters' characteristics and the characters' committing suicide, we can see that the nuclear war brings great bad effects for the human life. Every little thing that we touch is contaminated by the radiation and it makes us suffer in a severe sickness. The most dangerous effect is that a nuclear war brings people to end their life by committing suicide. Therefore, through the novel, the author wants to deliver a message that we must think twice before we start a nuclear war because it will bring bad effects for human life as what is depicted in the novel.

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APPENDIX

In Melbourne, Peter Holmes, a Lieutenant Commander in the Australian navy, is appointed as a Liaison Officer to U.S.S *Scorpion*, an American submarine captained by Commander Dwight Towers. First, Peter is troubled by the thought of leaving his wife, Marry Holmes, alone with his baby daughter, Jennifer, because the radiation is likely to reach Melbourne in six months but finally he accepts his duty in *Scorpion*.

On the weekend, Peter invites Dwight to spend his nights in Falmouth. There Dwight meets Moira Davidson, a young woman who drinks heavily to forget the fact that she will never have the future that she always dreamed. In Falmouth, Dwight goes to the church alone to think about his family in America. He misses them much. Although he knows everyone in Northern Hemisphere is dead, he still thinks of them as if they are alive. The next day after the weekend, John Osborne, a civilian scientist, join the *Scorpion*. John is also one of Moira's relatives. One of his aunts married one of her uncles.

Several days before Peter goes to his long duty in the sea, he feels very worry about his family. Then, he comes to the chemist to ask something to end suffer. He got the red carton full of red cyanide pills. He comes home to tell Mary about those pills. He tells her that she must euthanize Jennifer with lethal injection so that the baby will not die in a slow and painful because of the radiation sickness. Then, Mary is very angry to him and becomes hysterical. She accuses

Peter of wanting to murder her and wanting to go with somebody else after she died, but later she realizes about the inevitable fate.

When the crew of *Scorpion* returns in Melbourne after the long cruise underwater, Dwight got the fever and together with it the radiation is now supposed to arrive in Melbourne. People are beginning to be sick and feel weak because of the radiation sickness. They really want they want to do in their last days. John races his Ferrari in Australian Grand Prix. Peter and Marry spend their time tending to their garden. Moira and Dwight go fishing in the mountains.

By the end of August, everybody becomes ill for the radiation. They have to vomit several times in a day and have spasms shaking them. They become weak because the body-forming tissues are destroyed. Marry asks Dwight to end their suffers that night. Then, Peter euthanizes Jennifer, while he and Mary take pills together in a bed. John takes pills while sitting in his Ferrari. Dwight prefers to die while sinking his submarine back to America. Moira wants to die together with Dwight, therefore she take pills with brandy while seeing Dwight's submarine is sinking to the international sea.