

# ETHAN FROME'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN WHARTON'S *ETHAN FROME*

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**Abstract:** The aim of this research is To find out Ethan's character development portrayed through his characteristics in the novella. In this study, the writer employed qualitative research in which the data gathered in form of words and quotations. In analysing this novel, the writer applies objective approach because this analysis will be only focused on the literary work itself without looking at the external aspects of the literary work. It means that the writer only pay attention to the internal parts of the story in the novel. The result of this research shows that Ethan character development are influenced by people around him, in this case, Zeena and Mattie. He experience a view of changes of his character; hopeful into hopeless, responsible into irresponsible, faithfulness into unfaithful, and happiness into unhappiness.

**Keywords:** *Analysis, Character, Development*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As a person who reviews his own life, it becomes clear that Ethan is not the same person he used to be. His condition in the childhood is so different from his adulthood. He is still the same individual, but many of his motivational and behavioural characteristics are different. He is changing and he is experiencing what it called development. The character of Ethan Frome plays an important role in the development of the rest of the book. He has several character traits which distinguish him from the other main characters. Also, there are many factors which play against him throughout the novel.

According to Hurlock, human always experiences personality changes those changes are influenced by many factors such as his or her needs, the society or family (1976 : 20). The change of needs is

a adjusted to the person's age, attitudes, beliefs and emotional responses (Maru, 2013). Intellectual abilities will also change throughout his lifetime. Besides the internal factors, there are also some external factors, which also give input to his personality change such as the treatment and behaviour of the important persons around him, the social habits, traditions, and also include his status in society.

Ethan Frome was highly motivated by Mattie Silver. He dreamed of being with her and not with his wife Zeena. His motivation reflected his behavior towards his family and friends and most of all Mattie. Each time he looked at her, he felt that they were meant to be together forever. He even thought about running away with her to the west and starting over again. His marriage to Zeena was a forced marriage because of her services given to Ethan's mother when she was sick and dying. Frome could not hold back his emotions for Mattie Silver

and each chance he had, he expressed them to her. Although he felt guilty about lying to Zeena just to be with Mattie, he could not help his actions he was so in love.

Wharton, an American novelist wrote *Ethan Frome*, a novella that express the influences of other people that made the changes of one's personality (Maru, 2014). Wharton used Ethan's character as a means to dramatize the influence of other characters to one's personality. As one of world famous novellas, *Ethan Frome* is considered as her life experience, where Ethan character and the situation of his marriage are the portrayal of herself. In his soul struggle in finding the happiness in his life, Ethan has gone through the personal changes.

Ethan's personality changes because of the influence of people surrounding him. The influence of his wife Zeena plays an important role because Zeena controls all of the activities and his determination to decide his future. Zeena's influence brings the identity crisis in Ethan's personality. And another person having the role of Ethan's personality changes is Mattie. Ethan finds happiness in Mattie on his side. Her influences bring the change in his personality even though it is only for a while. With Mattie in his side, he finds the new meaning of his life.

### **1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic**

Throughout the novella, the influence of other people can change one's personality in facing problems and determine choices. Wharton was influenced by her life and marriage experience in creating a portrait which gives insight into human nature. The writer chooses the topic because it can gives us description of how the society and environment influence the life.

### **1.2 Research Question**

How are Ethan's character development portrayed through his characteristics in the novella?.To find out Ethan's character development portrayed through his characteristics in the novella. The study focuses on the revealing Ethan's character development portrayed in Wharton's *Ethan Frome*.The writer expects that by analysing this novel, the writer and the readers will be able to improve their ability in appreciating literary works. This work can also be a reference for the next or further researchers on the relevant topics.The writer hopes that this study can be interesting and useful for the readers to get deep understanding on the topic and can appreciate more about literary works, especially novels.

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

According to W. H. Hudson, in a book *an Introduction to the Study of Literature*, stated: Literature is a vita record of what men have seen in live, what they heave experience of it, what they have thought and feel about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for human being. It is true fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of a language. (Hudson, 10)

Learning literature can be brought such pleasure to the people who really love to study it. According to Griffith, Jr. that "Another quality of literature is that is give a unique pleasure. By reading a literary works can lead our mind into a new world or a new principle or personality of people that tries to be described by the author through his literary work. We can assume that literature is created from the author's experience, vision, and expression of ideas then brings them into a literary work". (32)

### **2.1 Character Development**

In this research, the writer uses the structuralism theory to analyse character development in the main character, Ethan

Frome. Abrams (1971: 21) states that a character remain essentially “stable” or unchanged in his outlook and dispositions, from the beginning to the end of the work, or he may undergo a radical change, either through a gradual development or as the result of an extreme crisis.

His ideas are supported by Griffith (1986), who classifies characters into two groups of characters, dynamic and static character. Dynamic characters are characters that change significantly during the story. The changes include changes in insight, commitment, values, circumstance and all the changes that result in some changes within the character’ self. On the other hand, static character characters are characters that do not experience significant changes throughout the story. Whether a character remains the same or changes, the readers require “consistency” in a character – he should not suddenly break off and act in a way not plausibly grounded in his temperament as the readers already have come to know it.

The consistency of the character is believed in structuralism since the unity of the fictional character just can be reached through that. Even if there is the consistency of the character, he can constantly inconsistent (Kenny, 1966: 3). It means that one time the inconsistency of the character can be found in a story that must be interpreted as not the simple way of the author to solve the difficulty of the plot, for example to make the story ended happily.

According to Hurlock, human always experience personality changes. Those changes are influenced by many factors such as their needs, the society and family (20). Ethan also experiences personality changes in his life. His personality changes are also influenced by some internal and external factors. This part is discuss about his personality changes because the external factor, in this case is influence from other character around him. There are

two people who play an important role to his personality changes. They are Zeena Pierce and Mattie Silver.

## 2.2 Novel

Novel is any type of prose fiction of book length in which characters an action are presented in a plot as if representing persons and even in a real life. (Encyclopedia Americana, 510)

According to Griffith, novel as a describe term, fiction is misleading for although fiction does often include made-up or imaginary elements it has the potential for being true to the nature of reality, and true to human experience.

According to the definition above, novel is literary work that has the potential of being true, true to the nature of reality that happened when the author write the work and true experience.

## 2.3 The Elements of Novel

There are some of the elements of the novel. The elements consist of plot, characters, theme and setting. For the further explanation, the writer describe all of them as follows.

### 2.3.1 Plot

Plot is a plan or ground word for a story, best in conflicting human motivations with the actions resulting from believable an realistic human response. (Robert and Jacobs, 102)

The novel begins with a nameless engineer (called *narrator*) is in Starkfield, Massachusetts on business and he first sees Ethan Frome becomes fascinated with Ethan and wants to tells about Ethan’s story. At the beginning, Ethan has walked from his farm to pick up Mttie Silver, his wife’s cousin. Her parents both died just over a year ago and nobody wanted to help Mattie. Zeena, Ethan’s wife, is always sick,

and decided to let Mattie live with them in exchange for doing the housework and helping the ailing Zeena.

Ethan liked Mattie from the beginning and worried that Zeena was too hard on her. And then, Ethan has fallen in love with Mattie and wants to spend all his time with her. Mattie soon comes out of the dance, they discuss possibly doing some sledding in the future. The walk home is altogether lovely and romantic, but when they arrive, the house key isn't under the mat like it usually is. Soon, Zeena looking ill and scary, comes downstairs and lets them in. She is obviously suspicious of their behaviour. The next day she announces that she will be gone overnight visiting a new doctor. The first thing Zeena does when she gets home is to tell Ethan that she's kicking out Mattie. Then Zeena finds the broken pickle dish when she gets back and is supper upset.

Ethan decides he'll run away with Mattie, but then a combination of lack of cash and guild stop him. Still, he insist to drive Mattie to the train station. He takes her on the long route, so they can look at different places they enjoy together. By the time they get to the town sledding hill, it's already dark. As they are contemplating sledding, and pondering the hopelessness of their situation, Mattie suggest that they sled into the elm tree and kill themselves. Ethan agree and they smash into the tree.. but they survive. Mattie has a spinal disease because of that accident and can't move without assistance with Ethan and Zeena. At the end, they all three live together, an unhappy family in the Frome house.

#### 2.4.2 Characters

Character is literary generally, and in fiction specifically, is an extended verbal representation of human being, the inner self that determines though, speech and behavior. Through the dialogue, action, and commentary, author capture some of the

interaction of character and circumstance. (Robert and Jacob, 134)

**Ethan Frome** is a farmer frustrated in his ambition to become an engineer or a chemist and in his marriage to a nagging, sour, sickly wife. He falls in love with his wife's good and lovely cousin, Mattie Silver, who comes to live with them. When his wife finally drives the girl away, Ethan insists on taking her to the station. Ethan and Mattie decide to take a sleigh ride they have promised themselves and, in mutual despair over the impending separation, they resolve to kill themselves by running the sled against a tree. They are not killed, only permanently injured, and Ethan's wife is to look after them for the rest of their lives.

**Zenobia Pierce Frome (Zeena)** is Ethan's wife, a distant cousin who nursed his mother during a long illness. The marriage is loveless, and Zeena is sickly and nagging.

**Mattie Silver** is Zeena's cousin, who comes to live with the Fromes. She returns Ethan's love, and once when Zeena spends a night away from home, she and Ethan spend a happy evening together, not making love but sitting quietly before the fire, as Ethan imagines happily married couples do. Mattie feels that she would rather die than leave Ethan, but in the crash she suffers not death, but a permanent spine injury and must submit thereafter to being nursed by Zeena.

**Ruth Varnum and Ned Hale** is a young engaged couple whom Ethan observes stealing a kiss. On his night alone with Mattie, he tells her wistfully about it; it is as close as he comes to making advances.

#### 2.4.3 Setting

Setting is one important aspect of the novella because it makes the story alive. Setting helps the reader to visualize the action of the work. In addition, as quoted by

Griffith states that : “ Setting includes several closely related aspect of work of fiction. First setting is physical, sensuous world of work. Second, it is the time in which the actions of the work take place. And third, it is the social environment of the character”. (52)

#### **2.4.3.1 Physical Location**

Ethan Frome is set in the fictional town of Starkfield, Massachusetts. Edith Wharton says that one of the reason she wrote the novella was because she didn't think other fiction writers had properly captured the New England landscape. She wanted to show the "harsh and beautiful" land as she saw it, in all its beauty and all its danger.

#### **2.4.3.2 Time**

The story spans about 25 years, probably beginning in the late 1890s or early 1900s. Historically, this time period is marked as one of great change with innovations in communication, manufacturing, and travel technologies. The many advancements spin American society into a period of progress and modernization.

#### **2.4.4 Theme**

Theme is the central idea in the work whether fiction, poetry, or drama. It is the comment the work makes on the human condition. It deals with four general areas of human experience: the nature of humanity, the nature of society, the nature of human kind's relationship to the world, and the nature of our ethical responsibilities. (Griffith, 49)

The theme of frustration is central to *Ethan Frome*. Sometimes the frustration is a product of the oppressive environment, and sometimes it stems from their personalities. Ethan's early plans to become an engineer are frustrated by the need to care for his father and mother as well as for

the farm. He had always wanted to "live in towns, where there were lectures and big libraries and 'fellows doing things.'" His marriage to Zeena is a study in frustration, not only because of her hypochondria and the fact that they are childless, but because their interests are so different.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In this research, the writer will use qualitative research in analyzing the novel because the data do not deal with numbers, diagram, and formulas but the data was collected in the form of words.

According to Bogdan and Biklen: “Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is in form of words and pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation” (30)

Based on the quotation above, the data are in the form related books, whose the content in the form of words, quotations, definitions, and statements. Therefore, the sources deal with the analysis should be collected, so the analysis can be done well.

The writer is the key instrument for select and collect the data as stated by Bogdan and Biklen “Qualitative research has the natural setting as direct source of data and the researcher is the key instrument”. (27)

#### **3.1 Data Collection**

In collecting the data, the writer divides into two kinds of sources, as Griffith states: “Two kinds of evidence are relevant for essays about literature; evidence for primary sources are the works of literature themselves and secondary sources consist of fact or opinion outside the work itself”. (32)

The sources to make the research consist of novel by Edith Wharton entitled

*Ethan Frome* as primary sources and the secondary sources will be taken from related books and data from internet that related to the story, including the author's biography.

### 3.2 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer applies objective approach. As stated by Abrams "The objective orientation which in principle regards the work of art in isolation from all external points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being". (26)

According to this approach, this analysis will be only focused on the literary work itself without looking at the external aspects of the literary work. It means that the writer only pay attention to the internal parts of the story in the novel.

## 4. ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the answer of the questions formulated in the research questions. To study the personality of the major character, this study discusses the character development of Ethan Frome.

### 4.1. Ethan's Character Development

As stated by Harmon and Holman about static and dynamic characters, Ethan is categorized as a dynamic character. (83) His personality changes from the beginning until the end of the story.

Ethan Frome is a farmer outside Starkfield. He seems an old-man, although he is not more than fifty two. He is very introvert. When he speaks, he answers in a low tone. It does not mean that he is not friendly. Everyone in Starkfield knows him and respect his taciturnity. They also feel pity on him.

"Everyone in Starkfield knows him and gave him a greeting tempered to his own grave mien; but his taciturnity was respected and it was only rare occasions that one of the older man of the place detained him for a word. When this happened he would listen quietly, his blue eyes on the speaker's face and answer in a so low tone that his words never reached me; then he would climb stiffly into his buggy; gather up the reins in his left hand and drive slowly away in the direction of his farm." (p.4)

Ethan is poor. His money is used to support his family. Time has been hard for the Frome farm for years; all of Ethan's time and energy have been put into farm and mill. The farm and mill do not produce anything, so that Ethan has to earn some extra money to support his family.

"I had been told that Frome was poor, and that the saw-mill and the arid acres of his farm yielded scarcely enough to keep his household through the winter.. That the Frome farm was always "bout as bare's a milkpan when the cat's been round." (p. 7-8)

Besides his poor life, Ethan is also poor in love. He married someone that he does not love at all. His wife also a sick woman who always complain about everything but never does anything to help him. When he finds someone that he loves, he cannot have her because it is forbidden love. The woman is his wife's cousin.

#### 4.1.1 Hopeful into hopeless

Hope is a positive cognitive state based on a sense of successful goal-directed determination and planning to meet these goals. Ethan Frome is a person who have a hope like normal people as he known as an intellectual, seen from his educational background. He takes an education for year's course at a technological college in Worcester.

“For or five years earlier he had taken a year’s course at a technological college at Worcester. Being dabbled in the laboratory with a friendly professor of physics; and the images supplied by the experience still cropped up, at unexpected moments, through the totally different associations of thought in which he had since been living. His father death, and misfortune following it had put a premature end of Ethan’s studies; but though they had not gone for enough to be of much practical use they had fed his fancy and made him aware of huge cloudy meanings behind the daily face of things.” (p.14)

Ethan appears as an intellectual man by sharing an interest scientific research with the narrator. He dreamed to be an engineer when he was young. He was very bright and he was an eager student. He went to college to study physics and natural science in Worcester, but he dropped up after a year because his father died. Since that time, Ethan loses the chance to get education. Then, his family farm and sawmill become his responsibility.

Before Ethan meets Zeena, he is portrayed as an intellectual man. He wants to be an engineer or a chemist.

“Four or five years earlier he had taken a year’s course at a technological college at Worcester. And dabbled in the laboratory with a friendly professor of physics; and the images supplied by the experience still cropped up, at unexpected moments, through the totally different associations of thought in which he had since been living. His father death, and misfortune following it had put a premature end of Ethan’s studies...”

His ambition to be an engineer should be ended by his parent’s death and his marriage with a sickly wife, Zeena. Since Zeena gets ill, it is hard for Ethan to

continue his study because he does not have enough money and he also has a new responsibility to pay for his wife’s doctor.

Ethan is considered as a coward person that is always afraid in making decision. The presence of Zeena makes it difficult for Ethan to make a decision in his life. His first fear is when his mother passed away, he asks Zeena to marry with him because he is afraid of being lonely, not because he loves her.

“After the funeral, when he saw he preparing to go away, he was seized with unreasoning dead of being alone on the farm; before he knew what he was doing he had asked her to stay there with him.” (p. 34)

When Ethan decides to commit suicide, he realizes that he becomes a coward. At the last minute of his decision, Zeena’s influence towards him appears again. When she realizes that she will never see Ethan anymore and they decide to commit suicide than to live alone. However, their fail to commit suicide together. Instead they suffer a lot after the accident.

“The big tree loomed bigger and closer, and as they bore down on it he thought : “It’s waiting for us. It seems to know. “But suddenly his wife’s face with twisted monstrous lineaments, thrust itself between him and his goal, he made an instinctive movement to brush it aside.” (p. 83)

The quotation above shows Ethan’s fear toward Zeena’s shadow. He is never able to escape from his wife’s influence for the rest of his life. She always does things without considering other people’s feeling. She only does thing that only good for her. She tells Ethan that she needs somebody to help her when her illness worsening. So, she calls her cousin to help her to do her works.

#### 4.1.2 Responsible into irresponsible

Ethan is a responsible man. It can be seen from his action to marry Zeena. He marries Zeena because he does not have a place to live and she has already taken care of his mother. He asks Zeena to stay after his mother's death.

“Restored his shaken balance and magnified his sense of what he owed her. Her efficiency shamed and dazzled him.. after the funeral, when he saw her preparing to go away, he was seized with unreasoning dread of being alone on the farm; before he knew what he was doing he had asked her to stay there with him.” (p. 34)

Besides his responsibility toward Zeena, Ethan also showed his responsibility toward Mattie. He insists to take Mattie to the station when Zeena sends Mattie. Ethan feels that he should take Mattie by himself even though his wife has been asked someone else to take Mattie to the station.

“I'm going to drive you over, Matt,” he whispered.  
She murmured back: “I think Zeena wants I should go with Jotham”  
“I'm going to drive you over,” he repeated; and she went into the kitchen without answering. (p. 72)

The conversation above shows Ethan as a responsible man. He does not want someone else to take Mattie to the station. He does it because he feels responsible to her as his lover.

Basically, Ethan is a frustrated man. He never tries to make his life better. Ethan knows that he is poor, but he does not try to find another job. He only counts on his plan to sell the farm. Therefore, his frustrated personality is getting worse when he involves with Mattie. His frustration turns into desperation when he drives Mattie to

the station at that time, Mattie asks him to commit suicide.

“She remained motionless as if she had not heard him. Then she snatched her hands from his and threw her arm about his neck, and pressed a sudden drenched cheek against his face. “Ethan ! Ethan ! I want you to take me down again!”  
“Down where?”  
“The Coast. Right off,” she panted.  
“so't we'll never come up anymore.”  
“Matt ! What on earth do you mean?”  
She puts her lips close his ear to say:  
“Right into the big elm. You said you could. So't we'd never have to leave each other anymore.” (p. 81)

Hearing Mattie's request, Ethan becomes desperate. He cannot think clearly to solve their problem. He cannot convince Zeena to let him stay together with Mattie. Finally, he agrees to commit suicide. When Zeena realizes that she will never see Ethan anymore and she decides to commit suicide than to live alone. At the end, they fail to commit suicide together. Instead they suffer a lot after the accident.

#### 4.1.3 Faithful into unfaithful

Ethan is a man who is afraid of being lonely. He asks Zeena to stay after his mother's death. He realizes that he needs someone to accompany and takes care of him. He decides with full of faith to get Zeena as his wife, although he does not love her.

“After the funeral, when he saw her preparing to go away, he was seized with unreasoning dread of being alone on the farm; before he knew what he was doing he had asked her to stay there with him.” (p. 34)

Ethan's marriage is not the real love, but his fear of loneliness in facing the situation. The feeling of loss of his mother brings him to suffer that he is not able to



live alone except accompanied with someone even he doesn't love.

Ethan falls in love with Mattie since her arrival in his farm. He feels that Mattie is his new life. He always tries to cover his feeling from Zeena. This condition leads him to tell a lie. It can be seen clearly when Ethan knows about Zeena's trip to Bettsbridge to see her new doctor. All he can think is the chance of being alone with Mattie.

"Now, her departure for Bettsbridge had once more eased his mind, and all his thought were on the prospect of his evening with Mattie. Only one thing weighed on him, and that was his having told Zeena that he was to receive cash for the lumber." (p.36)

Ethan's thought above show his disloyalty. His eagerness of the chance alone with Mattie in the house leads him to tell a lie. Ethan marries Zeena because he needs someone to accompany him and he is afraid to be alone. But Zeena becomes annoying wife soon after marriage. She always complains about everything.

"He and Zeena had not changed a word after the door of their room had closed on them. Ethan undressed hurriedly and blew out the light so that he should not see her when he took his place at her side." (p. 29)

Ethan tries to ignore that Zeena at his side. They are just silent in the darkness. This condition happen because Zeena becomes ill and everything changes. Ethan's need of having love leads him to turn his eyes to Mattie. Mattie feels frustrated because she does not have a place to stay anymore and she does not have money either. When Ethan drives her to the station, she asks Ethan to commit suicide into a large elm tree.

#### **4.1.4 Happiness into unhappiness**

The presence of Mattie has brought something new in his life. Her presence is just like sunshine after the rain. Mattie brings a new spirit in Ethan's life.

"But it was not only that the coming to his house of bit of hopeful young life was like the lighting of a fire on a cold heart. The girl was the bright serviceable creature he had though her. He had an eye to see and an ear to hear; he could show her things and tell her things, and taste the bliss of feeling all he imparted left long reverberations and echoes he could wake at will." (p.17)

Ethan becomes aware of his appearance and always shaved his beard since Mattie live with them. He does it in order to look nice in front of Mattie. Finally, Ethan finds someone to talk about the beauty of the land and small bits of science that he knows.

Ethan is portrayed as a frustrated man. He becomes a frustrated farmer in his unreachable ambition to be engineer or a chemist. His frustration is started when his father died and he must leave his study. "his father's death and his misfortunes following it, had put a premature end to Ethan's studies." (p. 15) After his father's death, his mother's illness which is followed by the death, then his marriage with sickly wife, and finally his farm cannot be sold, leads him to stay in the isolated farm and threw all of his dreams.

Ethan also shows his frustration in facing the reality when Zeena finds the affair with Mattie. He cannot tell the truth to Zeena because he still holds responsibility toward Zeena as his wife. His frustration of loving Mattie and his desire to run away with her, leads him to write a letter for Zeena without thinking the consequences.

"Zeena, I've done all I could for you, and I don't see as it's been any use. I

don't blame you, nor I don't blame myself. Maybe both of us will do better separate. I'm going to try my luck west. And you can sell the farm and mill and keep the money." (p. 65)

Ethan thinks that he does not have another way to face the reality, except leaving Zeena. It seems that Ethan is frustrated with his own life. It makes him cannot think clearly to find the best way to solve the problem.

His frustration is deeply shown by his action with Mattie. He agrees with Mattie's idea to commit suicide. He sees committing suicide as a wonderful thing in the world.

"The sled started with a bound, and they flew on through the dusk, gathering smoothness and speed as they went, with the hollow night opening out below them and the air singing by like an organ" (p. 83)

It proves that Ethan is a kind of man who is easily frustrated. Basically, he cannot find the way to solve problem except committing suicide. He is too blind to find another possibility to solve all his problem.

In the common marriage, a husband usually has the power to make a decision, but not for Ethan. He does not have power to make any decision in his marriage. For example, at the time that Zeena tells him to send Mattie away. She said that their expenses will be less if Mattie sent away from the farm. Ethan is horrified and tries to keep Mattie stay in the house telling that Mattie is her cousin and she does not have any place to go and does not have any money.

"He continued with rising vehemence: You can't put her out of the house like a thief – a poor girl without friends or money. She has done the best for you and she's got no place to go to. You may forget that she's your kin but everybody else'll remember it." (p. 57)

Ethan shows as a powerless husband when Zeena discusses the time Mattie will go to the train and Ethan does not give any comment on it although he does not agree with her decision. Mattie shows how much she loves Ethan. When she realizes that she will never see Ethan anymore and she decides to commit suicide than to live alone.

## 5. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

### 5.1 Conclusion

Ethan, the main character, is described as a poor, intellectual and responsible man. But he also has negative personality, those are easily frustrated and he is afraid of loneliness. Besides, Zeena is described as an attractive woman even suffers from illness for years, and also a cold wife. On the other side, she has a big hearted in facing her husband's affair. Meanwhile, Mattie is portrayed as a beautiful, lively young girl, and also smart. On the contrary, she easily gets frustrated when commit suicide with Ethan.

The two women above play important role in Ethan's character development. Zeena's influences make Ethan as a lonely, cowardly and powerless husband because she controls his life tightly. Ethan appears as a lost potential man because he has to pay a lot of money for Zeena's illness which makes him not able to continue his study.

Mattie's influence makes Ethan a disloyal husband because they are in love in the condition that Ethan married to Zeena. But Mattie makes Ethan find his spirit in life through her affection to him. Ethan also has a friend to share everything by Mattie on his side. But their love affair makes Ethan becomes desperate by commit suicide with her.

Ethan character development are influenced by people around him, in this case, Zeena and Mattie. He experience a view of changes of his character; hopeful

into hopeless, responsible into irresponsible, faithfulness into unfaithfulness, and happiness into unhappiness.

## 5.2 Suggestion

A literary works, especially novels, gives us an experience of something in life even when it does not really happen in our live. Ethan Frome present the magnificent setting which has the contribution to all of the character's life in the story. That is way the coming researchers can analyze how far is the contribution of setting toward the character's life.

The writer hopes that this research can be a contribution to the English Education Department of Faculty Language and Art, Manado State University in Tondano, especially in Literature Subject. The writer hopes that this research can encourage other students to analyze literary works, because it could broaden our knowledge and there are a lot of valuable things in literary works to be learnt.

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