

ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERS OF INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE, A NOVEL BY ANNE

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Abstract: Analysis on the characters of novel *Interview with the Vampire* in this study presents characteristics of plot and the intrinsic elements of the novel. Results of analysis show the use of plot and characterization in this novel. Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. The plot in this study covers exposition, conflict, complication, climax, and denouement. The plot is presented in raising form. The major characters as the characters that involved a great deal in a story are acted by Louis, Lestat, and Claudia. In addition, the minor characters involved in the story include Paul, Louis' sister, Babette, Lestat's father, Armand, Santiago, Madeleine, and the journalist. Theme and point of view in this novel are clearly stated, indicating that the novel has strong characterization.

Keywords: plot, characterization, Interview with Vampire, Anne.

NOVELS usually concern with human being from which the story gives valuable messages for us. The author works on the characters and brings them to the real life. We often find out that characters in novels very much resemble to human beings in real life. Novels are one of the works of literature written for the sake of information, amusement or solace.

Novel is one of the works of fiction. The art of fiction is the art of telling stories. Prose fiction is imaginative literature. It is imaginative in the sense that it is a work of imagination, which is different from an essay. Prose fiction has its own standard of truth, which can only be judged by using all the information contained in the fiction itself.

Prose fiction has five characteristics. First, it is fiction in the broad literary sense, i.e. something invented, so it is not the same as factual truth. Second it is non dramatic. Like drama, prose fiction may have dialogue as a means to convey the story and character; but unlike drama, it also has narration and description. If a drama ever has a description, the description is usually for use by the director to help him planning the production, it is not for the clarification of situation or character as it is used in prose fiction. Third, it is narrative, it tells a story. The narration is used to tell the reader a story about a certain character in a certain setting, doing or having a certain experience, conflict or clash of action. Fourth, it is descriptive. In telling the story, the author also uses a description of character, situation and place. The last, it is prose not

written in poetic style of writing, for example in separate lines, but it frequently is poetical words or phrases. It is not common practice for a prose fiction writer to write in the language of poetry, but still, it is prose in form. Like some poetry and drama, it has dialogue, narration and description; but unlike poetry, it is prose. Thus, a piece of prose fiction is prose, invented, has dialogues, narration and description. Based on the length, the complexity of theme and the development of character and plot, prose fiction is classified into short story, novella or novelette, and novel.

A literary work is considered difficult to understand. It is needed to be looked into not only the surface of its components but the more important thing is the essence of it. Literary works present something, which is explicitly and implicitly offered to public readers. There are two kinds of literature according to Perrine (in Koesnosobroto, 1988:4): literature of escape and literature of interpretation.

Escape literature is written purely for entertainment, to help us pass the time agreeably. It takes us away from the real world; it enables us temporarily to forget our troubles. Its only object is pleasure.

Interpretative literature is written to broaden, deepen, and sharpen our awareness of life. It takes us, through the imagination, deeper into the real world: it enables us to understand our troubles. Its object is pleasure plus understanding. It makes us understand the reality of life better.

Although we have made a distinction between escape and interpretive literature, we must not oversimplify them. Escape literature and interpretation literature are not two big boxes into which we can throw any given story. They are like the two opposite ends of a scale. The difference between the two does not lie in the absence or presence of "moral", "facts", or "elements of fantasy". Both types of literature may have these contained in them.

The difference between the two kinds of literature is deeper and more subtle than any of these distinctions have. The full length novel may consists of over 100,000 words, contain a number of characters--some of them are fully developed, have more incidents, scenes, or episodes, have a number of settings, and may take place in a long span of time. It may have more than one theme, may have both minor and major crises (conflict), and climaxes.

Hall (1983:195) states that length allows and perhaps requires the novels multiple structure. It gives space to several protagonists and more characters, both subplots, stories outside the main story, often arranged for contrast or ironic comment. We also have more space for social and historical complexity, more psychological background of characters, motive and choice.

METHODS

This study is a literary analysis, examining a piece of work of literature, or to be more exact, imaginative literature, which interprets experience by fictitious presentation of persons, ideas, and events (Koesnosobroto, 1988:3). This study dealt with characters of a novel Interview with Vampire written by Anne. This study focused on characters in the novel and the its intrinsic aspects. The researcher used two kinds of data sources. The primary source is the novel and the

secondary source comprised of useful materials, such as books, history, books about vampires' life, theories of conflicts.

THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL

To start the analysis, the researcher presents discussion with intrinsic aspects of the novel. Successively, characters of the novels are discussed using structural analyses that include plot, characterization, theme and point of view to provide better understanding about the flow of the story and the characters who build the story. With the theme, the researcher could catch the message of the novel and through point of view. The *Interview with the Vampire* used the third person point of view. The writer of the novel disappeared into one of the characters, Louis as the story teller in the novel.

Being a vampire was a torture for Louis, because he had to separate with his beloved family who considered him dead in the fire in their house in Louisiana. He could only watch them from a far distance. However, he missed them and wanted to hold them, he should not do that because he did not want to be known as a vampire.

He did not like being a vampire and he did not like living like one. It was hard for him to live among his kind. They had a different view and he held his own. He felt like he was living alone. He could not adjust himself to them. He needed to get out but he did not know how. He never wanted to be a vampire. He never decided to become one. It was his destiny, he should live with it and he should accept it even how hard it was. He could not just end his life as the way out rather it was not the way it should be. In addition, being a vampire was his destiny and he had to live with all the consequences. After becoming a vampire, he realized how important one's life was.

Louis was a unique vampire. Even though he was a vampire, he still had his human nature with him. It did not die with his mortal body. It stayed in his heart. For vampires, it was a weakness, but he did not care. He kept his human nature with him. He was forced to kill human being but he chose animals to survive. For him human life was something very precious and he realized that taking one's life was a wrong thing to do. However, he could not live from animal blood forever. It was not the way it meant. He had to kill people to keep himself alive. He could never laugh at death, he respected life so much, even when he realized how often he was the cause of deaths.

The conflict happened to him was mostly caused by himself. It was influenced by his inner conflict. He could not accept what he was; that was why he could not live among his vampire community. He lived in something he did not understand. There were so many questions unanswered. No one could ever give him the answers because he should figure them out himself. If he was more open to accept his life, tried to live with it and tried to adapt with his community, he would not find conflicts that much. Claudia was his one and only true friend and companion. He was very-sorry that he should lose her. She was the one who could accept his human nature and understand what he felt and thought.

Louis kept blaming himself for the death and the miserable life of Paul and Claudia and to all the people he had hurt before. He did not want to forgive himself. He could not find the way to cope with his problems at first. He avoided his troubles, he wanted to run away from his problems. The more he ran away, the more problems he got and his former problems were not solved either. Then, years after he found the way out, he stopped running from his troubles. He began to face it one by one and solved it one by one. He accepted his life as a vampire and tried to live with it, with all the consequences.

His conflict with his brother that burdened him for years was nothing but history. He tried to see from the positive point of view and stopped blaming himself. Paul would die sooner or later and there was nothing he could do to stop it from happening. He thought this way too, about Claudia. He should go on with his life. Claudia has died and nothing could bring back her life.

With his community that he did not like, he tried to live with them and if he failed he just simply leave them. He could stay alone, if he did not bother them they would not bother him either. He could not force them to believe and think the way he believed and thought.

It took years for him to realize what he should do. He succeeded in coping with his troubles. People lived with troubles and they could not avoid them. Problems were something we should deal and solve with; it is not something we should avoid and run away.

Plot

Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. They are exposition, conflict, complication, climax, and denouement.

Exposition

Louis was 25 years old when he became a vampire. It was in 1791 to be exact. He had two indigo plantations on the Mississippi very near to New-Orleans. His father had already died at that time, so Louis, as the eldest son had to replace his father position to support the family. He had to work hard to make his family happy and they lived happily in their old but luxurious house in Louisiana.

Louis' brother, Paul, was very different. He never asked for anything and never complained about anything at all. He hated parties and glamorous things. In fact, he never got out from the house since he was twelve years old. Praying was all that matter to him, praying and his leather bound book of lives of the saints. Then, Louis built an oratory for him and Paul began to spend most of his time there.

When Louis got problems with the plantations, the slaves and overseers, or even with his mother or sister, he often went to his brother, told him everything he felt and Paul always listened to him attentively and made only few comments. When he left, he had distinct impression that he had solved everything for him. Louis vowed that however hard it was for him to loose his brother, he would never ever stand against his brother's way to enter the priesthood when the time came. In fact, he was wrong.

His brother started to see visions. At the beginning, Paul did not tell anyone about these. He started fasting and never left the oratory. Then he told Louis about the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Dominic who had come to see him on the oratory. They had told him that he was to sell all their properties, everything they owned, and used the money to do God's work in France. His brother was to be a great religious leader to return the country to its former fervor, to turn the tide against atheism and the revolution. Louis did not believe all of that and even laughed at him. They fought. Louis still did not believe him; he was disappointed to his brother. He thought Paul was getting crazy. A few minutes later he died. He fell from the stairs and broke his neck. Louis could not forgive himself. He felt very responsible for his brother's death. Louis thought that he was too selfish. He was a Catholic. He believed in saints. He would believe if people said about visions, seeing a saint in Lourdes or Arles, but not his brother. He could not believe that his brother could become one of them. It was very impossible for him.

Louis could not bear the memory of his brother who had lain and rotten in the ground, the house and the oratory, so he brought his family moved to their other house in New Orleans. He had an agent to take care of the plantations so that he did not have to come to that place anymore. People often asked him terrible questions about what had happened and they seemed to blame him for Paul's death. His sister got hysterical remembering the incident. Louis hit the bottle to forget his problems.

He really wanted to die at that time. He felt guilty for what had happened. He could not kill himself so he made himself an easy target to be killed by everyone. Finally, a vampire attacked him. The vampire, Lestat, made him a vampire. That day was his last day as a human beings and he watched his last sunrise. A great change happened to him afterward. For the first time after his brother's death he could pass through the house, the oratory and the cemetery without thinking about his brother.

Conflict

Lestat moved to the plantations with his father who was blind and very sick. He wanted to stay with Louis because he knew how rich Louis was. At night, he taught Louis how to hunt for human beings. Louis got a big difficulty in killing people. In this case, even he wanted to die, end his own life, and he respected others' lives. He chose to suck on animal's blood.

Lestat let Louis see how people dead and got rid of their bodies. Lestat laughed at him and told him that some day when he already got used to it he would laugh at death. Lestat was wrong, Louis never laughed at death. Their strange way of life made people at the plantations got suspicious. Death after death happened every night. Their animals, cows, chicken, cattle died every night with the same wound. These conditions made them more suspicious. Louis sensed this bad situation and told Lestat that they should leave, but Lestat did not care. However, when the slaves attacked them and forced them to leave Pointe du Lac, Lestat got nervous, but he was having trouble to get rid of his father. He asked Louis to kill him but Louis refused to do that.

Actually, there was a big conflict between Lestat and his father. Lestat blamed his father

for destroying his life. Until his death he never wanted to forgive him. Louis went to Babette ask for help to get out from the plantations. He had helped her many times before. Babette had already heard the rumors on the plantations and she refused to help at first. She hated and cursed Louis for what he was. Then Louis and Lestat could escape safely. Louis had burnt his house to escape and was assumed dead because people found some bodies on the remaining house. Louis and Lestat started their life in New Orleans. Lestat was good at making money but he did not know how to save it. Louis was good at saving and investing the money.

Years passed, Lestat bad attitudes came on the surface. He never cared about anything at all. He did everything he liked even if it would hurt others feeling. Louis could not get along with him. Lestat spent much money every night and killed two until three people every night. He brought his victims home and played and tortured them before he killed them. He did that in front of Louis, because he knew Louis could not bear to see it. He insulted him every time Louis fed on animals rather than human. He called Louis a coward. Louis could not take it anymore and they got a fight. Louis wanted to leave him. He was so desperate.

Complication

In his confusion and desperation, Louis got out from the house. He had not have a prey yet. Then he heard a voice, a child crying. She was crying over her dead mother. She thought her mother was still alive. She asked him to wake her up, her father was waiting for them on the ship. They wanted to leave the place because of terrible plague.

Louis felt pity on her. He held her and calmed her down. He began to question to himself. If he killed the little girl, she did not have to suffer alone in this world and she could meet her mother soon. Besides, he was very hungry and killed her. Lestat saw that and laughed at him, he made fool of him. Louis felt sick end left him. When he got home, Lestat told him that they should talk tomorrow. Louis was surprised. Lestat never really talked to him seriously.

The next day, they talked. Lestat knew that Louis wanted to leave him and he did not want Louis left him. He brought the little girl whom Louis killed the night before. She was not dead yet and Lestat made her as a vampire. Louis was angry. He did not agree with Lestat but he could not do anything to stop him. It was too late. Claudia, the little girl, became a vampire. Lestat used her to keep Louis staying. Louis could not leave. He felt responsible for Claudia's safety. Louis and Lestat were like parents for Claudia. They taught her everything they knew and took good care of her. Claudia was good at killing the victims like Lestat. Claudia was very close to Louis. She spent most of her time with him. Because of Lestat bad manner, Claudia began to dislike him.

One day she asked them about her being. She wanted to grow up like other people but she could not. She never grew old. She was up set and confused. She asked Louis and Lestat who made her a vampire. Louis could not answer her. Lestat told her who made her. She was angry and left the house. Louis felt guilty about her and he looked for her. When he found her, he told her the truth that he took her life and Lestat gave her another life that was being a vampire.

Claudia understood and she did not blame him but she could not forgive Lestat.

Lestat's attitudes grew worse, and it disturbed Claudia and Louis. Claudia could not take it anymore. She told Louis her plan to kill Lestat. Louis did not agree. He hated him as much as Claudia did but killing him was not the way out. She killed him anyway but Lestat still survived and took revenge. This time Louis helped her. He burnt the house and Lestat was trapped in the fire, then they moved to Europe. Claudia was sure that Lestat was dead but Louis was sure that he was still alive. He was not a kind of person to kill easily.

Climax

Louis and Claudia lived happily and peacefully in Europe. They kept looking for their kind wherever they lived. Sometimes they felt that without Lestat they were not complete. Something was missing but they did not know what it was. One night after hunting alone, Claudia was angry. She refused to be treated like a child. She wanted to be a woman but she knew she could not have it. Louis could not help her. He knew in her small body of a five-year old girl. She acted like a woman and she thought like one. Louis often left the house to avoid her questions. A vampire followed him. He gave him and Claudia an invitation to Theatre de Vampires to meet his leader, Armand, and the other members of the theatre. They were very happy at first. Finally, they found what they had been looking for all these years. They did not realize that later on they would find a big trouble that made them apart.

They came to fulfill the invitation. They met the leader, Armand and other members of the theatre after seeing their show. Claudia and Louis was looking forward to this meeting but what happened after that was something far from what they had ever expected. Armand had a great interest in Louis and he told Claudia, without Louis' notice, to give him up and left him for good. Claudia was very sad. She knew she could not keep Louis forever and she knew Louis liked Armand too. Armand could be his companion that he had been looking for. She told him Armand's wish and she needed Louis help to make another vampire for her on her choice to look after and accompany her after Louis was away.

Louis was confused. He could not bear to leave her alone but he needed Armand to be his companion and Armand did not want Claudia to stand between them. Even it hurt him, he made another vampire for her, Madeleine. Madeleine cared for Claudia. She loved her like her own daughter. Armand's men knew from Lestat that they had killed a vampire and a punishment for a vampire that had killed other vampire was death. On Santiago's command the members of the theatre killed Louis, Claudia and Madeleine. Claudia and Madeleine died by sunburn and Louis was buried alive in the brick wall. Armand saved him but Louis had lost Claudia forever. Louis had gone mad. He burnt all the members of the theatre in their basement while they were still asleep. No one survived.

Denouement

Louis life without Claudia was empty. For years he could not let the pain go from his

heart. He stayed with Armand for a while but he did not find anything he had been looking for in Armand so he left him. Louis chose to be alone after that. He met Lestat. His life was miserable and he was dying. He wanted to come back with Louis again but Louis refused. There were too much pain they had felt when they were together, they had hurt each other, and so Louis did not want to continue their relationship anymore.

It took years to bring his life back again. he realized that all of the experiences he had been through were something that had to happen. It was fate. He could not change them. And he started to see every experience from the positive point of view, that he was not the only person to be blamed and what had happened was something what was meant to be.

That was the end of his story. The journalist was amazed by his story by all the powerful and special things that a vampire could do. He wanted to be one. He told Louis about that and it made Louis angry. He did not see what Louis meant and the journalist wanted to destroy his own life. In his great disappointment he attacked the journalist just to scare him and Louis left him unconscious. When he woke up the next morning, he still wanted to find out Louis strange manner. His purpose now was to find Lestat.

Characterization

The researcher identified the characters into two groups that are the main characters Louis, Lestat and Claudia and the minor characters or the by-standers Paul, Louis's sister, Babette, Lestat's father, Armand, Santiago, Madeleine, and the journalist.

The Main Characters

The major characters are the characters that involved a great deal in a story. In this novel, the main characters are Louis, Lestat, and Claudia.

Louis

Louis is the eldest son in the family. He has one brother and one sister. His father had just passed away and as the eldest son he had to take all the family's responsibility on his shoulder. Their family received a land granted by their father and they settled two indigo plantations. Louis was a very hard worker and a responsible man. He worked very hard to fulfill his family needs. He was good at saving and investing the money that made their family fortune doubled and became bigger. They lived wealthy and happily in their primitive but luxurious house in Louisiana.

He also was an attentive and loving-care person. He saved some time to have dinner and chatted with his family, giving them what they wished to do. Sometimes, he accompanied her mother or sister to parties or visit friends in New Orleans. He knew that his brother did not like parties and glamorous things, so he built an oratory for him so that Paul could pray and meditate well. Louis was very close to Paul. He often told him his troubles with the plantations, with the overseers and the slaves. Paul always listened and gave a few comments, always the sympathetic

one, so that when he left him, he felt as if his brother had already solved all his troubles.

When Paul started to see visions and told him about them, he did not believe him and refused to sell their fortune. He was disappointed with Paul. They quarreled then Paul ran out from the room, fell from the stairs and died. He lost his spirit. He was down hearted and miserable. He wanted to die but he did not have the courage to end his own life so he let everyone kill him. He was more apathetic than cowardly to end his life. A vampire killed him and made him a vampire.

He was 25 years old when he became a vampire. As a vampire, he could not see the sunlight or he was burnt and dead. His mortal body left him. He was a different person. He saw with his vampire eyes and everything looked different in his eyes. He sensed and felt like a vampire with his vampire instincts. Blood was his only food, human blood. Killing people was a very difficult part of being a vampire. He could not kill easily, he respected other people's life very much. Lestat called him a coward because he chose animal blood rather than human blood.

Louis easily felt pity to anyone. He killed Claudia because he thought he might end her suffering. He helped Babette because he pitied and sympathized to her. She was the eldest child and she had to take all the responsibility on her shoulder. She did not know what to do so he helped her, gave her some advice and helped her to find the way out of her problems. He did not like violence and brutality. This thing made him never get along with Lestat because he liked to torture and play with other people's life. Louis found trouble with his vampire nature and all the consequences because he still had his human nature with him, something that should die with his mortal body. It was still there in his mind and heart. He still kept it with him. Years after all trouble he had and he decided to stay alone, he became calmer and more mature.

Lestat

Lestat was a vampire that made Louis became a vampire. He was about the same age as Louis. He was a brilliant person. He had a scholarship when he was at school. But unfortunately, his father did not realize how important it was for him and he sent him home and did not permit him to continue his school. He blamed his father for destroying his life. He learnt from other people's experiences or from the people's conversations. Lestat came from a poor family. He had to work harder than other people if he wanted to live well. He happened to be his father's favorite child. He had a big ambition to live wealthy and successful, but his father killed his dreams and future. He hated him and blamed him for what his father did. Even until the death of his father he did not want to forgive him.

Lestat was a cunning person. He took advantage on Louis richness. He wanted so much to be rich and successful. Through Louis he could live like a prince, buy everything he could never afford to buy before, live in a luxurious hotel suite, wear some expensive clothes, go to operas and parties and spent money as much as he wished. He used an innocent child, made her a vampire, to make Louis stay with him. Lestat was a kind of person that cared less about anything or anyone at all. He never thought over before he did something and he did not care about what

would happen next as long as he was happy. Lestat was a very vicious person. He liked to torture and play with his victims mind, made them crazy about him and even in love with him before he sent them to heaven or hell. He enjoyed doing it. His favorite victims were a rich and successful young man. It reflected to his lost dreams and future when he was young. Lestat never trusted anyone. He was like a wild animal that lived alone. He told that to Louis. Only one time he had spoken to Louis, seriously. That was one time when he had dropped his mockery, his condescension and forgotten his perpetual anger for just a little while. His life was full of revenge to his father, to everyone and to the world.

Claudia

Claudia was a very beautiful child. She was five years old. She had a very smooth skin, a satin hair and a pair of wide and bright eyes. Her mother was dead because of terrible plague in her poor village. She was one of Louis victims. He found her crying over her dead mother and Louis killed her. Lestat made her a vampire to keep Louis stay with him. She was a clever and smart child. She learned quickly. She was a good hunter like Lestat and she liked art and knowledge like Louis. She had a small body of five-year-old girl but she had characters and ways of thinking as a grown up woman. She wanted so much to have a woman body but her body remained unchanged. It did not grow up. She was a spoiled child. She slept with Louis although she had her own coffin. If she wants, everything must happen no matter how to do it.

The Minor Characters

The minor characters involved in the story include Paul, Louis' sister, Babette, Lestat's father, Armand, Santiago, Madeleine, and the journalist.

Paul

He was Louis younger brother. He was handsome and had a very well-built body. He was religious man and was planning to join the priesthood. Praying was all that mattered to him. He spent most of his time praying and meditating in his oratory that Louis built for him. He was a very quiet person. He rarely talked to anyone. He never got out from the house since he was twelve years old. He hated parties and glamorous things. Paul was a good listener. Louis used to talk to him about his troubles and he would listen and made a few comments, always-sympathetic one. When Louis left Paul, Louis felt that Paul had already solved all Louis troubles. When he started to see visions, he became a strange man. He never left his oratory and never took care and cleaned his oratory. All he did was fasting and meditating. When he told Louis about his visions, Louis did not believe him. They fought then Paul ran out from the room, he fell down the stairs, broke his neck and died.

Louis Sister

Louis' sister was a pretty woman. She played the harpsichord very well. She loved parties and visited friends in town. She was a weak person. She could not stand for terrible and tough things to happen. She got hysterical easily if she found a hard problem. She was also a good listener and an attentive woman. Even if she did not know how to solve the problem, she would listen and cheer the person up. She was the one to whom Louis talked with after her brother, Paul, died. She loved Louis very much. She took care of Louis' grave, prayed and brought flowers everyday to his grave until she was old and weak. Until she died, she did not know that Louis did not die, that he was a vampire.

Lestat's Father

Lestat's father was almost 70 years old. He was seriously sick and blind. He came from a poor family. He could not afford a good life and education for his children. Lestat was his favorite child. But they never got along well after he did not permit Lestat to take his scholarship and sent him home. Lestat hated him for destroying his life and he never forgive him for what he had done to him. Even until he died, Lestat did not want to forgive him. He felt very sorry for him but he could not do anything to have Lestat's forgiveness.

Babette Freniere

She was a rich woman. She lived in the same village as Louis. She was the eldest child in the family. After her parents died in an accident, she had to take care of her whole family. She was a strong woman and had a great responsibility of her family. She took care of her sister's wedding, permitted her to get married first for her sister's happiness, and she took care of her youngest brother's education well so that one day when he was old enough he would replace her to run their family business. She put aside her love life and all her own pleasure to build up her family. After everything was under control and stable then she started to think about herself. Louis was the person that helped her a lot in her struggle to support her family. When she found out Louis was not a normal human being, she hated him and cursed him. She refused to help him out from his trouble. She was an honest and generous woman. She ran her business clean and she donated a great amount of money for the charity regularly. She never met Louis after the fire happened and she did not know that Louis was still existed until she died.

Armand

Armand was a handsome man. He had a very well built body that could make women fall in love with him in a very first sight. He had been living for 500 years when he met Louis. He was the leader of Theatre de Vampires. All of the members of the theatre were vampires. They made a show everyday. The story of the play was always about vampires. They lived in the basement of the theatre building. People who came to watch their show did not know that they were all vampires. Armand liked Louis. He wanted him to be his companion because he wanted

to get out from the theatre. He was having trouble with handling his members and he did not want to stay there anymore. He did not want Claudia stand between them so he asked her to leave Louis forever.

Santiago

Santiago was Armand's best man. He was a strong, ambitious, and mean person. He was very powerful among the other members of the theatre and he wanted so much to have Armand's position, to be the first man. He had a great influence among the other members of the theatre. He hated Louis so much. There was something in Louis that he did not have that made him jealous. To him Louis was his opponent. He was the one who led the murder of Louis, Claudia and Madeleine.

Madeleine

She was a widow whose daughter dead. She was a loving care person who loved children very much. Claudia was one of her costumers. She was her favorite. Her face resembled her dead daughter, and she was about the same age too. Madeleine would do anything to have her. When Claudia asked her to stay with her and look after her, she agreed even she had to be a vampire if she wanted to stay with Claudia. She also died because she tried to protect Claudia from the sun and they both died.

The Journalist

He was a young man who interviewed Louis. He met Louis in a bar, followed him and asked him if he would like to interview. He found that Louis was a unique figure from the way he dressed, the way he moved and talked. He had a great curiosity about interesting and unique stories. He hunted for stories every day to broadcast the next day. When he found out that Louis was a vampire, he was scared to death. But Louis calmed him down and asked him whether he wanted to continue the interview, and he was brave enough to continue the interview and took all the consequences if something happened to him. After listening to Louis story, he was amazed and fascinated by the story and all the strength and power that a vampire could have and do.

Theme

It is a bit complicated to express the theme in a single short sentence. It is about Louis chronicle life, his life before he became a vampire and his life and troubles after he became a vampire. Being a vampire was something he regretted for but he had to accept it because it was his destiny. Nothing he could do to change.

Point of View

In *Interview with the Vampire*, the writer uses the third person point of view. The writer disappears into one of the characters that is the storyteller. In this case Louis who told his whole

life story to a journalist.

CONCLUSION

This study was about characters of a novel by Anne, Interview with Vampires. The main character of the novel is Louis. The major cause of Louis' conflicts, however, was his inner conflict. He could not accept anything given to him. He was a vampire, but he could not accept that. He could not live like a vampire. He lived in between. He did not have a certain place to live in. He was not completely a vampire but he certainly was not a human being anymore. He was in limbo. Louis did not know where he should be. He was too confused about what happened to his life.

Louis, as the main character, was a very special character. He was a unique vampire. When we talk or think about vampires, what comes to our mind is a horror feeling and all bad images about vampires. Louis is different. Anne Rice is good in making up Louis' character. With his attitudes, his feeling and emotion toward other characters, she can arouse sympathies from the readers.

Anne Rice makes two different characters as a comparison. Louis as the protagonist has good attitudes; with his characters, feeling and emotion, he is able to arouse the readers' sympathies. He respects other people's life and he has his human nature that makes him as a "good" vampire. On the contrary, Lestat as the antagonist is a very vicious and bad vampire. His attitudes are very bad and he can make the readers hate him and be angry with him.

This novel has also something special on the other character. In common novels about vampires, there is always a grown up woman as the bride of the male vampire. Anne Rice offers something different. She makes a child vampire character. Claudia as the child vampire seems to replace the position of a grown up woman. Claudia is a friend, a pupil, a daughter and a lover for Louis. Many conflicts appeared because it is not an easy thing to understand a child, and Claudia is not an ordinary child. She is also Louis's victim. This situation makes Louis conflicts bigger than ever

Through this novel Anne Rice wants to offer some valuable things. Through the story given, she wants to show that people live with problems. It is not easy to show people live with problems. It is not easy to solve the problems, but problems happened to everyone. Problems are something to face and solve, not something to avoid. If we run away from problems, they will not be solved but they will become bigger and we will be more frustrated than we have ever been.

Louis the example of a person who ran away from problems. His problems are solved but they become more complex. He lets himself become a vampire, the biggest mistake he has ever done in his live. He is frustrated and he destroys his problems. It takes years for Louis to realize that he should face and solve his own problems. Even though he needs hard work and a huge courage to deal with his problems, he succeeded in solving his problems.

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