

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

In this chapter the writer would like to analyze the theme of the novel *The Family from One EndStreet* that is generated from Mrs. Ruggles external conflicts. The first discussion is about Mrs. Ruggles external conflicts and the second discussion is about the theme.

3.1. External Conflicts of Mrs.Ruggles :

Mrs. Ruggles is a mother of seven children in Ruggles family. She works as a washerwoman and her husband works as a dustman. It shows that they are a poor family, moreover they have seven children. Beside taking care of her seven children, Mrs. Ruggles has to run a laundry to support the family life. So, Mrs. Ruggles has to struggle for her family. During the Mrs. Ruggles's life she faces some conflicts with others characters. She has different opinions with her husband and has different ideas with her children and her friend. Those conflict happens between Mrs. Ruggles and some other characters such as her husband, Mr. Ruggles and her children, Lily Rose and Kate, also with her friend, Mrs. Smith.

3.1.1 Conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Mr. Ruggles about the name of their twins.

Parents should have an agreement in giving the name to their children. If parents do not have an agreement or have different opinion, it can cause a conflict between them. That situation happens in the Ruggles family.

Mrs. Ruggles and Mr. Ruggles have a conflict. The conflict is about giving the name of their children. When they want to christen their children, they have to go to the vicar and give name for their children to be christened. However, they have different opinions about the name for their twins. Different opinions of Mrs. Ruggles and Mr. Ruggles can be seen as follows :

When he got home with the good news Rosie was annoyed. "Decided, have you? Well, I've decided too ; Roland and Nigel – that's what they're going to be. James and John indeed !"

"Rolan and Nigel – whatever!" exclaimed Mr Ruggles. "not if I know it – a dustmen's sons !" (page 17).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Mrs. Ruggles wants to name their twins, Roland and Nigel, beside Mr. Ruggles wants John and James. They are debating their son's name. Mr. Ruggles explained that he has already visited the vicar and decided the name for their twins for christening. It is stated in the following statement: "But I won't have my sons called Roland and Nigel, and besides, I've just told you, I've given the names to the Vicar" (page 18). However, Mrs. Ruggles still keeps her opinion. She still wants to name their twins Roland and Nigel. She wants her husband to go back to the vicar and change the name. It can be seen from the following quotation: "Well, you can go and tell him you've changed your mind, that's all" (page 18).

From this quotation, it can be seen very clearly that Mrs. Ruggles insists her husband to go back to the vicar. She thinks that her opinion is better than the opinion of her husband. In this situation, there are different opinions between Mrs. Ruggles and Mr. Ruggles that cause a conflict between them. Their conflict is

overt, it can be seen from the conversation between Mrs. Ruggles and Mr. Ruggles. It shows that Mrs. Ruggles is very selfish. It shows that Mrs. Ruggles has superiority to her husband. She looks dominant and superior than her husband in her family.

3.1.2. Conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Lily Rose about ironing the customer's laundry.

The conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Lily Rose is about different ideas of ironing. It happens when Lily Rose, the eldest child of Ruggles family, comes home early from school because her classroom flooded by burst pipe. There is nobody at home. Looking at that situation, she wants to give surprise for her mother by ironing the customer laundry.

She thinks that it is a good idea, as can be seen from the following quotation :

“the brilliant thought occurred to her that it would be an excellent idea and also her ‘good deed’ for the day (she was a Girl Guide) if she were to finish off the ironing by the time her mother returned. It would be a lovely surprise”. (page 22).

Lily Rose starts to iron with one of customer's clothes, a green silk petticoat. When she makes one long sweep up and down with the iron, the green silk petticoat was shrinking into a dool clothes. When Mrs. Ruggles knows that Lily Rose has burnt the customer's clothes, she gets very angry. The emotion of Mrs. Ruggles is shown below :

“Whatever is the matter?” cried Mrs Ruggles. “Speak do. I can see you’ve been and burnt my ironing blanket, anyway, and what’s this thing?” she added, going up to the table. “doll’s clothes? How often have I told you not to touch the irons when I’m out !” (page 24).

The quotations mention that Mrs. Ruggles is very angry because Lily Rose has done a mistake. Lily Rose explains what happens and her intention to help her mother. She explains with full of tears :

“It’s not doll’s clothes”, wept Lily Rose, now very tears full indeed. “It’s a customer’s petticoat ; we was all sent home early (sniff) because there was a flood (sniff), and I was trying to help you and do my good deed for the day (sniff) for the Guides (several sniff)” (page 24)

Mrs. Ruggles is very angry and she gives Lily Rose punishment. She wants Lily Rose to come to Ms. Beaseley, the owner of green silk petticoat, then she should explain the incident. It can be seen from this statement :

“tomorrow you’ll come with me to Mrs Beaseley’s and explain as it was you and not your mother, who’s a careful, hard-working, reliable laundress, as spoilt her nice petticoat. And you’ll get no jam for tea today, and no cake on Sunday neither”. (page 25).

From the statement above, it can be seen that Mrs. Ruggles is very angry to Lily Rose. Mrs. Ruggles is still boast herself that she can run laundry very well, very carefull and hard worker mother. It seems impossible for her to do a bad thing for her customers.

This conflict is clearly seen in the conversation between Mrs. Ruggles and Lily Rose. It happens when Mrs. Ruggles and Lily Rose have different ideas. Lily

Rose has an idea to help her mother and gives her mother surprised by ironing the customer's clothes. Besides, Mrs. Ruggles thinks that Lily Rose makes a mistake. Mrs. Ruggles is a mother that has an authority for her family. She can give punishment when her children do a worse thing. It can be seen that Mrs. Ruggles has superiority to take control her family.

3.1.3 Conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Kate Ruggles about Kate's new school dress.

Mrs. Ruggles has a conflict with one of her children, Kate. The conflict happens when Kate was invited by her school friend to enjoy the party in Otwell beach. For Kate, it is a special invitation because she can gather with her new friends for her new school that mostly from rich family. Kate wants to wear her new school dress because it is the best dress that she has ever had.

There are different ideas between Mrs. Ruggles and Kate. It shows in the following statement :

Mrs Ruggles was still more annoyed and an hour later, when Kate, having been sent to tidy herself up for the party, demanded her new school clothes is for school from the sacred chest of drawers, she was very annoyed indeed. (page 39.

From the statement above, it can be seen that Mrs. Ruggles is very annoyed with the Kate's idea that wants to wear her new dress.

Besides, her mother has different opinion about the outfit. Mrs. Ruggles doesn't agree if Kate wears the new school dress. Mrs. Ruggles thinks that school

dress should be worn for school not for picnic. Then, they have a conflict. It shows in the following statements :

“What next, I should like to know !” she cried. “You knows well enough as those clothes is for school and school only – the idea – playing about on a dirty beach and getting salt water all over them ! Now don’t argue with me” she continued, as Kate ventured a remark, “you knows by this time that when I say ‘no’, I means ‘no’ ”.(page 39).

Mrs. Ruggles is very disturbed by Kate when Kate wants to wear her school dress. Mrs. Ruggles thinks when Kate wears her school dress at the beach, her school dress will be dirty. During Kate’s life, she never had a new dress, she always wears the old dress from her sister, Lily Rose. Kate thinks that she will be look good with her new school dress. Besides, her mother does not allow her to wear the school dress for picnic.

From this conflict, it can be seen that the conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Kate is overt. It is very clearly described in the novel by their conversation. Mrs. Ruggles has an authority for her children, for her family member. When she said “no” it means “no”, no matter what, no matter what the excuses. The children must obey her.

3.1.4 Conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Mrs. Smith about Mrs. Smith’s good intention Mrs. Ruggles.

The conflict between Mrs. Ruggles and Mrs. Smith happens on Sunday morning when the little Ruggles attends Sunday School in their ‘everyday clothes’. Seeing that Mrs. Ruggles’ children wearing their everyday clothes, Mrs.

Smith has an idea to see if Mrs. Ruggles is right. However, when she arrives to Mrs. Ruggles' house, she gets bad response from Mrs. Ruggles. It can be seen from the following quotations :

“Did you want something?” said Rosie coldly

“I come to see if you was all right” said Mrs Smith – bravely it must be admitted, for Rosie’s looks were bravely it must be admitted, for Rosie’s looks were anything but inviting. “ I seen the children go by looking” she hesitated – “ahrm – not quite like they usually does of a Sunday” (page 139-140)

“Did you !” said Rosie. “And now you see Jo and me not looking quite like we usually does of a Sunday either”. (page 139)

Actually, Mrs. Smith is very attentive to Mrs. Ruggles. Mrs. Smith visits Mrs. Ruggles to know that Mrs. Ruggles is all right. However, the response of Mrs. Ruggles is not good. It makes Mrs. Smith feel that Mrs. Ruggles does not appreciate her. There are different ideas between Mrs. Ruggles and Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith has an idea to visit Mrs. Ruggles and ensures that Mrs. Ruggles does not do anything wrong for her children. Besides, Mrs. Ruggles thinks that Mrs. Smith always wants to know her family.

When Mrs. Ruggles gets a comment from Mrs. Smith, it means that Mrs. Smith gives attention to her. Mrs. Ruggles supposes to feel happy and grateful to have a neighbour like Mrs. Smith but Mrs. Ruggles does not like it. Mrs. Ruggles does not like that Mrs. Smith gives comment on her children and comment on what is used by the little Ruggles. It can be seen from the following quotations :

“I do indeed” said Mrs Smith, “And let me tell you this, Rosie Ruggles – when you come on bad days – and I doubt they won’t be far off – treating the Sabbath Day like this – don’t come to me for help !”

“I shouldn’t dream of it” said Rosie “Not if it were the judgement Day itself – good afternoon” and she shut the door. (page 139)

From the quotations above, it is clear that Mrs. Ruggles and Mrs. Smith have different ideas. Mrs. Smith has an idea to visit Mrs. Ruggles to see that Mrs. Ruggles is all right. Besides, Mrs. Ruggles does not like the visit of Mrs. Smith.

This conflict is an overt conflict, that can be seen by that conversation. Mrs. Ruggles is a woman who can not accept any comments from others. It can be seen through her attitude to Mrs. Smith and her words are not good to hear.

3.2 The theme of the story through the Mrs. Ruggles’s external conflicts.

The external conflicts of Mrs. Ruggles that have been analyzed above become the clues for finding the theme.

First, Mrs. Ruggles has conflict with her husband, Mr. Ruggles, in giving the name for their twins. With this conflict, it can be seen that Mrs. Ruggles has more **power** than her husband. She can insist her husband to change the name for their twins. Mrs. Ruggles has more power than her husband because besides Mrs. Ruggles is a mother that take care all of family, she also run a laundry to support her family. So, it can be seen that she takes an important part in her family. She also looks **dominant** in her family especially with her husband, it can be seen from her words during the conversation with her husband. That she has an idea and her husband has to agree with her opinion. She is more dominant because she thinks that she has same position with her husband in their family. She

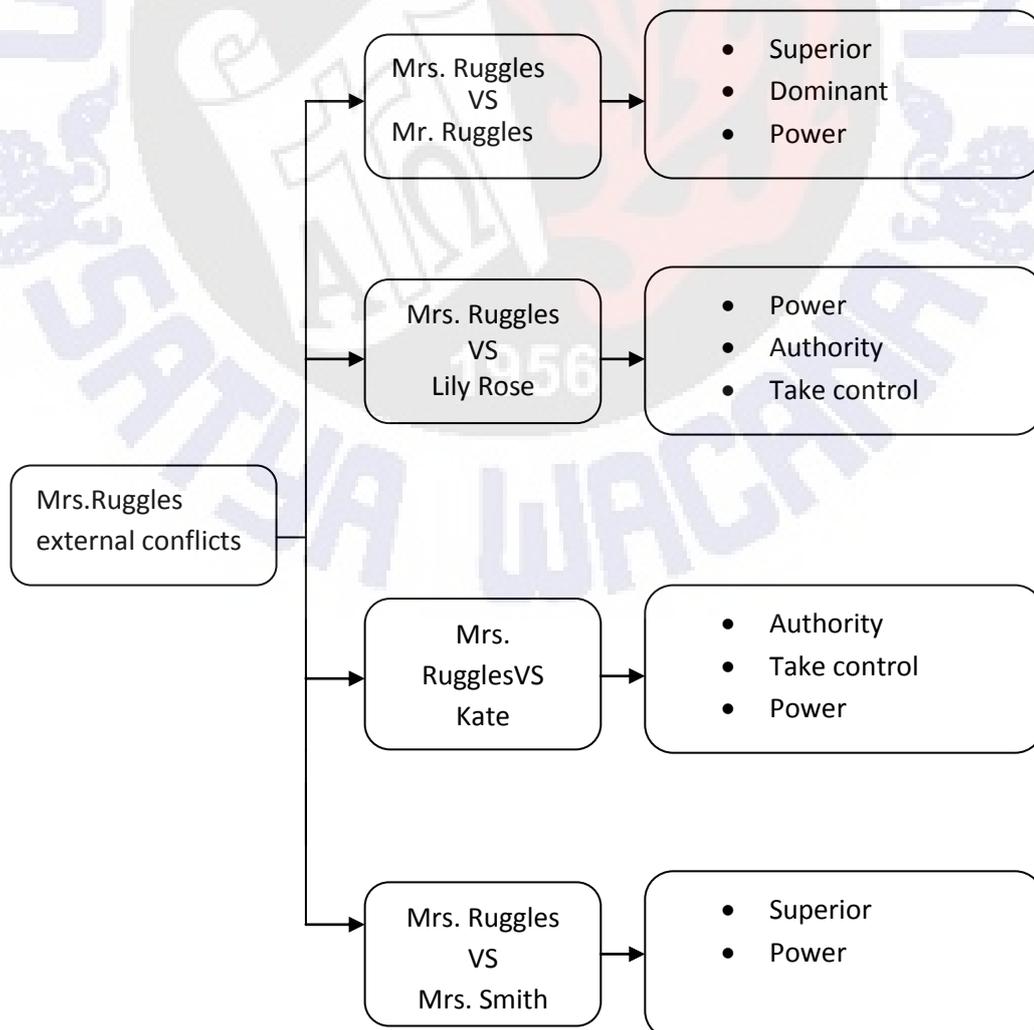
takes bigger part in taking care all family members and she also has a laundry that support the life of her family. It shows that Mrs. Ruggles is **superior**.

Second, Mrs. Ruggles has a conflict with her eldest children, Lily Rose. Because Lily Rose is the eldest of Ruggles children, she usually helps her mother to take care her brothers and sisters. Such as : wash and mangle fairly, scrub the ear of her young brothers and sisters and fry baccon and eggs. One day she wants to help her mother by ironing the customer's laundry. When she starts to iron a petticoat that made by silk, the petticoat was shrinking into a doll clothes. Mrs. Ruggles is very angry to Lily Rose. In this conflict shows that Mrs. Ruggles as the mother has **power** and **authority** to her children. Although Lily Rose has a good intention to help her mother, Mrs. Ruggles is still angry and gives Lily Rose a punishment. It shows that Mrs. Ruggles is a mother that **takes control** of the all family members, especially for her children.

Third, Mrs. Ruggles has a conflict with Kate Ruggles. Kate is the most brilliant children in the Ruggles family. She gets a scholarship from the goverment to secondary school. Secondary school is an elementary school that most of the student are from rich family. One day Lily Rose will join her friend's party at the Otwell beach, she wants to wear her new school dress. Besides, her mother disaggres and forbids her to wears it. There are different ideas between Kate and Mrs. Ruggles. The conflict shows that Mrs. Ruggles as the mother has **authority** to **take control** her children. Although Kate wants to wear her school dress, Kate has to obey her mother. Mrs. Ruggles has **power** to said no to her children. She thinks, every words that she said is better for her children.

Fourth, Mrs. Ruggles has a conflict with her friend, Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith actually has good intention to visits Mrs. Ruggles. Mrs. Smith wants to see that Mrs. Ruggles is all right because Mrs. Smith see the little Ruggles attend Sunday School still wears ‘everyday clothes’. In addition, Mrs. Ruggles doesn’t like somebody else get noisy in his own business. Mrs. Ruggles doesn’t like anybody comments about her family. It shows that Mrs. Ruggles is more **superior** than other characters. Mrs. Ruggles thinks that she has more **power** than Mrs. Smith because Mrs. Smith is just a housewife but Mrs. Ruggles has income to support her family life besides as a housewife and a mother in her family.

Here is the diagram of external conflicts that can be the clue of the theme :



In *The Family from One End Street*, Mrs. Ruggles feels that she has more power than the other characters. It happens when she faces some conflicts with other characters. When she faces a conflict she always overcomes with her authority. She always wins in the conflict because she is the one who controls the whole family, uses her superiority to beat her opponent.

For all the conflicts that Mrs. Ruggles faced, there are some clues : **superiority, authority, power, dominant and take control.** From those clues, the writer found the theme is related to Mrs. Ruggles position in her family, as the mother and in society. The theme is a superior and dominant working mother has power to take control of her family and her relation in society.