

BOOK REVIEW OF BARBARA DAWSON SMITH'S *THE ROGUE REPORT*

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the strengths and weaknesses of Barbara Dawson Smith's *The Rogue Report*. *The Rogue Report* is a novel which tells about the aristocrat society in London. The writer's purpose of this review is to explore the strengths and weaknesses by analyzing its intrinsic elements, namely theme, characters, and conflicts. The writer used a library research method and structural approach to analyze the intrinsic elements. In addition, the writer also adopted Erich Fromm's theory, *The Art of Loving* to examine the theme of the novel, namely *Love*. Every novel has its own uniqueness, though *The Rogue Report* has some weaknesses, it is still a good reading because it has a bunch of value of life.

Keywords: theme, characters, conflict, erotic love, revenge

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Literature is the art of creating written works. As a form of creative art, it has a beautiful expression or thought, or even idea wrapped in words. It can give pleasure, experience, and knowledge to its readers. It can also be a life reflection of an author, a society, even nation. Literature can be divided into fictional and nonfictional works. Drama, short story, tales, and novel are included to the fictional works.

According to Reeve (1785:26), "A novel is a picture of real and manners." It means that a novel can be a reflection of human life and behavior in reality, consisting of many things such as: problem, feeling, emotion, ambition, and desire. Even some of the novels tell the human's life story which truly happens in reality.

The Rogue Report is a novel of love story written by Barbara Dawson Smith in 2006. The story is particularly well-crafted. It has a good value of secrecy, mystery, desire, and the characters in it are interesting and likeable. The plot begins with a conflict, then its plot develops gradually to the climax before it comes to the happy ending. Those all make the writer interested in analyzing the novel.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The writer has two objectives of this final paper: they are explaining the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel, and explaining the concept of *The Art of Loving*.

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 The Strengths and the Weaknesses

In this chapter, the writer will describe the strengths and the weaknesses of *The Rogue Report* novel.

2.1.1 Strengths

There are some strengths of this novel, namely: theme, character, and conflict.

a. Theme

The first strength of the novel is its the theme. Theme is the central insight, the idea controller, the principle of unity of a story. Erotic love is being the central idea of the story. The novel completely serves the characteristics of erotic love, which not only is a relationship between two people, but also contains a commitment, promise, decision. Erotic love is not just a strong feeling, but it also includes sexual attraction. It is love between Jack and Julia. They both were mutually fascinated from their first meeting. Started from sexual attractions, their feeling was going stronger. Until the point when they realized that they were completely in love each other. Their love is not about a deep feeling and sexual contact only. They wants stronger than that. And finally they agree to have a commitment, take a big deal on their life, and promise be a better person for each other.

b. Character

As the main protagonist characters, Julia and Jack are adorable figures. They both have strong characteristics which can easily make the readers love

them. Julia is described as a beautiful, tough, smart, goodhearted, attractive, and independent woman. She has a deep concern and humanity to others. Meanwhile, Jack is a rogue who hide behind his mask, descibed as a heroic, well-manered, masculine, and good-looking. But actually he is a good man. Moreover, he is illustrated as a round character. His live completely reverses from a dishonest man in the beginning of the story to a good man in the end.

c. Conflict

Conflict is an essential element in the development of the plot. It is absolutely necessary in every literary work because it will create the reader's anthusiasm to keep reading. The conflict of the character is divided into two main types of conflicts, they are internal conflict and external conflict (Wellek & Warren, 1989: 285). In the novel, both Julia and Jack undergone the internal and external conflicts. Every conflict faced by the characters makes the readers wonder what will happen next, so that they will keep turning the pages to find the secrets of Jack and Julia.

2.1.2 Weaknesses

There are two weaknesses of the novel, namely: theme and full of stigma.

a. Theme

The minor theme, namely revenge, is being the weakness of the novel. Either Julia or Jack had a strong motivation to take revenge. The need for revenge burned in Jack because he lost his chance to pay off all his debt because of *The Rogue Report*. While Julia wanted to take revenge for all rogue in society,

because they had placed her sister and herself into hard situations. Her report was her one and only way to help other maidens to decide the right man for their future.

2.1.3 Full of stigma

The title of the report itself leads us into a negative thought. *Rogue* means a person who behaves badly.. The novel shows us a lot of female stigma towards men, as if they are just a trouble makers. Drunkard, gambler, seducer, better, liar, intruder, cheater, and profiteer of heiresses are some stigma included within the story.

3. Conclusion

The Rogue Report is a romance novel written by Barbara Dawson Smith in 2006 which tells about the aristocratsocial in London. Bringing erotic love as the major theme, it is particularly well-crafted. It has a good doses of secrecy, mystery, and desire. This novel presents us the richness emotion within love, such as: passion, happiness, jealousy, longing, angry, sad, and confusion. The power of love could lose hatred between the characters. Character, conflict, and plot of the novel are also being the strengths. Every novel has its own uniqueness. Though *The Rogue Report* has some weaknesses, yet it still be a good reading because it has a bunch of value of life.

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