CHAPTER III
DESCRIPTION

This novel that is taken to be studied in this researcher is *Burial Rites*, a novel by Hannah Kent’s. She is a co-founder and deputy editor of literary journal of Australia, *Burial Rites* is her first novel. In this novel about the struggle from Agnes to get status, Agnes Magnusdottir is the main character she has some motivation to get status.

3.1 The Description of Agnes Magnusdottir’s Characterization in Hanna Kent’s *Burial Rites*.

*Burial Ritter* is novel by Hanna Kent. NatanKetilson and Agnes Magnusdottir are main characters in this story. Nurgiyantoro states that the main character in a novel usually more than one, although similarity degree is not always same, that is decided from how the influence of the character establish the story. So, it does not lose the possibility that there are two main characters in this story. This story is delivered using first person point of view and that is Agnes Magnusdottir, so Agnes itself is as narrator of this story. This story tells about the reality, the relationship between love and the struggle of some haratres for their life. Yet, in this research talks about female character, she is Agnes Magnusdottir who is told by NatanKetilson.
that have love relationship with him. Agnes Magnusdottir gives influence in this story until the end of this story.

Altenbernd and Lewis state that protagonist character has similarity with human living; with the problems that are faced is like the problems that human face generally. It makes reader to feel really involved in and readers give empathy totally to that character (179). So, Agnes Magnusdittir is protagonist character, because the problem and struggle of Agnes Magnusdottir an influence the reader to have empathy feeling.

In terms of physical appearance, Agnes is describe as pretty girls with a good looking face, slim body, and long hair. In term of personality, Agnes is describing as a hard worked, kind and care. Therefore, the writer concludes that Agnes is characterizing as attractive girl in Burial Rites novel by Hannah Kent’s.

3.1.1 Physical Traits of Agnes

In this story Agnes Magnusdottir is told as a beautiful woman. Natan tells Agnes in many statements that Agnes is very beautiful:

“I thought she was very beautiful” (22)

Other statement:

“And then you are so very beautiful. ’I looked at her.’”(24)

From those statements, that is true that Agnes Magnusdottir is very beautiful until make Natan falls in love. It is concluded that Natan loves Agnes because of her beauty. The physical appearance of Agnes is also explained by Natan.
"Agnes was quite tall, skin so perfect and gray eyes. I thought she was very beautiful" (10).

It means that not only beautiful girls; Agnes is a tall woman, has skin so perfect and gray eyes. She is a waiter. This statement happens when Natan goes to meet Agnes in cafe, the place that Agnes works. That features, Agnes appears with attractive performance. So that is not disowned that Natan fall in love with her beauty.

It this explained, that Agnes Magnusdottir has a very high intelligence, and knowledge and understanding of a very good about the Christian religion. But Agnes does not follow the teachings and Agnes has a good presentation.

“Nice presentation?”
“Here at write that Agnes has a very high intelligence and knowledge and understanding of a very good about Christian religion. But Agnes does not follow the teachings”
Toti ignore last comment the preacher “that is very high intelligence,” he repeats (121).

Toti visit in church Undirfell. And he visit in there to search information about Agnes Magnusdottir in the church records book. And Toti find some information about her, but that information is not clear.

3.1.2 Agnes Magnusdottir Speech

"What do you want?"
"Do not mean to anything. You're shivering."
"You were watching me."
"I was not control you. You made me wake up. You're crying earlier."
Agnes checks wiped tears from her cheeks. "Did I cry?"
Margret nodded. "You woke me."(67)

In this statement Agnes did not want to look weak and crying in front of Margret. She lied to Margret if she had been crying. Margret actually felt sorry for Agnes but
Margret fear her children because their children dislike Agnes. But Agnes remained humble and attention to the family.

3.1.3 Agnes’s Characterization Based on Her Behavior

Agnes’s image in this story is also she does not believe in certain religion. It is showed when Natan asks Agnes to marry.

“Couldn’t we be married privately some way? Then if anything happen to me or if you had a child.”
“There’s no way to be married except by church or state. We are married privately.”
You see, darling, it would mean everything to me if I had any religion. But I haven’t any religion.”(50)

Agnes Magnusdottir admits that she does not believe in certain religion, she has nor a religious person. Yet, for the first time when Agnes asks to marry, Natan wants to marry Agnes by their selves, it means that there is no church or state that will bind their marriage, but they marry with their own way and not to follow the marriage’s rules in the church or state that will.

As an independent woman and does not believe in certain religion, Agnes is faithful woman. In her conversation before when she talks about her fiancé that was died, Agnes has no boyfriend after. For one year, Agnes can take place her heart to Natan Ketilson.

“You know I don’t love anyone but you. You shouldn’t mind because someone else loved me.”
“I do.” “You shouldn’t be jealous of someone who’s dead when you have everything.”
“No, but I don’t want to hear about it.”
“Poor darling. And I know you’ve been with all kinds of girls and it doesn’t matter to me.”(56)
That conversation means clearly, that there is no someone else except Natan after her fiancé. Agnes efforts to explain to Natan, that there is no else but except Natan. Agnes is a loyal woman, and Agnes care about Natan when Natan got accident Agnes come in the hospital to look Natan. And Agnes prove to Natan if she falling in love with him.

“Natan laugh.” Her house? Rosa, Agnes is my servant.”
“Only a servant, is that right?”
“I do not want her taking care of our daughter.”
"I’m willing to take care of Thoranna, with pleasure,” I said
“I don’t care what makes you happy, Agnes.(88)

Agnes has a humble and kind. Based on the above conversation Agnes remained willing to accept Thoranna daughter of Nathan with Rosa, although Agnes in contempt by Rosa but Agnes remained humble and accept it. While Nathan actually call Agnes is a slave, but so far they’ve been living together as husband and wife.

“Well, Mama. You’ll be fine.”
“Mama! You’re bleeding!”
“Let mama breathe.”
“Did you try gelatinous moss?” Agnes stood in the doorway, staring Lauga.
“I do not need anything,” Margret said hoarsely.
“My lungs so much relieved.”
Lauga turned to face the doorway frowning. "Can you leave us?"
Agnes did not listen. “Did you try jelly is it?”
“We do not need a your potion,” snapped Lauga.
Agnes shakes her head. "I think you need.”
"What do you mean?” Lauga whispered.
Agnes breathed deeply. "Boil bit of moss that has been chopped, boiled long. Very long. Later, when it cools, lumutnya would be a blob of gray. It was not bad, but it can stop bleeding in the lungs.”
"Whether Natan Ketilsson that teach you that?”
"They say how it could help.” Agnes repeated. "I could make you.”
"Do it” said Margret (60)
This conversation shows that Agnes gives know Margret and Lauga that Margret need a potion to can stop bleeding in the lungs. Margret and Lauga initially rejected the advice of Agnes, but eventually they receive advice from Agnes. Here Agnes also has a character that is very attentive and do not give up easily, whereas Agnes equally hated them but Agnes still give sympathy to them. And they had to suspect Agnes would do anything to Margret but Agnes proves that she just wanted to help them.

Nathan convinces Agnes that his love exceeds love for Rosa, and Nathan has no want Rosa anymore.

"He made me choke," he said. "He wanted me to stay with her and her husband forever. But I need to create my own life. And here I have it. My farm myself, and freedom."

Nathan assured me that he had sent letters to Rosa, stating that he did not want her anymore. That he love for me far exceeds his love for Rosa. He just glad that I was an illegitimate child, destitute, a slave "You have to fight for everything," he said.
"You dare to challenge life, Agnes, you do not like Rosa."(70)

The statement above proves that Natan prefers Agnes of at Rosa, because Agnes more braved life and changes her own life Agnes also able to fight for everything. The statement also said that Natan prefers Agnes whose life is impoverished, the result of an illegitimate and she was a slave. But Nathan also prove that his love for Agnes exceed his love for Rosa.
3.1.4 Agnes’s Characterization Based on her Thought and Feeling

Agnes magnusdottir is not only a beautiful girl, but also she is kind woman. She always smiles and speaks softly. That is known from her attitude to Natan, when Agnes allsNatan and has certain attitude to Natan.

I saw Agnes Magnusdottir coming down the hall, and stood up. She did not seem tall walking toward me but she looked very lovely. “Good-evening, Mr. Natan,” she said. “How do you do” I said. The orderly was listening behind the desk. “Shall we sit here or go out in garden?” “Let’s go out. It’s much cooler.” I walked behind her out into the garden, the orderly looking after us. When we were out on the gravel drive she said, “Where have you been?” “I’ve been out on post.” “You couldn’t have sent me note?” “No”, I said. “Not very well. I thought I was coming back.” “You ought to have let me know, darling.”(13)

This conversation happens between Agnes and Natan, it is the first time when Natan directly invites Agnes to go. Agnes accost Natan by giving greeting first and trying to assert Natan to the place that they want to talk together with her language, because the place will old. In the last conversation, Agnes allsNatan with “darling”. Darling is lovely calling that only used by a couple that mutual loves or there is special relationship, in other word, darling is soft calling that shows sweetness. It can be conclude that Agnes is kind charitable with her lover. Agnes show affection with her speaking to Natan.

Agnes alls Natan with “darling” just not two or three times, but in every opportunity. It was Agnes Magnusdottir. She same in the room and over to the bed.
“Hello, darling,” she said. She looked fresh and young and very beautiful. I thought I had never seen anyone so beautiful. “Hello,” I said. When I saw her I was in love with her. Everything turned over inside of me. She looked toward the door, saw there was no one, then she sat on the side of bed……. (39).

It happens Agnes never calls Natan with his name, in every moment; darling becomes usual calling to Natan. In some conversation above represent of little love expression from Agnes to some who loves. Agnes also has apprehensive characteristic. The simple thing she shows by visiting Natan in the Agnes workplace.

However Agnes is like usual woman. As a woman, Agnes out her life as a woman life generally. She wants date or journey with someone who she loves. Agnes said “But get well quickly, darling, and we will go somewhere,” (43). Agnes says like that to give motivation of Natan to get well soon, and they can together like before.

Agnes feeling to Natan is too big, it can be known when Agnes willing to sleep with Natan until some day she gives knows Natan about her pregnancy.

“I’m going to have a baby, darling. It’s almost three months along.”
“Is it all right?”
“Of course.” (69)

This statement shows that Agnes gives known to Natan that she is pregnant for three months. It signifies Agnes have relation with Natan long enough. There is apprehensive on Agnes that Natan will refuse about her pregnancy. Agnes makes sure Natan that she is fine, so he does not need apprehensive about her condition. Yet, what Agnes thought is wrong, Natan feels glad to hear that.
“I’m not worried.”
“I couldn’t help it, and I haven’t worried about it. You mustn’t worry or feel badly,”
“That’s it. That’s what you mustn’t do. People have babies all the time. Everybody has babies. It’s a natural thing.” (77)

Different with Agnes that worries with Natan, Natan realizes natural condition that will be experienced every couple. Agnes has asked Natan to marry, but Natan refuse to do that. But, in pregnant condition they do not marry.

After analyzing the Agnes’s characterization through the methods stated by Pooly (1967:538), the writer determines that Agnes’s characterization in the novel *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent is attractive: Agnes is described as a very beautiful girl. In terms physical appearance looking face, skin perfectly, long hair. In terms personality, Agnes is described as a kind, care, smart and Agnes though and feeling are mostly show that she is very falling in love with Natan. Therefore, the writer concludes that Agnes is characterized as an attractive in *Burial Rites* novel by Hannah Kent.

3.2 Agnes Magnusdottir Struggle in her Life

In this sub chapter the writer will discuss about struggle Agnes Magnusdottir. Related to this topic, the writers correlate the Agnes Magnusdottir struggle with the Hierarchy of Human Needs. Maslow (2006) classified the human being needs into a pyramid scheme that broadly known as Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Needs. Here is the Maslow Pyramid that depicts the level of the human needs.
According to the pyramid, there are five hierarchies of needs. The first level of needs is physiological need includes need of food, air, and water. The second level encompasses safety need. The third level of need is love and belonging. The fourth level is self-esteem. The fifth level is the need self-actualization, entails maximizing one’s unique in life, Maslow (2006)

Related to the theory above, here the writer correlates Agnes’s struggle with pyramid of human need stated by Maslow (2006). Therefore, in this sub chapter the writer presents some more sub chapter as follow:

1. Physiological need in Agnes’s life
2. Safety need in Agnes’s life
3. Love and belonging need in Agnes’s life
4. Self esteem need in Agnes’s life
5. Self actualization need in Agnes’s life

3.2.1 Physiological Need in Agnes’s Life

As a usual woman she has other side in her life. Then other side from Agnes is Agnes has frightened to something. In this story is told that Agnes is afraid with rain.

“That’s good. Because I’m afraid of the darkness”
“Why?” I was sleepy.
“I don’t know. I’ve always been afraid of the darkness.”
“I’ll always love you.”
“I’ll love you in the rain and in the snow and in the hail and—what else is there?”
“I don’t know. I guess I’m sleepy.”
“Go to sleep, darling, and I’ll love you no matter how it is.”
“You’re not really afraid of the rain are you?”
“No when I’m with you.”
“Why are you afraid of it?”
“I don’t know.”
“Tell me.”
“Don’t make me.”
“Tell me.”
“No.”
“Tell me.”
“All right. I’m afraid of the darkness because sometimes I see someone who loves me died.” (58)

Agnes tells Natan that she is afraid of the darkness. Agnes thinks if she will see Natan die in darkness. In that condition Agnes can change her mind if there is Natan beside her, she can break up her frightened when Natan with her, so she is not afraid darkness anymore. That is also the proofs that Agnes loves Natan much and feels comfortable beside him.

3.2.2 Safety Need in Agnes’s Life

“I’m going to have a baby, darling. It’s almost three months along.”
“Is it all right?”
“Of course.” (69)

This statement shows that Agnes gives known to Natan that she is pregnant for three months. It signifies Agnes have relation with Natan long enough. There is apprehensive on Agnes that Natan will refuse about her pregnancy. Agnes makes sure Natan that she is fine, so he does not need apprehensive about her condition. Yet, what Agnes thought is wrong, Natan feels glad to hear that.

“I’m not worried.”
“I couldn’t help it, and I haven’t worried about it. You mustn’t worry or feel badly,”
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Different with Agnes that worries with Natan, Natan realizes natural condition that will be experienced every couple. Agnes has asked Natan to marry, but Natan refuse to do that. But, in pregnant condition they do not marry.

In analysis before, it can be known that Agnes is a loyal person. It is said before, that Agnes has fiancé and they want to marry, but her fiancé dead in accident. Agnes does not love other man after that.

“Good by,” I said. “Take care of yourself.”

“Good by Agnes.” (34)

This statement happens when Natan comes out from home. “Good by,” I said.”Take care yourself.” means Agnes wants Natan keep his self and be carefully. Agnes has bad memory about her fiancé death in accident, in this condition Agnes mush keep her pregnancy by herself without Natan.

3.2.3 Love and Belonging Needs in Agnes’s Life

In this story there is no explanation about her family. In this story just explain about Agnes’s life and her story with Natan. Yet, Agnes has father and mother but her parent not married.

“That is it, 1795. Born as the son of Ingveldur Rafnsdottir and Magnus Magnusson in farm Flaga. No married, child outside marriage. Born on 27 October, and given the next day. What else do you know?”

“Her parent not married?”
“So it is written here. Said, her father lived in the Storidalur but here there was no description of her mother” (120)

This conversation about Agnes Magnusdottir was born and about her parent. And her parent not married and Agnes the child outside marriage. From that conversation is also known that Agnes has mother and father and her father lived in Storidalur but from the conversation there was no description about her mother.

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The orderly was listening behind the desk.
“Shall we sit here or go out in garden?”
“Let’s go out. It’s much cooler.”
I walked behind her out into the garden, the orderly looking after us. When we were out on the gravel drive she said, “Where have you been?”
“I’ve been out on post.”
“You couldn’t have sent me note?”
“No”, I said. “Not very well. I thought I was coming back.”
“You ought to have let me know, darling.” (13)

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conclude that Agnes is kind charitable with her lover. Agnes show affection with her speaking to Natan.

3.2.4 Self Esteem Need in Agnes’s Life

In analysis before, it can be known that Agnes is a loyal person. Agnes does not love other man after her fiancé dead. But after she meets Natan, she can move on her feeling to other man to be loved in her life. But Natan always hurt Agnes, not far from that case, Agnes to get freedom from Natan.

“Let me Nathan.”
He ignored me.
"Let me go!” I rebel escape from his clutches.
"You should listen to yourself. You sound like an old woman, raving about the dreams and foreboding. (105)

This conversation that Agnes wanted Natan release but Nathan does not care Agnes who was pained by the grip Nathan. And then Agnes revolt and escape from the grip of Nathan. In order that “Let me,” I said. It means that Agnes wants Natan waive from Natan but Natan ignored Agnes.

Natan quickly reached out and grabbed a handful, then use it to pull me closer.
"Natan! You’re hurting me!"
but Natan attention distracted by something. "What is that?" he whispered.
"It is seaweed. Or dead seal. Remove the hair."
"Shh!"
I let go of my hair out of its grasp, and I turned around to go back to the farm, but Nathan grabbed my sleeve, twist my body, and slapped my face with a landslide victory.
I gasped and immediately raised my hand to the cheek, but Nathan grabbed my fingers and held it tightly in his own hands, forcing me to bend close to him.
"Do not ever talk like that to me again." Nathan's mouth presses against my ear, his voice low and cruel. "I should not have asked you to come here." (110)

In this conversation that Natan hurt Agnes again. And Agnes wanted to run away from Natan but Nathan exactly slap Agnes. Then Nathan reminds Agnes to not speak thus about dream and a strange foreboding. But Agnes soothes Natan otherwise would no one harm him because Natan is not that important. And Agnes are fed up with the nature of temper but Agnes still loves him and remained at his side although he was always tormented by Natan.

And there are other statement that describes Natan always hurt Agnes.

"I want you! I want to leave the valley because I want to be with you." I felt sick was so angry. "I cannot stand it any longer here."
"Then, go!" She took a step back and pulling my hand. "Get out! You've just cause trouble!"
"Let me go!"
"I'm just giving you what you want. You hate me? You want to go? Good! This is the door." (112)

It happened because Agnes thought Natan was always blaming her. And Agnes cannot stand with Natan, who had only thought of her as him maid. Natan as Agnes could only cause problems in her life, Agnes considered as bitchy and Natan wanted when he needed Agnes.

Sometimes Agnes asks again to Natan about her status and her position.

"Do you love me?"
"You start to wander."
"Answer."
"Turn off the lights."
"Nathan." I begged him
"Am I going to ask you here if I do not want you here?'
"Yes, as a servant."
"You're more than a maid, Agnes."
"You are lying."
"Turn off the lights."
"No."
"You're annoying, Agnes."

In this statement, Nathan still does not want to talk about it. When Agnes asked about her position, Nathan always refused and angry he did not want to talk about it.

3.2.5 Self Actualization Need in Agnes’s Life

In this part, it will discuss about Agnes Magnusdottir choice that decides to unmarried with Natan. In statement before that discussed, Agnes wants to marry with him own without any relation of church or state because Natan does not marry with Agnes, but Agnes always asks to Natan. So, until she is pregnant they do not marry.

“Couldn’t we be married privately some way? Then if anything happen to me or if you had a child.”
“There’s no way to be married except by church or state. We are married privately.”
You see, it would mean everything to me if I had any religion. But I haven’t any religion.” (50)

It is for the first time Agnes asks to Natan to marry legally, but Natan refuse because she has not religious and offers Agnes to marry privately, but Agnes refuse because marriage must in the church or state way, there is no marriage except in that place.

For the second time, Agnes asks Natan to marry when Agnes in her pregnancy, Natan refuses again.
“I suppose if we really have this child we ought to get married” Natan said. We were in beer place at the corner table. It was getting dark outside. It was still early but the day was dark and the dusk was coming early.

“Let’s get married now” I said
“No,” Natan said “Remember who you are Agnes!”(123)

In this statement, Natan refuses to marry because he does not believe in certain religion and he want to marry privately, but Agnes refuses. In the second time, Agnes asks Natan again to marry, but Natan refuses with different reason. At the time, Agnessis pregnant in some months, because of that Agnes always ask to Natan. But Natan always have different reason to ignore Agnes and if Agnes asks like that Natan always angry with Agnes. So, it can be conclude that Natan does not want to marry with Agnes.

For the three times, Agnes asks Natan to marry. But Natan refuses clearly, it can be known from the conversation:

“When will we be married?”
“When, we want to have a splendid wedding with every one thinking what a handsome couple.”
“And you’re not worried?”
“Why should I be worried?”
“Please Agnes don’t make me angry, remember who you are! Remember your place!”(127)

As a woman Agnes wants to appear beautiful with body shape that she wants, especially in meaningful event like marriage. Feminist side of Agnes appears to require her to marry in body shape like she wants. In this conversation, Agnes feels shy in pregnancy condition that woman’s stomach will look big. But Natan ignore Agnes again and angry again.
Some time Agnes asks Natan to marry again, and in same reason Natan refuses it.

“No we are not married.”
“You don’t love me again?”
“Agnes, I always love you. But I can do this”
“Why Natan? Why? You can do this, and after we are married we life happy and together.”
“NO!”(129)

In this statement signifies that Agnes wants Natan to marry her but Natan does not marry. That conversation happens for the last Agnes asks him to marry.

"You’re playing me all these years."
"Turn off the lights Agnes."
"You are cruel."
"I do not want this talk."
"You never intended to give the position as head of the household to me, is not it?"
"Turn off the lights, and let us sleep. Your eyes are like two small holes in the snow."(165)

This conversation shown that Agnes asks to Natan about her position, Natan promised Agnes as head of household if Agnes wants to come with Natan to farm and live with him. But Natan never gives that position to Agnes.

From that analysis, Agnes makes decision in pregnant condition about her life and her status. Agnes has her own way to do her choice. In Islam religion also organizes about this. It means how Islam looks Agnes Magnusdottir action in her life with the all condition. In Islam, any sexual act outside of marriage is forbidden. According to Al-Quran in Surah Al-Isro ayah 32: “And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.” For this
ayah explains that unlawful sexual is forbidden, the word of “do not approach” means proscribed/forbidden.

Islam also explains in other Surah in Al-Quran in Surah An-Nur ayah 2: “The (unmarried) woman or (unmarried) man found guilty of sexual intercourse lash each one of them with a hundred lashes, and do not be taken by pity for them in the religion of Allah, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. And let a group of believer’s witness their punishment.” Allah gives big punishment to couple that found guilty sexual intercourse. Allah organizes in al Quran that gives banyan tree to woman and mans that engage in illicit sex as many as one hundred lashes. The punishment is done by men of faith and will be watched by other men of faith. This ayah to support Ayah and Surah before; Al-Isro’ ayah 32.

It is very clear that perspective of Islam about the relation about man and woman. From two ayah: Al-isro’ 32 and An-Nur 2, explain about prohibition and its punishment to someone that do any sexual act outside of marriage. In this analysis it is fatening upon between Agnes Magnusdottirsttitudes with NatanKetilsson until she is pregnancy is a wrong attitude in Islam. Agnes and Natan lives together without married status.