

RIZALIAN CHARACTERS IN  
F. SIONIL JOSE'S NOVELS

---

A Master's Thesis  
Presented to the  
Faculty of the Graduate School  
University of San Carlos  
Cebu City, Philippines

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Literature

---

by

DOMINADOR L. PAGLIAWAN

March 1996

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS**  
**LIBRARY**

APPROVAL SHEET

This Thesis entitled "RIZALIAN CHARACTERS IN F. SIONIL JOSE'S NOVELS" prepared and submitted by DOMINADOR L. PAGLIAWAN in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE has been examined and is recommended for acceptance and approval for ORAL EXAMINATION.

THESIS COMMITTEE

*Filipinas*  
CLARITA C. FILIPINAS, Ph.D.  
Adviser

*Juliet Basa*  
JULIET V. BASA, Ph.D.  
Member

*Raymunda V. Montano*  
RAYMONDA V. MONTANO, M.A.  
Member

*McGaniel*  
MONTANA C. SANIEL, Ph.D.  
Member

PANEL OF EXAMINERS

Approved by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of Passed.

*McGaniel*  
MONTANA C. SANIEL, Ph.D.  
Chairman

*Filipinas*  
CLARITA C. FILIPINAS, Ph.D.  
Member

*Raymunda V. Montano*  
RAYMONDA V. MONTANO, M.A.  
Member

*Juliet Basa*  
JULIET V. BASA, Ph.D.  
Member

Accepted and approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE.

Comprehensive Examination PASSED: March 28, 29, 1996

*FR. Florencio L. Lagura*  
FR. FLORENCIO L. LAGURA, SVD, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School

March 6, 1997  
Date of Oral Examination

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A number of institutions and people have been of considerable help to the completion of this work and are therefore regarded with appreciation and gratitude.

Such sort of esteem, then, goes to the following:

The Fund Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the scholarship grant that sustained the writer all the way;

The Samar College administration for its support as a sponsoring institution;

F. Sionil Jose for sending and providing me with valuable materials;

Dr. Clarita C. Filipinas, thesis adviser, for her enduring support and guidance, patience, and tolerance;

The panelists — Dr. Montana C. Saniel, Dr. Juliet V. Basa, and Mrs. Raymunda V. Montaño, for their considerations and painstaking review of this paper;

Yoshi Kobari, a Japanese friend, for his company, friendship and hospitality;

Nancy, the researcher's ever supportive wife, for her unflinching encouragement, and Dona, their baby who, in the researcher's writing back home, was both a bother and an inspiration;

The researcher's mother, sister, and brothers for their consistent moral support; and

The Almighty God for His guidance, protection, and abundant supply in terms of material and spiritual blessings.

DOMINADOR L. PAGLIAWAN

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## ABSTRACT

Francisco Sionil Jose's selected novels do contain some characters that remarkably resemble Rizal's selected heroes. The novels of both authors were thoroughly read to identify the resembling characters. Through character analysis, these characters were closely matched by establishing their distinct and various points of similarities.

Eight of Jose's significant characters exactly juxtapose their equals from Rizal's heroes. These borrowings of Jose not only reveal his potent regard of Rizal, but also measure the extent of the latter's influence on the contemporary Filipino writers whom Jose rightly represents.

Jose's juxtapositions of Rizal's enduring characters emphasize the lingering concerns of the Filipino and the prevalent social and cultural phenomena that need either a jubilant push or a revolutionary change.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE . . . . . 1

APPROVAL SHEET . . . . . 11

ACKNOWLEDGMENT . . . . . 111

TABLE OF CONTENTS . . . . . v

CHAPTER	<u>Page</u>
1 THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE	
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Rationale of the Study . . . . .	1
Theoretical Background . . . . .	5
THE PROBLEM . . . . .	13
Statement of the Problem . . . . .	13
Significance of the Study . . . . .	14
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY . . . . .	16
DEFINITION OF TERMS . . . . .	17
2 THE AUTHORS AND THEIR TIMES . . . . .	20
Jose Rizal . . . . .	20
F. Sionil Jose . . . . .	30
3 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERS . . . . .	41
Crisostomo Ibarra in <u>Noli</u> and Antonio	
Samson in <u>The Pretenders</u> . . . . .	42
Sisa in <u>Noli</u> and Nena in	
My Brother, My Executioner . . . . .	51
Basilio in <u>Noli</u> and Luis in	
My Brother, My Executioner . . . . .	58

PROPERTY OF UEC LIBRARY SYSTEM

CHAPTER	<u>Page</u>
Crispin in <u>Noli</u> and Victor in My Brother, My Executioner . . . . .	66
Elias in <u>Noli</u> and Pepe Samson in Mass . . . . .	73
Cabesang Tales in <u>Fili</u> , Ba-ac in Po-on, and Telesforo San Agustin in Viajero . . . . .	80
Father Florentino in <u>Fili</u> and Father Jess in Mass . . . . .	88
4 SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	95
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	101
APPENDICES . . . . .	108
A-1 SYNOPSIS OF F. SIONIL JOSE'S NOVELS . . . . .	108
A-2 SYNOPSIS OF JOSE RIZAL'S NOVELS . . . . .	128
CURRICULUM VITAE . . . . .	134

## CHAPTER 1

### THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Rationale

Behind the distinct growth of contemporary Philippine literature are men and women of letters who are giants in the field and voices to heed. Their remarkable contributions, of varying subjects and materials, have earned for the country a literature which, although not a great one yet (Bernad, 1961: 27), is basically Filipino for it has been written by "Filipinos who think and express themselves precisely as Filipinos" (Manuud, 1967:507).

One of the crowning achievements of these literary greats that apparently mirrors the depth of the Filipino culture and manifests the creative genius of the race is the cultivation and eventually, the refinement of fiction whether in English, in Spanish, or in the vernaculars. It is not necessary to dwell at length on their stories, particularly the early ones, for one to tell the apparent influence the American and European masters have on these local writings (Castillo, 1974:472), but Filipino writers nevertheless have succeeded in attaining fame to deserve national and international recognition with their outstanding works that came to be noted for originality in



conception, universality in application and excellence in their prose.

Among those occupying a highly significant place in Philippine literature is Francisco Sionil Jose, considered by many to be an indefatigable writer with a great deal of social conscience. Born of Ilocano descent, Jose intended to become a doctor at first but ended up a writer when he failed to make it and discovered that the latter was more to his liking.

The greatness of Jose, as well as the importance of his works, is beyond question (Bernad, 1991:viii). He is one of the country's distinguished men of letters — a novelist, journalist, editor, and publisher. As a writer, he has been given prestigious awards and is deemed by many to be Asia's most likely candidate for the Nobel Prize for Literature. He, too, is a political and social organizer widely known and acclaimed in Asia and the rest of the world. His works, particularly the five-novel Rosales Saga, are eternal portraits of Philippine Society. In 1980, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, making him the first Filipino writer to receive such award. His fiction has been translated in 26 languages and this, too, made him the most widely translated Filipino author, read abroad more than any other Filipino writer (Morales, 1989:viii).

As an artist, Jose has developed his craft and became a master stylist, an interpreter of character, an analyst of society (Lundkvist, 1989:65). The marvelous Rosales Saga on which his reputation is largely built is a masterpiece that constitutes an epic creation of a century of Philippine life and can be read as an allegory for the Filipinos in search of a nobler sense of themselves. This series of novels takes the reader to the heart of the Filipino mind and soul, to the gap that separates the poor from the rich in this country and the fearful realities that confront its people. These books, then, are Jose's most impressive legacy to Philippine history and culture.

Jose's becoming a writer, however, could be attributed to several factors that influenced him. He recalls that his lifelong love of books was inculcated in him by one of his grade school teachers, Soledad Oriol, while his writing propensity was encouraged by his English teacher, Paz Latorena, while he was yet a student at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila (Morales, 1989:114-114). But, as Jose himself admits, the single most important influence to him as a writer is no less than Dr. Jose Rizal himself through his novels, the Noli Me Tangere and the El Filibusterismo (from hereon to be referred to as Noli and Fili) — the first novels Jose had read and of which he was immensely touched and impressed (Bresnahan,