CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

It is generally believed that all people – at some points in their life – will experience certain events that may cause them to undergo a spiritual awakening. Awakening is "an act or moment of becoming suddenly aware of something" ("Awakening"). This issue of spiritual awakening is also explored in a novel that is going to be analyzed in this study: *Adultery* by Paulo Coelho.

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian author who is considered one of the most influential and successful authors of our times. His achievement as a great author is shown in more than 100 million books of his works which are internationally sold in at least 150 countries. His books have also been translated into more than 80 languages and have received Guinness World Record as the most translated books by a living author. Coelho, who is a member of the Brazilian Academy Letters, has also received many prestigious international awards. Some of them are the Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum and the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d"Honneur from France ("Paulo Coelho").

As an author, Coelho often writes stories about spiritual awakening inside his characters and "spiritually motivated journeys taken by his characters"

(Pallardy and Calvert). This kind of topic is so relatable to his readers that Coelho is considered one of the novelists who can unite people around the world with his writing style through many different cultures – "a novelist who writes in a universal language" (Riding).

Adultery, Coelho's novel that is going to be discussed in this study, tells a story of a married woman named Linda who starts an affair because she experiences boredom and weariness in her life. In the process, she also experiences certain awakenings that eventually enable her to find her true happiness in life. This novel "explores the question of what it really means to live life fully and happily" (Ahn) even though the new, exciting desires come.

Adultery is written in first person point of view and it shows the protagonist's emotion and changes of characteristics before and after the problem begins. Thus, it is clear that the portrayal of the protagonist is the most significant aspect to analyze and from which to reveal the purpose of the author. Portrayal is "a description of someone or something in a particular way; a representation" ("Portrayal") while protagonist is "the central character or leading figure in poetry, narrative, novel or any other story" ("Protagonist").

Since I only refer to the novel itself as the source of data, formalism will be the most suitable approach to use. Formalism "refers to a style of inquiry that focuses, almost exclusively, on features of the literary text itself. . . . that the form of a work of literature is inherently a part of its content" ("Formalism").

Statement of the Problem

The problems I am going to discuss in this study are:

1. How is the protagonist portrayed in the novel?

2. What is the purpose of the author in portraying such a protagonist?

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Purpose of the Study

Based on the problems above, the purposes of this study are:

1. to show how the protagonist is portrayed in the novel;

2. to show the purpose of the author in portraying such a protagonist.

Method of Research

The method I use in conducting this study is library research. First, I start by reading *Adultery* by Paulo Coelho. After that, I browse the Internet for any necessary information and references that are relevant to the subject. Then, I use the references to support my analysis of the portrayal of the protagonist. Finally, I draw some conclusions regarding the purpose of the author in creating the protagonist.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into three main chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the analysis of portrayal of protagonist in Paulo Coelho's *Adultery*. Chapter Three is the conclusion of what has been discussed in the previous chapters. The thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices, which consist of Synopsis of Paulo Coelho's *Adultery* and Biography of Paulo Coelho.