

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, I would like to analyse the theme of Paulo Coelho's novel entitled Brida through the portrayal of the protagonist. I have chosen Paulo Coelho because he is a great Brazilian writer nowadays. He has been widely known for his spiritual novels and many messages which can give great impacts on the reader's lives, which makes him such a great writer. One of Paulo Coelho's novels is The Alchemist (1988), in which he states that people should follow their dreams and that human beings' mission on earth is to find God, the meaning of happiness, fulfillment, and the ultimate purpose of the creation. "The Alchemist was one of the most important literary phenomena of the 20th century, which reaches the first place in bestselling lists in 74 countries, and so far has sold 35 million copies" (Coelho "Biography"). This novel has a great impact on the readers' life because it delivers a great spirit in the reader's life to explore the meaning of life more deeply.

In this thesis, I am interested in analysing Paulo Coelho's Brida (1990), which was launched to great success in Brazil after the publication of The Alchemist. Brida "is a moving tale of love, mystery and courage, of the spiritual side of eros and the erotic side of spirituality" (Coelho "Biography"). From this statement, I can see that spirituality has shaped the protagonist's characteristics. Her belief in God has given her the power to undergo a successful progress in her life, and has formed some good characteristics such as determination and optimistic thinking.

To understand the message that the writer is going to convey, it is necessary for me to analyse the theme through the protagonist, as "Theme is most visible in the protagonist's greatest choice in a story" (Cagil "Theme"). The protagonist of the novel, Brida, has shown the readers how to face the reality in this world. Brida's characteristics in chasing her dream and transforming herself shows how people should be like her. The protagonist plays an important role in revealing the theme which "... enriches and inspires the reader while saying something substantial about the human condition" (Cagil "Theme"). For that reason, theme becomes an important element which controls the idea of the book and enables the readers to understand the meaning of the book more easily.

By analysing the characteristics of the protagonist, I hope to reveal the good theme and get some useful information to be applied in daily life.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. What is the theme of the novel?
2. How does the portrayal of the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

III. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based in the statement of the problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To show the theme of the novel.
2. To show how the portrayal of the protagonist helps to reveal the theme.

IV. METHODS OF RESEARCH

In my analysis, I use library research. I read Paulo Coelho's novel, Brida, as the primary text. Then I read some information from several sources in order to support my analysis. Finally, I analyse the theme of the novel and draw some conclusion based on my analysis.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis will be organized into three chapters, which are preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the analysis of theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in Paulo Coelho's novel, Brida. Chapter Three is the conclusion of the analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the Biography of the Author and the Synopsis of the Novel.