

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, the present writer would like to analyze the conflicts of the protagonist in Days of the Bees, which was written by Thomas Sanchez. The present writer chooses novel because she thinks that novel is easy and more interesting to read. Although it is usually very long, it is easier to understand than poetry and drama. Novel reflects human life and has the characteristic of describing the flow of events, characters, and setting in a narrative form. Novel is “long works with a great amount of detail on every page. They thus present all the complicating facts that need to be taken into account before we can reach any sort of judgement” (Peck and Coyle, 1984:103).

The present writer is interested in choosing Thomas Sanchez’s work for her thesis because Thomas Sanchez is a great writer who writes his novel in simple but beautiful language, therefore, the story that the present writer chooses here is based on the historical background of the elimination of the Jewish people that happened together with the World War II. Besides, Thomas Sanchez uses simple language so that the flow of the story is easy to understand.

Day of the Bees itself is interesting to read and analyze as it has historical and cultural values that are involved in the conflicts of the protagonist. The novel is written mostly in letters, to show the condition of Louise and Zermano at the time of

World War II, when they are separated. The story takes place mostly in France, when the situation and condition were greatly influenced by World War II.

As a Jew who lives during the war, Francisco Zermano tries to protect his muse ( who becomes his wife secretly in order to avoid the danger because Zermano is a Jew), Louise, who is French, by sending her far away from him to a small village called Ville La Reigne. Louise's conflicts occur when Zermano has to abandon Louise, to protect her from being killed by Jews-haters. As Zermano is known as a Spanish painter, Louise never knows that Zermano is actually a Jew.

By analyzing the conflicts of the protagonist, the present writer can learn more about many aspects of life, such as the social and political condition in France at that time. During World War II, the German invaded France through Belgium on May 12, 1940. And after France fell, General Charles de Gaulle fled to London and invited French patriots to join the movement called Free France and continue fighting with the Germans. The Free France movement spread throughout France to fight the Germans. Louise, in the story, is told to join a movement called French Resistance during the war because he has to do that in order to exchange her bravery of being one of the French Resistance members with the letters that Zermano sends her.

By creating conflicts in The Day of The Bees, Thomas Sanchez tries to tell the reader what happened in France in the World War II. This novel represents a struggle between Louise and Zermano, and a struggle between Louise and a sadistic officer which are Louise's social conflicts.

According to How to Analyze Fiction, conflict is “a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills” (Kenney, 1966:44). There are three kinds of conflict. One type of conflict is a physical conflict, which is a struggle between man and the physical world. Another kind of conflict is social conflict, which is a struggle between man and

man. The third kind of conflict is internal conflict or inner conflict, which is a struggle between desires within a person.

In this thesis, the present writer will analyze the protagonist's inner conflicts by connecting the conflicts with the historical background of the World War II that happened in 1939. The present writer finds out that the war that is written in the story has a connection with the World War II. The present writer thinks that the war is the main cause of the protagonist's inner conflicts.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Based on the background of the study above, the present writer states the problems of the study as follows:

1. What are the conflicts in this novel?
2. How do the social and political situation create the conflicts of the protagonist in Day of the Bees?
3. How is each of the conflicts resolved?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Considering the statement of the problem above, the present writer does this study:

1. To show how social and political situation create the conflicts.
2. To show how each of the conflicts is resolved.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In this thesis, the present writer uses library research. First, the present writer reads the primary text. After reading the primary text, the present writer finds related information from the library. The present writer uses extrinsic approach. In addition, she reads a number of references and finds some information from the Internet encyclopedia to support the analysis. After analyzing the novel, the present writer draws some conclusion.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The present writer organizes her thesis into three chapters. In Chapter One, the present writer presents the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, The Statement of the Problem, The Purpose of the Study, The Methods of Research, and The Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two presents Historical Background while Chapter Three is the analysis of the conflicts of the protagonist in Thomas Sanchez's Day of the Bees. In Chapter Four, the present writer concludes of her analysis. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain a synopsis of the novel, and also a short biography of Thomas Sanchez.