

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

According to Shaw, novel is ‘a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying character and presenting an organized series of events and settings.’ Moreover, he also says that ‘the novel has no maximum length. Novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflicts, characters, action, setting, plot and theme.’ (Shaw, 1972:257). These facts make novels more interesting to analyze and understand.

From among the nineteenth century writers, the present writer chooses Henry Rider Haggard’s *King Solomon’s Mines* to be analysed. At that time Robert Louis Steevson’s *Treasure Island* was a massive best seller. Haggard has written some books at that time, bet with his brother that he could write a book which would be as good and as successful as Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*. A year later, in 1885 *King Solomon’s Mines* was published and became a best seller. The novel itself tells a story about a wanderer name Allan Quatermain, who is asked by his fellows, Sir Henry and Captain Good, to look for Sir Henry’s brother, who disappears in a journey to find the diamond mines of King Solomon. This novel is interesting to read because it is rich in moral values and it has a lot of elements of surprise to make the reader curious to finish reading this novel.

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In this thesis, the present writer would like to discuss the theme of *King Solomon's Mines* by Henry Rider Haggard. Theme is important in fiction, because it reveals the main idea of the novel. The present writer would like to analyse the theme through the characters, which are found quite prominent in this novel. According to Harry Shaw, a character is the term that has several meanings; the most common of which is "the aggregate of traits and features that form the nature of some person or animal." Character also refers to moral qualities and ethical standards and principles.' (Shaw, 1972:70-71)

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Based on the Background of the Study, the present writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What is the theme of *King Solomon's Mines*?
2. How is the theme revealed?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study is done:

1. To show what the theme in the *King Solomon's Mines* is.
2. To show how the theme is revealed through the major characters.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The method that the present writer uses is library research. He begins by reading Henry Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* and several books which are relevant to the topic discussed. After that the present writer analyses the primary text by using some theories from some books of reference which can support the analysis and help him in writing a comprehensive thesis. Finally, the present writer explores some Internet web sites so as to add more information that can support his analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The present writer divides his thesis into three chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organisation of the Thesis. Chapter II contains the presentation of the theme through characters in Henry Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*. The present writer concludes his analysis in Chapter III and the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix, which contains a synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.