

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

I have decided to analyze novel for my thesis because in novel, I can obtain detailed information and description about the events, characters, and conflicts. According to Murphy “novel is the most widely practiced and most widely read form of literature in the world today” (1972: 127) and according to Shaw, novel is “an account of life which involves conflict, plot, characters, action, setting, and theme” (1972: 257).

Particularly, I would like to discuss a novel about war in my thesis. I find out that literature partakes in depicting wars. From a lot of novels about war, I choose one of them entitled Macneils of Tokyo. It is a novel concerned with the Second World War in which ‘Germany was the aggressor....., by Italy, and Japan.....together they formed the major Axis nations, the war against Japan was fought over two-third of the world’s surface, with America and her allies taking part in vast air, land, and sea battles’ (<http://www.euronet.nl/users/wilfried/ww2/ww2.htm>). The fact that this particular novel tells about an American man who lived in Japan during the Second World War

makes me interested in analyzing the novel. It is because the protagonist experiences conflicts to live in foreign country. Living in a foreign country, the protagonist automatically deals with Diaspora, which is 'to refer to any people or ethnic population forced or induced to leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world, and the ensuing developments in their dispersal and culture' (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diaspora). Moreover, it is satisfying for me to read Jack Seward's Macneils of Tokyo as 'Readers of Jack Seward' s previous books will not be disappointed in this rousing adventurous historical and often erotic romance' (http://japan.vacationbookreview.com/japan_68.html).

Among the contemporary period writers who produce war novels, I am of the opinion that Jack Seward is a writer who can describe about the Second World War well because 'He lived in Japan as an army officer and CIA agent during the occupation' (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0801000922?v=glance&n=283155>). His works and contributions to Japanese-American friendship and mutual understanding get positive reaction from the Japanese government so that 'The Emperor of Japan awarded Jack Seward the Order of the Sacred Treasure, for a lifetime of contribution to Japanese-American friendship' (Seward, 2000: -).

I find out that the most significant aspect in the novel is the conflict as according to Shaw, '...conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. Dramatic conflict is the struggle, which grows out of the interplay of opposing forces (ideas, interest, wills) in a plot; conflict may be the material from which a plot is constructed' (Shaw, 1972:91). There are three types of conflicts; elemental or physical conflicts which is a struggle between man

and the physical world, social conflict which is a struggle between man and man, inner or psychological conflict which is a struggle between desires within a person. (Shaw, 1972:92).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In order to analyze the novel, I state the problems as follows:

1. What are the inner and social conflicts in Seward's Macneils of Tokyo?
2. What causes the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?
4. How do Diasporic issues help to develop conflicts?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

My purposes of studying and analyzing the novel are:

1. To show the inner and social conflicts in Seward's Macneils of Tokyo.
2. To show the causes of the conflicts.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.
4. To show how the conflicts are developed through the Diasporic issues.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

In writing this thesis, I use library research. First of all, I begin by reading Seward's Macneils of Tokyo. I also read some books which are relevant to the topic being discussed. Then I gather some information from the internet to support my

analysis. Finally, I use the data that I collect for analysis from which I can draw the conclusion.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

Beginning with the Preface, the Table of Contents, and the Abstract, I divide my thesis into three chapters. In the first chapter, I present the Introduction, consisting 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. In the second chapter, I present the analysis of the protagonist's social and inner conflicts in Seward's Macneils of Tokyo. Afterwards, I conclude my analysis in the third chapter. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, consisting of the biography of the author and the summary of Macneils of Tokyo.