

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Among the three literary genres, novel is the one which has a lot of descriptions about the characters and events in the story, which deals with people's lives. 'Novel is a fictional prose narrative of considerable length and of a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience...' (Webster, 1995:819).

The present writer proposes to present the theme through the protagonist; in addition, according to Shaw's Dictionary of Literary Terms, protagonist is 'The leading character of a Drama, Novel, or other literary work...such a person is not always the 'Hero of a work', but he is always the principal and central character.' (Shaw, 1905:305); therefore, the protagonist in Burnett's Secret Garden has an important role in revealing the theme of the story.

The present writer chooses Frances Hodgson Burnett because 'she is an English playwright and author who is very famous for her children's novels. In particular, Secret Garden, A Little princess, and Little Lord Fauntleroy.' (<http://www.wikipedia.com>. Frances\_Hodgson\_Burnett).

The present writer proposes to analyse Burnett's Secret Garden because 'it is Burnett's best and most enduring work and also a symbol of the growing personality; besides, it has proved enduringly popular and has been successfully dramatized many times over the years.' (Burnett, 1995:2).

In order to find out the message in Burnett's Secret Garden which can be applied in our daily life, the present writer wants to reveal the theme of the story, as according to Harry Shaw in his Dictionary of Literary Terms theme is 'The central and dominating idea in literary work; the message or moral implicit in any work of art.' (Shaw, 1905:378).

### **Statement of the problem**

After reading Burnett's Secret Garden, the present writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What is the theme of Burnett's Secret Garden?
2. How does the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

### **Purpose of the study**

In writing the thesis the present writer wants:

1. To analyse the theme Burnett's Secret Garden
2. To show how the protagonist helps to reveal the theme

### **Method of Research**

The present writer uses the library research in writing her thesis. She begins by reading the primary text, Secret Garden, and then she analyses it by using a theory from some books of references and additional information from some websites, the she makes a conclusion from the analysis of the data.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The present writer divides her thesis into three Chapters, which are preceded by the Preface, the Table of Contents and Abstract. She begins her thesis with Chapter one, the Introduction that contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter two contains the analysis of the theme in Burnett's Secret Garden and the Conclusion is in Chapter three. The present writer also includes the Bibliography and Appendices, which contain the synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.