CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Novel, as one of the literary genres, reflects human life and presents well-arranged events and settings. According to Shaw, novel is 'a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings. Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflict, characters, action, setting, plot, and theme', (Shaw, 1972: 257). Novel is generally realistic, which concerns the everyday events of ordinary people, and is therefore concerned with characters. It is a representation of their lives, experiences, and learning. According to Robbert A. Harris, the important elements of a novel are action, discovery, and description, but the most important one is how the characters develop. (http://www.virtualsalt.com/litterms.htm) Therefore, I choose novel as the literary genre to discuss in my thesis. And in this case I have chosen Joanne Greenberg's I Never Promised You a Rose Garden novel.

I Never Promised You a Rose Garden is a semi-autobiographical account of Joanne Greenberg's experience with mental illness. It is her best-known novel,

and several of her other works also deal with the troubles that beset the handicapped. Greenberg used the pseudonym Hannah Green in order to protect her family from the stigma that often accompanies a psychiatric diagnosis. When Greenberg's family learned more about her history with mental illness, she allowed the book to be reprinted using her real name. In addition to the book making people aware of the stigma that comes with mental illness Greenberg wrote the book to give a realistic portrayal of the experience of mental illness.
< http://www.biblioreview.com/br_review.asp?BookPageID=8902 >

In this thesis, I propose to focus on the protagonist in Joanne Greenberg's I Never Promised You a Rose Garden, named Deborah Blau. A protagonist has an important role in a work. 'A protagonist is the leading character at drama, novel or other literary work.'(Shaw, 1972:305). The novelist has shown very clearly the portrayal of the protagonist. She has presented Deborah Blau, a very bright and artistically talented sixteen years old girl's battle with schizophrenia.
<http://www.collegetermpapers.com/TermPapers/Book_Reports/I_Never_Promised_You_A_Rose_Garden_Analysis.shtml >

I realize that it is not an easy thing to do especially for a 16 years old girl to make a healing progress from schizophrenia, she has to make a choice to leave her "other world" and learn to see the real world, that means she must fight against herself. For that reason, I have decided to discuss Joanne Greenberg's wonderful portrayals of the protagonist.

Characterization techniques is how an author conveys to the readers the characters and the personalities of people he writes about; in other words how he conveys to the readers what kind of people they are, how he makes the readers get

to know and understand them. Characterization techniques consist of personal description, character as seen by another, thoughts, speech, past life, conversation of others, reactions, direct comment and mannerism. (Murphy, 1972:161-173)

By analyzing this literary work, I hope to discover more of how Joanne Greenberg portrays the protagonist in the novel as to show the purpose of the author in portraying the character Deborah in such way. It is hoped to give insights to other readers as a positive reference and further understanding of this book, its context, furthermore, of what lesson or moral the author is trying to convey by presenting the character in such manner.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

I would like to analyse the following problems:

1. What are the characteristics of the protagonist?

2. What techniques do the author use to portray the protagonist?

3. What is the author's purpose in creating the protagonist?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problems above, the purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To show the characteristics of the protagonist

2. To show the characterization technique used by the author to portray the protagonist.

3. To show the author's purpose to the protagonist.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of research which I use is the library research. First, I read <u>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</u> by Joanne Greenberg as primary text. I also find some books as references to support the topic. Finally, I use further information from the internet to help me writing the thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis consists of three chapters starting with the Introduction. In the Introduction, I will state 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 portrayal of the major character in the novel <u>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</u> by Joanne Greenberg. And Chapter Three will cover the Conclusion of the analysis of the literary work. This thesis ends with Bibliography, which consists of a list of sources used for writing the thesis and Appendix, containing a synopsis of the work and the biography of the author.