

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

I am interested in Jeanette Winterson's works. Many critics and reviewers find her writing exciting, innovative, interesting, and intellectual. She is one of the most original voices in British fiction to emerge during the 1980s. She is a novelist who has won various awards around the world for her fiction. She received Whitbread First Novel Award in 1984. When she adapted one of her novels, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, for BBC television in 1990, she won the BAFTA award and Prix d'argent Best Script award in France. <<http://www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth100>>

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit is Jeanette Winterson's most popular novel. It is about the experience of growing up and finding identity. Jeanette's rebellion against her mother and church is seen as a typical confrontation between the younger and the older generations. Winterson introduces the reader to a new perspective of the world, especially on how one is supposed to go through one's life.

I have decided to discuss the portrayal of the protagonist because I think we can learn a lot from her how to overcome difficulties in life. According to

Shaw, the protagonist is ‘the leading character of a drama, novel, or other literary works. The person is not always a hero of a work, but he is always the principal and central character’ (Shaw, 1972:305).

In discussing the portrayal of the protagonist, I look into the characterization techniques in order to know how the author portrays the character. The techniques are based on Murphy’s theory; they are speech, reaction, and thought.

By analysing this literary work, the present writer hopes to discover more about Jeanette Winterson’s portrayal of the protagonist of the novel and her purpose in portraying the protagonist.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

After reading the novel, I would like to discuss the following points:

1. What are the characteristics of the protagonist?
2. How does the novelist portray the protagonist?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, I would like to show:

1. The characteristics of the protagonist.
2. How the novelist portrays the protagonist.

1.4 Method of Research

In this thesis, I use the library research. First, I read Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson as the primary text. After that, I explore further

through other reference books and the Internet to obtain more relevant information about the topic. Finally, I analyse the primary text and draw the conclusion.

1.5 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. In Chapter Two, I will present my analysis of Winterson's portrayal of the protagonist of Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit. Chapter Three will contain the Conclusion of the analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the Biography of Jeanette Winterson and the Synopsis of Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit.