

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY:

To understand a story it is better if we read a novel, because it presents the story clearly, and often presents important moral messages to the readers. Novel is a genre of literature in the form of narrative or prose fiction ‘...it is a form of story or prose narrative containing characters, action and incident, and perhaps, a plot.’ (Cuddon, 1979, 430-31). In a novel, a writer can give a more detailed description of the flow of events, characters and setting than in other genres. This is why I am interested in analyzing novel.

Among the post-modernist writers, Forest Hairston is one of the most talented writers from America. It is proved by his winning a National Book Critics Circle award. He is known primarily as a song writer, music producer, screen writer and poet.

Spirit Ran Free is a major work of Forest Hairston. The story emotionally unfolds its place in Black ambivalent history. A time from dire slavery to the American Civil War, to the coming of emancipation of Black people.

I think that slavery is an interesting topic, since slavery brings sorrow to many people, especially to Black people.

In writing this thesis, I choose to analyze the social conflict because it would be interesting to reveal social conflicts of Hairston's Spirit Ran Free. It is necessary to put forward some theories related to conflicts, so that will make the readers understand the aspect better. Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. There are three types of conflicts. The first is elemental or physical conflict, which means a struggle between man and the physical world. It represents man versus forces of nature. The second is social conflict, which means a struggle between man and man, and the third type is internal or psychological conflict, which means a struggle between desires within a person. (Shaw, 1972:91-92).

It is important to analyze this novel because it has a message for the readers to learn. This novel conveys its anti-slavery message; we can learn from history that slavery only brings destruction for human civilization, especially for the black people.

“Slavery began when the first Africans in America arrived as indentured servants via Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. From 1619 to about 1640, the Africans work for the European settlers as laborers and artisan. By 1640, Maryland becomes the first colony to institutionalize slavery. Slavery in America was the issue of the conflict with the democratic principles of this nation. At the center of this conflict were the Africans who were bought, sold, and used as workers on American soil. They become slaves who could be bought and solely owned by their master. Slavery is the practice as to keep people in servitude against their will and owning them as a property.”([Http://www.liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aaslavry.htm#beginning](http://www.liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aaslavry.htm#beginning))

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The problems are stated as follows:

1. What conflicts do the characters experience in Forest Hairston's Spirit Ran Free?
2. What are the causes of the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

The purposes in studying and analyzing the novel are:

1. To analyse the conflicts in Forest Hairston's Spirit Ran Free.
2. To find the causes of the conflicts
3. To discuss how the conflicts are resolved.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The methods of research is library research. First of all, I begin by reading Forest Hairston's Spirit Ran Free. I also decide what topic is going to be discussed. I also read some references, which are relevant to the topic to be discussed. Then I gather some information from the Internet, which supports this research. The data collected is used as the analysis from which a conclusion is drawn.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis is divided into three chapters, followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices. In chapter one, the Introduction, consisting of the Background of the

Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the study, the Methods of Research and Organization of the Thesis are presented. In chapter two, the analysis of the social conflicts of Forest Hairston's Spirit Ran Free is presented. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, consisting of the Biography and the summary of Spirit Ran Free.