

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A novel is easier to understand clearly, and 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: 430-431). In a novel, a writer can give a more detailed description of the flow of events, characters and settings than in other genres. That is why I am interested in analyzing novel.

I believe that among many writers, Amy Tan is one of the very talented writers. It is proved from her works: The Joy Luck Club, The Kitchen God’s Wife, The Hundred Secrets Senses, and two children books, The Moon Lady and The Chinese Siamese Cat. She also works as a co-producer and co-screenwriter of the film version of The Joy Luck Club. Besides, her essays and stories have appeared in many magazines and anthologies. Her works have been translated into more than twenty-five different languages. Amy Tan tells great stories with powerful themes, such as love, belonging, death, and compassion. She creates strong characters which make Tan’s books become fabulous novels.

Among many of Amy Tan's books, I am going to analyze The Bonesetter's Daughter. It tells about mother-daughter relationship. They are raised in different countries which have different culture. The situation makes this novel interesting.

I choose the portrayal of major characters to be analyzed. The reason why I choose the portrayal of major characters to be analyzed is because the major characters in this novel have interesting cultural background. The major characters of this novel also have a complex past. 'A character is obviously relevant to us and to our experience if he is like ourselves or like others whom we know. Lifeness, then, is properly understood as one form of relevance. A character is relevant if there are a lot of people like him in real world.' (Kenney, 1966: 27).

THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In doing the thesis, I would like to state the problems as follows:

1. How does the author portray the major characters in The Bonesetter's Daughter?
2. What is the author's purpose in creating such major characters?

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In relevance with the statement of the problem, I would like:

1. To show the way the author portrays the major characters in The Bonesetter's Daughter.
2. To show the author's purpose in creating such major characters.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of research used is library research. First of all, I begin by reading Amy Tan's The Bonesetter's Daughter. I also read some books which are relevant to the topic being discussed. Then I look for some information from the internet to support this research. Finally I use the data for analysis from which I draw conclusion.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I divide the 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 Methods of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In the second chapter, I present the analysis of portrayal of major characters in Amy Tan's The Bonesetter's Daughter. The thesis ends with the Bibliography, the synopsis of the novel, and the biography of the author.