

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In her thesis, the present writer would prefer to analyze novel rather than drama or poetry because this genre has its own complexity and charm. According to Harry Shaw, 'novel is a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings..., but the novel has no actual maximum length. Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflict, characters, action, settings, plot, and theme' (Shaw, 1972:257).

The present writer feels that the theme which is 'the central idea and dominating idea in a literary work' (Shaw, 1972:378) in Iain Pears' The Dream of Scipio is challenging to be analyzed. The dominating idea in this literary work revolves around the three major characters. It is about the difficulty of the soul to be released from the shadows of the world or evil thought. The Dream of Scipio is a historical novel full of philosophical thoughts to be considered. In contemplation of philosophical statement, people will expand so many questions in their mind whether it is right or wrong but they will not find the exact answer to it, as stated that: 'Philosophy, though unable to tell us with certainty what is the true answer to

the doubts which it raises, is able to suggest many possibilities which enlarge our thoughts, enrich our intellectual imagination and diminish the dogmatic assurance which closes the mind against speculation' (Russell, 1969:3). As an example to the comprehension above, the present writer picks up a philosophical statement taken from this novel, 'Power without wisdom is tyranny; wisdom without power is pointless' (Pears, 2002:41). From that brief sentence, the present writer can see some possible questions in accordance with it: Which is the best, if one has to choose between having power without wisdom or having wisdom without power? Is it possible for someone to have power as well as wisdom whereas nobody is perfect in this world? All of the contemplation about philosophical thought/statement would be clearer if seen through the portrayal of the three major characters namely Manlius Hippomanes, Olivier de Noyen and Julien Barneuve. Based on the story, the three major characters live in The Fall of the Roman Empire Period, The Black Death of the fourteenth century, and the Nazi invasion of World War II. The gloomy atmosphere at their time forces Manlius, Olivier and Julien to contemplate philosophical words in order to find an exact answer to the same question: Why are they living in this world and experiencing a great suffering instead of happiness? Finally, the three major characters understand that the cause of their suffering is their being bound to shadows of the world or evil thought. These shadows must be eliminated from their mind if they want to see reality of life. According to the novel, all shadows are rooted in the needs of the body. Since the body is mortal and the soul is immortal, men should consider the soul a more important thing than the body. The need of the soul is to be released

from the shadows; therefore, it can clearly see the reality of life without being influenced by the corrupted mind of the body. The soul's problems and the difficulty to get rid of them could be found all along this novel.

The present writer considers Iain Pears a talented author for he was capable of blending together history, literature, and philosophy in most of his work including The Dream of Scipio. This novel received high praise when it was published in mid-2002. Until now, Pears has contributed countless articles on artistic, financial, and historical subjects to British society. Today he has published three novels: An Instance of the Fingerpost (an international bestseller), The Portrait and the last one, The Dream of Scipio interweaves three linked episodes.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The present writer formulates the statement of the problem in this thesis as follows:

1. What is the theme of Iain Pears' The Dream of Scipio?
2. How does the portrayal of the three major characters help to reveal the theme of Iain Pears' The Dream of Scipio?

#### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

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

1. To present the theme of Iain Pears' Dream of The Scipio
2. To show how the portrayal of the three major characters help to reveal the theme of Iain Pears' The Dream of Scipio

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In this thesis, the present writer uses the library method of research. The first step to do this hypothetical work is reading the primary text of Iain Pears' The Dream of Scipio carefully. Then, she reads some books and an article which are relevant to the topic she discusses. Third, she tries to find out some information from the internet which supports the analysis of the data taken from the novel. At the end of the research, she elaborates all the information she has had from some sources mentioned before to be this thesis.

### **THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The present writer divides her thesis in three parts. The first part is including the Introduction which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem and the Purpose of the Study. The second part is the analysis of the theme through the portrayal of the three major characters in The Dream of Scipio. Finally, in the third part of this thesis, the present writer draws the conclusion of what has been analyzed in the previous chapter.