

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Novel is a long, imaginary story in common language. The characters, happenings, setting, plot and theme are systematically and consistently described and taken from real life. As Shaws says, it 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, settings, plot and theme.’ (Shaw, 1972:257) This definition points out that novel has more complete and realistic descriptions than other literary genres, which makes it easier to analyze and understand.

In a novel, conflict becomes one of its fundamental aspects. According to Shaw in his Dictionary of Literary Terms, conflict is defined as ‘... the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction.’ (Shaw, 1972:91-92) Furthermore, he divides conflict generally into three types: elemental or physical conflict, social conflict and internal / inner / psychological conflict. Physical conflict deals with man’s struggle against the physical world. As for social conflict, it

ideals with man's struggle against man. Inner conflict deals with man's struggle against desires within himself.

As conflict is fundamental to a novel, it has an important role. It functions as the material an author needs to make an exciting and meaningful story. Without conflict, a story would be so tedious that no one would desire to read it twice. Conflict also evokes the reader's curiosity, causing him to think about the meaning behind the story. Therefore, knowing how important conflict is, I decide to analyze it.

Two novels, have drawn my attention namely, Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy and The Cinder Path by Catherine Cookson, because they share prominent similarities and differences as well. There are two similarities I find in both novels. Firstly, each of the novels is one of each author's popular novels. Their popularity repeats through this present time, which becomes an obvious sign that they are very successful in enthralling their readers. One factor making the novels such a hit is that they present abundant conflicts. These conflicts appear in two types: social conflict (man against man) and inner conflict. The former is more dominant than the latter. Secondly, the protagonists have to struggle against their enemies who keep torturing them mentally, until the protagonists murder them. Besides being similar in some aspects I have already mentioned, the two novels show some differences. In Tess of the D'Urbervilles, the protagonist is a woman who has social conflicts with high-class men, while the protagonist in The Cinder Path is a man who has social conflict with both a lower-class man and high-class women. Another difference which can be identified is that the protagonists' fight against conflicts have different aims. The woman fights to show her good nature and love, although she comes from

a low-class society whereas the man fights to prove his identity. The last difference, I notice, is the ending of the conflicts. It seems that the first novel provides its reader with endless conflicts. The protagonist faces conflicts persistently up to her death. But this is not the case with the second novel. Its protagonist does not need to face conflicts for the rest of his life since he can learn to handle the situation well.

Statement of The Problem

I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. What kind of conflicts occur in Tess of the D'Urbervilles and The Cinder Path ?
2. Why do such conflicts occur?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

Purpose of The Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the conflicts which occur in Tess of the D'Urbervilles and The Cinder Path.
2. To show the reason why such conflicts occur.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.

Method of Research

The method I use is library research. I begin with reading Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles, and then Cookson's The Cinder Path. After that, I search for, gather and classify some information which is relevant to the topic to be discussed,

either from other books or from the internet. With the help of these data, I analyze the two novels and then come to a conclusion.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide this thesis into four chapters, which are preceded by the Preface, the Table of Contents, and the Abstract.

In Chapter One, I present the Introduction, containing 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 and Chapter Three, I analyze the conflicts seen through the protagonists in Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Cookson's The Cinder Path. In Chapter Four, I present the conclusion of both novels. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix.