

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

I have decided to discuss novel for my thesis because I find that novel is more interesting to read than any other literary genres. The way of the writer to present ideas through narrative forms can makes novel is easier to read and to be analyzed. According to Shaw, as clearly stated in Dictionary of Literary Terms ‘ Novel is a long fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series events and setting ‘. (Cross, 1997)

I have chosen Alan Hollinghurst’s novel The Spell to analyze because this novel rises up the topic about gay lifestyles and the inner conflicts that happens in a gay’s life. However, the gay’s lifestyle which is described in this novel is not old-fashioned lifestyles. The story takes place in England especially in London and Dorset. According to this novel, gay is not placed any longer as minority in public society. Publisher Weekly says, “Hollinghurst explores London’s drug-addled discos and Dorset’s country charms. This colorful and often breathtakingly eloquent novel follows the lives of four gay men in the late ‘90s.” (Stone, 1999).

The Spell is Hollinghurst's fiction in 1998. I considered this novel to be the most interesting one because this novel addresses the inner conflicts in gay life especially in their romance which is influenced by the unusual relationship between them. This novel is also portraying the life of a modern group of middle class gay Englishmen life clearly. John Updike of *The New Yorker*, praised Hollinghurst's "A meticulous exterior eye surveys the particular of gay life" and Daniel Mendelsohn says that "Like its two predecessors, Alan Hollinghurst's third novel is almost entirely devoted to the subject of male homosexual desire, but it's the only one of his books you could really call a 'gay novel' "in their review for New York Times Book Review. (Smith, 2002).

Moreover, Alan Hollinghurst himself is a gay and all the books written by him are telling a story about gay life. He can represent about gay life and it can be possible that the story is his observation in daily gay activity in gay society. In addition, Hollinghurst also has the ability to capture and portrays his characters' emotional and mental struggle through the intimacy between these four gay men. It makes the reader as if also feel every emotion and feeling of each character.

Like other literary genres, novel also has conflict as one of the element of literature that supports the whole story in the novel. Besides, conflicts can make a story more interesting to read. According to Dictionary of Literary Terms by Harry Shaw, "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 type of conflict is physical conflict. It is a struggle between man and the physical world. The second type of conflict is social conflict. It is a struggle between man

and man. The third type of conflict is inner or psychological conflict. It is a struggle between desires within a person.” (Smith, 2002).

I also have decided to discuss the inner conflicts in this novel as I find that each person in this novel have to face their own inner conflicts, and some of the inner conflicts are concerned in romance between them which is influenced by lust, and their ambition to have a true love and gain happiness in their life. The source of all inner conflicts that occur in this novel is an unusual relationship and a complicated love story that is surrounding these four gay men. Moreover, I also find that some inner conflicts in this novel is also concerned with love, hate, and secret desires between these four gay men with other gays. Besides, I also find that gay life which is portrayed in this novel is different from gay life in general. The difference is about faithfulness. These four gay men can not keep their faith to each of their mate and it causes the inner conflicts within each character in this novel. It is quite different from gay life in reality. Gays usually always keep their faithfulness to their mate.

Statement of the problem

1. What are the inner conflicts in the novel The Spell?
2. What causes the inner conflicts in the novel The Spell?
3. How are the inner conflicts resolved?

Purpose of the Study

1. To show the inner conflicts in the novel The Spell.
2. To show the causes of the inner conflicts in the novel The Spell.
3. To show how the inner conflicts are resolved.

Method of Research

I use library research in composing my thesis. First, I read Alan Hollinghurst's The Spell as the primary text. Then I read several reference books and explore some internet sites to find the information and data needed in analyzing the work.

Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into three chapters preceded by the Preface, and the Abstract. The first chapter is 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 the second chapter, I present the Analysis of the inner conflicts in Alan Hollinghurst's The Spell. Afterwards, I conclude my analysis in chapter three. The Thesis ends with Bibliography and the Appendix, consisting the Biography of Alan Hollinghurst and also Synopsis of The Spell.