

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Novel is a form of literature that is widely used by writers to express their feelings and thoughts. The present writer has decided to discuss novel as she finds that novel is the most interesting genre compared to the two others: drama and poetry. According to Harry Shaw in his book, Dictionary of Literary Terms, novel is ‘ ... a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and setting... every novel is an account of life, every novel involves character, action, setting, plot and theme’ (Shaw, 1905 :257)

In a novel, a writer can give a more detailed description of the events, characters and setting than in other genres. In a novel, a writer can give a more detailed description about characters, plot, setting and also other elements of a novel. So, when reading a novel readers can understand the story better than reading another literary genre like drama or poetry. The present writer also finds that novel is easier and more enjoyable to read compared to the other genres because she can understand novel more easily. Those are some of the reasons why the present writer decides to discuss a novel.

The present writer would like to discuss Graham Greene's The Heart of the Matter. Graham Greene is one of the most important writers in 20th century. His works, The Power and the Glory and The Heart of the Matter are very well known in the literary world. The present writer finds that the story of The Heart of the Matter is controversial, showing a Catholic protagonist, Scobie, facing a tragedy which leads him to suicide. The tragedy is ironic because as a Catholic, Scobie cannot face his troubles which make him so desperate that he chooses to end his life. The tragic ending is caused by Scobie's inner conflicts. The conflict of this novel is dominated by the inner conflicts of the protagonist.

Through inner conflicts, the present writer would like to reveal the theme because theme is one of the most prominent elements in a novel. Theme is '... the total meaning discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by the reader in the process of reading.' (Kenney, 1966 : 94) The inner conflicts in this novel significantly contribute to the revelation of the theme. Conflict is a very important element in a novel. In Dictionary of Literary Terms Harry Shaw mentions that conflict is ' the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction.' (Shaw, 1972 : 91) Furthermore, Shaw identifies three types of conflicts. The first one, physical conflict, is a conflict of man versus forces of nature. The second one is social conflict; a struggle between man and man or it can also be a struggle between man and society. The last one, the internal conflict or psychological conflict, is a struggle between desires within man himself. (Shaw 1972 : 92) As has been mentioned, the most significant conflict in this novel is inner conflict; therefore, the present writer is going to reveal the theme through inner conflicts.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. What is the theme of The Heart of the Matter by Graham Greene?
2. How do the inner conflicts help reveal the theme?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To show the theme of Graham Greene's The Heart of the Matter.
2. To show how the inner conflicts help reveal the theme.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

In analysing her thesis, the present writer uses the intrinsic approach, which requires a thorough analysis of the novel. In addition, in this thesis, she uses the method of library research. First, the present writer reads Graham Greene's The Heart of the Matter as the primary text. Then she reads several reference books and explores some Internet sites to get some relevant information for her thesis. Finally, she analyses the theme of the novel, which is revealed through inner conflicts, and concludes her analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis starts with the Abstract, which contains a brief explanation of the thesis in Indonesian. In Chapter One, the present writer presents the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, the present writer presents the theme analysis through inner conflicts in Graham Greene's The Heart of the Matter. The present writer concludes her analysis in Chapter Three. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendix, consisting of the Biography of Graham Greene, and also the Synopsis of The Heart of the Matter.