

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the theme of The Heart of the Matter, the present writer would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. The present writer finds that all inner conflicts in this novel help reveal the theme. It has been stated in the previous chapter that the theme of the novel is the guilty feeling can force one to do anything which will only lead one to troubles.

In analysing the inner conflicts, the present writer is of the opinion that all Scobie's inner conflicts are related to guilty feeling. Scobie experiences sufferings of guilt because he has a lot of burdens of responsibility towards others; burden of colonial responsibility, burden of a wife he no longer loves, burden of his wife's excessive ambition for him. Scobie thinks that he has to be responsible for them. The present writer finds that the guilty feeling that Scobie feels forces him to do anything to redeem it, which finally leads him to troubles. Scobie feels guilty towards God for what he has done. As a Catholic, he feels that he has failed in facing life's difficulties. Scobie feels guilty towards his wife because he has an affair and he thinks that he cannot make her happy. Scobie feels guilty towards the Commissioner because as an honest policeman he has done wrong actions and decides to lie to the Commissioner. Scobie also feels guilty towards Mrs. Rolt because he has done adultery but he cannot marry her. The present writer finds that all Scobie's guilty feelings force him to do anything which finally brings him

to desperation and other inner conflicts. Moreover, he does not know how to redeem the mistakes that he has made, and tragically he ends his life by committing suicide. This leads the present writer to the theme of the novel, that is guilty feeling can force one to do anything which will only lead one to trouble.

The inner conflicts that Scobie experiences deal with the conflict within himself. The present writer finds that the solutions Scobie takes are not always in accordance with Catholicism. His decisions show that Scobie is just an ordinary person who is not free from making mistakes and doing wrong actions. Nobody is perfect.

The present writer is of the opinion that Graham Greene portrays Scobie as someone who experiences personal crisis. The character Scobie makes the novel become suspenseful, fascinating, and at the same time tragic. The present writer also finds that the end of the story, related to Scobie's decision to end his life to overcome his problems, is a paradox. As a Catholic, if he realizes that he has committed so many sins, he actually must know that he should repent, but Scobie chooses to end his life to overcome his problems.

In the present writer's opinion, the theme of the novel is relevant to our life. The present writer believes that the theme and inner conflicts in this novel can happen in real life. The present writer sees that the inner conflicts Scobie experiences could happen in real life. She states this opinion because she thinks that people often do anything to redeem their guilty feelings.

The present writer finally concludes that Graham Greene is undoubtedly an excellent novelist who is skilful at delivering his message to the readers through the inner conflicts of the protagonist.