

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature can be a history record and some historical events are recorded in a work of literature. People who read a work of literature will gather information about what has happened during the time it was made or published. The reader can also have information from the experiences that the author has during his life. A work of literature can tell a story about religion, economy, politics, even a war.

Novel is one of the genres in literature. As we know that there are poetry, drama, and novel in literature genre. Novel is defined by Harry Shaw as:

a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and setting. A work of fiction with fewer than 30.000 to 40.000 words is usually considered a short story, novelette, or tale, but the novel has no actual maximum length. Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflict, characters, and action.
(Shaw, 1972: 257)

The present writer chooses novel than other literature genres such as poetry and drama because novel provides the reader stories and description in more details. It gives an advantage for the reader to gain more information and detail about the story of the novel.

The novel which the present writer has chosen is Hadji Murad. The novel deals with the war that happened in Russia between the Russians and the Chechens. The novel was written by Leo Tolstoy during 1896 and 1904; in addition, it was published posthumously in 1911. Leo Tolstoy is a realist writer from Russia. Many of his writings are based on real events. Most of his works are set in Russia in the time of wars. He saw the war with his own eyes moreover, as a soldier, he got involved in war. His candor about war which he puts in his works gives a different touch to his works compared to others' works. This different touch and eye witnessing by his participating in the war make the present writer have the opinion that Tolstoy's works are unique and worth analyzing. It will be different to watch a war in television or read it in a newspaper compared to see a war with our own eyes, moreover being on a war itself holding a gun and facing the enemy. One who watches a war with one's own eyes will have the truest fact of the war than those who watch it on television or read it in a newspaper.

The present writer would like to reveal the theme of the novel because in his opinion, theme is the most important thing in a novel. In How to Analyze Fiction, William Kenney defines theme as 'the total meaning discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by the reader in the process of reading' (Kenney, 1972: 94). According to this definition the present writer tries to reveal the total meaning of the novel seen through the conflicts because in this novel the

conflicts give most contribution in presenting the theme. Susan Naomi Bernstein in her book A Brief Guide to the Novel defines conflict as ‘the struggle or opposition between characters in a novel’ (Bernstein, 2002: 153). In addition, Bernstein identifies three types of conflicts: social conflict, physical conflict and psychological conflict. The present writer would like to focus his analysis of theme by analyzing social conflict and psychological conflict which appear in this novel.

Statement of the Problem

Having finished reading Leo Tolstoy’s Hadji Murad, the present writer states the problem as follows:

1. What is the theme of Hadji Murad?
2. How do the conflicts help to reveal the theme of Hadji Murad?

Purpose of the Study

The present writer intends:

1. To analyze the theme of Hadji Murad.
2. To show how the conflicts give a contribution to reveal the theme.

Method of Research

The method of research the present writer uses is library research. First of all, he reads the novel of Leo Tolstoy’s Hadji Murad. Later on, he reads books which are relevant to his research. Eventually, he searches on the internet in order to get information to support his analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into three chapters. Chapter One is 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. Chapter Two is the analysis of the Theme of Tolstoy's Hadji Murad. The last chapter, Chapter Three, is the Conclusion of what is discussed in the previous chapters. The thesis also includes the synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.