

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Although The Vicar of Wakefield did not achieve any greatness until the 19th century, I would like to analyze the theme through protagonist from this book. The Vicar of Wakefield discusses the loss of nobility, faith, and innocence. But mostly I want to show the character of Dr. Primrose as the protagonist to reveal the theme.

In this book, the reader will see the character of a man who never gives up although many obstacles come in his family life. He shows his persistence in dealing with the problems to make his family life better..

This book gives its readers a moral message which is still applicable in our life nowadays. As a human, we cannot run from problems, but the important part is how we face the problems.

Oliver Goldsmith's novel is chosen because I am interested in the background of Goldsmith's writings which are usually based on his social life. From Goldsmith's writings, it can be seen by the reader that the focus centers on the simple agrarian life style of the yeoman farmer and the struggles of a man in facing his life. This focus would be natural, since Goldsmith was born and

raised in the rural culture of Ireland, and he came from a poor family, but he struggled and gained success. (www.smarrpublisher.com/page6056). His writings are greatly influenced by his social background.

Novel is much easier to understand. Through novel the main idea of the story can be clearly seen. Novel is ‘a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings.’ (Shaw, 1972 : 257), and theme is ‘the central and dominating idea in a literary work.’ (Shaw, 1972 : 378). But one of the important parts in revealing the theme of a novel or any other literary works is the protagonist character as ‘the leading character of drama, novel, or other literary works.’ (Shaw, 1972 : 305). That is why based on the above reasons, I would like to analyze theme through protagonist of this novel.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. What is the theme of the novel?
2. How does the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To show the theme of the novel.
2. To show how the protagonist helps to reveal the theme.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The library research is used in analyzing the theme of the novel and a formalist approach is applied. First of all, I read the primary text entitled The Vicar of Wakefield by Oliver Goldsmith. Then I make some research to gather the information that is related to the thesis from some references and the internet to support the analysis of the primary text. Finally, then I start to analyze the novel using the theories that support my analysis and draw some conclusions.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis is divided into three chapters. Chapter one is the Introduction, which consist of the 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 Theme through Protagonist in The Vicar of Wakefield. Chapter Three is The Conclusion of what has been analyzed in the previous chapter. The next part is the Bibliography, which contains the list of all the references which have been used. At the end of the thesis, the Summary of The Vicar of Wakefield and the author's biography are presented in the Appendices.