

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The present writer chooses novel to analyze because it is easier to understand compared to other genres. Novel describes the character, situation and events in more detail and a clear way. According to Shaw in Dictionary of Literary terms , novel is “a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and setting.” (Shaw, 1972:257). Novel also deals with ordinary people, which makes the present writer more interested in analyzing a novel in her thesis.

The present writer chooses a bisexual fiction that is written by E. Lynn Harris. He is an African-American writer who is interested in telling about bisexual and gay problems that are faced by an African-American community in America. Harris does not bring out the issue of racialism, which becomes the common theme for other African-American writers, because he wants to show the reality of life that is faced by black who becomes a gay is very difficult to be accepted by some people nowadays.

The author writes trilogy novels, those are: Invisible Life, Just as I am, and Abide with me. Invisible Life is his first novel, which was written in 1991 and deals with the AIDS problem. In 1991, AIDS (*Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome*) became “the major threat to black sitting statistic of elevate Infection rates, the US center to disease control calls HIV/AIDS a major health risk for African-American in the States of New Jersey and New York. AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American between the ages of 15 and 44.” (<http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography>). The author connects the AIDS disease which is very risky for the gay and bisexual African-American community in the United State. This problem becomes the issue in his novel, Invisible Life. As a result, the present writer chooses Invisible Life to analyze as her thesis.

The protagonist in this novel is a bisexual man. According to The World Book, “there are some people who are not entirely homosexual (the condition of being sexually attracted to individuals of the same sex) and not entirely heterosexual (sexually attracted to the opposite sex). Many heterosexual have participated in some kind of homosexual activity at sometime in their lives.” (The World Book, 1996: 258). The meaning of bisexual, according to Kate Millet, ‘ the prefix ‘bi’ means two, or dual. Therefore, the word “bisexual” is used to refer to things involving both sexes. However, this can mean an individual who possesses physical organs of both sexes, or it can mean some events or setting that involve both sexes at once. It can also refer to individuals of either sex, who are attracted to both.” (<http://lorainehutchins.com/psych.html>). As a bisexual man, the protagonist in this novel has two lives: ” a visible one and an invisible one”. His visible life is the life that he shows to the public that he has a beautiful girlfriend, a good job and

has a successful family and his “invisible life” is the one which he hides from other people. In that life, he has a love relationship with men.

The present writer decides to discuss conflicts through the protagonist in her thesis because the conflicts in Invisible Life are the most interesting as well as the most dominant element in the novel. The conflicts deal with a controversial issue of bisexuality that happens to Raymond Taylor, who is confused with his sexuality.

According to Harry Shaw, conflict is “ the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action”. (Shaw, 1972:91). There are three types of conflict: social conflict, physical conflict and internal or inner conflict According to Shaw, social conflict is “ a struggle between man and man”. This social conflict happens because there are two or more people who have different ideas and opinions for example between father and son (Shaw, 1972:91) whereas physical conflict ” a struggle between man and the physical world”. (Shaw, 1972:92) This conflict happens when a man struggles with natural disaster for saving his life, such as storm and flood and inner conflict is “a struggle between desires within a person”. (Shaw, 1972:92). It happens when one has problems and he has to struggle inside his heart when he tries to solve his problems.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

After reading Invisible Life, the present writer is of the opinion that there are conflicts that the protagonist faces in the story. Based on this, the present writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What conflicts are faced by the protagonist in Invisible Life?
2. What is the cause of each conflict?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In relevance with the statement of the problem, the present writer would like to show:

1. The conflicts faced by the protagonist in E Lynn Harris' Invisible Life.
2. The causes of the conflicts.
3. How the conflicts are resolved.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The methods that are applied in this thesis are Internet research and library research. The present writer begins by reading the primary text, E. Lynn Harris' Invisible Life. Later the present writer reads some books and searches from the Internet to find some information to help the present writer in analyzing the novel and writing her thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The present writer will present the thesis in three chapters. Chapter one is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter two contains the analysis of the protagonist's conflict in E. Lynn Harris' Invisible Life. In chapter three, the present writer presents the Conclusion of the analysis. The present writer ends her thesis with the Bibliography and the Appendices. The Appendices consist of the synopsis of E. Lynn Harris' Invisible Life and the biography of E. Lynn Harris.