

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A novel is “the most widely practised and most widely read form of literature in the world today”. (Murphy, 1972: 21). Novel provides more information and details than other literary genres. Therefore, novels are easier to understand and analysed than the other genres.

I choose to analyse novels by Margaret Atwood and Michele Roberts. Margaret Atwood is a “Canadian poet, novelist, and critic, noted for her feminism. Atwood's work mostly talks about women. (<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/atwood.htm>)

Michele Roberts was French English. ‘She was involved in socialist and feminist politics. She wrote fiction, non-fiction and poems. (<http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=5135>)

The novels that I am going to analyse are *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Flesh and Blood* by Michele Roberts because the two novels use unusual narrative technique.

Narrative technique refers to various ways of telling a story used by a writer in order to create effects that he wants the readers to feel (Eastman, 1965).

Richard Eastman says in his *A Guide to the Novel* (1965) that narrative technique is divided into four elements and they are point of view, time and tempo, style and distance.

I am writing this thesis as an appreciation towards the two novelists' great effort in creating such complicated yet interesting pieces of writing.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

I will focus on the process of study to gain comprehension of these problems:

1. What kind of narrative technique is used by the authors in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Flesh and Blood*?
2. What is the effect of the narrative technique used for the readers?

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

This particular study is performed with the purpose as follows:

1. To analyse the kind of narrative technique used by the authors in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Flesh and Blood*.
2. To analyse the effect of the narrative technique used for the readers.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

I will make this thesis to analyse the narrative technique used in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Roberts' *Flesh and Blood*.

I do the library research and perform this particular method of research, which includes reading and comprehending the two novels and other references, in

order to create an objective atmosphere of research and analysis in the process of study.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The presentation of the thesis will be divided into parts. The thesis begins with The Preface and the Abstract. Chapter I contains The Background of the Study, The Statement of the Problem, The Purpose of the Study, The Method of Research, and The Organization of the Thesis. Chapter II contains the theory of narrative technique. Chapter III contains the analysis of the narrative technique in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. Chapter IV contains the analysis of the narrative technique in Roberts' *Flesh and Blood*. The last chapter, Chapter V, contains the conclusion and the comparative study from the analysis of the narrative technique in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Roberts' *Flesh and Blood*. The Bibliography and The Appendices will end the thesis.