

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

I decide to analyse novel instead of the other two literary genres for my thesis. It is due to my interest and opinion that novel is easier to understand and more interesting to read. Furthermore, novel contains vividly detailed information for the readers to gain deeper understanding of the story. Novel is “a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings” (Shaw, 1972:257)

Furthermore, novel portrays feelings and emotions of the characters according to the author’s imaginations without limits. According to Shaw, “Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves critics, characters, action, setting, plot and theme” (Shaw, 1972:257)

In particular, I decide to analyse the novel entitled Agnes Grey written by Anne Brontë. The particular novel shows the real portrayal of a governess’s life and allows insight to a life of governess in the Victorian period where the world of literature blossomed under Queen Victoria’s rule. The novel answers my curiosity about how they survive to live with a family of strangers with which they have no relationship and how they have been treated when they are

far away from home revealed through the protagonist named Agnes. The novel is a deeply moving story that portrays an educated woman in the Victorian periods, whose only resource is to become a governess.

The literary element I choose to analyse is theme. The theme is going to be revealed through the portrayal and actions of the protagonist. Theme becomes an important aspect in the novel, even the most significant aspect, because theme controls the idea of a story which can guide the readers to understand the story better. According to Shaw, "Theme is a central and dominating idea in a literary work" (Shaw, 1972:378).

To be more specific, I decide to analyse the novel written by the youngest daughter of the famous Brontë family named Anne. She is best known for her novel Agnes Grey, which is largely drawn from her experiences as a governess. Anne draws on incidents from her time as a governess to the over-privileged children of the households. She experiences the development of a gentle Agnes and sympathetically depicts the harsh treatment she receives along the way. Leaving her home and close relationship with her family, she arrives at the residence of a stranger who is negligent and treats her badly. Although faced with many obstacles and trials, she is always persistent in what she has learned.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

From the analysis of Anne Brontë's Agnes Grey, I formulate the problem as follows:

1. What is the theme of Anne Brontë's Agnes Grey?
2. How do the portrayal and actions of the protagonist help to reveal the theme of the particular novel?

III. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the theme of Anne Brontë's Agnes Grey.
2. To analyse how the portrayal and actions of protagonist help to reveal the theme of the particular novel.

VI. METHODS OF RESEARCH

The method that I use in my thesis is library research. First, I start my discussion by reading Anne Brontë's Agnes Grey, and I also use some references which are relevant to the topic being discussed. Finally, I use the data that I have collected for my analysis to draw some conclusions.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I divide the thesis into three chapters. In The first chapter contains the Introduction, consisting of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. In the second chapter, I present the discussions of the theme of Anne Brontë's novel Agnes Grey through the portrayal and actions of the protagonist. The third chapter contains the Conclusion, where I conclude the

analysis of the previous chapter. The thesis ends with the Bibliography, Synopsis of the novel, and the Biography of the Author.