

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Novel is a literary work which is long and complicated. Moreover, like poetry or drama, novel has its own specialty in conveying a message. Even though novel is the most complicated genre, it gives more details than the other literary genres and can make the reader get a clear idea of what the story is about. Peck and Coyle in Literary Terms And Criticism: A Student's Guide state that novel is "a long work with a great amount of detail on every page. They do present all the complicating text that needs to be taken into account before we can reach any sort of judgment". (Peck and Coyle, 1984:103). Therefore, I am of the opinion that novel is challenging and enjoyable to analyze.

I am interested in analyzing a novel about parents and children, because I know that parents and children have a special relationship. The novel When We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro clearly indicates that. Ishiguro writes a story about a child who has been facing many difficulties in life since he lost his parents. In addition, the difficulties shape him to be a tough and realistic person in facing the world.

Kazuo Ishiguro is a British citizen of Japanese descent, a writer in the twentieth century, who always writes “about the relationship between parents and children. Kazuo Ishiguro uses language, genre and literary form that most distinguish his work and account for its power and hold over his reader. He has near perfect ear for rhythms of the English language, and a remarkably lucid prose style that is almost unmatched among modern writers”. ([www.Geocities.com/SoHo/Nook/1082/ Kazuo Ishiguro page.html](http://www.Geocities.com/SoHo/Nook/1082/Kazuo_Ishiguro_page.html)).

I notice that the theme of the novel is the most prominent element in When We Were Orphans. According to Shaw in Dictionary of Literary Terms, theme is “the central idea or dominating idea in literary work. “ (Shaw, 1972: 378). Revealing the theme through the portrayal and action of the protagonist is very significant. According to Kenney in How to Analyze Fiction “As a major element in fiction, character is obviously of major importance for the theme” (Kenney, 1996: 94-95). This fact makes me interested to analyze the theme by using intrinsic approach as the idea of the story is revealed through portrayal and action of the character.

Statement of the Problem

In order to analyze the topic chosen, I state the problems as follows:

1. What is the theme of When We Were Orphans?
2. How does the portrayal and action of the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

Purpose of the Study

The study is done:

1. To analyze the theme of When We Were Orphans.
2. To show how the portrayal and action of the protagonist help to reveal the theme.

Method of Research

In analysing the literary work, I use library research. First, I read Kazuo Ishiguro's When We Were Orphans as my primary text. I also read several books which are relevant to the topic being discussed; and I use further information from the internet to support my thesis. Finally, I draw some conclusions of what has been discussed.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis begins with the Preface, followed by the Table of Content and Abstract. This thesis is divided into three parts. It begins with the Introduction in Chapter One, consisting of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two deals with analysis of theme through portrayal and action of the protagonist in Kazuo Ishiguro's When We Were Orphans. Chapter Three is the Conclusion, which is the last chapter. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the synopsis of When We Were Orphans and the biography of Kazuo Ishiguro.