CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The present writer has decided to analyse a novel because she finds that it is the best genre for telling stories. Novel also presents a story in detail. Therefore, compared to the two other literary genres, drama and poetry, novel is easier to understand. Novel is 'a long work with a great number of details on every page. They thus present all the complicating facts that need to be taken into account before we can reach any sort of judgement' (Peck and Coyle, 1984:103). This fact makes readers enjoy reading novel more. Novel reflects human lives as it usually deals with 'ordinary people and their problems in societies in which they find themselves' (Peck and Coyle, 1984:103).

Margaret Forster is one of the English prominent writers. She gets many awards for her works whether it is fiction or non-fiction. She also gives a lot of contribution regularly to book programmes on television, to radio 4 (Four) and various newspapers and magazines.

The Battle for Christabel is one of Margaret Forster's novels. This novel brings the reality of life through its characters which are described like people in

reality. This novel tells about a woman named Rowena, who really wants a baby; yet, it is very unique because Rowena does not want the baby's father. Unfortunately, five years after the birth of Christabel, Rowena is tragically killed in a climbing accident. Now, it becomes an issue because there are two women struggling to get a right to take care of Rowena's daughter, Christabel. The two women are Mrs. Blake, Christabel's grandmother, and Isobel, Rowena's friend. Yet at the end of the story they have to accept their defeat. In <u>The Battle for Christabel</u>, the present writer finds that Forster succeeds in creating various characters and making an interesting story.

The present writer has decided to deal with the potrayal of the major characters because they have different characteristics which are interesting to analyse and the characters in the novel are lifelike because they represent people in our daily life. Through the characters, the readers can analyse and understand the story they read. The characters have an important role to help readers understand the whole purpose of the writing of the book. 'The contrast between the behaviour of each character is what makes theme come alive and enables the reader to believe in them. The characters react to each other and develop throughout a novel, and it is this action and reaction that usually makes up the majority of good book' (Reader and Woods, 1987:57).

The present writer discovers that portrayal can be better appreciated by a careful and attentive reading of the text. The present writer believes that characterization is a very important element in a novel. That is why characterization cannot be separated from a novel and it helps the reader to understand each of the characters better. By creating such characteristics in <u>The</u>

<u>Battle for Christabel</u>, Margaret Forster succeeds in convincing the reader that the characters in the novel are lifelike.

Statement of the Problem

Having read Margaret Forster's <u>The Battle for Christabel</u>, the present writer formulates the statement of the problems as follows:

1. How does the author portray the major characters ?

2. What is the author's purpose in creating such characters ?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study is:

1. To show how the author portrays the major characters.

2. To show the author's purpose in creating such characters.

Methods of Research

The method of research used by the present writer is library research. Firstly, she reads the primary text entitled <u>The Battle for Christabel</u> by Margaret Forster. Secondly, she chooses the prominent literary aspect of the novel to be analysed. Thirdly, the present writer reads several reference books connected with the topic to be analysed and she also uses some further information from the Internet to support her thesis.

Organization of the Thesis

   The present writer divides this thesis into three chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of 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 Two deals with the portrayal of the major characters in <u>The Battle for Christabel.</u> The present writer concludes her analysis in Chapter Three. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which present a synopsis of <u>The Battle for Christabel</u> as well as the biography of Margaret Forster.