

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

I have decided to analyse novel rather than any other literary genres because although it is usually longer, it is easier to read since it gives more detailed and complete information.

According to Shaw, novel is “a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and setting”. (Shaw, 1972:257) Moreover, he states “novel has no actual maximum length. Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflict, character, action, setting, plot and theme”. (Shaw, 1972:257)

I have decided to analyse Kathryn Harrison’s novel The Binding Chair because I feel that this literary work is interesting; it tells a lot about Chinese women and Chinese tradition written by an American writer. Few western writers write novels about Chinese women and Chinese tradition. It is obvious that Harrison has a lot of knowledge about Chinese society and culture. The details she presents are convincing.

I have decided to analyse conflict because it is one of the most important elements in novel. According to Shaw, conflict is “the opposition of a person or

forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. There are three kinds of conflicts; one type of conflict is elemental or physical: a struggle between man and the physical world. It represents man versus forces of nature, the difficulties and danger. Another type of conflict is social: a struggle between man and man. The third type of conflict is internal or psychological: a struggle between desires within a person, but the focus is always upon the central figure's inner turmoil". (Shaw, 91)

I have decided to analyse the conflict in Kathryn Harisson's novel The Binding Chair because May as the protagonist has many conflicts with other characters throughout the novel, from the time she was a little girl until her death. She experiences social conflicts with other characters in this novel.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

After reading Kathryn Harrison's The Binding Chair, I would like to formulate the problem as follows:

1. What are the conflicts in Kathryn Harrison's The Binding Chair?
2. What causes the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

I intend to show:

1. The conflicts that the protagonist experiences in The Binding Chair.
2. The causes of the conflicts.
3. The solutions to the conflicts.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

In analysing this topic, I use formalism method; first I read Kathryn Harrison's The Binding Chair, and then I decide the topic I want to discuss. After I have decided the topic, I use library research to support my work. I use some reference books which are relevant to the topic and I search in the Internet to get additional information. I use the data I have collected for the analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is divided 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. In Chapter Two, I analyse the social conflicts that the protagonist has with the other characters in the novel. After the Conclusion, I end the thesis with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain a synopsis of the novel and a brief biography of the novelist.