

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The reason I choose a novel to analyse in my thesis is because this literary work is interesting and easy to understand. The characters, the events, the plot or the settings in a novel are usually described clearer than in the other forms of literature. Most of all, the moral message conveyed in a novel can be comprehended easily and more deeply because of the details given in a novel.

I am eager to analyse a best-selling novel entitled A Clockwork Orange. It is written by Anthony Burgess, an English novelist. Anthony Burgess has written A Clockwork Orange in 'slang' and in an uncommon language which he creates and he calls 'nadsat' – the language used by the younger generation. This makes the novel difficult to understand; still, it is enjoyable to read the novel. The novel describes the life of a young boy called Alex who has destructive behaviour. On viewing Alex's behaviour, I become aware that violence will only cause self-destruction. Moreover, I believe that the society will condemn any kinds of acts of violence. As a result, it is hard for someone who has been involved in crimes or violence to have a normal life

for he is always judged as a criminal or a bad person by the society. This will lead him to suffer in his life.

Anthony Burgess is considered as one of the talented English writers. In his life he had produced many literary works. Burgess liked travelling and he spent most of his life visiting many different countries. Therefore, his works were influenced by his experiences in the countries he had visited, for example the Malayan trilogy The Long Day Wanes, and after he visited Brunei, he produced Devil of a State. Burgess mostly wrote about crime, love, marriage, homosexuality and pornography as the main subjects of his works.

I would like to analyse theme in my thesis. Theme is one of the major aspects in literature. Theme plays an important role in a literary work for it conveys the author's purpose in writing the literary work. Theme is 'the purpose of the story' (Laurence Perrine 106). Without knowing the theme of a literary work, the readers will never understand the meaning of the work; consequently, the messages which the author wants to tell the readers may not be successfully delivered to them. In reading a literary art work, the readers must pay attention to all the details of the story such as the plot, the characters and the settings because all of them are presented to help build the theme of the literary work. In Perrine's Story and Structure theme is defined as 'the central and unifying concept of the story. Therefore, it must account for all the major details of the story' (108).

I find the theme of A Clockwork Orange is clearly revealed through the protagonist of the novel. Furthermore, it is closely related to the view of crime. I would like to analyse the theme of the novel through the protagonist's speech and actions. Although Burgess presents the protagonist of the novel as a bad boy who always

breaks the law, the readers will finally sympathize with him. Seeing the fact that the protagonist has to suffer a lot in his life, the readers can understand his feelings and thoughts deeply. Burgess has created such a good novel that it is worth analysing the book.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

I want to formulate the statements of the problems as follows:

1. What is the theme of Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange?
2. How does the protagonist helps reveal the theme of the novel?
3. What moral values are found in this novel?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purposes of the study are based on the above problems:

1. To show the theme of Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange.
2. To show how the protagonist help reveal the theme of the novel.
3. To show the moral values found in this novel.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method of research used is library research. I start my research by reading the primary text A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess. I continue by reading some reference books and works of critics which can be used to support the research. I also gather some information from the Internet. Then I choose the important data which have been gathered and I use them to help me complete my research.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I present this thesis in three Chapters, preceded by Acknowledgments, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, containing 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 present the Analysis of Theme through the Protagonist in Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange. Then in Chapter Three I write the Conclusion of what I have discussed in Chapter Two. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, in which I present the Synopsis of A Clockwork Orange and the Biography of Anthony Burgess.