

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A piece of writing is usually connected with its author. The works of an author may be influenced by the author's personal experience and the social or political condition of the time. Thus, the works of an author can give the readers some insight concerning the author, his experience and what has happened in his life. This can also be applied to Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies. These novels can give the readers the indications of the times when the authors live and they also make the readers understand the authors well. Intertextuality also exists between these two novels. Intertextuality is a term coined by Julia Kristeva in 1966 to denote that every text is tied to another text.

The term 'intertextuality' was coined by Julia Kristeva to indicate that a text (such as a novel, poem or historical document) is not a self-contained or autonomous entity, but is produced from other texts...Intertextuality may be understood as the thesis that no text exists outside its continuing interpretation and reinterpretation. There can never be definitive reading of a text, for each reading generates a new text, that itself becomes part of the frame within which the original text is interpreted.  
(Edgar, 1999: 197-198)

The reason why I choose Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies is because I can see the connection between both texts. Lord of the Flies, written about a century after the first publication of The Coral Island, is created as a reaction to the latter. Both these novels focus on some teenage boys as the major characters of the novels, and it is the development of these characters that is emphasized in the two novels. The novels are set in unknown islands and some of the characters' names are the same in both novels. Although there is intertextuality between the novels which can be seen through the connection between both texts, such as the similarities in the story lines and the settings, the message in each novel is different. The Coral Island implies that men are naturally civilized and good-natured, while Lord of the Flies implies that men are naturally evil and civilization is the only thing that represses savagery. In the novels, the authors give their messages through various literary elements, such as characters, setting, conflict, symbol, and foreshadowing.

The difference between these two novels is caused by the authors' different personal views on human nature which they present in their novels. Ballantyne lived in the nineteenth century or in the Victorian period when Britain was still a great empire in the reign of Queen Victoria. Like most British people at the time, I believe Ballantyne took pride in his nationality and his country. Ballantyne is described as '...hero of Victorian youth...With his books, Ballantyne made his contributions to the success of missionaries, soldiers, trail-blazers, the exploiters of great British empire,' (<http://www.kirjasto.sci-fi/ballant.htm>). Ballantyne's novel, The Coral Island, also shares the optimistic view of the time. On the other hand, Golding lived

in the twentieth century when Britain was no longer the greatest empire and it had lost many of its colonies. The optimistic view in The Coral Island is substituted by a more realistic or even a pessimistic view on human nature. Golding himself also believes in the concept of original sin which influences his view on human nature. This is the main difference between both novels.

I would like to discuss the causes of the difference based on some historical backgrounds and the authors' biographies. The biographies of the authors reflect their lives and the times when they live. The historical backgrounds concern with the historical events which occur during the time when the authors live. Then the discussion continues with the analysis of the authors' views on human nature through various literary elements such as characters, setting, conflict, symbol, and foreshadowing. The purpose of analysing these two intertextual novels is to gain deeper understanding of both novels through the authors' perspectives as well as the novels.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

I would like to state the problems as follows:

1. Why do Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies as intertextual texts present such different views on human nature?
2. How does each author imply his view on human nature in his novel?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

I would like to give the purpose of the study as follows:

1. To give the explanation of why Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies as intertextual texts present such different views on human nature.
2. To show how each author implies his view on human nature in his novel.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method of research used is the library research. I begin my research by reading the primary texts The Coral Island by Robert Michael Ballantyne and Lord of the Flies by William Golding. Then I read several books and works of critics which can be used to support my research. I also gather some information from the Internet. Finally, I choose the important data that have been gathered and I use them to help me complete my thesis.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide this thesis into three Chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains 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 The Authors' Contrasting Views on Human Nature in Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies as Intertextual Texts. Chapter Three is the Conclusion of what I have discussed in the previous chapter. This thesis ends with the Bibliography, which consists of the list of references and various sources which have been used in the writing of the thesis, and the Appendices, which present the Synopses of the two novels and the Biographies of the authors.