

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

During 1830s and 1840s, Europeans (British, French, German) and White Americans did their voyage and did missionary work around the world, including to Polynesia in South Pacific. In general, Polynesians were regarded as primitive, savage and heathen: ‘...so far as regards their peculiar customs and general mode of life, they retain their original primitive character...’ (Melville, 1846: 11), ‘...voyagers or travelers. They have discovered heathen and barbarians, whom by horrible cruelties they have exasperated into savages...that in all the cases of outrages committed by Polynesians.’ (Melville, 1846: 27).

Marqueses island is a part of Polynesia. On June 23, 1842 Herman Melville joined a voyage to Marquesas island. When the ship Acushnet was anchored in Nukuheva, Herman Melville and his shipmate, Richard Tobias Greene, jumped from the ship and was lost at Typee where at that time Typee is well known as a tribe of savage who is cannibal and primitive, ‘the author as a whaleman who jumps ship from the Acushnet and is confined by the cannibalistic Typee tribe in Marquesas Island’ (<http://www.answers.com/topic/herman-melville>), ‘ In June 1842, accompanied by his

friend Toby Greene, Melville deserted the *Acushnet* tempted by a desire to try life on a lush tropical island.’ ‘...Herman Melville wrote the novel *Typee*, a realistic narrative reasonably close to the facts of Melville’s sailor experience.’
(<http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/melvillebio.html>)

I find the novel *Typee* interesting because the author, Herman Melville, uses his true experience to write this novel. Having stayed with *Typee*, he is also remembered as “The man who has lived among the cannibals” (Melville, 1846: xvi). This novel tells us about the good treatment from the *Typee* toward Tom, the protagonist and narrator of the novel, and *Typee*’s ways of life during his stay with them.

In analyzing the novel, I would like to show and discuss the theme of the novel. Through the theme, I can understand the meaning of the whole story in the novel and the author’s message. Harry Shaw states in Dictionary of Literary terms that ‘Theme is the central idea and dominating idea in literary work...the message or moral implicit in any work of art.’ (Shaw, 1972: 378) The theme of the novel can be revealed clearly through the adventure which Tom has experienced.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems which I would like to analyze are:

1. What is the theme of the novel, *Typee*?
2. How does the Protagonist’s observation on *Typee* reveal the theme?
3. How does the Protagonist fail in the end of the story?

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study are:

1. To show the theme of the novel, *Typee*
2. To show how the Protagonist's observation on *Typee* reveal the theme
3. To show how the Protagonist fail in the end of the story

1.4 METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of research used is library research. First of all, I began my research by reading the primary text *Typee* by Herman Melville. Then, I continued by reading several books that can be used to support the research. I also gathered some information from internet. Then, I choose the important data that have been gathered and used it to help me in completing my research.

1.5 THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I present this thesis in three chapters, starting with Preface, Table of Content and Abstract then followed by Chapter One which is the Introduction that contains Background of the Study, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, I present the analysis of theme through the protagonist in Herman Melville's *Typee* respectively. The last one is Chapter Three, the conclusion of the thesis. And this thesis ends with the Bibliography, which presents the list of references and various sources that have been used in writing, and the Appendices, which presents the synopsis of *Typee* and the Biography of the author.