

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Novel is how a writer expresses his or her ideas usually in the form of a story; it is the extended fictional work in prose. (<http://www.elook.org/dictionary/novel.html>) I have chosen to analyse a novel since it is easier to understand than a play or poems. There are many kinds of novels, such as detective, horror, mystery, and romance. I have chosen Anna Karenina, a novel containing tragic romance.

Love is one of the most important things in life. In this novel, the novelist reveals that love determines a person's happiness. "Anna Karenina is one of the famous and greatest books ever written" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/reputation>). This novel is created by Leo Tolstoy who is considered to be one of a "great writer of the Russian land". (Tolstoy 2005). This novel is one of his masterpieces. It has been translated into many languages and turned into dramas and even movies. This novel tells about a married woman who fights for her true love but finally fails.

I am interested in the protagonist's struggle to fight for her true love to get happiness. She has an affair with Vronsky, a young Count. Her action is regarded

to be against the social norm in her time. In the late nineteenth century, in Russia, women had no right to choose a future husband on her own; high-class society believes “the only happy marriages are the arranged ones.” (Tolstoy 137) In the novel, Anna is unhappy because she has to marry a man whom she does not love.

Since the most prominent aspect of this novel is theme, I would like to analyse its theme. Theme is the total meaning of the story. It is “the necessary implications of the whole story, not a separable part only.” (Kenney 88) Theme can be seen through speech, actions and thoughts. In this novel, the theme can be seen through the conflicts of the protagonist.

Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. (Shaw 47). In other words, “conflict is the tension in a situation between characters or the actual opposition of character....” (Cuddon 188). There are three types of conflicts, namely elemental, social and inner conflicts.

In this case, I will focus on social and inner conflicts. Social conflict is conflict between man and man while inner conflict is the struggle between desires within a person. In order to find the theme of the novel, I will analyse Anna Karenina’s conflicts.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problems are stated as follows:

1. What is the theme of the novel?
2. How do the conflicts of the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of the study is stated as follows:

1. To show the theme of the novel
2. To show how the conflicts of the protagonist help to reveal the theme

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method of research is library research. First of all, I read Anna Karenina as the primary text. I apply formalism to have a better understanding of my analysis. I then read some reference books that are relevant to the topic. I also explore some Internet sites to get the information needed for the thesis. Finally, I analyse the data that I have collected from which I draw a conclusion.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

This thesis consists of three chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, I present my analysis of the theme of Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina through the protagonist's conflicts. Afterwards, I draw the conclusion in Chapter Three. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices, which contain the biography of Leo Tolstoy and a brief synopsis of Anna Karenina.