

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

H. G Wells is one of the greatest writers in his era. Moreover, I think he is the best writer of science fiction because his works have influenced many experts to make inventions. For instance, his short story entitled The Land Ironclads has influenced the invention of the tank in WW II (Benford ix). Although it is a short story, he succeeded in making people think of the future. As another example, his novel entitled The First Men in the Moon might encourage people to think that they can fly to the moon. A critic said, “By the year he wrote The Invisible Man (1897), Wells was already a major figure in literature and a great writer of what was then called science fiction” (Benford x). Science became more popular, and people were more interested about the future, partly because of the influence of his works.

The Invisible Man is science fiction because it would make people wonder whether invisibility can be proved or not. Logically, in real life there are things that are really invisible or transparent, such as air and clear water. If something is a fantasy, then it would not be likely to happen and it would be

absolutely unrealistic. In this case, I think the story in The Invisible Man is quite realistic and so people may think of it as being possible. “Visibility depends on the action of the visible bodies on light. Either a body absorbs light, or it reflects or refracts it, or does all these things. If it neither reflects nor refracts nor absorbs light, it can not of itself be visible” (Wells 100). He simplifies the theory by showing some examples which can be done at home. “You make the glass invisible by putting it into a liquid of nearly the same refractive index; a transparent thing becomes invisible if it is put in any medium or almost the same refractive index” (Wells 101). Thus, the fact that such an experiment is possible makes me interested to read The Invisible Man.

“The central figure of The Invisible Man is typical of a type of character which always attracted and disturbed H. G. Wells—the exceptional human” (Benford 175). This brings me to think that the protagonist in this story must have been remarkably interesting as well as important since the title of the book shows a direct reference to the protagonist. As a result, this has triggered me to further analyze the protagonist to find out Wells’ intention in writing The Invisible Man. I believe that H. G. Wells wants to describe Griffin as the Invisible Man in both implicit and explicit ways. The major problem is how power could change a person, either to become good or bad. A critic says, in The Invisible Man, H. G. Wells both demonstrates and criticizes man’s tendency to become moral or immoral with the acquirement of power. He shows how science can accomplish great things and also how it can cause great harm. The harm that the Invisible Man’s exploitation of power causes does not go unpunished (“H. G. Wells’ Immoral Invisible Man”).

I believe that an in-depth analysis of the protagonist in The Invisible Man would help me reveal the theme as well as answering some intriguing questions I have in mind. In a story, the portrayal of a specific person or character will have something to say about life, whether it sounds sarcastic or appreciative. It also connects with people around him/her, so it will help me to find out the central meaning of this book. Perrine said, “Whatever central generalization about life arises from the specific of the story constitutes theme” (Perrine 106).

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Through the analysis of The Invisible Man, I would like to try to analyze two problems:

1. What is the theme of the book entitled The Invisible Man?
2. How does the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

My purposes in analyzing the problems are:

1. To know what the theme of the book entitled The Invisible Man is.
2. To know how the protagonist helps to reveal the theme.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In doing the study, I use library research. Having read the novel, which is the primary text, I then read several books/references on literary criticism related to the topic being analyzed in order to support my understanding of the novel. I also browse some Internet websites to look for more information.

## **THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The thesis is organized into three chapters, which are preceded by Acknowledgement and Abstract. Chapter One, the Introduction, expresses the reason for choosing the topic. This chapter contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the Analysis of Theme through Protagonist in The Invisible Man. Chapter Three, which is also the last chapter, provides the Conclusion of the Analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, including the Synopsis of the work chosen and the Biography of the writer.