

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Thomas Harris, the creator of the suspense novel entitled The Silence of the Lambs, is known as one of the best suspense writers in the world. He succeeds in creating spectacular works and makes it adaptable into a widescreen movie. In his works, "...Harris places his clues and his carnage with precision" (Internet Book List). The Silence of the Lambs can be considered as a detailed suspense story. It is believed that all of Harris' knowledge and skills that he earned from his previous job as a reporter makes him succeed in entering the world of writings.

The Silence of the Lambs, one of Harris' novels that receives positive responses from the critics, is claimed as "one of the most gripping reads of the year"(Internet Book List). In the story, Harris creates a protagonist, Clarice Starling, who also appears on Harris' other novel entitled Hannibal. The reason why I choose to analyze Starling, the protagonist, in The Silence of the Lambs is because in this book, the characterization of the protagonist is well-described by the author. Harris gives the reader a closer look of what kind of mental strength that Starling has. Throughout the novel, Starling has to fight for her

freedom from her nightmare, which is actually the trauma of her past childhood. In the end, her uncommon relationship with Dr. Hannibal “The Cannibal” Lecter, who helps her solve the case and releases her from her nightmare, makes her become braver than she was before.

The portrayal of the protagonist, in this case is Starling, is the one that I want to analyze thoroughly. It is because of the progress of the characterization that she has makes her be classified as a round and dynamic character. By definition, a round character means a complex literary character with fully developed and dynamic traits. complex and undergo development, sometimes sufficiently to surprise the reader. While dynamic character means a character that undergoes a permanent change in outlook or character during the story. It also conveys what the author wants to say by creating such portrayal of the protagonist in the novel.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

1. How is the protagonist portrayed in Harris’ The Silence of the Lambs?
2. What is the purpose of the author in portraying such protagonist in the novel?

#### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To show how the protagonist portrayed in Harris’ The Silence of the Lambs.
2. To show the purpose of the author in portraying such protagonist in the novel.

#### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

To elaborate the writer’s analysis of The Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris, the writer conducts the library research to analyze text in order to find the

entries that will be useful in the analysis. The writer also includes the use of the Internet sources to help the writer find the materials that the writer needed.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The thesis consists of three chapters preceded by Acknowledgements, Table of Content, and Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, consisting Background of The Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of The Study, Method of Research, Organization of The Thesis. Chapter Two is the Analysis of the Portrayal of the Protagonist in Thomas Harris' The Silence of the Lambs. Chapter Three is the Conclusion and the last is Bibliography, and the Appendix, which contains the Synopsis of The Silence of the Lambs, and Biography of Thomas Harris.