CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

I have decided to analyze two novels as the object of my thesis. I think novel is more enjoyable to read than other genres of literary works. Novel serves more detailed information in telling the story, compared to poetry or drama. When reading a novel I can both imagine and feel the experience of the characters and the atmosphere. A novel is defined as "…a long work with great amount of detail on every page. They thus present all complicating facts that need to be taken into account before we can reach any sort of judgment." (Peck and Coyle 103). A novel also consists of elements like theme, setting, conflicts, plot and characterization which really help me in understanding the story.

The novels I have decided to analyze are <u>The Devil Wears Prada</u> by Lauren Weisberger and <u>Mammon Inc.</u> by Hwee Hwee Tan. I am interested in analyzing these novels because the dilemmas faced by the female protagonists in their work environments are very possible to happen in the real world. The two novels tell about the search for one's comfort place where one can be herself. This process of searching, however, leads them into some conflict which require them to sacrifice something from their lives.

Thus, by analyzing these novels I try to portray the reactions, thoughts and speech shown by the protagonists in facing their bosses' demands, whether to follow them or not and whether the protagonists find their comfort community in their new work environment. Besides, I also try to analyze the theme by portraying the protagonists' characteristics.

I am interested in analyzing Tan's <u>Mammon Inc.</u> because it talks about the influence of Chinese and British culture, which makes the novel richer. Tan is a young Singaporean writer who often portrays Chinese culture in her works as found in her first book <u>Foreign Bodies</u>. Her <u>Mammon Inc.</u> is also "commissioned by the National Arts Council of to be a play at this year's Arts Festival." (<u>Mammon Inc.</u> review).

<u>The Devil Wears Prada</u> by Lauren Weisberger is also an interesting piece to read. It portrays the views of a New York metropolitan jet-set community and branded goods like bags, clothes and shoes. The title of the book itself is catchy. It mentions a very famous and expensive brand, Prada. This novel is Weisberger's best-seller. "It was on the New York Times hardcover bestseller list for six months. It has been published in twenty-seven countries" (<u>The Devil Wears Prada</u> Review). It has also been made into a motion picture starring Anne Hathaway and Meryl Streep.

In this thesis I am going to analyze the theme of both novels through the female protagonist. Theme means "the total meaning discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by reader in process of reading" (Kenney 94). I feel curious to reveal what exactly both authors' purpose is in writing the books. I decide to go deeper in analyzing the theme of both novels and analyze the theme through the female protagonists.

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1) What are the themes of the novels?

2) How does the portrayal of the protagonists help to reveal the theme?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1) To know what the themes of the novels are

2) To know how the portrayal of the protagonists helps to reveal the theme

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of research I use in this study is library research. First, I look for and read the novels I want to discuss for my major thesis. Second, I find the information from the references in the library and multimedia sources to help me with the analysis. I then analyze the two novels using references and make a conclusion.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is divided into three chapters that are preceded by the preface and the abstract. Chapter One is the introduction consisting of 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. Chapter Two consists of the analysis to find the theme of Mammon Inc. Chapter Three is the analysis to find the theme of the novel The Devil Wears Prada. Chapter Four is the conclusion. The thesis ends with a bibliography and an appendix, which consists of the summary of the two novels and a biography of the two authors.