

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A mother's love is sincere and eternal, like a circle that has no beginning and no end. It is also said that there is a strong bond between a mother and her children, especially the daughters. Once the daughter grows, the mother-daughter bond becomes more complicated and at the same time problematic. There are two novels, The Bonesetter's Daughter written by Amy Tan and Meridian written by Alice Walker, in which the interaction between a mother and her daughter becomes the central of the story.

The Bonesetter's Daughter celebrates the importance of a family history, in particular, the stories shared between the mother and the daughter. Although this is a classic matter, what makes such problem becomes extraordinary is the mother and daughter discovering together the history that they find.

In Meridian, Alice Walker wants to show the development of an adolescent girl. It is a story of Meridian, who fails to win her mother's love because of her lacking in parenting guidance, which leads to Meridian's own defeat as a mother (Piercy).

In spite of that, in every steps of her life, Meridian succeeds to solve her conflicts. Amy Tan and Alice Walker are the prominent figures in contemporary writings and each of them has their own style to reveal their authentic works for the readers. For instance, Amy Tan uses the technique of multiple narratives to show the conflict between a mother and her daughter (Willard). While Alice Walker writes with a sharp critical way as she deals with the issues of strategy in the civil rights movement, miscommunication between mother and daughter, and spices of love triangle in black American perspectives (Piercy).

I believe that the strength of these novels is in the portrayal of the relationship between a mother and her daughter which does not run smoothly. From these novels, I see that the daughters have a lot of disagreement with their mother and clashes are continuously happening between them. Thus, the subject that I will analyze in my thesis is the social conflict. A conflict then, is the opposition between two forces. While the social conflict itself is; “a struggle between man and man” (Dictionary of Literary Terms).

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Based on the reasons above, I would like to state the problems as follow:

1. What are the social conflicts between the major characters?
2. Why do they have such conflicts?
3. What are the solutions of these conflicts?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The study is done:

1. To show the social conflicts happening between the major characters.
2. To show why they have such conflicts.
3. To show the solutions of these conflicts.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

I do the research by doing library research, first by reading the two novels, The Bonesetter's Daughter and Meridian as the primary texts. Secondly, I search for the information from textbooks and the internet as my reference. Then I analyze the two novels using the references and make the conclusion.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the analysis of the social conflicts in The Bonesetter's Daughter. Chapter Three is the analysis of the social conflicts in Meridian. The last chapter is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendix, which consists of the Summaries of the two novels and Biographies of the two authors.