

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Prostitution is generally defined as performing or offering to perform a sexual act for money or anything that is valuable. Prostitution is always related to sex by many people. It is a taboo thing to talk about in our culture, but it is not the case in Eleven Minutes written by Paulo Coelho and Maggie: A Girl of The Streets written by Stephen Crane. In these two novels, prostitution is considered natural because the protagonists live their lives by being prostitutes. They become prostitutes because of the poverty they have to face. They do not have high education and enough experience to work aside from being prostitutes.

In Eleven Minutes and Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, the protagonists come from a low-class society. They are raised in poverty and they work as prostitutes.

In Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, Maggie comes from a low-class society in one part of New York City's impoverished Bowery neighborhood. She makes a living as a prostitute because she was rejected to return home by her family after she was left by the boy with whom she ran away to escape from the misery of her childhood. In Eleven Minutes, the protagonist, Maria, comes from a

small village in Brazil. She goes to Switzerland to seek her fortune, but she ends up as a prostitute because of her choice as a path of self-discovery and love.

The author of Eleven Minutes, Paulo Coelho, is one of the world's bestselling authors and he dares to write about prostitution in a positive point of view. In addition, Paulo Coelho uses daring words in his novel about sex and this makes a different view in the reader's eyes. I agree with Patricia Martín's writing in Biafra Nigeria World Magazine, that: "The ideas, philosophy and subject matter covered in his [Coelho's] books touch the aspirations of millions of readers searching for their own path and for new ways of understanding the world." (Martín). Paulo Coelho also entered the Guinness Book of Records as the author that signed more books in different editions. He won the Bambi 2001 Award in Germany, Golden Book in Yugoslavia 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2004, Wilbur Award presented by the Religion Communicators Council in USA 2006, and many more. His works have been translated into 62 languages, and published in more than 150 countries. From all the novels, Eleven Minutes topped all lists in the world, except for England, where it was in second place.

Maggie: A Girl of the Streets is written by Stephen Crane. It is his first novel which is a result of his learning much about big city life and his explorations of the Bowery when he began his career as a newspaper journalist in New York City. This novel shows realistic conditions of America at that time. He describes every detail in a realistic way. I also agree with what is said in amazon.com: "..., he lived among the poor in the Bowery slums to research his first novel, *Maggie*. Crane's faithfulness to accuracy of details led him once to dress up as a tramp and spend the night in a flophouse, ..." (Luikonen). Because

of his effort to show realism in his first novel, he won favorable attention from the influential novelists Hamlin Garland and William Dean Howells. Stephen Crane is the first realist that introduced realism to American literature.

In my major thesis, I am going to analyze the portrayal of the female protagonist as a prostitute in Eleven Minutes and Maggie: a Girl of the Streets using formalism. A character itself is defined as “an imaged person who inhabits a story” (Kennedy 45). An author may have a motivation to create such characters through the actions and the behaviors of the characters in the story (Kennedy 45). Some novelists may create such characters using an omniscient way in telling the story in order that they can reveal a view of the world which is, however disguised, his alone (Harvey 74). In this analysis, I want to show the characteristics of the two protagonists and also the reason why both authors create such characters.

### **Statement of the Problem**

There are some statements of the problem in analyzing these two novels (Eleven Minutes and Maggie: A Girl of the Streets) using formalism:

1. How are the protagonists portrayed in the novels?
2. Why do the authors create such protagonists?

### **Purpose of the Study**

In this analysis, the purpose of the study is:

1. To show how the protagonists are portrayed in the novels.
2. To show why the authors create such protagonists.

## **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 source to help me with the analysis. I then analyze the two novels using references and make the conclusion.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided into four chapters that are preceded by the Acknowledgements and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction consisting of 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 to find the portrayal of the protagonist in Eleven Minutes. Chapter Three is the analysis to find the portrayal of the protagonist in Maggie: A Girl of the Streets. Chapter Four is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix, which consists of the Summaries of the two novels and the Biographies of the two Authors.