

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, I choose to analyze a novel entitled My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult, and I will discuss the inner and social conflicts of the protagonist. Jodi Picoult is an American writer of the 21st century and she is the bestselling author of eighteen novels. All her novels are about family and human living. "Most of her books are inspired by her children" (Picoult). "In her novels, Picoult always serves conflicts between human relationships and poses moral dilemmas which involve a criminal or civil case and she often uses an attorney character" ("Jodi Picoult").

I choose one of her novels entitled My Sister's Keeper because she describes the characters in great details. The plot gives clear picture and detailed explanation. The conflicts in this novel are very prominent. "She tells the emotionally riveting story of a family torn apart by conflicting needs and a passionate love that triumphs over human weakness" ("My Sister's Keeper"). This novel won nine awards, one of which is the Winner of the Margaret Alexander Edwards Award or the Alex Award, which was given by the American Library Association (Picoult). "The novel is translated into thirty four languages in thirty five countries" (Picoult) and "made into movie in 2009" ("My

Sister's Keeper"). It is also stated in The Boston Herald that "It is difficult to find a book combining a timely moral dilemma with well-drawn characters for whom one cares. Picoult has written such a book" (Picoult). The statement above is also one of the reasons why I choose Jodi Picoult's novel entitled My Sister's Keeper, as she can create such an interesting novel with well-drawn characters whose life stories can touch our feelings. Besides, the plot is clear, which makes this novel worth-analyzing.

The literary elements that I am going to analyze in this thesis are conflicts of the protagonist because conflicts among the most prominent literary elements in the novel. According to Harry Shaw in his Dictionary of Literary Terms,

Conflict is an important element of plot; they are the material from which a plot is constructed. There are three types of conflicts; first type is physical conflict, a struggle between man and the physical world. It represented man versus forces of nature. Second type is social conflict, a struggle between man and man. Third type is inner conflict, a struggle between desires within a person. (Shaw 91-92)

The protagonist Andromeda "Anna" Fitzgerald experiences both social and inner conflicts. Each member of the family does not have good relationship with each other. Due to those reasons, I feel challenged to analyze the social and inner conflicts of the protagonist of the novel.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems of this study are:

1. What social conflicts are faced by the protagonist?
2. What inner conflicts are faced by the protagonist?
3. What are the resolutions of the social and inner conflicts?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To find what social conflicts experienced by.
2. To find what inner conflicts experienced by.
3. To show how the resolutions of the social and inner conflicts.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

In doing the analysis, I use library research. First, I read Jodi Picoult's novel entitled My Sister's Keeper as a primary text. After that, I search the references from the library and electronic websites which can support the analysis and furthermore help me in writing my thesis. Finally, I draw some conclusion from my analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis is organized into three chapters, which is preceded by the Acknowledgement, Table of Contents and Abstract. In the first chapter, I present 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 of Inner and Social Conflicts of protagonist in Jodi Picoult's novel entitled My Sister's Keeper. Chapter Three is the Conclusion of the Analysis. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the Synopsis of My Sister's Keeper and the Biography of Jodi Picoult.