

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Fyodor Dostoevsky is a Russian novelist in the nineteenth century. He is also a short story writer and a journalist. He is quite famous in his era and he is one of the existentialist thinkers, who emphasize on individual existence, freedom, and choice. He also likes to create mysterious characters almost in all his novels.

One mysterious character is the protagonist of Notes from Underground, a novel that I choose to analyse in this thesis. In my opinion the characteristics of the protagonist are hard to understand, as they are different from normal people's. He likes to be alone and avoids talking to others. I am challenged to find out the reason behind his uncommon behavior, thus I will focus on the portrayal of the protagonist.

The protagonist has no name; he is just referred to as the Underground man. He is portrayed as a man who lives in a little corner of St. Petersburg, Russia. I personally think that analysing the protagonist is a challenge for me to know this character deeper, so that I can understand more what kind of a man he is and whether his characteristics change or not. The reasons mentioned above

encourage me to analyse the portrayal of the protagonist thoroughly because “analyzing characters are not easy, as they are complex, variable, and ambiguous” (Perrine 67). By analysing the protagonist in Notes from Underground more deeply, I hope I can understand the purpose of the author in creating such character.

Statement of the Problem

In order to analyse the topic chosen, I state the problems as follows:

1. How does the author portray the protagonist in this novel?
2. What is the purpose of the author in creating such a character?

Purpose of the Study

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

1. To show how the author portrays the protagonist in the novel.
2. To show the purpose of the author in creating such a character.

Method of Research

The method I use in analysing the protagonist in Notes from Underground is library research. First, I read Notes from Underground as the primary text. I also read and collect some texts which support my topic from the library and the Internet. Then, I analyse the novel using the information that I have gathered and draw some conclusion of what has been discussed.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by the Acknowledgments and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists 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 is the discussion on the portrayal of the protagonist of Notes from Underground. Chapter Three is the conclusion of the discussion. My thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which present the synopsis of the novel and the biography of the author.