

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

As a true devotee of high fashion, I am particularly interested in reading novels dealing with this matter. A novel entitled The Devil Wears Prada written by Lauren Weisberger explicitly caught my attention for several reasons. First, the title includes a world-famous brand, Prada, one of my favourite yet quite unaffordable brands. Prada is said to be “a leading force in fashion in 1990. The garments and accessories were smart, sophisticated, and extremely high quality.” (Grosvenor) Secondly, I am overwhelmed by the knowledge of fashion world poured out in the novel, which, I believe, is due to the fact that it is written by an ex-assistant of Vogue Magazine editor-in-chief, Lauren Weisberger. She is a contemporary American writer, and is well-respected of her acquaintance dealing with the literary works in style. She also successfully earned about \$4 million from her first debut novel, The Devil Wears Prada. (Kinetz)

Moreover, The Devil Wears Prada is known for its element of realism, as stated in Gawker media, “an online media company founded

and owned by Nick Denton, and is considered to be one of the most visible and successful blog-oriented media companies. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gawker\\_Media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gawker_Media)), “It seemed the entire book world was eagerly anticipating her next contribution and couldn’t shut about the realism with which she depicts her heroine. The critics had gone crazy over the first book, hailing it as one of the greatest literary achievements of the twentieth century.” (Gawker)

Based on those reasons, I have decided to analyse the theme of the novel. As stated by Perrine in his book, Story and Structure, theme is “a central and unifying concept of the story.” (108) In doing so, I will focus my analysis on the major characters in the novel, Miranda Priestly – supposedly the mean “Devil” and Andrea Sachs, the nice girl.

As stated in Dictionary of Literary Terms by Shaw, “In fiction, a reader, primarily interested in the individuals concerned, has a natural tendency to identify the ‘hero’ and to hate the ‘villain’ or to feel ‘for’ or ‘with’ one individual or group and ‘against’ one another.” (71) Consequently, this informational fact directs my attention to have an opinion that the two major characters are presented in the novel with a purpose to deliver the theme of the story, to fascinate the readers to a valuable determination to choose the writer’s offer in creating each character. I do believe that the relation between the two major characters and the theme is essential, that is, to offer the readers the choice in valuing what is the best life’s learning; in other words, it leads the readers to the theme of the story.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems that I will discuss in this thesis are as follows:

1. How does the author portray the two major characters in the novel?
2. How do these two major characters reveal the theme?

### **Purpose of the Study**

There are two purposes in this study:

1. To show how the author portrays the two major characters in the novel.
2. To show how the two major characters help reveal the theme.

### **Method of Research**

In the analysis, I read Lauren Weisberger's novel entitled The Devil Wears Prada as a primary text. And then, I search for supporting sources from the library and the Internet which help me in the process of analysing the novel. As a final point, I draw some conclusion of what has been discussed.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis is organized into three chapters. Chapter One, the Introduction, contains 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 contains the analysis of theme through two major characters in Lauren Weisberger's novel The Devil Wears Prada. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which include the biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel.