

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Philippa Gregory is an English novelist who was born in Kenya. Later she moved to England where she lives and produces novels. She writes a number of fictions based on history. As a matter of fact, she is a New York Times bestselling author of over 8 historical fiction books. “Accuracy is very important to me because I have a total commitment to history” (“Biography of Philippa Gregory”). Most of her novels are concerned with romantic happenings and situations. Accordingly, she won Romantic Novelist of the Year Award in 2002.

One of Philippa Gregory’s novels, The Other Boleyn Girl is a classic historical fiction novel based on the sixteenth-century life. This novel becomes popular and won the Parker Pen Novel of the year award 2002 and the Romantic Times fictional biography award. This novel is also made into a film released on 29th February 2008. The Other Boleyn Girl is concerned with the obsessions of Anne Boleyn, Mary Boleyn’s rival, to get attention of love from King of England, Henry VIII. Because of her obsessions, she does anything to get what she wants although it means hurting her own sister. It is a normal for everybody to have a

dream but becoming obsessive is not good for us because it can ruin our relationships with other people.

In my thesis, I choose to analyze the theme from this novel. According to Story and Structure, “The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight” (Perrine 102). I intend to analyze theme through portrayal of the protagonist because according to Perrine, “A story through its portrayal of specific persons in specific situations will have something to say about the nature of all men or about the relationship of human beings to each other or to the universe. Whatever central generalization about life arises from the specifics of the story constitutes theme” (103). Therefore, I think it is most suitable to analyze theme through the portrayal of the protagonist from the novel The Other Boleyn Girl.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems of this study are:

1. What is the theme of the novel?
2. How does the portrayal of the protagonist help to reveal the theme?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

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

1. To show the theme of the novel.
2. To show how the portrayal of the protagonist helps to reveal the theme.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method I applied is library research. At first, I read Philippa Gregory's The Other Boleyn Girl as my primary text. Then, I analyze the portrayal of the protagonist. I use some resources and references from the book and Internet that enables me to support the analysis and help me write the thesis. Finally, I make some conclusions of what has been discussed.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

There are three chapters in my thesis. Chapter One is the Introduction which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problems, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of analysis of the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in Philippa Gregory's The Other Boleyn Girl. Chapter Three is the Conclusion followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices which consists of the Synopsis of The Other Boleyn Girl and the Biography of Philippa Gregory.