

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

I. Background of the Study

Barbara Macfarlane is a twentieth century Australian writer. She writes children stories, such as Zop, King of The Fireflitters, Jenny on Canvas, The Mouse Keeper, and Queen Agapanthus. Although she writes mostly for children, Macfarlane once writes a biographical novel, entitled A Battle Within, which is based on her own true story. A Battle Within is a story about the journey of a woman who suffers from Schizophrenia and she tries to fight against her illness and to recover from it.

The definition of Schizophrenia is “a severe mental disorder characterized by delusions, hallucinations, incoherence and physical agitation; it is classified as a ‘thought’ disorder.” (“Bipolar Disorder”). Schizophrenia might be caused by some factors such as biological, psychological and environmental factors. It is often called bio-psycho-social model. Bio-psycho-social model is, “a general model or approach that posits that biological, psychological (which entails thoughts, emotions, and behaviors), and social factors, all play a significant role in human functioning in the context of disease or illness” (“Schizophrenia”).

I choose to discuss A Battle Within in my thesis because I think the issue of this novel is interesting; besides, it empowers and encourages the readers to struggle against many problems in life. “Life is not all black, not even only a battle, though it may seem that way at times. There are beauties still.” (Macfarlane 125).

In my thesis, I focus on analyzing the portrayal of the protagonist, Olivia. The definition of the protagonist itself is “the main character in a story, novel, drama, or other literary work, the character that the reader or audience empathizes with” (“Fiction Writing”). I am interested in knowing more about the female protagonist, Olivia, who inspires the readers to be a better person although she finds so many problems around her.

In my opinion, A Battle Within is recommended to read because after I read the novel, I learn that an optimistic person can solve problems in life successfully. A Battle Within is the most inspiring book among Macfarlane’s works because the author, Macfarlane, suffers from Schizophrenia as well and through this novel, she tries to share with the readers about what she has experienced and how she has overcome her hopelessness in life when she realizes that she suffers Schizophrenia.

II. Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem is:

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

III. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is:

1. to show how the protagonist is portrayed in the novel.
2. to show the purpose of the author in creating such a character.

IV. Method of Research

I use library research to analyze A Battle Within. First, I read the novel. Secondly, I look for the references related to the topic and I search the Internet. Thirdly, after getting some supporting information, I do my analysis. Finally, I draw some conclusions from what I have analyzed.

V. Organization of the Thesis

I will divide my thesis into three chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction including 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. The second chapter is the Portrayal of the Protagonist in Barbara Macfarlane's A Battle Within. In the third chapter, I write the Conclusion of my analysis. This thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices, which consist of the Synopsis of Novel and the Biography of Barbara Macfarlane.