

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

On the surface, William Golding's Lord of the Flies and Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird seem like two completely different novels. William Golding's Lord of the Flies is about deserted boys on an island, while Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird is about the racial problem in the United States of America. Yet, I find something that connects the two novels. Somehow, To Kill a Mockingbird opposes Lord of the Flies. In Lord of the Flies, it is said that human beings have the capability of doing bad deeds; on the other hand, in To Kill a Mockingbird, it is said that human beings have both strengths and weaknesses, but they are basically good people. Thus, I choose to analyze these two novels to show how they oppose one another.

William Golding had won "The Nobel Prize in Literature 1983 for his novels which, with the perspicuity of realistic narrative art and the diversity and universality of myth, illuminate the human condition in the world of today" ("Literature 1983"). Meanwhile, Lord of the Flies "became a bestseller among American and British

readers who, as the arms race intensified, likely saw in Golding's wartime dystopia a grim prediction of their own future" ("Lord of the Flies Study Guide-About Lord of the Flies"). In this novel, human beings are described as naturally evil, and they are only good when there are rules among them. Without rules, they are as savage as beasts.

Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird is also a novel that is worth reading. "In 1961, the novel won the Pulitzer Prize" ("The Big Read-To Kill a Mockingbird").

The Pulitzer prize-winning classic has topped a World Book Day poll conducted by the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), in which librarians around the country were asked the question, 'Which book should every adult read before they die?' The book, which has been a staple of schoolroom reading lists for many years, also came second in another poll released today on our favourite happy endings. It explores issues of race and class in 1930s deep south America, through the dramatic court case of a black man charged with the rape of white girl (Pauli).

In this novel, human beings are not described as naturally evil. People are good because they have faced evil before and they know how to overcome the problem.

Good and evil are two things that cannot be separated. The question of whether human beings are naturally good or evil becomes the theme of the two novels.

Both novels have conflict as the most dominant literary element, especially social conflict, which is "a struggle between men" (Shaw 91).

I choose to analyze theme through conflicts for theme itself is defined as “the unifying subject or idea of a story” (“Theme”). By knowing the theme of the novel the readers will know what the author wants. I am going to discuss the social conflicts in both novels in order to reveal the theme.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem is as follows:

1. What are the themes of the two novels?
2. How do conflicts reveal the themes of the two novels?

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is as follows:

1. To show the themes of the two novels.
2. To show how conflicts reveal the themes of the two novels.

### **Methods of Research**

The method that I use in analyzing Golding’s Lord of the Flies and Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird is library research. First, I read the two novels. This is then followed by searching for criticisms on the authors and the literary works which will be useful to support the analysis in writing the hypothesis. The research also includes the use of Internet sources to help me find information I need for my research. Finally, I draw a conclusion from the analysis I have done of the two novels.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided into four chapters, preceded by Acknowledgements, Table of Contents and 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 Analysis of Theme through Social Conflicts in William Golding's Lord of the Flies. Chapter Three is the Analysis of Theme through Social Conflicts in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird. Chapter Four is the Conclusion. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the two novels and the Biography of the Authors.