

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

One element of literary works which is interesting to analyse is conflict. It is important because there will be no story if a literary work does not have conflicts. As Harry Shaw states in his article, “Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends.” (Shaw). There are three types of conflicts: inner, social, and physical conflict. According to Shaw, “Inner conflict is a struggle between desires within a person. Social conflict is a struggle between man and man, and physical conflict is a struggle between man and the physical world” (Shaw). In this thesis, I only discuss the first two types of conflicts which help me to reveal the theme of Richard Wright's Native Son

Richard Wright is the first African-American writer to achieve literary fame in the 20th century because of his Native Son, as Robert Butler said, “It is a masterwork because its formal artistry and its revolutionary new content are solidly integrated to produce a complex and resonant vision of modern American reality.” Through Native Son, Wright shows conflicts which are experienced by his character, Bigger, “who is dominated by two forces: one is fear and the other is flight, the impulse to avoid problems” (Averbach).

The inner and social conflicts which the protagonist of the novel experiences lead me to find the theme of the story. Theme itself is “the central and unifying concept of the story” (Perrine 102). Thus, in this thesis I try to reveal the theme of Native Son.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statements of the problems are:

1. What is the theme of the novel?
2. How do the inner and social conflicts reveal the theme of the novel?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

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

1. To show the theme of the novel.
2. To show the inner and social conflicts reveal the theme of the novel.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of this research is library research. I start by reading the novel, then I find some references and information from the internet. Finally, I draw a conclusion from the analysis that I have done.

ORGANIZATON OF THESIS

This thesis is divided into four chapters. 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 Native Son, followed by Chapter Three, which is

the Conclusion. I state the sources and references in the Bibliography. This thesis ends with the Appendices, which consist of the Synopsis of Native Son and the Biography of Richard Wright.