

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The life of a queen is not so easy as what people have in mind. Most people deem that a queen undergoes a peaceful, happy and beautiful life. However, a queen is also a human being who has problems like an ordinary person, even though she is rich and has a high position in a country. Her life is not far from temptations and problems which are also encountered by common people. Moreover, some of them even have to experience an arranged marriage.

Arranged marriage is “a marriage arranged by someone other than the couple getting wedded, curtailing or avoiding the process of courtship. Such marriages had deep roots in royal and aristocratic families around the world, including Europe” (“Arranged Marriage”). Arranged marriage in a royal and aristocratic family is often done as a political marriage. Its purpose is for political interest, which involves two countries and will bring benefits for both countries. An arranged marriage is usually done between a man and a woman who have a high position in the country. Since the

couple's marriage is arranged, it is possible that there is no love between them because they never meet each other until they get married.

I find that there are two novels which discuss about the human side of a queen. Both queens in the novels also experience a political marriage. The marriage causes them to move to other countries, because their husbands are crown princes of the other countries. They also have to face their problems there. The issue can be found in Carolly Erickson's The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette and Kathryn Harrison's A Thousand Orange Trees.

Carolly Erickson is an American author of the twentieth century. Most of Erickson's novels are historical novels. The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette is one example. It tells about Marie Antoinette, the archduchess of Austria. Marie Antoinette, the protagonist of the novel, is married to Louis, the crown prince of France. Marie always writes about her life in her diary; thus, I can learn about her private life through her writings since the novel is written in a form of a diary.

I will also analyse Kathryn Harrison's novel, entitled A Thousand Orange Trees. "Harrison is a twentieth century American author who is completely at ease with the historical material" (Davis). Harrison creates a protagonist, Maria Luisa. She is a princess of France who is married to Carlos, the crown prince of Spain. Maria experiences a lot of hardships in her marriage.

The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette and A Thousand Orange Trees deliver the same idea about a queen who shows not only her positive sides but also her negative ones, so I choose to analyse the protagonists in both novels. A protagonist is "the leading character of a drama, novel, or other literary work...a person is not always the hero of a work, but he is always the principal and central character" (Shaw

305). Both protagonists get married to the crown princes of other countries, move abroad because of their marriage and they have to deal with a rigid set of new rules in the new countries.

Despite the similar issue, both protagonists are actually rather different from each other. Marie Antoinette in The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette lives in the eighteenth century. She comes from Vienna and moves to France and she is fourteen years old when she is married to Louis. While Maria Luisa, who is the protagonist in A Thousand Orange Trees, lives in the seventeenth century. She moves to Spain from France and she is eighteen years old when she is married to Carlos. The two protagonists react differently to the oppressive rules and situation in the new countries. These will help me analyse the portrayal of both protagonists.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statements of the problem are as follows:

1. How are the protagonists portrayed in both novels?
2. What are the purposes of the authors in portraying such characters?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problems above, this study is done:

1. To show how the protagonists are portrayed in both novels.
2. To reveal the purposes of the authors in portraying such characters.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method of this research is library research. I read Carolly Erickson's The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette and Kathryn Harrison's A Thousand Oranges Trees as primary texts. I also read several reference books and find some references and information from the Internet. Then, I analyse the novels and draw some conclusion of my analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is divided into four chapters, preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents, and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction. Chapter Two is the Portrayal of the Protagonist in The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette, followed by Chapter Three, which is the Portrayal of the Protagonist in A Thousand Orange Trees. I will conclude my analysis in Chapter Four, which is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the synopsis of the novels and the biography of the authors.