

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

At the turn of the century from 19th C to 20th C in England, women begin to develop new characteristics. Women, who are previously known as the beautiful creatures whose only duty was to take care of their family, now want to be human who can also develop their life better (“New Woman”). They also fight for their personal freedom such as broadening their education and voicing their thought and feeling to the public through works (Cooley).

There are two authors who deal with the new character of women in the transitional period between 19th C and 20th C in their novel. The first is Annie Sophie Cory under the pseudonym Victoria Cross. She is a British woman novelist whose works are dominantly about women’s life. One of her novels is Martha Brown, MP (1935), a utopian fantasy in which England is ruled by women. Her most successful work is Anna Lombard (1901), a story which gives a new picture of women in her era.

The second is H.G. Wells, an author of many science fiction novels, such as The Time Machine (1895), and The War of The Worlds (1898). Those works have a significant influence to the world in the beginning of twentieth century. His other novel, which is famous in his era, is Ann Veronica. However, “people called Ann Veronica spiritual poison and said that it would corrupt young minds. As a result, Wells was boycotted and he was banished from society” (Alleman).

I choose to analyze Anna Lombard by Victoria Cross and Ann Veronica by H.G. Wells because in these two novels the authors describe women whose characteristics are new in their era. Anna Lombard, which was written in 1901, is about a female protagonist who is smart, passionate, and persistent. Ann Veronica, which was written in 1909, is about a female protagonist who is independent, strong, and outspoken. Those characteristics are the new characteristics of women at the transitional period who want to develop themselves in many aspects.

According to Roberts, “In literature, a character is a verbal representation of a human being as presented to us by authors through the depiction of actions, conversations, descriptions, reactions, inner thoughts and reflections, and also through the authors’ own interpretative commentary” (66). I would like to analyze the protagonists because the two authors reveal the ideas of their stories through these two female protagonists. In Anna Lombard, the protagonist is Anna Lombard, a beautiful young lady. She is an English woman. She is married to one of her servants whose name Gaida, but in the end she gets a better life with another man whom she loves very much. In Ann Veronica, the protagonist is Ann Veronica Stanley, a beautiful young lady of twenty-one years old. She is an

independent woman; nevertheless, she has an affair with a married man who later on becomes her husband.

The two novelists discuss the same issue concerning women at the transitional period between 19th C and 20th C. They are not only smart, passionate, and independent, but also impulsive and rebellious to have what they want. Both female protagonists have many similarities in their characteristics; still, they also have many differences in facing their problems. This is why I want to analyze the two novels. I will use formalism to help me going deeper in my analysis.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems of this study are:

1. How do the authors portray the female protagonists?
2. What are the purposes of the authors in creating such protagonists?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statements of the problem above, this study is done:

1. To show how the authors portray the protagonist.
2. To reveal the purposes of the authors in creating such protagonists.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I start the research for this thesis by first reading Anna Lombard and Ann Veronica as the primary text. I also read some articles from books and the Internet that help me in my analysis. Then, I analyze the novels and draw a conclusion on my analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis consists of four chapters. It starts with the Acknowledgement, 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 the portrayal of female protagonist in Victoria Cross's Anna Lombard. Chapter Three is the analysis of the portrayal of female protagonist in H. G. Wells' Ann Veronica. The last chapter is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the synopsis of the novels and biography of the authors.