

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Since ancient times, mankind has been searching for knowledge and information. Due to this thirst, man has gained knowledge in diverse fields and science is born. Through science, man has created miraculous inventions. Science today has made its presence felt in every field of life. Whether science is good or bad depends solely on how humans use it. If it is used correctly, science is beneficial to society. But if it is used incorrectly, it is a curse to society. Right from the beginning of The Invisible Man, written by H. G. Wells, the protagonist does not have a good intention in using science. On the other hand, he wants to use it for his selfish goal, and, as a result, it proves to be disastrous. But, in The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, written by R. L. Stevenson, the protagonist has a good intention in using science for the progress of mankind but he misuses his scientific inventions, which ends up bringing a disastrous result.

Herbert George Wells was a great science fiction writer during the Victorian era. He was referred to as the Father of Science Fiction. Many of his works “are still practically household names today” (Keller). He was also a well-known socialist and humanitarian as is stated by Charles Keller in his article “H. G. Wells Sees It Through”: “The man H. G. Wells was as remarkable as his literature. He believed the keys to mankind’s long-term survival were education and a disciplined application of science to matters that benefited everyone. He was a life-long Socialist who despised Marxism, a devoted humanitarian and a tireless champion of women's rights.” One of his great works, The Invisible Man, is one of his longest living works, which has been made into many serials and even modern day movies.

Robert Louis Stevenson was one of the most prominent Victorian writers. It is said that “his fame as a writer grows brighter every year. His supreme achievement was to show that a book might be crammed with the most wildly exciting incidents, and yet reveal profound and acute analysis of character, and be written with consummate art” (Phelps). At first he was an adventure story writer, but he led a sickly life soon after, ending his adventurous life. During this illness, Stevenson experienced a nightmare, and from this came the idea for one of his

most remembered works, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, which he rewrote in only three days after burning its original manuscript.

In this thesis, I am going to analyze the portrayal of the protagonist in both The Invisible Man and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. A portrayal of a character is "any representation of an individual being presented in a dramatic or narrative work through extended dramatic or verbal representation" (Wheeler). Wheeler also says in his "Literary Terms and Definitions" that "The reader can interpret characters as endowed with moral and dispositional qualities expressed in what they say (dialogue) and what they do (action)". In this analysis, I would like to show and analyze the characteristics of the protagonists of the two novels since the strengths of these two novels lie in the way the authors describe the characters and how their characteristics develop throughout the story.

### **Statement of the Problem**

1. How are the protagonists portrayed in the novels?
2. What are the authors' purposes in creating both characters?

### **Purpose of the Study**

1. To show how the protagonists are portrayed in the novels.
2. To show what the writers' purposes are in creating both characters.

### **Method of Research**

I use library research for writing my thesis, firstly by reading The Invisible Man and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde as the primary texts. Second, I also read as well as compile some data from the Internet in order to support my analysis of the portrayal of the protagonists in the novels. Finally, I make some conclusions from my analysis.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of four chapters, preceded by Table of Contents and Abstract. The first chapter 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. The second chapter is the Discussion of Portrayal of the Protagonist in Wells' The Invisible Man. The third chapter is the Discussion of Portrayal of the Protagonist in Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The fourth chapter is the Conclusion. Finally, the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the Novels and the Biography of the Authors.