

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian novelist. He has traveled a lot of countries: South America, North Africa, Mexico and Europe, which broadens his knowledge of different cultures. This new knowledge encourage him to go back to his original intention, which is to become a novelist. His first published novel, *Hell Archives*, failed to make any kind of impact. Yet, he is now one of world's biggest selling authors and even wins Guinness Book World of Record for his novel, The Alchemist. "... My dream was, and still is, to be a writer" (Paulo Coelho). All his works attempt to tackle fundamental questions relating to the human condition - good versus evil, joy and despair, light and dark.

One of Paulo Coelho's novels, Eleven Minutes is a fiction novel based on a real life of a prostitute, named Maria. This novel becomes popular and has been translated into more than 33 different languages. Eleven Minutes is concerned with the life of a Brazilian woman named Maria. She works as a prostitute in Switzerland. Because of her unsuccessful relationship with men, she experiences changes in her characteristics. Maria's experiences and changes which can be

found in one's daily life, are the reason why I choose this novel. The other reason why I choose this novel is because it contains an issue about the rebellion in a society, by showing Maria's decision which clearly against religious values.

In my thesis, I choose to analyze the portrayal of protagonist in this novel. According to Story and Structure, characteristic is a description of "what a person is" (Perrine 67). I intend to analyze the portrayal of protagonist because according to Perrine, a protagonist is "[t]he central character in the conflict, whether he be a sympathetic or an unsympathetic person" (67). Therefore, I think it is more suitable to analyze the portrayal of protagonist from the novel Eleven Minutes.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In analyzing Paulo Coelho's Eleven Minutes through formalism, the present writer would like to state the problems as follows:

1. How is the protagonist, Maria, portrayed in the novel?
2. What is the purpose of the author in creating such a character?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Based on the problems stated above, the purposes of the study are formulated to be the following:

1. To show how the protagonist, Maria, is portrayed in the novel.
2. To show the purpose of the author in creating such a character.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In writing this thesis, I would like to conduct library research. To discuss the portrayal of the protagonist, I use formalism, “an interpretive approach that emphasizes literary form and the study of literary devices within the text” (Literary Theory). I begin the study by reading the primary text, Paulo Coelho’s Eleven Minutes, in order to present my thesis statement. Then, to support my analysis, especially regarding the topic of this study, I search for additional information. This is done through browsing the Internet and reading reference books. The information and knowledge from the sources are then used to analyze the primary text. Finally, I draw some conclusion from the research I have done.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The thesis is presented in three chapters and is preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents, and the 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 presents the Portrayal of the Protagonist in Paulo Coelho’s Eleven Minutes. I conclude my analysis in Chapter Three. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which present the Synopsis of the Novel, and the Biography of the Author.