

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Experience often becomes inspiration for many authors in writing (Wellek, Warren). One of them is Anne Bronte, a British novelist and poet who belongs to the Victorian period. She is also the youngest member of the Bronte family. Anne has contributed some of her works to literary world. Her contribution includes 21 poems that she wrote with her sister, Emily Bronte and also two novels; *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) and *Agnes Grey* (1847), her most well-known work. *Agnes Grey* is a novel which is based on her experience as a governess. This novel has gained many positive reviews because it is less gothic or dark, and is very realistic. The novel becomes very realistic because Anne has written the novel based on her own experience as a governess through the experience of the protagonist of this novel, Agnes Grey. Thus, I have chosen *Agnes Grey* to be analyzed in my thesis.

Agnes Grey is a novel about a young woman, Agnes, who lives in Northern England. She is determined to work as governess to help her family's financial problems. As a governess, she is demanded to teach the children of the

families she works for and while doing so, she faces many problems. However, she finally manages to overcome all of her problems and gets a happy ending because of her positive attitudes towards life.

As the protagonist's characteristics are inspiring, I am going to analyze the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist. From the characteristics, we can get the theme. Theme is the "central and unifying concept of the story" (Perrine 108). In *Agnes Grey* the theme is the main message of the novel which the author reveals through the protagonist's characteristics.

Statement of the Problem

The problems I am going to discuss are:

1. What is the theme in the novel?
2. How does the portrayal of the protagonist help in revealing the theme?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem, the purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To show the theme in the novel.
2. To show how the portrayal of the protagonist helps in revealing the theme.

Method of Research

I use library research in writing my thesis. First I read *Agnes Grey* as the primary texts. I also read a couple of books and compile some data from the Internet so as to support my analysis of theme through the portrayal of the protagonist. Finally, I draw some conclusions from my analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by 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 is the Analysis of the Theme through the Portrayal of the Protagonist of Anne Bronte's *Agnes Grey*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion, followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the Novel and the Biography of the Author.