

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature refers to written (and also spoken) compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize situation, and reveal thoughts and emotions to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and ennoble readers (Roberts and Jacobs 1989:1). It helps us grow personally and intellectually because it represents human life, how a character faces his or her dreams and struggle in different time and places. There are three types of literature: (1) prose fiction or narrative fiction, such as: novels, short stories, myths, etc; (2) poetry; and (3) drama (Roberts and Jacobs 1989:2).

The writer decides to choose novel because novel is worth reading due to its flexibility. Roberts and Jacobs (1986:1) claim that we can choose to read a work at any time according to our mood, and we may read and reread for our own comprehension and appreciation. If we lose the information, we can go back to look at the earlier sentence. Besides, novel is worth reading, because it helps us to achieve independence. It depends only on our effort and imagination, there are no actors, no musical

techniques, no photographic. We can stop reading and continue another time, because the book will always wait us and will not change.

For this thesis, the writer has chosen "The Heart of the Matter", a novel written by Graham Greene. The consideration of choosing this novel is based on the fact that the theme being presented by Greene is closely related to human being's life and its problems. The lesson taken from the story is really useful to broaden the writer's knowledge about Scobie's life in facing the world. As we can see in this novel, The Heart of the Matter, Scobie, the main character, as a Catholic is described as a good man, an honest man, in a colony full of corruption and deceit. But after several years, his efforts to maintain the moral code and to combat crime are futile. The writer of the thesis finds out that his false pity and his feelings of despair and loneliness have led him to be a sinful man.

This novel is also interesting to the writer's opinion because the writer has the same religion with the main character, Scobie, that is Catholic. Also the writer has been studying at the Catholic University, Widya Mandala University, in which the writer is indirectly taught to be a good Catholic woman. Related to the daily life, this novel is a good example of how an

ordinary man faces his life, feels guilty, and then commits suicide.

Graham Greene is one of the most outstanding British novelists. He is recognized by his competence to put his main characters in complicated situations which make them struggle hard to survive. In this novel, Greene wants to present how human being has to decide the right or wrong way as his solution to his problems. Commit suicide is the consequence of making wrong decision.

The writer is very impressed by Graham Greene who restores two qualities, those are, the religious sense and the sense of importance of the human act to the English novel. Graham Greene often presents his novels which places characters against the background of a world in which they are seen through the eyes of God (O'Prey, 1958:67). It is also said by Kelly that Greene had always been preoccupied by the mystery of sin which became the basis of his book (1992:142). By examining man's relationship to himself, society, and God, Greene explores the nature of evil and the ways how man solves the evil.

He derives the good and evil deeds from religious view. And his preoccupation with human sins can be found in one of his best novels, The Heart of the Matter. His

work can be used as a reflection of everyone, especially the readers, that everyone, although an ordinary people, has a lot of problems in their life.

Noone in this world is sinless, even small babies are sinful creatures. Christians and Catholics believe that this condition happens because the first people, Adam and Eve, had broken God's commandment by eating forbidden fruit. All men are implicated in Adam's sin, as St. Paul affirms: "By one man's disobedience many (that is, all men) were made sinners" (Rm 5:19) (Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1994: 101). The original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense: it is a sin "contracted" and not "committed"--a state and not an act (1994: 102).

Knowing that we live in a mixed situation, good and evil, we have to take the struggle to our own hearts. We cannot separate them, because it is not so easy to localize good and evil. So our duty is to distinguish them, and the criterion to use here is God's law.

Realizing this condition, some people try to obey God's laws while the others follow their own desires by doing a lot of crimes, such as kidnapping, raping, adultery, killing other people, and so on. Therefore, those crimes can be said as sin.

Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right

conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbour caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined as "an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1994: 453).

Every human being has a conscience which is used to know something good or evil. The conscience will guide him/her to avoid sin if he/she has an intention to live according to God's law. Whenever someone commits a sin, he/she will be haunted by his/her guilty feeling. However, if someone ignores his/her conscience and gradually leaves God's law, his/her conscience will gradually die. He/she will not feel guilty anymore and he/she will consider his/her crime as a common thing.

Actually there is always a conscience conflict to be found in the distress of someone's soul; that is, a feeling of guilt, a feeling which demands punishment. Guilty feeling can cause someone suffered according to evangelical Christianity, sin and guilt are at the centre of all severe suffering.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Related to the background of the study, the study was designed to discuss the problem in concrete ques-

tions:

1. What sins have been committed by the main character?
2. What result happens to the main character after he has committed sins?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In this study, the writer wants to describe what sins have been committed by the main character, Scobie, and also what result happens after the main character committed suicide as seen in Graham Greene's novel "The Heart of the Matter".

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study reported in this paper is expected to give some contribution to the students of the English Department of the teacher training faculty of Widya Mandala Catholic University about how to describe sins which have done by the main character and what guilty feeling is resulted because of the sins.

By having these knowlegde, the writer also hopes that this study can also gives some contribution to other people in exploring the deep meaning contained in the literary work, such as novel, better and easier.

Besides that, the writer also hopes that readers

will be interested in reading Graham Greene's novels besides others.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Being aware of how broad the topic of the study would be and how limited the time given to finish it, this study is limited to one of the basic elements, it is the sins and guilty feelings. In this study, the writer stresses on the sins and guilty feeling because they represent ideas and attitude of the novel.

There are many characters in Graham Greene's novel, "The Heart of the Matter", but the writer wants to emphasize only on the main character, Scobie.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

According to the statement of the problem above (1.2), in this section the writer wants to review the theories that is used in describing sins and guilty feeling of Scobie in Graham Greene's novel "The Heart of the Matter".

Because this study is stressed on sins and guilty feelings of someone, it will deal with the theory of sin and guilty feeling, according to Christian and Catholic. Someone is categorized as a sinful man if he/she has broken God's law, in this case is God's Ten Command-

ments. The whole purpose of all God's laws is to direct us to live the sort of life that is best for ourselves and will finally bring us to heaven. By disobeying them, therefore, we necessarily injure ourselves (Mac Loughlin, 1955: 231).

The result of having committed sin is guilty feeling. Guilty feeling is a feeling which demands punishment and expiation. Sometimes guilty feeling is not the result of doing something wrong. So there are two kinds of guilt, real guilt and pseudo guilt (Narramore 1977:105).

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To prevent misinterpretation in this discussion, below the writer provides the definitions of the key terms used in this thesis.

1. Novel:

is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length, in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity. (Oxford English dictionary as quoted by Jeremy, 1987:1)

2. Sin:

is the breaking of God's laws; behaviour that is against the principles of morality (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English)

3. Guilty:

is defined as showing or feeling anxiety or unhappiness caused by the knowledge of having done wrong.

4. Feelings:

is defined as person's emotions rather than intellect.

5. Guilty feelings:

is defined as dorongan batiniah yang mengingatkan kita akan jahatnya apa yang telah, sedang atau akan kita perbuat waktu memilih bertindak atau tidak. Perasaan bersalah adalah perasaan yang khas (Yayasan Cipta Loka Caraka, 1996: 14).

(is defined as spiritual incentive which reminds us of something bad that has been done, is doing or is going to do when we choose to do it or not. Guilty feeling is a special feeling).

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I contains of Introduction which deals with Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the

Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Theoretical Framework, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of the Study. Chapter II deals with the Review of Related Literature. It talks about the theories which are used in the study. Chapter III is about the Methodology of this Study which consists of the Nature of the Study, the Literary Analysis, the Research Data, the Research Instrument, Procedure on Doing Research. Chapter IV contains the Data Analysis and Findings. Chapter V presents Summary, Conclusion and Suggestion concerning this study.