

## CHAPTER I

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

#### I.1. Background of the Study

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human creature which represents some aspects of life, such as human problems, experiences, and conducts. The objects of literature are obtained from the experience of life. This experience is later expressed in the form of literary work. The human problems and characters exposed in such work usually have a lasting and universal significance. Hence, literature helps us to widen our horizon and to gain a deeper insight into human life with their various problems.

This study deals with one form of literary works, namely a novel. According to C. Hugh Holman, in his book entitled *A Handbook to Literature*, novel is a fictional prose narrative in which the representation of character occurs either in a static condition or in the process of development as the result of events or actions (1986 : 335). While, according to Graham Little in his book, *Approach to Literature*, a novel is a form of literary work which presents one or a few characters in considerable depth, and also traces the development of

characters as a result of the experiences of which the plot tells (1966: 101).

Thus, from this particular form of literary work, people will be able to gain insights about human characters and their development as a result of the experiences they have undergone.

The study deals with one of the works written by Fyodor Dostoevsky, a great Russian writer. Dostoevsky's works are famous for their dramatic portrayals of man's inner conflicts. The works often disguised as mystery stories and crowded with turbulent events and frantic characters, raised problems of freedom and evil in people. Dostoevsky probed deep into the human mind and spirit. The depth of his investigation and the suspense of his plots make him one of the most fascinating masters of world literature.

One of Dostoevsky's novel entitled "*Crime and Punishment*" --which this thesis is discussing about-- describes the drama of a murderer who is tortured by his conscience. The hero is spiritually redeemed when he finally confesses his crime and accepts the punishment. It is a story of a murder and its consequences. On a more profound level, it is the exploration of the human consequences of an idea carried ruthlessly through to its

logical conclusion. The hero of this novel spins his philosophy secluded in his coffin-like garret in St. Petersburg, until he convinces himself that he must take a life in order to demonstrate that he is a superior individual destined to give a new word to the world. He, in putting his scientific thinking on top to confirm his right to kill, brushing aside moral law and thereby detracting from his guilt; he seems to permit the shedding of blood in accordance with the dictates of one's conscience, and he does not expect the extraordinary man to suffer if he kills; in fact, the greater utility of his action, the less important will be the burden of moral responsibility he will bear. Thus, it clearly shows that prioritizing a rational law allows this hero to break the moral law as well as human law with impunity. Since the writer always finds the psychological problems --of which this novel mostly deals with-- interesting to study, hence this novel is selected.

Dostoevsky, in *Crime and Punishment* is emphasizing that accepting responsibility for one's transgression is a first and necessary step toward expiation and rebirth. He also reveals that the rationales and justifications that the killer had so carefully built up cannot sustain him after the slaying. Also, by killing another, the

criminal destroys himself, for the first victim of a crime is its perpetrator. Nevertheless, Dostoevsky is particularly stressing on the consequences of an idea carried through ruthlessly. He conceives his basic idea that one has no right to disregard human law and ignore his often irrational way to assert his individuality. Such man should take into consideration conscience, the moral sense of right and wrong which might restrain him from harsh action.

### I.2. Statement of the Problem

In making the study of the inner conflicts of the central character, Raskolnikov, in *Crime and Punishment*, the writer will propose some problems as follow:

- (1) Why does Raskolnikov commit crime ?
- (2) How deep is his conflict that drives him to commit a murder ?
- (3) What inner conflicts occur in Raskolnikov's mind in facing his crime --after he commits the crime ?
- (4) How does he face the conflicts and overcome them ?

### I.3. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find the answers for the proposed problems through the analysis. Thus,



this study is intended to:

- (1) To give an analysis on the mainspring that drives Raskolnikov to commit murder.
- (2) To reveal how intensified his inner conflict is that drives him to commit murder.
- (3) To explore his inner conflicts in facing his crime --after committing the crime.
- (4) To describe how he faces the conflicts and overcomes them.

#### I.4. Significance of the Study

This study is an attempt to give a deeper insight into human mind and human problems through the psychological aspect of the character.

The result of this study serves to enrich our knowledge about the literary work, particularly of Fyodor Dostoevsky, namely *Crime and Punishment*.

Furthermore, it will hopefully be an input for other further studies concerning with this work.

#### I.5. Scope and Limitation

The writer, in making this study, will only attempt to reveal the inner conflicts of the main character through the intrinsic element of *character, plot, and*



setting. Since it only emphasizes on the psychological aspect of the character, hence the psychological approach will be used.

#### **I.6. Theoretical Background**

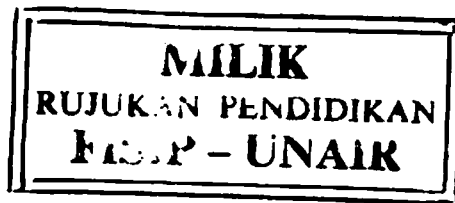
This study is intended to analyze the inner conflict of a character which leads him to a crime and in facing his crime and how he deals with it. Since it concerns with intrinsic elements of a novel, an intrinsic approach will be used.

To support this, the writer will employ the objective theory of M.H. Abrams which regards the work of art as isolated from all the external points of reference. Since the analysis will be based on the intrinsic elements only, hence this theory is applied.

Because it deals with the inner conflict of a character, a psychological approach supported by some psychological viewpoints will also be used. These viewpoints are used to clarify the situation in which the character is drawn into.

#### **I.7. Method of the Study**

In working on the thesis, the writer applies the library research to support the analysis of the problems.



7

What is meant by library research here is a process to find information which is useful to help the writer to direct his or her research. It serves for giving a brief picture of other writer's experiences in dealing and writing the paper (1982). Thus, on the first stage, the writer collects information from books, articles, encyclopedias, and other printed materials related to the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky, particularly of *Crime and Punishment*. The writer also tries to find information from any particular books dealing with the literary theories and approaches that will be used in the analysis. However, the main source used for the study is the work itself --in this case is Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*-- whereas the other sources are used for supporting the study.

The method which is later used is descriptive analysis. It is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through the dialogues, events, and actions of the story. This method is applied based on the work itself and supported by other informations concerning with this work. Furthermore, the quotations in the genuine form are provided to confirm and support the analysis.



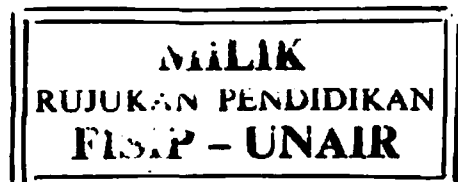


Finally, through this analysis, the writer hopes to give a true understanding of Raskolnikov's inner conflicts and the nature of his crime.

### I.8. Definition of Keyterms

In this thesis, the important terms which are to be noted will be given as follow :

- (1) *Inner conflict* = conflicts which occur within one's mind
- (2) *Dualism* = dual side (aspect) of a character's manner
- (3) *Extraordinary man* = the concept formulated by Raskolnikov which stands for a man who has the right for transgressing the law, as long as it is considered necessary to achieve his goal. This man is considered extraordinary since he is capable of uttering a new word for the life of mankind. Another characteristic of this man is that he has a capability in undergoing great suffering. The other one is that he has to be able to stand alone; for he has to rely on no one except himself.





### I.9. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters; of which the first is divided into nine sections. The first section stands for a background which explains about some considerations under which the writer makes the choices on this kind of literary work, this certain author and his particular work; and also about the message conveyed by the author. The next section exposes the problems which will be analyzed, concerning with this novel. The third and the fourth ones explain about the objective and the significance of the study respectively. The scope and limitation of the study and the theoretical background used to analyze the problems are explained on the next two sections, followed by the method used to make this study. The list of keyterms which clarify some terms considered important are given in the next part. The last section explains about how this paper is organized.

The second chapter which serves to give general description of the object of research is divided into two sections. The first part is a clarification of theories and approaches used to analyze the problems. It gives a complete and further explanation of the theoretical framework already mentioned briefly in the previous chapter. The second part will discuss about the related

studies of other thesis about this work in general.

General discussion of the author and his works is given in the third chapter. It gives a review of some particular works of the author. Whereas the analysis to find the solutions of the proposed problems is given in the next chapter. It serves as an exploration of some important aspects of the work concerning with the problems.

The conclusion which stands for the solutions in brief found through the analysis is given in the last chapter. This chapter is followed by bibliography which stands for references used for making this study.

## CHAPTER II

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

THESIS

