

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature is the record of what men have thought and felt about life, and from that record the modern reader can enrich his own meager experience with the thought and emotion of the past.

Literary work such as novel is the most widely practised and most widely read form of literature in the world today. According to Clara Reeve '*the novel is a picture of real life and manners, and the times in which it is written.*' (Wellek, 1977).

In this thesis, the writer chooses Graham Greene, a British novelist. Outstanding among his novels are Brighton Rock (1938), The Power and The Glory (1940), and The Heart of The Matter (1948). His characteristics in his novels are lacks of self-confidence, loss of faith and hope, the sense of failure, the need for advice and authority, because they are about such weak element. He is recognized by his competence to put his main characters in complicated situation which make them struggle hard to survive. His

imagination is the mystery of human love which serves as an analogues for the love of God and which is expressed more effectively in the actions of the simple than in the words of those who are committed to a creed.

The Heart of The Matter is certainly Greene's best novel. As a devoted Catholic, he mostly involved many ideas of his faith in his novels. He derives the good and evil deed from religious view. And his preoccupation with human sins can be found in this novel.

It is a tragic story of Major Scobie as an honest policeman that eventually can not maintain the moral conduct that he has gained from his faith. Major Scobie is depicted as a good-hearted man, and lives in a colony full of corruption and deceit.

Scobie has a lack of communication with his wife, Louise, because of the death of an only child. He does not love his wife anymore, all that remains is a pity for her. Next it can be observed that his relation with his mistress seems capable only of pity and his feeling for her is clouded by this. First, he sees her as a suffering young widow who needs care and protection. But he can not prevent himself to commit adultery with her. His personal responsibility to his wife and his mistress overwhelmed him and ultimately destroy him.

His external conflict that cause him to feel desperate and lonely are represented by the hostile people and the priest. The worst thing in his life is after he makes friend with Yusef, a smuggler, helps him to commit crime. Then he lets Yusef to kill his loyal servant to save his own reputation from the society. Finally he feels as a responsible man from all mess and the solution for his sins is by committing suicide.

Actually, Scobie's mistake is that he does not want to rely upon God in time of trouble and sorrow. His fails to understand God and his love in his life.

In this thesis the writer wants to explore Greene's ways in revealing how a man destroys himself by committing sins and suicide. And the writer would like to present that the story of Major Scobie constitutes the tragedy of man in misunderstanding God's love.

## I.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- Is there any conflicts in "The Heart of The Matter"?
- Does the story of Major Scobie constitute the tragedy as the solution of moral conflict?

### I.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- 1) Scobie's tragedy can not be separated from his conflicts. He is respected by the people in his society. People regards him as a tough man who can solve the problem easily, even the priest. Therefore, it seems no one who console him whenever he is weary about his life nor his wife, so he keeps the problem in his mind till he can not stand anymore. Finally he decides to commit suicide. And the main objective is that she tries to discuss the conflicts which occurred in Scobie's character especially his moral conflict.
- 2) Greene, in his novel, conveys the big problem in human's life, how one often can not achieve his desire to reconcile with God and fails to understand God's love. In general, this story is about man's relationship with his creator, so that it can be read by anybody. It is inevitable that human life can not be separated from the problem itself as what is conveyed in the story such as injustice, corruption, death, poverty. Often man has to be a victim of his difficult situation which he has to face in reality. Through this thesis the writer wants to prove that Scobie's tragedy is caused by his lack of self-confidence, the sense of failure and loss of faith and hope.

#### I.4. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Scobie's downfall can not be separated from his conflicts. Therefore, the writer of this thesis attempts to limit her discussion by analyzing Major Scobie's conflicts, mostly his moral conflict especially his relation with God which eventually leads him to his tragedy.

#### I.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Hopefully, this thesis is to give understanding of literature in the emphasize on human life through the description of the characters.

In general, this story is about man's relationship with his Creator so that it can be read by anybody. Also it presents the difficulty of a moral man like Scobie in struggling againts the moral decay around him. It is inevitable that human life can not be separated from the problem of life itself.

Though, the writer is not a Christian, but she tries to follow a concept of Christianity to analyze the topic clearly. As we know The Heart of The Matter is a Catholic novel and the writer should discuss the problem from Catholic point of view. And it can be useful for non-Christian students more closely into contact with reality of life. So that they can also enjoy and appreciate this novel as one of Greene's masterpiece, eventhough they have different

religious background.

#### I.6. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

To describe this thesis clearly, the writer has chosen the objective theory as a leading theory. This theory approaches the work as something standing free from poet, audience, and the environing world. So it is analyzed and judge by the intrinsic criteria. It is really apart from the talk of the biographical background, the background of the period when the work was written, the philosophical, psychological, or any other factors classified as the extrinsic factors. Abrams states in The Mirror and The Lamp:

" Objective orientation which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all external points of preference, analyzes it as self sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being." ( 1953:26)

And the writer also uses a Structural approach focused on characterization . This is the element the writer wants to emphasize before she comes to the main topic. Graham Greene as the author, is showing his character as a weak but heroic man who betrays shade of moral superiority and allow himself to be overwhelmed by the demands of human relationships.

For supporting the Objective theory he writer thinks that she needs a Psychological theory to see the characterization and also the conflict occurred in Scobie's personality, why a man like Scobie can commit suicide for his solution of his problems.

As we know, psychology is the scientific study of the behaviour of humans and other animals. Linda L. Davidoff stated in Introduction to Psychology that the chief goals of psychology are:

"..the accurate and precise descriptions of conduct, thoughts, and feelings and the investigation of the many variable-biological, personal, and social-that interact in determining behaviour and mental processes."  
(p:732)

The field of psychology is therefore intimately connected with physiology and with other behavioral sciences such as anthropology and sociology.

## I.7 METHOD OF THE STUDY

This study is a kind of library research since in dealing with the problem, the writer collects data from books, articles and other printed material related to the figure of Graham Greene as the author and his works, particularly the novel The Heart of The Matter.

Content - analysis method is applied for understanding the content itself. The interpretation is based on the content without any interference from any other

factors classified as the external factor. The content of the story consists of some elements such as plot, setting, character, theme, and etc. To analyze those elements, the writer will relate it with the theory and approaches suitable for her analysis.

### I.8. KEY TERMS

#### Heart

the essence of an object. (Evison,1988:174)

#### Matter

problem. (Evison,1988:231)

The Heart of the Matter is the essence of the problem. Scobie, as an Assistant commissioner, commit a series of transgression for reason that are more complex than can be explained away by given fact that he is easily moved to pity.

#### Tragedy

is a paradoxical combination of a fearful sense of rightness and a pitying sense of wrongness. (Mc Nulty,1960:50)

#### Pattern of tragedy:

- the principal tragic character is typically an outstanding individual superior in important respects, who comes into conflict with the power structure, but is not so strong as the counterforces of power.



- the course leading to disaster is taken. The hero loses some or all former freedom, and becomes increasingly isolated.
- the heroes, no matter how strong, find themselves overwhelmed by circumstances and the story comes to its unhappy and inevitable end. Usually the principal tragic figure dies. (Mc Nulty, 1960: 50-51 )

### Character

is an imagined person who inhabits a story which is usually bears human personalities that familiar to the real life and real people. A story can be divided into two kinds of characters. ( Jacobs, 1986:135)

- Major character a character who brings the most important role in the story.
- Minor character a character less in presentation. just to support the existence of the major character.  
(Jacobs.1986:137)

### Characterization

is the manifestation of the actions of the characters. It can be comprehended through the actions, utterances, and attitudes of the character. We can observe it through the direct statements, the events, the dialogues, the internal monologues, other characters' attitude or information, etc. Comprehensively it refers to the accumulation of motives,

desires, emotions, and moral which build personality of the characters. (Gill,1985:90-105)

### Conflict

is a struggle between opposing forces that can be a clash of actions, ideas, desires or values. A character is in an inner conflict when it occurs in himself, during which he battles with some elements of his own personality. He is an outer conflict when he has to struggle with "an external force such as another character, nature or society." (Roberts,1986:102-103).

The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional or moral conflict. The main character may be pitted againsts some other persons (*man-againsts-man*); he may be in conflict with some external force--physical nature, society, or fate (*man-againsts-environment*); or he may be in conflict with some elements in his own nature (*man-againsts-himself*). (Perrine, 1966:59).

Still concerning the types of conflict, Jones said that

" First is the physical or elemental conflict. Here we usually find a man in conflict with nature...The second type of dramatic conflict is social conflict. In this type the struggle is one person againsts another...The third type of conflict is internal or psychological conflict. Here we find a man struggling againsts himself, his guilt, or simply trying to decide what he is going to do. (1968:30-31)

### Pity

feeling of sorrow for the troubles, suffering, etc for another person. (Evison,1983:281).

### Sin

is one of a group of concepts that refer to the violation of laws. Action that violate human generated laws are labeled crimes, offense, or misdemeanor. Sin are actions that violate the laws of God [ thus, the concept of sin requires a corresponding concept of a God who has provided laws that are to be obeyed ]. ( Davidoff,1987:480 )

### Suicide

The deliberate act of taking one's life or a self-murder. Suicide can be happened, those living alone, in poor health or suffering from psychotic depression [ especially with delusion of guilt and worthlessness ].

### Escapist Suicide

is motivated by the desire to flee from an "intolerable" situation, seem to be most common in Western country. Escapists are likely to have experienced a substantial loss and to feel depressed, ashamed, guilty, and anxious, or worthless and to see the future are hopeless. (Davidoff,1987:492-493 )

### I.9. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

The writer of this thesis organizes this thesis into five chapters. She begins it with the introduction which consists of the background why she chooses The Heart of The Matter as the novel going to be analysed. And also the main topic of the problem that is a study of Scobie's conflicts which finally cause him to his downfall, for detail explanation about his conflicts, it will be discussed in chapter four.

In chapter two she states the theory used to analyse the topic, which theory is suitable for the analysis. Besides, she tries to find other related literatures which talked about this novel. There are Graham Greene: On the Frontier by Maria Couto and Graham Greene: Contemporary Writers by John Spurling.

The third chapter talks about the synopsis of the novel. The next chapter deals with the analysis, and it consists of the discussion of Scobie's inner conflict which needs a long explanation than his outer conflict. And the important thing in his inner conflict, that is losing his faith, a lack of self-confidence, the sense of his failure and despair and in the end of the story he decides to end his life by committing suicide.

To end up the discussion, the writer makes a con-

clusion about what she wants to achieve by analysing the topic. That is we as a human being should have a strong faith to maintain our moral from the bad temptation in our life. And we should have believed in God and love of Him anytime. It seems that Scobie does not want to rely upon God after he did a sin. However, his hesitation to really believe in salvation for him shows his unwillingness to restore his relationship with God. The writer puts the conclusion in