

ABSTRACT

Elly Susanti: *Twain's Background in Writing His Novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is one of Twain's best works. It is a very famous book which is very enjoyable to read. It also has been translated into many languages and read by people of various ages and most of them say that they really enjoy reading the book. It even became the best-seller when it was first published in America in 1876. However, not many literary critics mention this book in their debates. This fact rises my curiosity to know more about the book, especially about the background of the writing of the book. And this, is the starting point of the writing of this thesis.

The purpose of writing this thesis is to know more about Twain's background in writing The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. People tend to say that the book is a boy's book. But actually, the case is not that simple, because the book is intended to be read by people of all ages. Even Twain himself says that he wrote the book to remind adults of what they were once. Many aspects to be considered in this book will create more and more new perspectives in viewing the values in the book.

The approaches used in this study are the psychological approach suggested by Roger B. Henkle and the reflectional approach suggested by M. H. Abrams. Furthermore, the study was done by analyzing the novel and studying Twain's life. The analysis of the novel aims at finding out Twain's background in writing the novel. In this way, I can find the goal intended by Twain to achieve in writing the book. And, the result of the study is that I find out that Twain writes the book as a reminiscence of the beautiful happy childhood that he still dreams of for the rest of his life.

By considering the result of the analysis done here, I conclude that The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, actually, is written based on Twain's own experiences in his childhood for some part, and based on the experiences of other people with some additional ideas which result from Twain's imagination to make the story more interesting on the other part. In short, we can say that The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is a semi-autobiographical book of Mark Twain.

Actually, this thesis is made as one guidance to help the English Teachers understand more about this book. Only reading the novel will not be enough for them if they are to understand the various aspects of the book. Thus, it can be suggested here that the English Teachers should read this thesis to learn more about the book, especially on the background of the writing of the book. In this way, it is expected that the teachers will be able to present the topic concerning this study in a more interesting way because they really understand and feel positively certain of what to talk about to their students. It is also expected that the students will be more enthusiastic as they find the teachers helpful and ready to explain anything they feel curious about. It cannot be denied that working with an expert is also more interesting and enjoyable to do. If the purpose can be achieved, then, the teaching-learning process will be successfully conducted.

For further suggestion, this thesis is made for the intention to help the English Teachers to create and develop the topics for their speaking class mainly, but it can also be used to improve the grammar of the students, especially in the use of "Simple Past Tense".