

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of study

Students of the English Department intend to master English well especially the four basic skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Since “to know another’s language and not his culture is a very good way to make fluent fool of one’s self “(Levin and Adelma, 1993:143), students of English Department have to learn beyond the mastery of the language skills. They need to know the background culture of the language. English literature is one of the subjects which prepares students to know about the culture of English speaking countries. Supporting the statement Little (1966:1) claims that:

*Wherever there is education, there is the study of literature. This is because the literature of a people is the principle element of its culture. It contains the record of the people’s values, their thoughts, their problems conflicts in short, their way of life. Whether transmitted through the spoken or written word, literature may fairly be regarded as the chief art of mankind. Through this art, each generation tries to pass on the next. “The best which has been thought and said”.*

Literature can be interesting because it gives pleasure and enjoyment for the students. However, only few students realize it. Some students think that reading literature is useless and wasting time. They think that literature is not important for their life and their future. That is the reason why literature is often neglected by some students. Those misconceptions have to be minimized. In fact, reading literature can move students’ feelings. A horror story, for example, Dracula by Bram Stoker can make the readers feel as if they were in the story and also feel curious about what will happen next. Therefore, the readers want to read it more and more. This is inline with

Little's definition that "Literature is as kind of art, usually written that offers pleasure and illumination" (1966:67).

In addition to that, literature gives something valuable to the readers, particularly students. By analyzing literature, students get many points of views of life since it conveys many aspects of human life, for instance, human values, conflicts, thoughts, problems, and culture. Other valuable things that students can obtain by studying literature are enlarging knowledge, building the intellectual, sharpening their sensitivity and last but not least, training their imagination. Simon and Schuster (1966:7) mention, "By analyzing literature, the reader does not only develop their intellectual and emotion skills but are also aware of many things going on in the fiction."

Little (1966:67) states that there are three forms of literature; they are fiction/ novel, play and poetry. A poem for example, usually consists of stanzas while a drama consists of dialogue and stage direction. Some people also include essay as another genre of literature. Whatever the form is, the main point of literature is its message and its power to move the emotions of the readers.

Among those genres, the writer chooses play because it has special features compared to other types of fiction, such as novels or short stories. As we know, play is a kind of drama could be acted on the stage. Drama or play does not take much time for the readers to read, since it is not as long as a novel. However, it represents a story as a novel and short story do. Little (1966: 89) argues that "Drama is a subject to a time limit (say, two or three hours) to which the novel is not restricted .... Hence, dramatic plots are generally more economical, more selective than non

dramatic plots”. A drama or play presents characters that are shown in dialogues and actions so that drama or play has dramatic characterization in which other literary genres do not have, it has quality to describe human characters and attitudes in action. Little (1966:2) even claims that there is probably no form of literature that is more popular than drama or play. It is a particular literary form of literature that can be performed on stage and can be read as well.

In this study the writer takes one of Arthur Miller plays entitled *A View From the Bridge* as the subject of her study because he is a modern playwright who has an intense concern for the common man that he shows in all his plays. The special feature of Miller’s plays is his concern on modern playwright which is pioneered by G.B. Shaw which takes characters from common people, not the noblemen (Porter, 1969:1). This is why I interesting to analyze one of Arthur Miller’s play because the story in this play is something which really happen around us.

Arthur Miller succeeded in creating a performance about American society and its daily life. In his famous play entitled “The Death of a Salesman”, for example, he made a story of an old man salesman who struggled for his ambition to have a prosperous family. In another play entitled “All My Son”, Miller tries to say about a family life, the father sacrificed his first son and his partner for hiding his crime. Trying to cover this, he acted to be a very good father. That made his little son falsely proud of him. The two examples above show that Arthur Miller had a great concern about the life of low class people so that he was nicknamed as “The Little Man”.

In addition to his concern about common people, his expression is also very ‘down to earth’. Jean Gould argued that “He has the touch of common speech

mingled with democracy, idealism, poetic, expression and an ancient people's capacity for understanding and anguish of the soul" (1966:263). That shows that he use typical daily conversation. However, he still holds high moral values and high standards of poetic expression. The mixture between simplicity and idealism makes him a distinguished playwright of his contemporary.

The literary work that is going to be analyzed in this study is Arthur Miller's play entitled *A View From the Bridge* produced in London in 1959. The reason of choosing this play is that the play portrays the tragedy of common man that we usually find in our real society. This play is talking about the downfall of a man as a result of his own action to seek self-evaluation and as a result of a conflict with his environment. Tragedy can reach people to be stronger in dealing with their problems.

The play focuses on three characters; Eddie Corbone, Catherine and Rodolpho. Eddie Corbone, his wife and Beatrice live in the slum that faces the bay on the Seaward Side of Brooklyn Bridge. To support his family, Eddie works as a longshoreman. Eddie actually likes his job, but he dislikes the neighborhood, which consists of longshoremen. Even though Catherine is not his own offspring he treats done the best for Catherine like his own daughter. Eddie begins to dislike the presence of Catherine when he finds out that his beloved niece falls in love with Rodolpho. As he is jealous of Rodolpho and afraid of losing Catherine, he makes some silly and irrational accusation on his rival.

Eddie accuses Rodolpho as a thief who breaks into his home and tries to steal things. He does those things with a purpose to prove and make her sure that

Rodolpho is not the right man for her. On the other hand, he wants to show Rodolpho that Catherine belongs to him and nobody can take her out of him.

The way in which Eddie uses all ways to separate Catherine from Rodolpho is a matter of jealousy. The jealousy is a very complex phenomenon that includes many factors. This is the main topic that the writer wants to explore more. The writer is interesting to analyzing the jealousy between Eddie Corbone and Catherine because it is not common her for an uncle to have this kind of jealousy to his niece.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of the study, there is one problem that the writer wants to find out the answer, that is:

- How does the main character, Eddie Corbone show his illicit jealousy?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objective of this study will be searched:

- The ways of the main character, Eddie Corbone shows his illicit jealousy.

## **1.4 Significance of Study**

The results of this study are expected to be able to give a better understanding of this play in particular and other literary works in general. Hopefully, this research will be useful as an additional reference for the students who are interested in studying literature.

## 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

For avoiding misinterpretation, it is better to define terms applied in this thesis.

### 1. Literature

Literature, widely defined is about anything written. Literature is a meeting of individuals; it comes alive when the reader meets the writer. Literature finally, and at its best, expresses people search for the good life and sustains people faith that we can achieve. (Kennedy, 1991:48)

### 2. Drama

Drama is a story without a story-teller; in it characters act out directly what Aristote called an “Imitation” of such action as people find in life. A lyric; like a drama, is a direct presentation, in which a single actor, the poet or his surrogate, sings, muses, or speaks for us to hear or overhear (Scholes and Kellogg, 1977:5).

### 3. Character

Character is an author’s representation of a human being, especially of those inner qualities that determine how an individual reacts to various conditions, or attempts to shape his or her environment (Roberts 1977:54).

### 4. Plot

Plot is series of events or arrangement of happenings that should have a rising action, a climax and a falling action (Barnett 1993:6).

### 5. Setting

Setting is the time and place in which the action occurs (Barnett 1993:6).

6. Theme

Kennedy (1983:103) states, “The Theme of the story is what ever general idea or sight the entire story reveals”. In other words, the theme is the point or idea that the story emphasizes.

7. Tragedy

Tragedy is a serious play with a sad ending, especially one in which the main character dies. Tragedy is a type of play in which the protagonist is defeated (Potter, 1967:139)

8. Dialogue

An important form of conversation, which gives the play an emotional impact and meaning. It tells about the characters speaking, the character listening, the interaction of the characters, and the conflict in the play (Barnet, 1992:116).

9. Jealousy

Jealousy is an aversive emotional reaction evoked by a real or imagined relationship involving one’s partner and a third person.

10. Illicit

Illicit is not approved of by the normal rules of society (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary).

11. Illicit Jealousy

Illicit Jealousy is an aversive emotional reaction which is not approved of by the normal rules of society.

## **1.6 Scope and Limitation**

The scope of the study is the analysis of the character of the main character in expressing his illicit jealousy. The study focused on the main character, in this case, Eddie Corbone as an uncle of Catherine. The other characters are also analyzed only in the sense of its importance toward the main character's conflict.

## **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

In this study, the writer uses theory of drama and play, element of drama: literature, play, character and characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, theme and tragedy. The underlying theories, which the writer uses in her study, are the theories, which deal with literature.

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

The writer divides this study into five chapters. Introduction of the study, including the background of the study, the statement of the of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, the scope and limitation, the research method, and the organization of the study, presented in Chapter one. The second chapter deals with review of related literature. The third chapter is the research methodology, which deal with the nature of the study, research design, source of data, procedures of data collection and data analysis. Meanwhile, the discussion of the finding will be discussed in chapter four. Finally the last chapter, chapter five, concludes the whole discussions.