

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the writer intended to conclude what had been discussed in the previous chapters. The writer also offers some suggestions for those who are interested in studying the drama from different angles of discussion.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study discussed about drama by Henrik Ibsen entitled *Ghosts*. In this study, the writer analyzed the roles of the influential characters that made Mrs. Alving, the major character, feel haunted. Each character's background became the 'ghost' in Mrs. Alving's life. Those characters are Captain Alving, Oswald Alving, Regina Engstrand, and Pastor Manders.

The role of Captain Alving that made Mrs. Alving feel haunted was Captain Alving's past behavior. His infidelity before and especially after marriage made Mrs. Alving so suffer. The worst was his affair with Joanna, which became a nightmare for Mrs. Alving and forced her to lie to everyone. Mrs. Alving had tried to cover up her husband's bad behavior for years without thinking about the consequences she would face. She spent her life thinking how to hide it. Unfortunately the harder she tried to hide Captain Alving's bad behavior, the scarier the ghost of her husband's infidelity haunted her.

The role of Oswald Alving that made Mrs. Alving feel haunted was that Oswald Alving repeated the history that Mrs. Alving was trying to hide. Oswald discovered that he had a hereditary illness and he assumed it was from his father. Mrs. Alving felt guilty because she was not honest about Captain Alving's behavior in the past. It became worse for her when she knew that Oswald wanted to marry Regina, his mother's maidservant. She rejected Oswald's wish because she knew that Regina was Oswald half-sister. She felt history was repeated. That Oswald had the disease from his father and fell in love with the maid was just like a ghost for her. Mrs. Alving felt haunted by her decision to keep the secret from Oswald which made Oswald suffer.

The role of Regina Engstrand that made Mrs. Alving feel haunted was that Regina was the daughter of Captain Alving with Joanna. When Captain Alving passed away, she felt obliged to take care of Regina because Regina was the child from Captain Alving's affair. She had to live along with the memory of Captain Alving's affair. However when the secret had to be unfolded, it became a ghost to Mrs. Alving. The image of Joanna who had an affair with her husband reminded to the idea that Regina was going to marry her only son, Oswald. In addition to that, the plan would also be a shame to the family, not only that a master marry a maid but also an incest marriage.

The role of Pastor Manders that made Mrs. Alving feel haunted was that Mrs. Alving was hoping the coming of Pastor Manders, a close friend of the Alving's and a prominent religious leader, should have been a solution to Mrs. Alving's complicated problems. On the other hand, it turned out to be the

other way around. Pastor Mander's suggestions which were based on religious norms turned to be haunting ghost to Mrs. Alving's consciousness. The ideal image of religious person who should never get divorced in spite of abuses and cheating had been imposed by the priest.

Ghost misdeeds in the past that influenced people in their present and future. Mrs. Alving as the major character made some mistakes in her past. She felt haunted even more because it was triggered by the other characters' behavior in the past. The conflict opened all the lies beneath the family prestige. In the end, Mrs. Alving had to face this bitter reality that made Mrs. Alving feel haunted by her past. These haunting lies affect and even ruin Mrs. Alving's life.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

From the discussion above about Mrs. Alving who felt haunted by her past, the writer concluded that the deceit only makes the problems become worse. Even though the truth is painful, telling the truth is wiser before it brings wider consequences in the future as Mrs. Alving faced.

"Ghosts" is an interesting work of art by Henrik Ibsen. It tells how the action did in the past can affect the present and even ruin the future. For general readers who are interested in reading literature, especially drama, the writer would like to give some suggestions that they should read other play by Henrik Ibsen, such as *A Doll House* or *The Wild duck*. Like *Ghosts*, those plays are telling about the complexity of society, norm, and orthodox religion.

For students who would like to make a further discussion about Ghosts, the writer would like to give some suggestions that the students should discuss other aspect that force Mrs. Alving's deception, which make her feel haunted. For department, the writer would like to give some suggestions that the department should add more literature works and other references about literature. Therefore the students will feel encourage making discussion about literature.

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