

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works have a relation to human life so it is useful for the readers to know about it. Even, through deeper analysis, the readers can get more knowledge about human life of which the positive aspects can be applied to real life. Little (1966:3) states that literature can broaden and stimulate human mind and also enhance the enjoyment of life when it is explored widely. Barnett, Berman and Burto (1963:1) add that literature is something expressed beautifully which has the element of entertaining or affording pleasure.

As the principal element of people's culture, literature contains the record of people's values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts; in short, their way of life. Through literature, the feelings, emotions, religion and struggles of life can be learnt. They can also influence people in a good way or a bad one, it depends on the people themselves in learning it. Roberts and Jacobs (1989:2) define that literature can

also help people grow into the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world and to recognize human dreams and struggles in order to develop mature sensitivity for the condition of all living things.

Kennedy (1979:1379) adds that a literary work is a force that affects people. It stirs responses in them, arouses their emotions, and perhaps argues for ideas that change their minds.

There are two points that explain about the qualities of good literature. According to Little (1966:2), first, literature says something worth saying. This means that a good literature can add our understanding about life in the world around us. Literature also embodies our thoughts and feelings as a whole, such as love, hatred, peace, failure, ambition, etc. The second point is that literature is something that is well said which is expressed beautifully. We can say that a careful planning in the arrangement of ideas, the use of language and imaginative devices from beginning to the end are the elements of beauty.

The writer chooses a play for the object of her study because play presents characters in dialogues, actions and appearance so that it is easier for her in doing this analysis. According to Little (1966:113), the dramatist's problem differs from the novelist's.

The dramatist shows characters in dialogues, actions, and appearance. On the other hand, the novelist presents characters by description, discussion and interpretation. Barnett, Berman and Burto (1963:446) argue that a play is not simply words but words spoken with accompanying gestures by performers who wear costume and in a particular setting.

The author, Eugene O'Neill, is chosen in this study because he is one of the American greatest playwrights who has attraction to the outcasts of society, on ships and in mean ports. His attraction to the sea emerges in his many plays. He writes a play which always contains people's sorrow and their sorrow is caused by the faults of their own selves or by the pressure of forces around them. Collow and Rully (1977:151) state that O'Neill's status as America's greatest playwrights lies not only in his dramatic imagination but in the numerous forms and techniques that he employed. Moreover, Rees (1951:270) also adds that O'Neill's attraction to the sea emerges in his many plays. He wrote about the outcasts of society, on ships and mean ports.

This play talks about the life of seamen which is influenced by ambition to get something as much as possible. Besides that, this play has a central character which is interesting that makes the writer

focuses her study on analyzing this central character. She focuses on it because this central character portrays the captain of the ship who want to get the ile. Rees (1951:270) defines that O'Neill writes many plays. His first successful ones were a series about the life of ordinary seamen on tramp steamers and one of his plays was Ile.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In this study, the questions raised are:

1. What are the central character's mental qualities?
2. How do the other characters see the central character?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

In this study, the writer wants to describe:

1. the central character's mental qualities.
2. how the other characters see the central character.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give contribution to the teaching of literature at Widya Mandala Catholic University. This study can be used in studying characters in a play. Besides that, this study is expected to be used for students of non-literary department who are interested in studying literature. It can help them in comprehending literary works.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

The writer limits the discussion to Captain Keeney's character and his interaction with other characters. She limits the discussion to Captain Keeney's character who is the central character because he plays an important role in the whole story. She also limits the discussion to his interaction with other characters because Captain Keeney's character can be observed from his interaction with other characters.

#### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

In this study, the writer gives some key terms which are related to this study. It is intended to give clearer comprehension for readers.

1. A play is a work of story-telling in which the characters are represented by actors (Kennedy X.J., 1979:833).
2. Mental quality is the typical way of thinking, feeling and acting (Little, 1966:93).
3. A character is a person created by a playwright to carry the action, language, ideas and emotions (Roberts and Jacobs, 1989:1011).
4. A central character is a person who controls or dominates others (Webster Dictionary 1986).
5. Characterization is the means by which the writer creates the sum of traits, thoughts, and actions which taken together, constitute a character (Fergusson, 1949:785).
6. Plot is the arrangement of the action, the selection and ordering of events which make up the play (Bain, Beaty and Hunter, 1977:1383).
7. Action is a single event or episode within a story or to the series of events that make up the whole story (Bain, Beaty and Hunter, 1977:499).
8. Emotion is the means of evaluating a situation and it can influence someone's behaviour in that situation (Leontiy, 1981:68).

### 1.7 Organization of the Study

This paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms and organization of the study. Chapter II presents review of related literature such as play, elements of play, emotion and related study. Chapter III concerns with methodology of the study. The analysis of the play is given in chapter IV. Finally, the conclusion is presented in chapter V.