

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

English as a language cannot be separated from its literature, so it is important for students of the English Department to study English thoroughly. Moreover, literature is one of the interesting lessons that is taught in English Department. As quoted by Kennedy (1978: 1), "Literature is one of the most important parts of language. It is the reflection of how language is aesthetically arranged into a harmonious piece of art." Thus, literature invites people into the wonders of human nature. Naturally, it requires one's talent to unfold the beauty of its works besides knowledge, experiences, and analytical ability.

When I first read a literary work, I found it rather difficult to understand, boring, and a little bit useless, I only read the surface of it, but after I read it more deeply and carefully, I may find that literary works are not as difficult and boring as I thought before. It is also useful since literary works give the readers moral values, which may provide them with new thought, ideas, and perspectives. Literary works can even change the readers' thought, ideas, and perspectives through the hidden or even exposed message in it.

Farmer (1985: 167) says, "Literature is news that stays news." It means that literature is unending. People talk about it years even later, as Farmer said. Besides that, it gives the readers' knowledge in finding possible solutions to problems when they meet characters in book whose problems are like their own. It

also gives them pleasure in learning about human values, conflicts, culture, moral life, social life, background of a certain society, and messages which the authors express in their works.

By studying literature, not only do students improve their vocabulary and grammar but they also broaden their knowledge and outlook and build up their personal intellect. Roberts (1972: 2) states, "Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually, it provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding."

It is possible for students to learn another culture from literature because it shows people's attitudes, beliefs and problems. As Graham Little (1966: 2) states in his book *Approach to Literature*, "As the principal element of people's culture, literature contains the record of people's values, their thought, their problems and conflict, in short, their way of life." He also states that literature is a reflection of human life, which usually talks about every aspects of life that man faces in the world. In literature, the readers may find morality, situation and condition of the society, and reality of life, such as happiness, sorrows, angers, excitement, ideals, truth, and lies. (Little, 1968: 1)

In literary works the readers may see characters face problems, conflicts and difficult choices in life which finally drive them into the options that they have to take in which it finally ends whether it ends happiness or sorrow. Therefore, literary works help them to cope with every day life's problems since they show them about life, the author's ways of thinking, feeling, ideas, and the situation and conditions of the societies at the time they made it. Literature can

broaden and stimulate people's minds, makes them people of wider human sympathy, and enhances people's enjoyment of life. (Little, 1966: 1)

Studying literature is considered to be inadequate if people do not know what literature is. According to Roberts and Jacobs (1989: 1), literature refers to written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions, also, to attract, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and enable readers.

Literature is classified into three genres or classes. They are: prose fictions or narrative fictions (the novel, the short stories, myths, and parables, romance), drama, and narrative poetry. There are two major points included in studying literature as the aims of all these literary forms. They are: First, literature is something worth saying. In this case, it means that literature can add people's understanding about life. Literature can also embody people's feelings and thoughts as a whole, such as: war, peace, love, ambition, death, survival, hatred, failure, idealism, and compromise. Second, literature is something well - said. It means that literature is something expressed beautifully. Those features above make literature classic (Graham Little, 1966: 1). Therefore, all the statements and the reasons of studying literature works encourage the writer to do a literary study as her thesis.

The writer here is interested in studying drama because drama is the most interesting literary form for her. There are some reasons that make the writer choose drama as the subject of her study. First, drama is the most popular form of literature because it can be read or performed on the stage. It is like giving

education to the audiences without them being aware of it. As Scholes, Silverman, and Klaus (1978: 73) state drama offers people a direct presentation of its imaginative reality. In drama the audiences are usually taken to the imaginative world where everything on the stage such as gestures, physical activity, and silence will be shown as vivid as the reality. Second, all forms of drama which contain the interaction of the characters represent a special situation in life in the form of dialogues, actions, and appearance. So, it is easier for the writer to do her analysis. Little (1966: 113) says, "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 through description, discussion, and interpretation. Third, drama contains human problems in daily life. It also carries social messages made by the playwright to make people aware of the issues situations and conditions. Drama is often meant by series of events that elicit high excitement (Kennedy, 1978: 565). The playwrights show their feeling, thought, consideration, and ideas to the audience through drama. Kennedy (1979: 1-2) also says that drama is a presentation of human's daily life. It presents human characters, human conditions, human values, and human conflicts that happen in their daily life. It is more like a reflection of a real life situation.

In this study, the writer takes one of George Bernard Shaw's dramas entitled *"Mrs. Warren's Profession"* as her study because Shaw is one of the greatest authors of modern plays. His career is the longest in English dramatic history. Shaw's play is full of ideas, and each play presents a problem and discusses it thoroughly. Though he uses his plays for discussion, he accompanies

them with prefaces in which he explores the theme more fully. The central theme he illustrates has many variations, from education, social condition, politics, international affairs, and religion. Shaw is an author who is special and different than the others. Shaw dares to say what others had never dared to say. He has cracked a lot of taboos. According to Robson (1970: 2), Shaw writes with an air of saying something scandalous and shocking. In addition, Thomley (1968: 153) also said that Shaw's ideas are astonishing at the time and are not popular because some of them attack the bases of society and the habits of long years. For instance, he writes a drama about prostitution in Mrs. Warren's profession, which is taken by the writer of this study to be analyzed further as her study. At that time, people used to keep silent about prostitution. They thought it was against the good morals of society to write about it. Beside that, most of his plays are well known and valued in all countries, for example: *Man and Superman* (1903), *HeartBreak House* (1919), *Major Barbara* (1906), *Saint Joan* (1924).

The writer would like to analyze Bernard Shaw's play; "Mrs. Warren's Profession", written in 1894 and published in 1902, as her study because she considers it is very interesting since this play is seriously concerned about a moral study of the economic bases of prostitution. The play begins on a lovely summer afternoon in a cottage garden, with a pretty girl lying in a hammock. Moreover, prostitution and what became known as the white slave trade are never mentioned in the play; its subject lies as a hidden tension behind its witty comedy. The story tells about a working class woman; Mrs. Warren, who leaves her former decent job and chooses to be a lady of entertainment. After she is financially secured, she

keeps in doing the business and becomes a procuress of international brothels. Her daughter's first rate education is paid with the money earned from that profession. Vivie; Mrs. Warren's daughter, has been sent to college at Cambridge to take a brilliant degree in mathematics, and then to study law. Vivie makes money as men do., and never has to prostitute herself. Mrs. Warren, on the other hand, lived in Victorian era that cursed and despised prostitute.

R. J. Kaufman (1965) says, "Mrs. Warren's own career has involved a shift from small-scale private enterprise to the employment of labor in full-scale capitalism. The commodity she trades in is sex. Mrs. Warren has graduated from common prostitution to become managing director of an international chain of brothels. This is a trade in living human bodies and human virtue. The resources for which the poor can make the rich pay, and for which women can get a reasonable market price by hard bargaining with their 'lords and masters'. The generosities of sensuality and love are poor ground for a trade in sex. The money which passes is the guarantee of social acceptance." (Kaufman, 1965)

Gibbs Adam (1969) also says that Mrs. Warren is a portrait of a conventional woman at heart. Mrs. Warren is not ashamed of her past, society having offered her no reasonable alternative. She does not need to get back because she is respectable (1969: 18). Mrs. Warren can do the same thing again if she has her time over again. She has to do it because it is the only way she can make a good enough living to retrain her self-respect. That is her defense. (Adams, 1969:39)

In this play, Shaw describes Mrs. Warren as “an organism of prostitution” a woman who owns and manages brothels in every big city in Europe and is proud of it. Shaw is also concerned in this play with the effect of his protagonist’s unsavory operations on Mrs. Warren’s own daughter, Vivie. Vivie in this play is portrayed as an example of the new woman or the unwomanly woman. (Hill, 1978: 45)

Shaw’s “Mrs. Warren’s Profession” is the last frontal attack he made on capitalism in his plays. From then on it is primarily about the struggle between human vitality and the artificial system of morality. Shaw also said in his “Mrs. Warren’s Profession” that society must share the complicity in a social crime. Furthermore, it becomes more interesting since no other of Shaw’s plays caused so much controversy as did “Mrs. Warren’s Profession.” That was over his “Mrs. Warren’s Profession”, the first time Shaw came up against the censor. (Bentley, 1960)

Bentley (1960) adds that no normal woman would be a professional prostitute if she could better herself by being respectable. Nor marry for money if she could afford to marry for love. Shaw also desired to expose the fact that prostitution is not only carried on without organization by individual enterprise in the lodging of lovely women. It is organized and exploited as a big international commerce for the profit of capitalist. (Bentley, 1960)

After reading George Bernard Shaw’s play; “Mrs. Warren’s Profession”, the writer thinks Mrs. Warren must have strong motivations that make her choose that indecent job and ignore the society’s opinion. The writer’s curiosity about

something behind Mrs. Warren's decision to have a profession as a lady of entertainment becomes her reason for choosing the topic. The writer feels that it is important to know Mrs. Warren's motivation to have a profession as a lady of entertainment since it is the foundation of all her bad deeds.

In conducting her research, the writer analyzed the motivations of Mrs. Warren to be a lady of entertainment.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Dealing with the background of the study, the writer intends to conduct a study in order to answer the following question:

- What are the motivation of Mrs. Warren to have a profession as a lady of entertainment?

1.3 Objective of The Study

In line with the problems above, this thesis is intended to find out the motivation of Mrs. Warren to have a profession as a lady of entertainment.

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study hopefully can give an insight for the students to understand literary works especially drama. Through her study, the writer also hopes that the study of the motivation of Mrs. Warren to be a lady of entertainment can be a good consideration for the students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to understand drama better especially in George Bernard

Shaw's play, Mrs. Warren's Profession, from which the readers may learn about the human's life problem which is about prostitution which often happens in reality.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer concentrates on the discussion of Mrs. Warren's motivation to be a lady of entertainment through her dialogues, statements, and narration which is taken as the topic of this study. The writer analyzes Mrs. Warren's motivation through its character, plot, and setting. In relation with the character, not all characters in the drama are discussed. The writer limits her study on discussing on the main character only; it is Mrs. Warren, who plays an important role in this drama.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some key terms used in this study are defined:

1. Drama is a genre of imaginative literature in which characters act out their roles, conventionally on stage, although some dramas are meant primarily to be read. (Kennedy, 1983: 1133)
2. Character is a reasonable feature of human being, with all the good and the bad traits of human being. A story is usually concerned with a major problem that a character must face. This may involve interaction with another character, with a difficult situation, or with an idea or general circumstances that force action. (Roberts, 1989: 56)

3. Main character is a character who plays an important and prominent role in the story. (Perrish, 1977: 494)
4. Dialogue is an extraordinary significant form of conversation, for it is the means by which every play conveys the total make up of its imaginative world. (Scholes, Silverman, and Klaus, 1978: 754)
5. Motivation is the combination of desire, values, and beliefs that drives someone to take action. (Maslow: 1943)
6. Prostitution is the voluntary act of having sexual intercourse or performing other sexual acts, explicitly for material compensation; normally money, but also other forms of property, including doses of narcotics, jewels, or real estate. (Weitzer, Ronald, e.d.:2000)
7. Lady of entertainment is a woman who earns money by having sex with anyone who will pay for it. The act usually takes place at the customer's place of residence or more commonly at his or her hotel room. (Weitzer, Ronald, e.d.:2000)

1.7 Organization of The Study

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter One presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and organization of the study. Chapter Two deals with Review of Related Literature tracing the supporting theories and previous study. Chapter Three concerns about Research Methodology. Chapter Four speaks of the

analysis of the motivation of the main character; Mrs. Warren, to be a lady of entertainment in Mrs. Warren's Profession, and Chapter Five is about conclusion and suggestion.

