

CHAPTER V

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5.1 Summary

This study discusses one of Tennessee Williams' play entitled Summer and Smoke. The writer uses phenomenology perspective for her methodology and Barnet, Berman and Bruto points of analyzing character as her steps guidance to analyze the play systematically.

To answer the first problem statement in the previous chapter, the writer concludes that Alma's love towards John has indeed caused her to face her downfall. Like in many of his works, in Summer and Smoke Williams presents his character, Alma Winemiller, with low vitality dealing with insanity between mental and physical disturbances as the result of the loneliness of love's victim. Lust and love have become the dominant of his characters' weaknesses. Alma should have realized that John cannot be considered as a decent man. He is an abandon child, a rebellious and disrespect son, a person that is in a great contrast with her own character. Alma's efforts and struggles to win the love of the man she loves, make her undergo a character's changes which unfortunately cannot lead her to a better life

perception but on the contrary it finally leads her to face her downfall. In her failure and unable to face the frustration, Alma then at the end suffers a mental breakdown or face her downfall.

From the second question of the problem statement related to the main character with the other characters, the writer also concludes that Alma's parents and society also take part in her downfall. In this play, Williams creates the plight of the character trapped by her environment, loneliness and lack of communication between the main character and her society. Alma's character in the play is influenced and shaped by being raised in the rectory with a father whose reputation is always on the line. Being a preacher's daughter has always been a moral burden for Alma to bear, not to mention her mother's breakdown condition with duties of a preacher's wife she has to carry. In her depression, Alma's creates her own life style to escape herself from her parents' condition. Inside herself Alma is torn between aspirations of the soul and hungers of the body but then her position in front of the society does not give her much chance to choose make her feels constantly monitored by the carping society, while the society itself does not give Alma much chance to be accepted with all of her characters life style and perception. Finally, being frustrated with her parents condition and the society

rejection cause Alma to fail to maintain her soul but wanders helplessly into the arms of a stranger.

The writer reckons by analyzing Williams' play, Summer and Smoke, she can have better interpretation of the playwright's message by analyzing Alma's character in his work. The writer learns that as a human being, it is natural to face love failure in life. Although love is a sensitive matter and sometimes it is difficult to deal with, since it involves feeling more than logical thinking, one should be strong and able to endure suffering from the rejected love unless her feeling and disappointment will cause a fatal result. Love surely can give a great influence to one's life. It can brighten up, but it can also darken one's life. One should not wail over it but should be able to survive and go on with the life.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings of the analysis of the main characters on Tennessee Williams' Summer and Smoke, the writer would like to give two suggestions.

First, for the students of English language department who would like to analyze a play on their thesis topic, it is suggested that they analyze Tennessee Williams' work. The reason why Williams' work is worthy to analyze is because Williams, as one of the modern American playwright, in his

work likes to talk about the failure of his fragile characters who cannot stand with the cruelty of the world. By analyzing Williams' literary work, fellow students not only can increase a better literary appreciation and vocabulary improvement of the language in literature, but by learning one's failure, one can also be aware and avoid such tragedy to happen in his or her own life.

Secondly, besides likes to talk about a sensitive and neurotic character, Williams also likes to use symbolism in his play. According to Falk (1978:161), in his work Williams often uses symbolism as an experimental devices. It can be seen in his plays such as; the fountain and anatomy in Summer and Smoke, the little glass ornaments in The Glass Menagerie, Blanche character in A Street Car Named Desire, the bird imagery in Suddenly Last Summer and many in his other plays. The writer believes that in analyzing literary work, although the same play, the topic can be viewed from different angles. Therefore, it is suggested for the fellow students to take symbolism in Tennessee Williams' play as one of the chosen topic in the further study in order to enrich literary work analysis in the English Department of Widya Mandala.

Finally the writer realizes that this study might not be as perfect as expected. However, she really hopes this study will be beneficial to her fellow students.

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