

# **CHAPTER I**

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#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Studying literature is interesting and gives some pleasure in mind. Literature has the element of entertaining or affording pleasure because it mostly contains the record of human's values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts that make the readers get involved in.

However, not many people like reading or studying literary works as they might find difficulties with. The difficulties might be caused by the language varieties used. Besides, it might be difficult to interpret what is actually being told.

In the English Department of Widya Mandala, literature is one of the subjects which is separated into Literature I, II, III and Literary Appreciation. The literary works which are discussed in class include poems, short stories, novels, and drama. The students are expected to be able to analyze them. Besides, this subject is given in order that the students will develop and enlarge their ability in analyzing and understanding literary works.

In this study, the writer encourages himself in analyzing a literary work for his thesis. The literary work

which he wants to analyze is a British drama "Major Barbara" written by George Bernard Shaw. The reason of choosing this drama is due to the fact that *Major Barbara* is one of the most important works by Bernard Shaw as a playwright. His writings were known and valued in all countries long before he received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925 (Ward,1969:149). And he is recognized for his creations which mostly considers about social, politics, and moral conducts.

The writer focusses his study of this drama on the analysis of characterization. He believes that character is the most important element in narrative fiction. In literary genres that have a strong narrative line, such as drama, the author customarily presents a "world", that is to say, a total context - an environment consisting of human, objects, and attitudes. Besides, characters involve questions of values, of ethics, of human relationships, of moral obligations in a variety of areas (Guerin,1986:1128).

Based on the study of characterization, Roberts (1972:53) says that most of any fiction consider about characters. In any fiction one will realize that novels and dramas with which you are familiar talk about characters, their reactions to an extended series of action, and their attempt to shape those events. The characterization in novel and drama also shows the

interactions of character and action in rather full detail.

Roberts also mentions his interest in characters:

"In fiction you may expect characters from every area of life, and because we all share the same human capacities for concern, involvement, sympathy, happiness, sorrow, exhilaration, and disappointment, you should be able to become interested in the plights of characters and in how they try to handle the world around them"(Roberts,1987:56).

Based on the above explanations, the writer hopes that the analysis of Shaw's *Major Barbara* through character will make it easy for the students to understand this drama in detail.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

In this study, the writer connected his problems with Little's points in analyzing the quality of the work in terms of characters, as follows :

1. What are the basic qualities of the main characters ?
2. How do the other characters see Andrew Undershaft ?
3. What are the author's points of view as conveyed through the main characters ?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problems above, this study is intended to give the writer's ideas connected basically with Little's points in analyzing characters. The study is expected to find :

1. the basic quality of the main characters.
2. how the other characters see Andrew Undershaft.
3. the author's points of view as conveyed through the main characters.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give some contributions to the students in analyzing literary work through characterization in drama, especially "Major Barbara". Hence, it is expected that this study will motivate students to read literature, especially drama.

It is also meant to introduce the work of George Bernard Shaw as one of the greatest playwright and to give the readers clearer understanding of this drama.

#### 1.5 Limitation of the Study

The writer chooses a British drama *Major Barbara* written by Bernard Shaw for his thesis. This drama has influenced people to admit Shaw as one of the greatest playwrights for his principal about human life.

The writer takes drama in his study about character based on the reasons that the analysis of dramas mostly concerns characters.

In the study of characters, the writer applies Knickerbocker's procedure, such as beginning with the first impression, recording the facts, considering

exposition and antecedent action, and setting, examining plot, and characters, and summing up. The writer does not apply all the steps such as plot and setting in Chapter IV because of time limitation. Besides, the writer intends to focus the study on characters. But he feels it necessary to mention plot and setting in the procedure as formality.

In *Major Barbara*, the writer focuses on analyzing the main characters of this drama. He chooses the main characters because this drama mostly concerns human attitudes and principles. Besides, the analysis through characters will make it easy for the readers to interpret what is being discussed in this drama.

#### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, the writer would like to define the following terms used in this study.

- a. **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 (Guerin, 1986:1133).
- b. The word '**Character**' according to Edgar Robert, refers to person, human being, and literary figure related to an individual's personal qualities who takes on action, thoughts, expressions, and attitude (Robert, 1977:10-11).

c. **Main character** is a character who plays an important and prominent role in the story (Ferrish,1977:494).

### 1.7. Methodology

In this study, the writer uses practical criticism as the analytical method. The practical criticism is based on the theories of drama and characterization.

The description of drama is to understand the text before going further to the study of characters. And to make a clearer understanding, the writer uses the theories of character and characterization which include the importance of characters in a play and the discussion of the kinds of characters, what a character reveals and method of characterization.

### 1.8. Organization of the Thesis

The writer divides this study into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction of the study which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study, definition of key terms, methodology, and organization of the thesis. Then, Chapter II deals with the review of the related literature. Chapter III deals with the methodology of the study. Chapter IV is the analysis of the characters. /

Finally, the writer concludes his analysis and gives suggestions in the last chapter, i.e. Chapter V.