

THE STUDY OF JOE KELLER AS A TRAGIC HERO IN ARTHUR MILLER'S ALL MY SONS

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching



BY

INDAH ADE SURJANI

1213091011

No. INDUK	2239/96
TGL TERIMA	14.6.96
REKT HADIRAH	
No. BUKU	FK-ig Sur 5-1
KOP: KE	1(satu)

UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA

FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI

PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS

MEI, 1996

APPROVAL SHEET

(1)

This thesis entitled The Study of Joe Keller as a Tragic Hero in Arthur Miller's ALL MY SONS _____

and prepared and submitted by Indah Ade Surjani has been approved and accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan degree in English Teaching by the following advisors.



Drs. A. Gurito

First Advisor



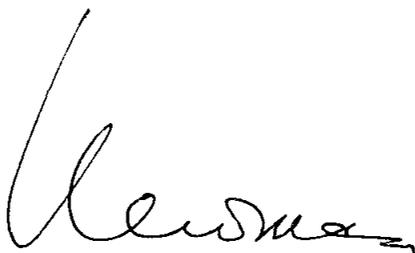
Dra. Siti Mina Tamah

Second Advisor

APPROVAL SHEET

(2)

This thesis has been examined by the Committee on Oral Examination with a grade of _____ on May 7, 1996.



Dr. Veronica L. Diptoadi, M.Sc.

Chairman



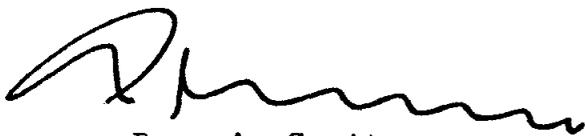
Drs. B. Budiono, M.Pd.

Member



Dra. Megawati Liesman

Member



Drs. A. Gurito

Member



Dra. Siti Mina Tamah

Member



Drs. A. Gurito
Dean of the Teacher
Training College

Approved by



Magdalena I. Kartio, M.A.
Head of the English
Department

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to thank Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and blessing that have enabled her to accomplish this thesis.

The writer also wishes to dedicate her deep gratitude and appreciation to all of her lecturers especially Drs. A. Gurito, her first thesis advisor, who has guided and encouraged her to finish her thesis, and Dra. Siti Mina Tamah, her second advisor, who has spent her valuable time in giving the writer some helpful suggestions and encouragement to finish her thesis.

In addition, the writer would also like to thank to all the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala University who have taught the writer during her academic years.

Finally, the writer would like to devote her deep gratitude and appreciation to all who have supported and encouraged the writer in accomplishing this thesis, especially her family and good friends, whose names can not be mentioned one by one.

The writer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
APPROVAL SHEET (1)	i
APPROVAL SHEET (2)	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	vii
CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	5
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study.	6
1.6 The Definition of Key Terms	6
1.7 Organization of the Study	8
CHAPTER II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	9
2.1 Drama	9
2.2 Character	11
2.3 Plot	15
2.4 Tragedy	17
2.5 Related Study	20

CHAPTER III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	23
3.1 The Nature of the Study	23
3.2 Research Data	24
3.2.1 The Data	24
3.2.2 The Data Source	25
3.2.3 The Data Collection Procedure	25
3.2.4 The Data Analysis Procedure..	26
CHAPTER IV. THE ANALYSIS OF JOE KELLER'S DOWNFALL..	27
4.1 Joe Keller Has Been a Hero for the Following Characters	28
4.1.1 Joe Keller Has Been a Hero for Kate Keller	28
4.1.2 Joe Keller Has Been a Hero for Annie Deever.....	30
4.2 The Events That Lead Joe Keller to a Tragedy.....	32
4.2.1 The Conflicts of Joe Keller with Chris, Larry, and George	32
4.2.1.1 The conflict between Joe Keller and Chris.	32
4.2.1.2 The conflict between Joe Keller and Larry Keller.....	36

2.1.3 The conflict between Joe Keller and George..	37
4.2.2 Joe Keller's Character That Bring About His Downfall...	39
CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION	45
5.1 Summary	45
5.2 Suggestions	47

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES:

A. THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

B. THE BIOGRAPHY OF ARTHUR MILLER

ABSTRACT

By studying a literary work, the students would learn a lot. Besides increasing their vocabularies, knowledge as well as their grammar, the students can realize one of the aspects of human life such as man's hard struggle to deal with the hardship of life and human experiences such as love, grief, anxiety, and so forth. Besides that, it can develop the students' mind in order to get their mature sensibility. The writer is therefore interested in studying a literary work namely drama since it takes less time to read.

In this thesis, the writer studies the characters in Arthur Miller's All My Sons. She deals with the protagonist, Joe Keller, which becomes her focus in studying his downfall. The statement of the problem is formulated as follows: "For which characters has Joe Keller been a hero?" and "What are the conflicts and the downfall that lead Joe Keller to a tragedy?". In analyzing the content of the play, the writer applies Krippendorff's and Berelson's Content Analysis.

From analyzing Joe Keller's downfall, the writer finds out that Joe Keller has a wrong desire to expand his business. This makes his life destroyed. As a businessman, he should not be afraid of his inability to compete with other businessman and to build a new business for his son, Chris considering he has already grown up. Realizing his downfall to fulfill his idea to be a successful businessman and to build a new business for Chris, finally Joe commits suicide by shooting himself.

After analyzing "All My Sons" the writer finds out Joe Keller's good deed towards Kate such as his concern towards her. He wants Kate to live happily in the future. He does not want to face Kate suffer in her old age because Joe loves her indeed. Joe also does a good deed towards Ann since he wants to pay for what he has done during war towards Ann's father, Steve Deever.

The writer also finds out the events that lead Joe Keller to a tragedy. It is due to his conflicts with Chris, Larry, George and his downfall. Joe has conflicts with his sons, Chris and Larry since Joe tries to conceal the truth during war from them. After knowing his father has something wrong to do during war, both of his sons refuse Joe as their father. With George, Joe has a conflict because George forces him to

admit his mistakes during war by letting his father go to jail for him. The writer also concludes the causes that bring Joe Keller into his downfall. It is due to his egoism, boastfulness, cowardliness, and irresponsibility. These characters can be the factor that bring Joe Keller's downfall.

Besides that, the writer concludes that Arthur Miller's All My Sons is considered as a realistic play because the characters in the play might be found in real life. Also the characters tend to be round as they are changeable as the story progresses.