

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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I.1 Background of the Study

Literature is one of the lessons that is taught to the students of the English department of Widya Mandala. Literature is taught starting from the fourth semester until seventh semester. There are four courses of Literature, namely Literature I, Literature II, Literature III, and Literary Appreciation. Each of them has only two credits so the total credits that the students get from the entire courses are 8 credits out from 160 credits. Although literature are only a small part of the entire courses, they are still important. By studying Literature, student would not only improve their skills in English but also sees and learns Human culture and way of life which can be found in literary works, because Literary work is the reflection of human life.

When you are first learning how to read and understand about a work of literature, its completeness and solidity might be intimidating rather as though you are standing at the edge of a dense, green tropical jungle. You faced with a solid and tagged mass of leave, you hear yet unidentified creatures calling to each other from branch to branch and crashing to the undergrowth, but you do not know how are you going to find or make a path into the jungle of the text. Actually, study a literary work is not difficult compare to most unliterary work, in order to understand and enjoy a

literary work read it carefully, mark passages that particularly strike you, perhaps this is where some insight about the whole click into place for you.

Considering the allocation of time is so tiny, the students do not have enough time to read and practice their technical ability in analyzing and enjoying literary works. As a result, the students lack of knowledge in understand and appreciate literary works. Peden (1971:50) defines, "The more one knows the technical aspects of the creation of story, the greater his understanding and pleasure in the work will be". Sometimes students only read literary works to kill the time, they do not know how valuable literary works for them. By studying literary works students would not only get enjoyment but also knowledge and vision about human's characters, life, and human's issues as a lesson for them in living in the society.

In addition, literature can become a gripping experience when we see characters facing a fatal challenge. We may see a character come face to face with a difficult choice. We may see people reach a major turning point in their lives. We may witness a fateful encounter. The stories and plays we remember are often about people being put in the test, and when we see people confronted with a serious challenge, we ask ourselves, "What would I have done ? how would I have measured up". In other words literary works can enrich our life since literature show us about life, the author ways of thinking, ideas, principal, feeling, the description of the situation and the condition at the time the author made it.

There are many kinds of literary form, such as: poem, short story, and novel. One of them is drama. According to Picozzi, drama is an art form used by man to

interpret his world (1970:2). It means that drama is not just an activity for entertainment; but rather a vivid, living document of people's constant search for meaning and purpose. By reading plays, the readers can gain whole new idea, not only about literature, and the theater, but also about life.

Drama is also one of the literary forms that has a unique specialization, it can be read, and to be perform on the stage as an entertainment to the audiences. Through drama, the playwrights give their thought, feeling, and consideration to the audience concerning human issues and as the reader or the audience, we can except it or reject it. It is more like giving education to the readers or audiences without being aware.

Moreover, drama is a part of human everyday life. Drama presents human characters, human values, and conflicts that often happen in our daily life as if we are looking at ourselves through the mirror. Sam Looke (:138) states, "Drama is the art of creating illusion of reality through the medium of speech written to the uttered in the theater which engage the mind and emotion of the beholder so that be may participate in the unfolding action".

The writer also considers that it is natural and easier to observe the interaction of the characters in drama than in novel, poem or other literary works because the interaction within characters in drama is presented through conversation as if the characters talk one to another in daily life. The following reasons make drama preferable to be analyze. Little (1966:2) also claims that there might be no form of literature more popular than drama.

In this study, the writer takes Henrik Ibsen as the playwright because he is a good playwright. He is one of the Norwegian national poet that comes from a poor family, but yet he was able to produce good literary works in his unfortunate condition of life. Ibsen is also considered the greatest dramatist since Shakespeare. Parandello said, "After Shakespeare, without hesitation, I put Ibsen first.....". Accordance with Parandello, Chekov admitted, "Ibsen is my favorite author" (Goodman, 1971:24).

Henrik Ibsen is also considered as the father of Modern Drama. He helped to bring a revolutionary change in play writing in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Previously, plays had been romantic and artificial, with little resemblance to life as people knew it. With Ibsen, the drama became a serious and realistic presentation of the psychological and social problems of ordinary people and the effect of their environment had on them, with power and insight; Ibsen attacked the hypocrisy of social conventions and the selfishness and complacency of people.

During his life Ibsen has produced many literary works. Many of them interest the writer. With his consummate skill as a technician, Ibsen is carefully wrought his drama into a logical construction where characters are clearly delineated and interrelated and where events have a symbolic as well as actual significance (Sturman, 1965:69). Beside that, the writer also likes his literary works which often contain of social messages and the struggle of man to find themselves in society.

Henrik Ibsen is also a playwright who has hash self-analysis that he always expresses it by uncovering a thesis based on self-seeking. Ibsen himself once wrote

in a poem, that "to live is to fight with trolls in heart and brain". To be a poet is to pronounce a final judgment up on oneself (Sturman, 1965:10).

Although Ibsen has success, and the honor bestowed upon him in old age, it did not bring him happiness; but his technical and the artistic innovation won scores of disciples among critics, playwright, and directors and have had a lasting effect upon modern drama. That following reasons make the writer interesting to use Henrik Ibsen literary work as the writer subject.

The Master Builder is chosen because it is one of Ibsen last four plays. The works of the final period that are moody, symbolic, mystical, and often enigmatic. It is personal and nostalgic enough to be considered the playwright's spiritual autobiography. *The Master Builder* is a retrospective and somber play about old age, its fascination for and destruction by youth. *The Master Builder* reveals the pressures individuals inserted on other individual, in their urge to dominate and control one another. It is about a life of a man who is afraid that his position as a master builder will be take over by the youth, therefore he does not want to give the youth any chance to develop as a builder by using every chance he gets. Beside that, this play also reveals about the life of a successful man who believes that he has to pay his success and luck with his happiness. Therefore he blames God for everything he has suffers from. At last, he finally finds a new hope to have a happy life, he tries to reach it, but he tragically dies in reaching it.

The Master Builder also reveals about the protagonist's bad relationship with other characters, such as his wife, employees and others people around him. Halvald

Solness, the protagonist in the play has a bad relationship with his wife because of the lost of their children twelve years ago. The protagonist also tries to take advantage from his book-keeper who falls in love with him to use her, so that Ragnar his employee and also his book-keeper fiance does not quit from his job and working independently. The protagonist also has selfish personality, he does not want to give his employee any chance to improve himself by working independently. He even tries to discourage his employee by saying that his employee has no ability to do it, eventhough he knows exactly that it is not true. The big influence in the protagonist life comes from Hilde Wangel a woman who has been waited for more than ten years only to collect the protagonist's promise. She is the one who is able to change and give the protagonist spirit to start a new happy life, although because of her the protagonist dies.

Based of the following situation found in Henrik Ibsen's play, *The Master Builder*, the writer considers that the life's journey of the protagonist from the beginning until the end of the play is very interesting and challenging to be analyze.

I.2 Statement of the Problem

This study is intended to analyze Henrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder* in term of character study, especially in analyzing the protagonist (Halvald Solness) in his relationship as a husband, a boss, and a man in the society. Based on that objective, the analysis of the character will be done based on Graham Little's point of analyzing character which is formulated as the following questions:

1. What are the basic qualities of the protagonist ?
2. What is the protagonist's relationship with other characters ?
3. Does the protagonist embody the theme ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In analyzing Hendrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder*, the writer wants to find out the basic qualities of the protagonist, the protagonist's relationship with other characters, and whether the protagonist embody the theme.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By analyzing Henrik Ibsen's play, *The Master Builder*, the writer wants to give his contribution to the readers, especially the college students of English to develop their understanding of English literary works. The writer hopes that after reading this study, the English students will learn that every person or character has their own personality and behaviour determined by his environment, society, education, and people around him. Therefore every action that he makes will be influenced by his basic qualities, that is his physical and mental qualities. In addition the writer also wishes that this study will make the readers, especially the English students to understand and interested more in studying literary works especially human character in drama.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

There are many elements in drama beside character like, theme, narrative, plot, and setting. All elements are important for the readers and the audiences to understand

and interpret drama. But, the writers consider that to analyze all elements in drama are too abroad, so in this study the writer only focuses his research on the character, especially in the protagonist character. Because the protagonist character is the ones who becomes the central of the play, holds the most important role that influences the whole story and also the ones who brings the conflict in play. Sutton et al (1971:1) states, "Many writers insist that character in the single most important element in the drama. Theme may be misinterpreted, plot maybe seen disjoined, setting may be superficial, but the author who depicts intriguing character is successful in major level".

I.6 Theoretical Framework

There are some theories underlying this study, they are theories of drama, narrative, plot, character and characterization, setting, psychoanalysis and related studies. All theories in studying this drama, especially on character and characterization will be discussed in chapter II.

I.7 The Definition of the key Term

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, it's necessary to give the definition of some key terms use in this study.

1. Theme is the idea or thought that stays in our minds when we think about the meaning of a story (Guth, Hans P, 1981:580).
2. Character is a reasonable facsimile of a human being, with all the good and bad traits of human being (Roberts and Jacobs, 1989:56).

3. The protagonist is the one who takes the leading part or the principal part in a play and becomes the central character in the conflict and the action (Perrine, 1966: 59).
4. Tragedy is the type of play where the protagonist character is defeated in such a miserable way (Potter, 1967:139).

I.8 Organization of the Thesis

This study consists of five Chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction which consist of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significant of the study, limitation of the study, and the organization of the paper. Chapter II presents the review of the related literature. Chapter III deals with the methodology of the study in finding the character of the protagonist. Chapter IV discusses about the analysis of the character. The last chapter, that is chapter V presents the whole discussion in summary and suggestion.