

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION and SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the plot of A Woman of No Importance, the writer can conclude that Wilde makes it in order, from the first stage to the last stage. There are five stages or elements of plot--exposition, conflict, suspense, climax, and resolution or denouement. He shapes his play based on this five stages.

As in the first act he makes the exposition in which he introduces the characters involved. In this case, he introduces the main characters through the dialogues between both the main characters themselves and the minor characters.

Next, the second act presents the conflicts between Mrs. Arbuthnot and Lord Illingworth. This conflict is considered as the main conflict of the play. The third act not only shows the conflict between Mrs. Arbuthnot and Gerald Arbuthnot but also the conflict between Gerald Arbuthnot and Lord Illingworth.

As the last conflict presented, Wilde drops the third act. At the end of the third act, Wilde not only presents the conflict but also makes the suspense. The audience is curious about what will happen after Mrs. Arbuthnot reveals Lord Illingworth as Gerald's real father when he wants to kill him because he has insulted the girl he loves, Hester Worsley.

As the last conflict presented, Wilde drops the third act. At the end of the third act, Wilde not only presents the conflict but also makes the suspense. The audience is curious about what will happen after Mrs. Arbuthnot reveals Lord Illingworth as Gerald's real father when he wants to kill him because he has insulted the girl he loves, Hester Worsley.

Having created the suspense, Wilde develops the conflict into climax, the fourth stage of plot. In this stage, Wilde shows the process of the solution of the main conflict. It is coloured by the arguments which are spoken through the dialogue between the main characters until it reaches the climax. He creates the climax by presenting the snatching up of Lord Illingworth's face by Mrs. Arbuthnot.

After the action, the play goes down into the resolution or denouement. Wilde presents the resolution of this play by ending this play happily. First, Lord Illingworth gets the punishment of being wicked. He fails in getting Gerald and Mrs. Arbuthnot. Second, Gerald keeps staying with Mrs. Arbuthnot. The last is the unity between Gerald and Hester. In short, the writer is trying to say that Wilde shapes his work by using the five elements of the plot in order.

It is said that A Woman of No Importance has a foolish plot. One of the objectives of this thesis is to find out whether it is true or not if it has a foolish plot. In accordance with this matter, the writer uses Perrine and Little's theory as the basic theory in proving the statement. According to them, if an author heavily relies upon the coincidences or chance to bring about a solution to his story, he is said he manipulates his

plot. In line with this theory, Little also says that if a story depends on the coincidences to develop one stage to another, it is not interesting because there is no sense about it of natural growth of one situation out of another. Since the meaning of “foolish” is without sense, the writer believes that this theory can be the criteria in proving whether this play has a foolish plot or not.

In A Woman of No Importance, it is obvious that Wilde uses the coincidence. First, at the end of the first act he reveals Mrs. Arbuthnot as the woman of no importance to the audience by making Lord Illingworth accidentally sees the letter addressed to Mrs. Arbuthnot. Second, he creates Gerald Arbuthnot as the coincidence to develop the main conflict of this play. When he reaches the suspense, he also depends on the coincidence. For that moment, he makes the screaming of Hester’s of being insulted by Lord Illingworth heard by Gerald when he is arguing with his mother. Next, the third coincidence brings this play into the climax. Wilde makes Lord Illingworth accidentally sees the letter addressed to him from Gerald. Because of this letter, he can create the climax in which Mrs. Arbuthnot slap Lord Illingworth’s face with his glove. Then, he comes to the resolution of the play. To end the play, once more he makes Gerald accidentally sees the glove and asks his mother whose glove it is and his mother says that it is the glove of a man of no importance. That is the end of the play and “curtain”.

In other words, the writer would like to say that Wilde shapes his work with a plot which consists of five elements in chronological order. However, he is an author who depends mainly on the coincidence to develop his story. Consequently, he is said as an

author who is guilty of plot manipulation and his work is criticized as a play which has a foolish plot.

5.2 Suggestions

In reading a literary work, most of the readers mainly read for the story. They do not care about beyond the story such as how the author creates the characters, shapes the story. Rely on this fact, the writer would like to suggest the readers to think more about the characters, the plot, and other elements in the story. Thus, they are able to think more critically and they can have their pleasure and gain their knowledge through the work.

Eventhough the readers are able to understand beyond a literary work, it is advisable for them not to judge the story based on only one element in it. For instance they find that the plot of A Woman of No Importance is foolish, then this drama is considered as a bad one. The value of a literary work cannot be judged in terms of the elements. It has to be seen as a whole. The important thing is the human issue that is inside the story. The human issue that the author wants to reveal to the readers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bergson, Henri. 1962. Laughter: Introduction to Drama. Eds. Robert C. Roby and Barry Ulano. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Blair, Walter, and John Gerber. 1959. Literature: Introduction to Short Stories, Drama and Poetry. 5th ed. Chicago: Scott, Foresman, and Company.
- Bonazza, Blaze O, Emil Roy and Sandra Roy. 1982. Studies in Fiction. New York: Harper and Row, Publisher Inc.
- Corrigan, Robert W. 1981. Comedy: Meaning and Form. 2nd. ed. New York: Harper and Row.
- Farmer, Marjorie, Steven Zemelman, Seymour Yesner, and Elizabeth M. Richmond 1985. Composition and Grammar II: Steps in The Writing Process. River Forest, Illinois: A Division of Doubleday & Co, Inc.
- Firdaus, Zufahnur Z. 1986. Buku Materi Pokok: Analisis dan Rangkuman Bacaan Sastra. Jakarta: Karunika Jakarta Universitas.
- Ganz, Arthur. 1982. The Divided Self in the Society Comedies of Oscar Wilde (1960). Wilde Comedies: A Selection of Critical Essays of Wilde Comedies. Ed. William Tydeman. London: The Macmillan Press Ltd.
- Harris, Frank. 1965. Oscar Wilde: His Life and Confessions. England : Hunt Bernard & Co. Ltd.
- Hatlen, Theodore W. 1967. Drama : Principles and Plays. New York: Meredith Publishing Company, 1967.
- Havighrust, Walter. 1968. Exploring Literature. Boston : Houghton Mifflin.
- Hochman, Stanley. 1984. McGraw - Hill Encyclopedia of World Drama. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. 141-1.
- Holman, Hugh C, and William Harmon. 1986. A Handbook to Literature. USA: Macmillan Publishing Company.

- Knickerboker, K. L. 1969 . Intrepreting Literature, H. Willard, Reninger.
New York. Holt .
- Little, Graham. 1966 . Approach to Literature. Marrickville, NSW:
Science Press .
- Northrop, Frye, Sheridan Baker and George Perkin. 1985. The Harper Handbook
to Literature. USA: Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc.
- Perrine, Laurence. 1966 . Story and Structure. USA: Harcourt, Brace
& World, Inc .
- Purdie, Susan. 1993 . The Mastery of Discourse Comedy. Great Britain :
Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Reaske, Christopher R, and John R. Knott, Jr. 1988 . Mirrors: An Introduction
to Literature. Harper & Row Publishers, Inc.
- Roberts, Edgar V, and Henry E. Jacobs. 1989. Fiction: An Introduction to Reading
and Writing. 2nd ed. New Jersey, USA: Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Scholes, Robert, and Carl H. Klaus. 1978 . Elements of Literature.
New York: Oxford University Press Inc.
- Shaw, Harry. 1972 . Dictionary of Literary Terms. New York: McGraw-Hill
Book Company .
- Styan, J.L . 1962 . The Dark Comedy: The Development of Modern Comic Tragedy.
2nd ed. London: Cambrigde University Press .
- . 1979. The Elements of Drama. Student's ed. London :
Cambrigde University Press .
- Thornley, G. C. 1969. An Outline of English Literature. Great Britain:
Fletcher & Son Ltd, Norwich .
- Thrall, William Flint, and Addison Hibbard. 1960. A Handbook to Literature. Revised
and enlarged by C. Hugh Holman. New York: Odyssey.
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. 1949 . Theory of Literature. New York:
Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.
- Wilde, Oscar. 1970. Complete Works of Oscar Wilde. London : Collins.