

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the Study

The English Department is a part of the Teaching Training faculty in Widya Mandala Catholic University. The students are prepared to become teachers. As teacher, the students should master various kinds of subjects like teaching methods, English skills, Linguistics, and Literature. It is very important for the teacher candidates to master all of the subjects especially literature because by reading literary works, they can learn ideas, and human experiences and situations.

In the widest sense, literature is just about anything written but we can also say that literature is a verbal artifact that expresses feelings and thoughts. Literature is a kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure and illumination. Literature involves our imagination and feeling so that we feel as though we become the part of the literary text that we read. Thus, good literature should include two qualities. First, literature says something worth saying. This means that a good literature can add our understanding about life in the worlds around us. Literature also embodies our thought and feelings as a whole, such as: love, hatred, survival, death, etc. The second quality is that literature is something that is well said. This means something which is expressed beautifully because the use of language and the imaginative devices from beginning to end are elements of beauty.

The writer herself is interested in studying literature because by learning literature, the writer can learn ideas, experiences, and situation which increase the writer's knowledge. Literature can also broaden and stimulate the writer's mind. It can make her have wider human sympathy, and enhance her enjoyment of life.

The writer chooses drama as the subject of her study because all forms of drama represent a special situation in life in the form of dialogues, containing elements of conflict and which has its greatest appeal for those who seek their entertainment. Kennedy (1979: 830) states that drama often means as series of events that elicit high excitement, which implies suspense, tension or conflict. Reading drama is not time consuming, Little claims that drama is subject to a time limit (about two or three hours) to which the novel is not restricted and the plots of drama are generally more economical, more selective than the plots of any other literary works (1966:113). Therefore the study of literature on drama can be an expansion of literary research besides a challenge for the writer.

In this study, the writer would like to analyze one of Tennessee Williams' literary works, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, as her research. She chooses the work of Tennessee Williams because he is one of the modern playwrights (after World War II) whose works are mostly influenced by psychological aspects of humanity. Williams' ability in creating his character should not be separated from Williams' own experience which he has spent most of his life with his mother and sister. As quoted by Curley et al (1983:374), Hayes

(1950:14) says that Williams is one of two or three good playwrights, and Kerr (1951:492) even claims that Tennessee Williams is the finest playwright in the American theatre. Most of his plays tend to express illusion. In general, what Williams likes to write as the subject matter of his writing is humanity. It has also been claimed by other critics that "From the beginning of his career, Williams has been trying to tell the real truth (his real truth, that is) about human beings and the way of live....." (Riley: 1973:368). So, the writer thinks that he has a poetic and beautiful touch

The writer chooses one of Tennessee Williams' play, *Cat on a hot Tin Roof*, to be discussed. In this play, the main character, Brick, has many problems. First, he has problem with Margareth, his wife. This problem emerges because of a misunderstanding of his wife's relationship with his best friend, Skipper. The second problem is with his parents, Big Daddy and Big Mama. Big Daddy and Brick try to talk honestly but fail, partly because they fall back into their customary styles of response. Big Daddy speaks in loud rant while Brick tends to be in wry evasion. With Big Mama, Brick thinks that his mother is too know-all. On the other hand, Big Mama wants to give everything for her beloved son. The third problem is with his brother and his sister in law and also their children, no-neck monster. Gooper and his wife, Mae think that they have given themselves, body and soul to keeping this place, a twenty-eight thousand acre plantation, up for the past five years since Big Daddy's health started failing. Thus, they try to come into a legacy of

their parents' wealth. The problems among the characters emerge because they are trapped in a condition and they have difficulties to come out of it.

Basing on the opinion above, the writer feels interested in dealing with the problems and solution in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the question investigated by the writer are formulated as follows:

- What are the problems faced by the main character in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*?
- How are the problems solved?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In line with the problems stated, the objective of this study is to find out the problems faced by the main character in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and the solutions for the problems.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the result of the study is able to give a little contribution to the study of literature, especially to the study of drama in general and the study of Tennessee Williams' play "*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*" in term of problems and solutions in particular. Hopefully, it could be useful for

the teaching of literature at the English Department in Widya Mandala University.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the writer uses the relevant theories in order to support her analysis. The theory of literature particularly about drama and the elements of drama are discussed at some length in chapter II.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Since the time is limited, the writer only analyzes the main character with other characters who caused the problems emerge in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Besides, she also analyses the solutions of the problems themselves. The writer analyzes this play through the plot, character, and setting. And it also explains intrinsically.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to define the key terms dealing with this literary research. The following key terms are:

a) Play

Play is a work of storytelling in which the characters are represented by actors (Kennedy 1979:833). So, play is a literary work made to be acted and it also has fiction elements.

b) Character

It is a person that created by playwright to carry out the language, action, idea and emotion of the play (Roberts, 1964:54).

c) Characterization

Characterization is also the means by which the writer creates the sum of traits, thoughts, and action which taken together, constitute a character (Fergusson, 1949:785)

d) Plot

Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed (Little 1966:109). It should develop from an interesting conflict to an absorbing climax and satisfying resolution.

e) Setting

It is a combination of the location, historical period, season or hour and spiritual ethnic and cultural background (Guerin, et al, 1985:1138).

1.8 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five elements. Chapter I deals with the introduction of her thesis and Chapter II will discuss the related literature and related study. Chapter III will present methodology of the study. Meanwhile, the analysis will be discussed in Chapter IV, and the last chapter, Chapter V, concludes the whole discussion.