

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discussed about the background of the research. The researcher writes why the researcher chooses this problem and draws the background about it. The researcher also writes about the purposes of this research. In this chapter, the researcher divides into some sub chapters, those are the background of the research (1.1), the questions of the research (1.2), the purposes of the research (1.3), the significance of the research (1.4), and the last is the scope and limitation of research (1.5).

### **1.1 The Background of The Research**

There are so many dramatists in this world. They create so many literary works beautifully. Some of them create their dramas inspired by the situation of their place, or they only use their high imagination. The famous dramatists in this world are like Shakespeare, Samuel Beckett, Alice Gertsenberg, Sophocles and so on.

Samuel Beckett is one of the most popular dramatists in this world. Kennedy said that Samuel Beckett was born at Foxrock, 13 April 1906. He studied in Trinity College, Dublin in 1923 until 1927. He read modern language; those are English, French and Italian (1989: xi). Beckett came from middle class family. He and his family are a protestant but they lived in majority of Catholic area. His first job was an English teacher in Normale Superiure, Paris, but in 1931, he was back to Ireland and worked as a lecturer of French Literature in Ireland. In Ireland also, he got his master degree of French from Dublin. After that, he was back to Paris

again and worked as a teacher again in Paris in 1932. Actually, he likes doing creative activities more than teaching, so that he began to focus on his writing. Since 1930s until 1940s his works full of criticism. He wrote all his works in English, but in 1940s, he began to changes his language in his works from English into French. He had reasons why he had to changes it. One of the reasons is his rejection of Ireland as his homeland and he could not tolerate to Catholic clergy because of censoring many aspect of human life in many literary works, his reasons same like the other famous Irish expatriate (Robert, 1980:4).

When he became famous writer, he refused all his works presented in Ireland. He began to leave from Ireland since his protest because during The International Theatre Festival in Dublin, a drama of famous expatriate and his compatriot O'Casey was banned, since that time, he never seen in Ireland. Therefore, since his drama first presented in Paris, many people were still confused about his characters of Beckett's work, should he preferred to be an Irish writer or a French writer (Robert, 1980:4). It does not matter what kind of his classifying works, the important thing is he creates many literary works. Kennedy explains that in 1930, he published his work *Whoroscope* and he won a £10 prize from hours press. In 1931, he published his work *Proust* (criticism) in London. He always published his works like "More Pricks Than Kicks" (short story, in 1934), *Echo's Bones* (Collection a thirteen poems, in 1935), *Murphy* (a novel in English, 1938), and so on until he wrote his drama that is *En Attendant Godot* and he translated it in English that is *Waiting for Godot* (1989:xi-xii).

One of the best works which is still popular is *Waiting for Godot*. This drama was translated into English because Beckett wrote it in French that was *En*

*Attendant Godot*. Keller states that the first presents of *Waiting for Godot* was in Paris in 1953 (2002:133). In addition, Kennedy said that *Waiting for Godot* was written in 1948, but first performed of *Waiting for Godot* is only in 1953 in Paris and 1955 in London (1989:1). This drama has no climax and resolution of problem, because until the end of story, the main characters (Vladimir and Estragon) do not move from their place and they are still waiting for something that they do not know who it is in the same place day by day.

This drama was created after the Second World War. The condition of human life after the Second World War was drawn in *Waiting for Godot*. The life is looking irrational and meaningless and both of them were drawn in this drama, especially in the main characters. This drama provides two people who are waiting for Godot but they do not know who Godot is. They are friends who cannot separate. They talk about anything, like about boot, thief, bible, and so on until they believe that Godot will come and help them. They have no hope and home, they only hope that Godot will come and give them happiness. They are still waiting until the end of story, they are Vladimir and Estragon.

One day, Vladimir and Estragon meet two people like maid and the boss, they are Pozzo and Lucky. They are confused why Lucky cannot angry with Pozzo as his boss, and Pozzo cannot live without Lucky. Lucky always wears a cap, and when he does not wear it, he cannot think. Lucky entertain them with his dance and his thinking. After they meet Pozzo and Lucky, in other day they meet a child. That child said that he is Godot's assistant and also said that Godot cannot come today and Godot will come tomorrow, and they still are waiting for Godot. In other day, Pozzo and Lucky enter again, but Estragon does not remember who

Pozzo and Lucky are. In another day, a boy comes again to Vladimir and Estragon, but he said that he never meet Vladimir and Estragon before, he said that he is a messenger of Godot and tell them that Godot cannot come today. They want to move but they do not move. They are waiting for Godot until the end of story.

This drama is one of the most absurd dramas. Ahmad said in his journal that *Waiting for Godot* is the absurd drama that influences the other absurd drama in twentieth century (2011:211). Ahmad also said that the absurd drama appears because the people in west Europe lose the concept of religion. This problem can be bigger when Marxism appears. In that era, after the Second World War, the people of Europe think that there is no God because they are still misery so that the existentialism appears. *Waiting for Godot* is the work from that group (2011:212-213).

Based on the background above, the researcher assumed that the dramatist of this drama inspired from the situation around him. It means that *Waiting for Godot* has the relation with the author's life if the researcher analyzes this drama from the historical background. So, the researcher thinks that the researcher will analyzed it using historicism because the researcher wants to analyze the social background of *Waiting for Godot* including the historical moment that consist of the human condition of post-world war II and the condition of religion after the Second World War. Historicism is a theory that related with the situation like social, culture which influences the author to create a literary works. Kennedy and Gioia states,

Historical Criticism seeks to understand a literary work by investigating the social, cultural, and intellectual context

that produced it-a context that necessarily includes the artist's biography and milieu. (2005:666)

From that statement above, the researcher concludes that a literary works influenced by the time or the situation where the authors live and the phenomena that happened in that era.

In addition, the reasons why the researcher chooses this drama because the researcher assumed that this drama has a meaning that drew the condition of human in Post-World War II. As far as the researcher knows, so many people analyzed the meaning of this drama without analyze the background of the author that related with this drama. So, the researcher wants to analyze this drama not only the meaning of that drama, but also the researcher would like to show how the social background that influenced the dramatist to create that drama. The researcher also makes a comparison and contrast between the drama and the author's life because the researcher uses the theory of historicism that discussed about the influences of author's social milieu including author's life and the drama.

The researcher wants to show to the reader, especially to the student of university as the people who will get the benefit from this research that this research is very important to know the relation between the background of the author and his drama *Waiting for Godot*. In addition, the reason why the researcher chooses this drama as the object of research is because as far as the researcher knows, there has been no research that analyzed *Waiting for Godot* as the object of research in Muhammadiyah University at Surabaya.

## **1.2 Questions of The Research**

1. How are the relationship between the social background and the drama that related with historical moment and the condition of spiritual life after the Second World War?
2. How are the comparison and contrast between Beckett's life and his drama *Waiting for Godot*?

## **1.3 The Purposes of the Research**

1. To describe the relationship between the social background and the drama that related with historical moment and the condition of spiritual life after the Second World War
2. To describe the comparison and contrast between Beckett's life and his drama *Waiting for Godot*.

## **1.4 Significance of Research**

This research is very meaningful for the researcher. This research discuss about the background of *Waiting for Godot* and the relation between the author of the drama and the drama itself. This research is different with other research which discussed about *Waiting for Godot* also because other research before discussed about the meaning of the drama without discussed the historical background of the drama and the relation with the author.

The researcher would like to apply the knowledge about literature that the researcher got when the researcher studied in this department. The researcher hopes this research can be useful for the readers especially for the students of English Department that is for give some information about the social background

of *Waiting for Godot* drama by Samuel Beckett that related with human life and of course it related with the author's life. The researcher also hopes this research can be references for the students of English Department who want to write a research with the same data.

### **1.5 The Scope and Limitation of Study**

The researcher only discussed about the social background of *Waiting for Godot* including the historical moment and the condition of religion after Second World War. The researcher also discussed about the relationship between the social background of the drama and the drama itself. The last, the researcher also discussed about the comparison and contrast between Beckett's life and his drama *Waiting for Godot*.