

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is identical with life. In some ways, it can be seen that literature is a true picture of reflection of human life. Not only that but it also describes what they want and how human life is and usually it reflects the events which happen in the society. In order to fulfill what they want and need, people always have motivation.

Generally, every person has goal in their life. Therefore, people are motivated to do something in order to create a final goal. Then, when people have a great goal in life then they begin their effort to get the final goal based on their ability, or sometimes do some amazing things, like sacrifice his or her life just to achieve the goal of life.

In the time, the strong desire to achieve something will become the man's ambition. Related to it, ambition is one of the characters of human being. Thus, an ambitious people will ignore the others even everything that obscure them to get final goal, including moral, norm or social aspect.

Generally, every person has different ambition. But, their ambition depends on each individual. Thus, every human's behavior brings particular style toward their own lifestyle because human is a unique configuration of motive, characters, interest and values.

That is why literature is formed as reflection of life. In sum, literature as the reflection of human activity is created for understanding human's existence along with all of this mental and inner self-problem. Therefore, both literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being.

However, an ambition may cause some effects for the human kind. Surely, some effects of ambition may change life and bring happiness to all people although sometimes it might also invite sadness and destruction. Thus, this drama has been chosen as the source of the paper because drama consists of dialogues and actions that make the readers enjoy reading it.

Besides that, drama also allows us not only to see our lives in more meaningful term, but also leads us to learn and even experience the meaning of a drama as it relates to the world we inhabit. Further more, the actions of drama may help the readers to understand the play easily.

Meantime, Little says in his book *Approach to Literature* (1996: 112) that there is probably no form of literature more popular than drama. As you can see, drama is a peculiar literary form, in that it maybe treated as literature to be read privately, or as theatre, to be seen in public

performance. Considering to the statement above, this paper is interested in analyzing the works of Eugene O'Neill because he is one of the finest American playwrights who won the Nobel Prize in 1936 and also awarded Pulitzer Prize.

Almost similarly, this statement can be found in *Encyclopedia Americana*. According to this, Eugene (1888-1953), an American playwright, who was his country's first dramatist of distinction and is still universally esteemed as it's finest. Not only that, he also won the Nobel Prize in 1936 and was awarded Pulitzer Prize. The others Eugene O'Neill's works are *Gold* (1920), *Anna Christie* (1920), *The Emperor Jones* (1920), *The First Man* (1921), *The Fountain* (1921-22), *The Hairy Ape* (1921), *Welded* (1922), *Mourning Becomes Electra* (1929-31) *Days Without End* (1932-33), etc.

Later, *Desire under the Elms* is the last of O'Neill's naturalistic plays written in three parts with each part in split into four scenes. Firstly, this play was first produced at the Greenwich Village Theatre, November 11th, 1924. Then, two plays in which a father who returns home with a new wife in which the son falls in love with.

In many discussions, it says that this play has been described as a fine process of solidity and finish, it is better written throughout; it has as much tragic gloom and irony but a more mature conception and a more imaginative austerity. Therefore, after reading some of O'Neill works, this paper decides to analyzes *Desire under the Elms* because it gives us a lesson that we must

have a good motivation in order to have a good ambition to gain our goal when we are doing something. However, people do not have to imitate Abbie's ambition because her ambition to build her better life brings disadvantages for other people, but anyway her ambition is interesting to be discussed.

Meantime, in this play, there is a woman who has a strong ambition to make her life better by owning Cabot's farm and house. Cabot is the man she married with. Since she has a strong ambition especially to get the farm, it brings a lot of serious problems for other characters in the story. In short, Abbie represents a woman and an orphan who will do anything to gain property in order to make her life better.

Meantime, Abbie has to work hard as a servant to earn her living. Abbie has to do this because her late husband and son have died. Although she is still beautiful and young, Abbie never lives in a good condition.

Realizing that, she is willing to be a wife of an old man. Positively, she convinces herself that there is a chance for her to change her life better than before. Therefore, Abbie's ambition in marrying Old Cabot is to gain the property.

Seemingly, Abbie does not care about love. She only wants to get the property because her past life that brings her into a deep suffering makes Abbie wants to release from that trouble. By marrying Old Cabot, she hopes that she will get the farm from him.

As the result of Abbie's ambition in marrying Old Cabot, have made her done some behaviors to reach her goal. These behaviors effects not only to her but also other character. The effects of her behavior bring unhappiness to Cabot, since the marriage is not based on love.

Moreover, the effects of Abbie's behavior in marrying Old Cabot are also felt by Eben, Simeon and Peter. Both Simeon and Peter are hopeless of having the farm, so they go to California. Since Abbie's marriage is not based in love, she easily falls in love with Eben. Tragically, Abbie got a baby as the result of her affair with Eben.

In short, the baby dies because she wants to convince Cabot that someone whom she loves is Eben. Then, to prove her love to Eben, she willing to sacrifices her own baby. As the result, she is arrested by the police.

From the above consideration, the paper attempts to analyze the major character using the individual psychological approach because of some consideration. Firstly, is ambition of the major character is a reflection of human being. Secondly, this paper has possibility to know phenomena of psychological problem in the life of the main character.

Beside that, the paper uses psychological theory because psychology deals with motivation and ambition which gives us lesson that people will strive to achieve a certain level in life and to maintain a positive self-evaluation. In one sense therefore, this idea is stated by Crow, Ph.D. in *General Psychology* (1981:132), it says that motivation can be regarded as a

general term that refers to the regulating of an individual's behavior as inner needs or drives and environmental incentives stimulate him to satisfy his wants or needs or to strive toward the attainment of a desired goal

Not only that, this theory is also combined with the theory suggested by Feldman in his book *Elements of Psychology* (1992:245) says that people with high need for achievement seek out situations in which they can compete against some standard-be it grades, money or winning at a game and prove themselves successful

1.2 Statements of The Problems

To make a clear focus on the problems and to systemize the discussion, it is necessary to formulate the research questions. Based on the background stated above, the paper formulates the following questions of the research:

- 1.2.1 What ambition does Abbie have?
- 1.2.2 How does Abbie realize her ambition in marrying Old Cabot in order to make her life better?
- 1.2.3 What are the effects of Abbie's behavior on herself and on other characters (Old Cabot, Eben, Simeon, Peter, her son)?

1.2 Purposes of The Study

Related to the problems above, there are two purposes that the paper wants to show to the readers. The two purposes are:

1.3.1 To analyze Abbie's ambition.

1.3.1 To analyze and describe Abbie's ambition in marrying Old Cabot in order to make her life better

1.2.2 To analyze and describe the effects of Abbie's behavior on herself and other characters (Old Cabot, Eben, Simeon, Peter, her son).

1.3 Importance of the Study

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study will become an input for the lectures to teach literatures. Not only that, the paper also hopes that this study will motivate her fellow students to study literatures. Therefore, when they are writing their paper, it may become a small contribution to be used for their effort of writing the paper.

Practically, this paper is supposed to give worthy lesson for the readers. The most important thing is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play especially from the psychology aspect. Thus, that they have to get a good ambition when they are doing life planning for their future.

1.4 Methodology

In doing the study, this paper applies library research. In short, it chooses library as the subject area to find and to get some references and the

term that have connection to the topic. Meantime, in collecting the data, the paper applies close reading upon *Desire under the Elms* and other references.

Firstly, read the playwright and other books several times. Then, makes quotation and notes from those books. Practically, the main data are taken from *Desire under the Elms*, while supporting data are taken from other references. Secondly, after collecting the data, the paper classifies and selects the data based on the topic of the paper. In some ways, the data are analyzed through interpretation that is done by explaining and describing the data.

The object of the study is Eugene O'Neill's *Desire under the Elms* to discuss the ambition of the main character in her struggle for life and its influence on her behavior.

The paper uses a library research, which employs a qualitative method. The paper also applies individual psychology of the main characters as a means of further research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Meantime, there are many aspects of literatures, which can be analyzed such as theme, plot, character, symbol, and the aspects life such as love, passion, ambition, motivation, etc. Thus, this study is limited to ambition of Abbie, the major character in *Desire under the Elms*.

This study is limited to Abbie's ambition, the major character in O'Neill's *Desire under the Elms*. This study uses the theory of individual psychological development by Alfred Adler. It is as a means of analyzing

with consideration that human being has striving for superiority, in which formulation and development of personality are influenced by many factors.

Considering that different people always have different ambition in their life, the paper would like to analyze the individual psychological theory as reflected in Abbie character. Therefore, the scope of this study is analyzing about individual psychological theory on Abbie's character in reaching her desire to gain property by marrying Old Cabot.

1.6 Organization of The Study

However, this paper divides into four chapters. Firstly, chapter one is the introduction which consists of background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, purpose of the study, importance of the study, methodology, scope and limitation, and the organization of the paper. Secondly, chapter two is the review of the related literature which consists of character and characterization, the types of character, method of characterization, and notion of an individual psychology.

And then, chapter three is the method of research of the paper that discusses about the problems that have been stated in previous chapter. After that, chapter four is the analysis of the paper. It discusses about Abbie's ambition in marrying Old Cabot in order to make her life better and the effects of Abbie's behavior to gain her ambition reaching her final goal on Old Cabot, Eben, Simeon, Peter, her son and on her self. Finally, chapter five is the conclusion of the paper.