

**PERSONAL PROBLEMS LEADING TO SUICIDE
IN MARSHA NORMAN'S *'NIGHT, MOTHER***

A THESIS

As A Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for The Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching Faculty



By

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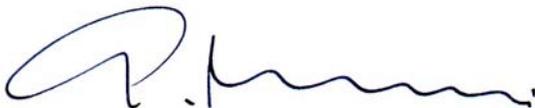
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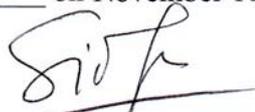
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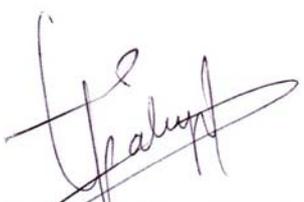
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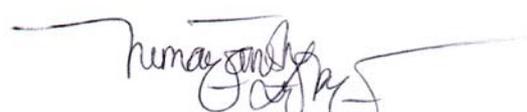
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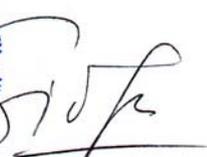

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ABSTRACT

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Key Words: drama, problems, suicide

Literature can be considered as a reflection of real life since it depicts many kinds of themes that occur in our society such as love, sacrifice, hate, desire, hope, survival, suffering and death. One of themes related to death is suicide.

The subject of this research, *'Night, Mother'*, a modern play written by Marsha Norman, depicts complex problems faced by Jessie Cates who ends her life by committing suicide. This research aims at answering the research question: What kinds of personal problems did Jessie Cates face before her suicide?

The writer uses the content analysis technique in her study. There are four steps in content analysis technique according to Marshall and Rossman (1989:98). The first step is choosing the object of the study. The second step is presenting the data and some theories from expert related to the study. The third step is collecting and identifying the data. The data are collected from the action and dialogues between the main characters in the play. The last step is deciding the analytical procedure to be used in analyzing the play.

Having analyzed the play, the writer finds out that there are many personal problems in Jessie's life which bring her into an idea of committing suicide. First of all, Jessie knows that she has a seizure that can not be cured forever and it makes her feel unworthy. She also feels disappointed about her mother, Thelma, who treats her like a servant and has lied about the important things in Jessie's life. She also realizes that she can not depend to her ex-husband, Cecil, or her son, Ricky, anymore since they leave her alone in Thelma's house. Her brother, Dawson and sister in law, Loretta, do not help her at all in facing all of her problems. Agnes, Thelma's closest friend even tries to avoid her since she knows about the seizure that Jessie's has. Those complicated and unfinished problems have made Jessie become depressed and decide to kill herself to end all of her sufferings.

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