

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms, and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every culture cannot be separated from its literature. This is because literature of people is the principal element of its culture. People often use literature to express their thought or idea and what they have in mind in such a way. Here it comes to a question about what definition of literature is. According to Graham Little (1966:1), literature is something expressed excellently which is offering pleasure. It contains the records of value, thought, problems and conflict. Kennedy (1983: v) states that literature is a kind of art usually written, that affect pleasure of illumination.

Studying about literature is interesting. The writer has two reasons to prove it. First, it can entertain or afford pleasure to the readers, makes the readers learn new ideas, experience new set of situation such as history, sociology, etc. It can also broaden the reader's knowledge. Little (1966:3) says that literature can broaden and stimulate human's mind. It also enhances the enjoyment of life when it is explored widely.

Second, literature makes the readers able to see many cases of human issues in different ways and aspect of living such as culture, religion, and become more sensitive with the human problem. Robert & Jacob (1988: 21) define that literature can also help people

grow into the boarder cultural and philosophic and religious world and enables the reader to recognize human dream and struggles in order to develop mature sensitivity.

The last reason is, reading literature can enhance students' language competence. The students who read literary works will be able to enrich their vocabularies and gives them various language styles which are presented by the author.

Drama is one of the main genres in literature instead of poem and fiction. The word drama is derived from the Greek word '*dram*' which means to do or to act. Then, a drama is a dialogue spoken by the characters with directory from the author telling what the character should do and perhaps how they speak their lines with the direction (usually fairly brief).

The writer is interested most in drama because it represents a real situation in life from dialogues, action and appearance. Drama is rather different to the other genres of literature because it can be performed on stage. It can entertain the audience who observe the attitude of an actor or actress in playing their roles on the stage. Barnet, Bernard and Bruno (1963:446) state that a play can be a literature as well as theater and the reader of play can enact in the theatre in his mind more effectively because the reader of a play can imagine as if he watches the teather.

In modern drama, the name George Bernard Shaw cannot be easily ignored. Shaw is one of the greatest authors of modern plays. In British drama, Shaw dominated the first thirty years of modern drama era in the 20th century. He is one of the most outstanding playwrights and he has the longest career along the history of British drama, (Evans, 1955:123). Shaw authored more than sixty plays. Evans adds that Shaw's intellectual equipment is far greater than any of his contemporary.

Shaw has built a new pole in literary world as his works brought a renewal by revealing social, psychological, politics and comedy into his works. It was an exceptional among playwrights at that time in Victorian Era when London stage had been regarded as a place for frothy and sentimental entertainment. (*Bernard Shaw*, n.d.)

Overall, Shaw's plays are full of ideas which are at first seemingly strange but in fact, they are righteous. Most of his plays present a problem and discuss it thoroughly. He takes out many themes from education, social condition, social condition, politics and international cases (politics, history and religion). Evans (1955:123) states that the combination of wide social enthusiasms with a gift for comedy is rather unusual. Therefore Shaw's plays have a quality of their own. Much of Shaw's plays are quite serious and the prefaces are all argument conducted with honest and close reasoning.

The play that the writer is going to be analyzed in this study is one of the Shaw's plays – *Caesar and Cleopatra*. It was written in 1898 and firstly published in 1901 along with *The Devil's Discipline* and *Captain Brassbound's Conversions* in his collection "Three Plays for Puritans". The play talks about the meeting of 16 year old Cleopatra and Julius Caesar in Alexandria as Caesar comes to Egypt to ask for tribute paid that has been promised to him by the previous king. Cleopatra is isolated because of the struggle to get the throne from the king who was actually her own ten year old brother, Plotemy Dyonisus (Plotemy XIII). Since that meeting, Cleopatra always tries to get closer to Caesar until she wraps her own body into a carpet and is smuggled into a boat just in order to be able to meet Caesar. In this play Shaw wants to prove that it wasn't love but politics that brings Cleopatra to Julius Caesar. Cleopatra tries to get in close with Caesar because she wants Caesar to kick out her brother and take over the throne.

This study concentrates on the analysis of characterization. He believes that character is the most important element in narrative fiction. Character involves question of values, ethics, human relationship or moral obligation in a variety of areas (Guerin 1986:1128). In line with Guerin, Roberts (1972:253) says that most of fiction consider about character. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing one of the characters in George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra* that is Cleopatra.

The writer wants to analyze Cleopatra because he sees that Shaw creates Cleopatra is rather different with Cleopatra in history or in other literary work, considering that Cleopatra is famous historical image who has known widely by people and also has been taken into some literary works by some authors. Hence, the writer is interested to discover the unconventional characterization of Cleopatra in this play.

1.2. Statement of the problem

In line with the background above, this study is expected to analyze the unconventional characteristic of Cleopatra on George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*. In analyzing the character, the writer would like to use some points as follows:

- What are the unconventional characterizations of Cleopatra?
- What are the reactions of other characters towards the unconventional characterization of Cleopatra?

1.3. Objective of the Study

In this study, the writer the writer wants to find out:

1. the unconventional characterizations of Cleopatra

2. the reaction of other characters towards the unconventional characterizations of Cleopatra

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study hopefully can give an insight for the readers to explore the deep meaning and develop their understanding of a character in literary works especially drama. Through the study, the writer also hopes that the readers will have deeper appreciation of literary work especially Drama. Although most plays were written in a long time ago, they still can tell about human behavior, which can be applied in today's life.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Since this play provides many things and aspects, the writer wants to limit his study on analyzing the unconventional characterization of Cleopatra in Bernard Shawn's play- *Caesar and Cleopatra* and the reaction of other characters towards the unconventional characterizations of Cleopatra.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer is going to provide some definition of the key word used in this study.

- Play: Generic term applied to any work written to be acted (Harton 1972:420)
- Plot: Arrangement or related events establishing a situation which participant suspense, emotion, and satisfaction in a dramatic form (Barnet 1975:54)

- Unconventional: Any style or subject matter in literary terms which is different than what has been accepted universally. (Harmon and Holman, 2004: 117)
- Characterization: a characteristics of a character in a literary works (Oxford dictionary, 1990)
- *Caesar and Cleopatra*: a play which was written by Bernard Shaw in 1898. It published in 1901 along with *The Devil's Discipline* and *Captain Brassbound's Conversions* in a book entitled *Three Plays for Puritans*.

1.7. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I, the Introduction is about the background of the problem, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Chapter II deals with the review of the related literature which includes the theories of drama, elements of drama, characterization and ambition. Chapter III deals with the research methodology, procedure to take and analyze the data. Chapter IV deals with the finding and the data analysis and the last chapter, that is chapter V, deals with the conclusion.