

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Learning literary work is not as easy as people think. It needs a deep discussion to reveal the message from the poet or the narrator to the reader. Because of this problem, most students discourage to study literature and some others even think that it does not worth the effort and also does not support the education. However it's likely only a wrong interpretation Richard Courtney (1966: VII) knocks down this interpretation by arguing that from ancient times until today drama and education have been closely associated. actually, by learning any literary works such as: poem, short story, play or drama, and novel, the reader can get not only enjoyment, but also understanding about culture, life value, facts and some other things.

Learning literature is not only important but also interesting. Brooks (1964: 1) says that the reading of a good literature does give pleasure, a very keen pleasure. Mayhead (1989: 2) claims that the reading of a good literature can bring man more closely into contact with the real world than he could ever have been brought without a degree of personal experience for which the span of most lives is insufficient. To communicate significant experience is another advantage of reading literature where

they are allowed to participate in it imaginatively. Robert and Jacobs (1989: 2) argue that literature can help people grow into the broader cultural, philosophic and religious world and the recognized human dreams and struggles in order to develop mature sensitivity for the condition of all living things.

Realizing the importance of learning literature, the students should give more attention to literary works . There are deep meanings inside the literary works that can be studied since literature which is written beautifully to afford pleasure seeks for insight and truth. A literary work contains the record of people value, their thought, their problems and conflict; in short, it contains people's ways of life (Little, 1966:1). Studying literature can broaden our mind and deepen our insight toward society. The language in literary work is natural . It means that the writer can learn the language used and put in the context that relates to the human's issues which can be found in ordinary life. The writer herself is able to broaden her mind and deepen her insight toward human beings because literature gives her the truth that actually happens in this world. Because of the above reasons, the writer finally decides to write a literary research in her thesis writing.

The writer chooses drama as the subject of her research because it is very different from other fictions, such as novels or short stories. *Drama, one of the literary genres, is quite different from other genres, such as novels or short stories.* Such as compared with novels, drama does not take much time for the readers to read, since it is not as long as a novel; however, it represents a story as a novel and a

short story do. Little (1966:113) explains that "Drama is a subject to a time limit (say, two or three hours) to which the novel is not restricted... hence, dramatic plots are generally more economical, more selective than non dramatic plots". A drama present characters which are shown in dialogues and actions, so that drama has a dramatic characterization in which other literary genres do not have. It has quality to describe human characters and attitudes in action. Little (1966:2) claims that there is probably no form of literature that is more popular than drama. It is a peculiar literary form of literature which can be read and performed on stage.

In this study the writer takes Arthur Miller as a playwright because he is a modern playwright who has an intense concern for the common man that he shows in all his plays. This is in line with Porter's opinion (1969: 1) about Miller which argues that he is one of America's leading dramatists and a professional playwright who has a potential to deal with "The Little Man" in American Society. In writing his plays, Arthur Miller always reflects social problems and individual's place in society. Bigsby (1984:136) states about Miller as follows:

Arthur Miller is a playwright who has consistently sought to translate the social into private anxieties and to trace the connection between personal fallibility's and public betrayals. Because he has chosen to write about a world of moral dilemmas and because he has always prove so sensitive to the pressure of history he has been as alleviating himself to the position of social conscience.

Miller tends to write drama which deal with moral values, and he is a popular playwright because he has the touch of common speech mingled with democracy,

idealism, poetic expression and an ancient people's capacity for understanding and anguish of the soul (Jean Gould, 1966: 263). Further more Richard (1976: 5) explains that his writings have been admitted in the world of literature, and he himself has been awarded an honorary DHL. From the University of Michigan, a Gold Medal for drama from the prestigious national Institute of Arts and letters.

Ideally, in analyzing narrative, one has to comprehend three aspects: plot, characters and setting. However, analyzing drama through these three aspects is not an easy thing to do. It is for this reason the writer chooses characterization as the only aspect in analyzing drama for she believes that analyzing drama through character is the easiest way for student, as Lenvin (1967: 17) says "The most obvious kind of form for students to recognize is the form that grows from development of character". While concerning with the importance of characterization in narrative fiction, Potter (1971: 1) adds. "Characters, and basic element in much imaginative literature, and therefore they merit the considerable attention paid to them". It is not difficult to comprehend narrative fiction through character, as Roberts (1972:52) mentions:

If you think of some novels and dramas with which you are familiar, you will realize that they are about characters, their reactions to an extended series of action, and their attempt to shape those events. The novels and dramas are similar in showing the interactions of character and action in rather full detail.

The literary work that is going to be analyzed is Arthur Miller's play entitled *A View From The Bridge* (two act version) produced in London in 1959. The reason of choosing this play is that the play portrays the tragedy of common man which we usually find in our real society. This play is talking about the downfall of a man as a

result of his own action to seek self - evaluation and as a result of a conflict with his environment.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The study is intended to analyse Eddie Carbone's tragic life in Arthur Miller's play '*A View From The Bridge*'. The research questions concerning this were formulated as follows:

1. Why is the protagonist in *A View From The Bridge* a tragic hero ?
2. What characteristics of tragic hero are found in the play *A View From The Bridge*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the problems above, this thesis is intended to find out firstly, why the protagonist is a tragic hero; secondly, what characteristics of a tragic hero are found in the play

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this thesis is expected to be able to give a little contribution to the students of the English Department of Teacher Training Faculty in studying literature. Since literary research always accords with literary analysis, the students will learn to develop their intellectual skills and analytical abilities. By having these

knowledge, they would be able to explore the deep meaning contained in literary works.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This thesis concentrates on the discussion of the main character, based on the reason that the main character is the important one in the drama, the one that plays important role and makes major decisions that influence the whole story of drama. Burroways (1992: 98) states that characters are the foreground of all fictions, including drama. Potter (1967: 22) also continues that characters are the core of a literary works and the basis subject matters. There are many characters in drama, but the writer only bases her study on the main character as a tragic hero.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

Before further discussion it is necessary to define some key terms used in this thesis writing to avoid misinterpretation.

1. A play is a special fiction which has plot, characters and dialogues and its uses words to create action through the dialogue of the characters (Scholes, 1978:731). The story of a play is related by means of dialogue, actions, and the design of the scenery and the grouping of the actors that make the play essential.

2. Tragedy is a type of play in which the protagonist is defeated (Potter, 1967: 139) and usually dramatic the conflict between the protagonist and the laws or limits of life (Barnet, 1992: 116).
3. Character is a person in the literary work who generally refers to his whole nature, such as his personality, his attitude towards life, his spiritual qualities, as well as his moral attributes (Potter, 1967:3). In a play he is created by the playwright to carry the action, language, ideas, and emotions of the play (Roberts, 1989: 1011). Character is considered as one of the principal function to encourage the reader's empathy and sympathy so that he will experience the reality of the fictional world for herself (Dietrich and Roger H, Sundell, 1974:75). Indeed, characters is the center of conflict in every literary work (Perrine, 1966:84).
4. The protagonist is one who takes the leading part or the principal part in a play and become the central character in the conflict and the action (Perrine, 1966:59).
5. Dialogue is an important form of conversation which gives the play an emotional impact and meaning. It tells about the character speaking, the characters listening, the interaction of the characters, and the conflict in the play (Scholes, 1978:745).
6. A plot is the clash of action, ideas, desires, or wills. It may be man - against - man, man- against-environment, and man -against-himself (Perrine, 1966:59).
7. Setting is the time and the place in which and action happens (Knickerbocker, 1960:437).

8. Hero is someone who has performed an act of great courage under very dangerous conditions; the most important character in a play, poem, and story etc. (Longman, 1989:491).

1.7 Organization of Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of study, statement of the problem, the significance of the study, the limitation of study, definition of the key terms, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter II presents the review of related theories and related studies. Chapter III deals with methodology of the study . Chapter IV is the analysis of the protagonist as a tragic hero found in *A View From The Bridge* and Chapter V is the conclusion of the thesis.