

# ***CHAPTER I***

## ***INTRODUCTION***

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### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature, one of the subjects taught in the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, is not interesting to many students. That is why there are only few students who are interested in conducting a study on literature, whereas studying literature gives the students values of human behaviors, cultures, religions, and so on.

Very often a good work of literature brings up a study about everlasting battle between the right and the wrong. Evil which justifies the mean is sometimes defeated by the truth. Even though the truth can be buried, it can never die. In turn, it will be alive after all.

This kind of story exists in the past, nowadays and in the future and takes place in any place in the world with different races, cultures, religions, ideology, and economic background. Truth is commonly illustrated as “The Define Voice” and evil as “Devilish Desire.” The moral value in this kind of story wises up the students to see the aspects of life. By understanding such a story students can sharpen their sensibility of what is right and of what is wrong inside human behaviors.

It is the fact that man always undergoes common and essential experiences in his life. Thus, it is expected that through studying a work of literature man can enrich and widen the perception of life while he may arouse the ideas that change their mind and feelings. Then he will be enlightened and led into an acceptance of a better moral attitude towards things like religious faith or a sense of social justice.

Based on the point of view above, the writer would like to deal with drama. All of the elements of a play are an imitation by actors of an action. By action it is not meant the physical movement of the characters, but a story. The dialogue is of course essential.

To study a drama, we can just go to the theatre to see the gestures and to hear the words. Barnet, Berman, and Burto (1993: 3) claim: "When we are in the theatre, our job is much easier of course; we have only to pay attention to the performers. But when we are readers, we must do what we can to perform the drama in the theatre under our hat."

In line with Barnet, Berman, and Burto's statement, Backmur (1965: 26) as quoted by Corrigan, defines what is meant by *gestural*. He states: "He sees beyond the simple distinction that language is made of words and gesture is made of motion. Without a gestural quality in language there can be no drama. Gesture is the true expression of what we feel, while words only describe what you feel."

In this study, the writer chooses George Bernard Shaw as the playwright. He is a pioneer of modern drama. To the writer, talking about the pioneer of modern drama is interesting. When we talk about it, we should refer to the British Drama in the twentieth century. The first thirty years of modern drama is dominated by George Bernard Shaw. He is one of the most outstanding playwrights. And he has the longest career along the history of British Drama.

George Bernard Shaw, in writing his plays, always shows serious defects in his society. His plays consist of ideas which are at first seemingly strange but in fact they are righteous, and they deal with man's experiences like sex, ethics, religion, and politics. Throughout his plays, he always tries to make his society aware of the extinction of mankind's righteousness. He talks much about increasing human welfare and happiness. According to him, they can only be achieved in human life when one of the main reasons, that is poverty, has been wiped out.

George Bernard Shaw is a wonderful man as he cares about not only social life but also religious righteousness. He does not call himself a Christian as he believes that the practices in the church have strayed far from the teachings of Christ, but many of his strongest convictions and most of his personal conduct are those of a religious man.

In relation to the above exegesis, the writer chooses Major Barbara, one of Shaw's great plays. He considers that the play is seriously concerned about social and religious aspects. In Major Barbara, Shaw tries to forward his offense to the false position of the Salvation Army and other orthodox churches at that time. He distinctly describes what is going on in the Salvation Army and the churches, what is wrong, and what people have to do. He intellectually talks of what is right and what is wrong inside the relationship among poverty, salvation of human souls and fulfillment of human needs.

In this study, the writer focuses his analysis on what is happening to the Salvation Army, what is wrong with it, and what people should do concerning the problems portrayed.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

To find the theme of the play, the writer focuses himself to answer these three research questions :

1. What are the lofty duties of the Salvation Army ?
2. What are the defects of the Salvation Army in performing its duties ?
3. What are George Bernard Shaw's suggestions concerning the role of the Salvation Army ?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

In accordance with the statement of the problem, the purpose of this study is to give clear explanations on the three questions raised. It is expected that through the analysis, the writer would bring up the answers :

1. about the lofty duties of the Salvation Army
2. about the defects of the Salvation Army in performing its duties
3. about George Bernard Shaw's suggestions concerning the role of the Salvation Army

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is as a model analysis on a literary work especially drama. It is thus expected that students especially those of the English Department of FKIP Widya Mandala Catholic University will take a great interest in studying and analyzing the inputs inside most of literary works. Thus they will lead themselves to develop their intellectual and analytic skill.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

In drama, there are actually some elements such as characters, plot, setting, theme, conflict, acts and scenes, properties, dialogue, and so on. But the focus in this study is on the theme because in Major Barbara, the most underlying element of a narrative is the theme itself.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

It should be explained from the very beginning that some key terms used in this thesis must be defined to make sure everything is clearly understood. It is expected that readers will not get misinterpretation.

The followings are the key terms which are going to be used :

1. A play is a literary work of fiction written to be seen and to be heard (Barnet, 1993: 3) and is meant for performance on a stage usually has a well-defined and perceptible action (Howe, 1979: 650).
2. A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story although that simple definition may admit to a few exceptions (Kennedy, 1991: 47).
3. Dialogue is the conversation of the characters in any dramatic presentation (Bentley, 1968: 4) and tells about the characters speaking and listening, the interaction of the characters, and the conflict in the play (Scholes, 1978: 754).
4. Plot is the particular arrangement of the story or arrangement of happenings (Barnet, 1988: 744). Beardsley (1956: 692) says that plot is the chain of events that makes up a story.
5. Theme is the central idea in which the play is written. It is elaborated on or illustrated in the narrative or plot (Bentley, 1968: 4) and is the basic overall statement of purpose of the play (Sanders, 1968: 17).

6. Conflict is a clash of ideas , personalities or actions of the characters (Bentley, 1968: 5).
7. Setting is the location or background of the play. It may include a particular country, town or village in which the story is set (Bentley, 1968: 4). Setting means whatever encompasses the plot and characters: not only the physical environment, but also customs, laws, other conditions of life (Beardsley, 1956: 693).

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of the key terms, and organization of the study Chapter II concerns with the review of related literature. Chapter III deals with the methodology of the study. Chapter IV discusses the analysis of the lofty duties of the Salvation Army, the analysis of the defects of the Salvation Army in performing its duties and the analysis of George Bernard Shaw's suggestions concerning the role of the Salvation Army. Chapter V concludes the whole discussion in terms of conclusion and gives some suggestions in line with the subject of the study.