

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Bosnia is one of the former Yugoslavia, which is consisted of six republics and two autonomous regions. Bosnia declared independence in March 1992. This country has the most complex mix ethnics with different religions among the former Yugoslav republics, such as Turkish (Muslim), Serb (Eastern Orthodox), and Croats (Roman Catholics). In this country, there have been ethnic violences over the years. One of the famous ethnic violences in Bosnia is “ethnic cleansing” or usually known as Bosnian Genocide which is happened during Bosnian war committed by Bosnian Serb in Srebrenica in 1995 in order to establish a “pure” Serb republic and has murdered over 7.000 Muslim men and boys (Ruga online).

The word genocide derived from the Greek “genos” (race or kind) with Latin “caedere” (to kill). Article of the United Nation explained that Genocide is the act committed to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group (Felde 3). In addition, genocide is the killing that could occur during war or peacetime; the whole groups were targeted for annihilation. This massacre could be done by the government or groups.

In the Bosnian genocide, hundreds of innocent people died. Those people who became the victims in the massacre during this Bosnian war are Muslim men and boys. Those victims killed by Bosnian Serb army. Those soldiers hold

responsibility of all the victims. In this case, soldiers who were brave to fight sacrificed themselves to reach their goal in war by killing innocent people do not have pride inside their mind, but only satisfaction. From the fact, to be a soldier is uneasy job to have and not really easy to do because they must responsible for everything they do during the war. This is a kind of danger jobs which have consequences in every action.

In every job has its own consequence, even being a soldier. This kind of job does not only give prides but also problems. The problems arise to a soldier when he unconsciously merging into “illegal” army. This “illegal” army is one of the armies who has secret mission, whose mission is commonly to break the law. The problem is the guilty feeling which will haunt a soldier if he regrets after killing people. This is because a soldier is also a man who has goodness in his mind. One of the ways to reduce the guilty feeling is by acknowledging the mistake, and that is certainly not easy. The process of finding solution of a problem involves a lot of struggles. Human beings do all the deed; moves and behaviors are impacts of the powers inside of mind. Those powers called struggle which turn up from inside, and turn out to be various kinds of behavior or psychomotoric move (Kartono 99). Besides that, human beings must struggle to fulfill their needs and achieve their dreams. From the struggle, it is assumed that human have strong desire to stay alive (Kartono 102).

The aspect of human experience facing the problem often portrayed in many literary works through the conflict. It is also embodied in printed character when we read a novel or short story and some performed on certain social

occasions on a drama. In addition, literature does not only entertain with the world of fantasy but also makes us more realize the realities of human situations, problems, feelings, and relationship (Iwuchukwu 6-7).

In literary works, there is much kind of statuses own by a character, such as a king, a daughter, a murder, a soldier, etc. However, characters in stories, likewise in plays are like real people. They imitate of a human being, with all the good and bad traits of being human. Most stories are concerned with characters that are facing a major problem, which may involve interactions with other characters (Roberts and Jacobs 53).

When we read or see of characters who aim to do things, it is easy to see that what they hope to achieve will be a cause of the plot (Gill 123). The plot of a play can be defined as all the actions of all the characters and the reasons for them. The plot of a drama must act out, or embody, what the play is about because in drama, audiences not only hear about issues, they see them acted out before them (Gill 179).

Conflict is part of the plot. It faced by the main character controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects. Conflict brings out the extremes of human energy, causing main character to engage in the decisions, actions, responses, and interactions that make up stories. Conflict may also exist between groups, individuals, and or inside the mind which often raises dilemma on main character (Roberts and Jacobs 92-93). In many stories, symbol often appear as the indication of the events that happen or the problem faced by the

main character. The symbol has function in a story to signify something that supports what the subject of the story is.

Drazen Erdemovic is one of the examples of a character of a soldier in literary works who joins in illegal army when war occurred in Bosnia. After the war time, he often sees ghosts from the people who were killed by him, and this occurrence arises many problems in his life. Erdemovic is the main character in the drama entitled *A Patch of Earth*. This drama is based on the true story of Drazen Erdemovic, a former Yugoslavia. As a former soldier in The Tenth Sabotage Detachment of the Bosnian Serb Army, he felt guilty because he had killed many Bosnian Muslims and choosed to plead guilty. The reason why the writer is really interested in discussing this drama is because *A Patch of Earth* describes the value of struggle for keeping the belief of what is right.

The drama *A Patch of Earth* by Kitty Felde written in 1999 has several awards such as the winner of the Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition for her Bosnian war crimes drama which premiered at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, and finalist of William P. and Arlene R. Lewis Playwriting Contest. This drama is very incredible in which it could raise difficult question about what is right and wrong, examine the extremes of humanity, and explore a very theatrical and dynamic style expression (Felde online).

This drama tells about Drazen Erdemovic as the main character, a twenty four years soldier ordered to kill busloads of unarmed Bosnian Muslim men and boys; he would be killed if he rejects the command. At that time he faced the ultimate dilemma because he never kills people. At first, Erdemovic refused to

shoot, but his commander told him that if he did not kill them he could join them on the firing line, or in other words Erdemovic would also be killed. After the war time, when he returned to his family, Erdemovic started to get haunted by the ghosts of his victims. In the short, Erdemovic decided to confess that he killed hundreds of people who slaughtered on July afternoon to the judge in the courtroom although there were many conflicts faced by him. Conflicts came from his family and his friends, who did not agree if Erdemovic would acknowledge his crimes, but he preferred to confess and he is sentenced for ten years (Felde 175-176).

Many commens given to *A Patch of Earth's* play. *The Detroit Free Press* said the play "raises questions that audiences will ponder on the way home, possibly long after." *The Detroit Monitor* said "an intense human drama of one person caught in a whirlwind of violence and hatred." *Orange County Daily Pilot* called it "serious, mind-absorbing theater, with dramatic power behind the conscience-reaming message." *The Buffalo News* gave it "three and a half stars." *New England Theatre Journal* stated "The overt visual and aural abstractions along with realistic dialogue create a sense of universality in identifying the human anguish in the context of historical events (Felde online)."

Robin Stone, assistant professor of theatre at Roger Williams University and director of the production said "This play raises difficult questions about right and wrong and examines the extremes of humanity, not only are the themes and conflicts of the play extremely relevant and thought-provoking, but this script offers an opportunity for student actors to explore a very theatrical and dynamic

style of expression. Kitty Felde's script combines beautiful visual and aural abstractions with intensely realistic dialogue, creating a sense of universality in identifying the human anguish in the context of recent historical events (Stone online).

Using New Criticism to analyze *A Patch of Earth* is applicable to explain Erdemovic's struggle to talk about his participation in murder although his family did not support him. Besides that, with intrinsic approach through the plot, the writer could explain how he managed his conflicts and analyzed the symbol of ghosts which has significant meaning in this drama to show his struggle to overcome his guilty feeling.

Kitty Felde, as the author is an American famous playwright, a journalist and a radio reporter. She is an award-winning public radio reporter and also has been honored for her playwriting. Through her works she wants to, at least, reduce genocide and tried to bring the audience closer to cultural awareness of genocidal violence and atrocity in genocide. She also has written nearly a dozen of dramas, from a melodrama set in San Francisco's Barbary Coast *Shanghai Heart*, to a musical comedy about the Dodgers' move from Brooklyn to Los Angeles *Bum's Rush*, to a one act about a radio cowboy whose show is moving to television *Man with No Shadow* and a drama titled *Alice*. Kitty Felde's dramas have been performed all over the world, from Pretoria to Sussex to Naples, Fla. She won the 2009 LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Adaptation of a trio of Nikolai Gogol short stories for the stage called *Gogol Project* (Felde online).

The interesting story of *A Patch of Earth* makes the writer chooses to analyze this drama by using New Criticism, besides this drama has never been analyzed by the student of English Department of Airlangga University.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposes two research questions that will be focused on Drazen Erdemovic, the main male character in Kitty Felde's *A Patch of Earth*:

1. What kind of conflicts is faced by Erdemovic when he decided to plead guilty to the tribunal?
2. How is the struggle of Erdemovic to overcome his guilty feeling?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Regarding the statement of the problems above, the aims of the analysis are:

1. To describe the conflicts that Erdemovic faced when he decided to plead guilty to the tribunal for his crimes.
2. To describe Erdemovic's struggle to overcome his guilty feeling.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study aims to inform the readers about the precious meaning behind *A Patch of Earth*'s drama. This is such a great story of belief and conviction. The writer hopes that the readers can learn the way Erdemovic struggles against all the obstacles in his life. No matter what will happens in his life, Erdemovic always believes that he takes right decision. Moreover, the writer hopes that the readers can understand about human life and its conflict, and more interested to study

more about this drama and can be a useful reference for those who are interested in analyzing Kitty Felde's works.

By emphasizing the analysis on Erdemovic's struggle through the way he faced his conflicts, hopefully this study can help the readers to gain a deeper understanding about conflicts faced by someone. Besides that hopefully this study will give a qualitative contribution to the field of formal narrative analysis and to anyone who is interested in learning about the element of fiction. It is also expected that this study would be meaningful for the contribution toward the study of literature, particularly in English Department of Airlangga University, especially for those who want to make a further study about this drama or the topic.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

In order to make the study keep focus, the writer would like to limit her analysis by analyzing the study of plot, particularly on Erdemovic's conflicts as the main character in this drama, and also his struggle to overcome it. The writer will analyze the conflicts of Erdemovic with his family, conflict with his friend and his mind in reaching his ideal. Besides, the appearance of the ghosts in this drama will be used to strengthen the analysis of internal conflict. Above all, by understanding how Erdemovic faced his problems, it will give us clear description about his struggle.

1.6 Theoretical Background

The writer is going to apply the intrinsic approach to analyze the drama. The purpose of the approach is to analyze the formal elements which consist of

images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, theme, and so forth (Tyson 137). Nevertheless, the writer will focus only on plot, particularly on Erdemovic's conflicts. New Criticism which concerns only with the work itself is used as the basis of this analysis. "For New Criticism, a literary work is a timeless, autonomous (self-sufficient) verbal object (Tyson 137)". It means that although everything around us changes but the literary text stays the same, so when we analyze a text we do not have to analyze biography of the author and social context at the time.

Drama is made up of a series of sequential and related actions or incidents. The actions are connected by chronology; the logic of time, and the term given to the principles underlying this ordered chain of actions and reactions is plot, which is a connected plan or pattern of causation. The impulse controlling the connections is conflict, which refers to people or circumstance; the antagonist that the protagonist tries to overcome (Roberts and Jacobs 821). Conflict is important elements in story which is parts of the plot. Wellek and Warren mention that plots of a story involve conflict. Conflict is a part of plot that can make a story to be 'dramatic'. It suggests action and counteraction (285).

In literary work there are also symbols which give significance in a story. It is a word that stands for, or points to, a reality beyond itself. They often share in the reality for which they stand. For instance, sunrise, not only stands for a new beginning, it is also the new beginning of a day; and a handshake is not just a symbol of welcome, it is part of the act of welcoming (Gill 21).

1.7 Method of the Study

The method used in this study is qualitative research method. The first thing the writer does is determining the problem which will be solved and then make statement of the problems. In qualitative research, the phenomenon here is holistic (comprehensive, cannot be apart), all the social situation included place, actor, and activity are used; and because of the width of the problem the writer make scope and limitation in order to make the research more focus. In qualitative research, the writer also has to determine the theory will be used, because the theory as the basic to formulate the hypothesis, and as reference to arrange research instrument (Sugiono 205-214).

The method of data collection used by the writer determines the main source to be analyzed that is the drama *A Patch of Earth* by Kitty Felde by using close reading considering linguistic level, semantic level, and structural level. The internet browsing is used to gain the recent review and other important information related to issue in this drama and the theory which applied in the analysis of the drama.

The writer makes data classification and selects the data that can be related with the topic. The writer use elements of drama to become the primary sources that are plot and symbol.

Later, the method that will be used in analyzing the drama is descriptive analysis. At first, the writer will seek for the data from the drama and selecting the aspects that are relevant in analyzing the issue. The writer will focus on the conflicts and the symbol of ghost, and analyze them through the narration,

dialogue and follow the whole drama. In addition, the analysis of the main character will use and take from the description of the character's speech or words, attitude, behavior and from opinion of the other characters. The interpretation of the elaboration will be the answers of the research questions. To make the analysis completely written, the conclusion turn out to be the last phase in writing the analysis of Kitty Felde's *A Patch of Earth*.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

There are important terms used in the analysis which needed to be noted we can find in these following words:

Soldier : member of an army or military forces of a country which fight on land.

Struggle : try hard to do something when finding difficulty, fighting against somebody or something that is does not tune with his belief and difficult to do or achieve.

Conflict : clash in the actions, ideas, desire or will between characters.

Ghost : spirit of a dead person that appears to somebody living.

Guilty feeling : feeling of shame for having done something illegal; being responsible for something bad that has happened.