

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In human life, people always deal with the hierarchy of power. Power is a noun, according to Webster's dictionary the meaning is the possession of control, authority or influence others (505). According to Dahl, in his article *The Concept of Power*, power means command others to do something (202). For example in family, there are parents who have the capacity to command their children. It is impossible that people are equally powerful. Hence, there are no individuals control or on the contrary there are no individual obey the others. Thus, societies need to have leaders, managers, and workers. They need to work together to get certain goals.

Dahl describes his idea about power as something like this, "A has power over B to the extent that he can get B to do something that B would not otherwise do (202-203)." Someone that has power can influence the beliefs, minds, attitudes, and actions of others. He or she has the capacity to get what he or she wants to accomplish. *Power and Organization* explains that power is often associated with something bad, something ignoble and something corrupting and on the contrary, power can be empowering, creative and positive (Clegg, Courpasson and Phillips 2). People can use their power to gain their social and

organizational goals. Meanwhile, there are some people who use their powers to gain their own goals. This relation would be benefited if the leader was good, responsible, honest but if not, it can lead to the abuse of power.

The potential abuse of power involves when someone who has power impose his or her will to others. This abusive behavior is deliberate and perpetrated to get certain result. This situation happens because the power imbalance between the abusers and the victims. Abuser uses many strategies to control over others. He or she uses his or her superior position, strength, knowledge, wealth and so on to exploit others. In Brandl article *Power and Control: Understanding Domestic Abuse in Later Life*, he offers eight forms of abuse, i.e. financial exploitation (such as steals money or titles; takes over account), misuse of privilege (such as treats others like a servant, makes all major decisions), isolation (such as controls what others do, what others see, where others go), manipulation (such as misleads members), emotional abuse (such as humiliates, demeans, ridicules, yells, insult), ridicule of values (such as makes fun of personal values, ignores or ridicules religious and cultural tradition), abuse of dependency, neglect (such as denies long waits for food, care, medication), and threats and intimidation (such as commit to suicide, destroy property) (40). This fact also depicted in literary work.

Caligula in Albert Camus' *Caligula* is one of the examples of the man who uses his power to abuse his people, written in a form of literary work, drama. Caligula is a Roman emperor. After the death of his sister and also his lover,

Drusilla, he becomes aware that the world is dissatisfactory. He finds the truth that “men are dying and they are not happy” (Camus 60) which brings to the destruction to his people in Rome. He tries to impose his truth to his people. He tries to cope his city by his absolute power. He uses his absolute power to destroy others people. He makes himself equal to the gods. He kills men and women without compunction. His mood changes rapidly. He legalizes public brothel and forces women to work in there. He makes a famine in Rome by arbitrarily closes the public granaries. His goal is to kill everyone in Rome and he often tortures his victims.

In *A World of a Two Sword*, Augustine states that the desire of power is a deadly corrosive (qtd. in Christian Worldview Journal). This possessing or controlling someone or something is a way of exerting power. Moreover, Marsha Ann Davis says in her thesis, *Albert Camus: The Search for Happiness without Hope*, that: “... man’s freedom must not be destructive; it must be limited so that it does not impinge on or destroy human values (8).” Caligula is a man who closes with the problem of unlimited freedom. His authority as Roman emperor destroys human values. He uses his unlimited freedom to his people. He deals with greed, cruelty, and hunger for power. Davis also states that, Caligula’s desire to the destruction is never end (8). This fact has encouraged the writer to elaborate more about how he uses his power to control over others and what factor influences him to use his power.

*Caligula*, originally written in French language, has been translated into various language, is Camus' first complete original play and undoubtedly his best and most enduring play. *Caligula* was accomplished in 1939, and published in 1944 and the play started to be performed in 1945, and the reaction of the audience was incredible. The play was brought on stage again in 1958. *Caligula* was adapted from Roman historian Suetonius' history of Caligula, *Lives of the Twelve Caesar*.

The author, Albert Camus was born on September 7, 1913 in Mondovi, Algeria in working class family. In 1923 Camus won scholarship in Lycée and was eventually admitted to the University of Algeria. In 1936 Camus received his diploma *d'étudies super iures* from his University in philosophy. Camus' first book is *The Wrong Side and the Right Side* (1937), was a collection essay, which dedicated it to his philosophy teacher, Jean Grenier. By the time Camus' reputation in Algeria as a leading writer was growing. In 1940 he moved to Paris and became active in French Resistance against the Nazi occupation, and practice journalism. He wrote many novels, plays, essays, journals, and short stories, such as: *The Nuptial* (1938), *The Stranger* (1942), *The Misunderstanding* (1941), *The Plague* (1947), *The Myth of Sisyphus* (1941), *The Just Assassins* (1948), *The Rebel* (1951), *The Summer* (1954), *The Fall* (1956), *Requiem for a Nun* (1956), *Exile and the Kingdom* (1957), *Create Dangerously* (1957), *Reflections on the Guillotine* (1957), *A Happy Death* (1971), etc. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957 for his philosophical contribution in literature. He also became the second-youngest recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature and became the first

African writer who received the award as well. He was planning to direct a theater company of his own but at that time he was killed in a car crash near Paris. He was forty six years old.

Talking about Albert Camus, he is one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century. In the early to mid twentieth century, wars become the part of Camus' life and also his literature. He sees the death, homicide and suicide in everywhere which judges that life is not worth living again. Hence, he tries to influence people to redefine the value and optimism of the human life by his works. Here Albert Camus uses the historical emperor Caligula in order to influence the society who believe that the world has no meaning. Hopefully, by *Caligula* he can influence and criticize the system that the world is not meaningless. In an essay *Albert Camus' Caligula*, CapSkippy states that Caligula's character has the same character with Hitler and Mussolini, who uses their power to abuse others. This case not only happened in Caligula, Hitler and Mussolini era but also in the writer's era. The writer also finds the similar things that there are many people have great power but they use their power improperly. Based on description above, the writer is interested to choose *Caligula*, because in this work is clearly depicted about someone who uses his power improperly, he walks in his own way and impose his will to the other people, which drives him and others to the insanity. Hopefully by this study, it can remind for whoever who has power to use their power appropriately.

Although the work criticizes the system in which the society lives in, the theory which criticizes a system that exists in a work will not be used. This study will only find the meaning of the text without pay attention from another factor, such as history or playwright's background. Since New Criticism only focuses on the literary text itself as the main source to better understanding of the text, by looking at formal element, especially in character and characterization, conflict and setting and the methodology that are use is close reading. Through this theory, the writer is interested in analyzing how the main character's applied his abuse of power to his people. However, the abuse of power applied by the main character can be run because of some ideas which are pushing him to do that.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

By exploring on the main character's behavior to his people, the thesis writer tries to formulate the problems in Albert Camus' *Caligula* drama, as the following:

How is the abuse of power conducted by Caligula?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Due to the question above, the aims of this study is:

To analyze how the abuse of power is done by Caligula.

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

From this thesis, the writer hopes to give useful information about the drama *Caligula* by Albert Camus to the readers. She also hopes that through the analysis of the character and characterization, conflict and setting in Albert Camus work, the readers can understand this drama easier.

The writer also hopes that this study can be an additional reference for other people who analyze the similar issue about abuse of power. Furthermore, hopefully, readers can learn that someone who has great power ought to use his power appropriately. The writer hopes that it can be a worthy study in Airlangga University, especially for students who are studying in Faculty of Humanity.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

In order to limit this study in focus analysis, scope and limitation are needed. The writer focuses the discussion on the three aspects of the formal elements: character and characterization, conflict and setting. She is going to use the theory of character and characterization explained by Oscar G. Brockett, which is focuses on the physical, psychological, social and moral level. In conflict, the writer uses the theory explained by Laurence Perrine, which is focus on the inner and outer conflict. Then, for the setting, the writer will apply the concept by Kelley Griffith, which is focus in characters' dialogue, dress and behavior; and the sets produced.

## 1.6 Theoretical Background

Drama *Caligula* will be analyzed by applying the theory of New Criticism since this theory is considered to be the most suitable theory that only focuses on detailed analysis of the text and the language provided by the text itself. It means that the usage of the author's background, author's intentions are not needed by the reader. New criticism's main focus is on the formal element of the text to achieve its organic unity (Tyson 121). To understand the meaning of the text, the writer only focuses in some of formal elements, there are character and characterization, conflict and setting in *Caligula* drama.

The character and characterization is used to know the characteristic of the main character. These characters will construct the whole story. They will build theme, conflict, plot, setting of the story. The theory that is going to be used has four aspects in characterization explained by Brockett, that are physical level, psychological, social and moral level.

Furthermore, the conflict is used because it plays the significant roles in the plot development. Conflict is a struggle between opposing forces, they may fight, argue, enlist help against each other and otherwise carry on their opposition, which is usually resolved in the end of the story. The writer is going to use the technique explained by Perrine, about inner and outer conflict.

Besides the theory of character and characterization and conflict, the setting in *Caligula* is also one of the significant contributors to the result of the whole analysis. By the setting, it covers a setting from the characters' dialogue,

dress and behavior; from the sets produced; and setting from the readers or audiences' knowledge that they bring to the dramatic text or to the performance (Griffith 69). She will apply the concept of setting by Griffith's theory, which focuses in two aspects of setting from the characters' dialogue, dress and behavior; from the sets produced.

### **1.7 Method of the Study**

For data collecting, first the writer uses the primary data as the main source is the drama itself. The text drama *Caligula* becomes the essential part in which the data for this study comes from. The data will be taken from the content of the text drama itself. And for the secondary data, she collects data and information such as printed books, thesis, journal and article online to support the analysis.

For data analysis, the writer uses close reading, which focuses in *Caligula's* character and then examining the conflict and the setting which *Caligula* experiences throughout the story. The first step the writer will identify the character and characterization of the main character through the narration and the dialogue in the drama. The readers can follow the whole drama and see the personality of the character from the description of the character's speech, word, attitude, behavior, gesture toward other characters, also opinion of the other characters, etc. It continues with explaining the conflicts of the main character. It

can be done by examining the conflicts by the conversation between each character. And then, the writer goes to the setting of the story. It can be done by analyzing the set produce and the symbolic meaning.

Overall, after explaining how the main character's characterization and conflicts support the theme of the story, the writer can analyze the analysis in order to write the conclusion and it will answer the statement above by using New Criticism theory.

### **1.8. Definition of the Key Terms**

- Power : Someone that has ability to influence others, to change others or to direct others, such as mind, attitude, behavior.
- Abuse : A misuse power to others, it can be physical mistreatment, insulting speech, coarse, etc.
- Abuse of power : Someone that use his or her power improperly to accomplish personal desire.