

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Drama, as one of the literary works, gives more vivid reflection of human activity and life. For it presents the life by various actions and dialogues. As Reaske said that drama is a work of literature of a composition which deliniates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions and of dialogues between a group of characters (Reaske;1965;5)

Most of popular drama in the late of nineteenth and twentieth century is a problem play. Sylvan Barnett said :

"A problem play or play of ideas is concerned with some trouble some social institution, its author hoping to arouse the audience to do something about the problem (For ex : to modify the divorce law, to extend the ballot, to alter the tax structure,...") (Sylvan Barnett;1975;448).

The problem play was stimulated, although not created by Ibsen, whose his social tragedies play aroused much discussion and sharp opposition to the content of the plays and to his treatment of social problems

For Ibsen also was a creator of modern realistic prose, the social problems he conveys in the plays are the attempt to reproduce faithfully the surface appearance of life, especially that of ordinary people in everyday

situation. Especially he has clear analysis of middle-class character, their problem and their torment.

Hedda Gabler is one of Ibsen's plays which potrays the life of middle-class and its problem. As Ibsen said that he principally wanted to do was to depict human being, human emotion and human destenies upon a groundwork of social conditions and principles of the present day (Sylvan Barnett;1975;448). It means the play is built upon the groundwork of social condition and principles. In Ibsen's world as everywhere, people are drawn together and relationships are necessarily established. The people express themselves by taking on responsibilities. But this principles of society was threatened by the process of growth of individualism

Here in Hedda Gabler man is in conflict with the forces in society or within himself, which are closely related as the individual and society are constantly interactive. As Kenneth T Rowe said, in Hedda Gabler the story takes place within marriage, but the marriage is merely as irritant to a potentially of conflict that is inherent into the forming of Hedda's character, but they are in the background in the play with the focus on what she is (Kenneth;1960;169).

The writer of this thesis would like to analyze Hedda Gabler emphasizing on the main character's problem. In the play, Hedda Gabler's behaviour is generally contrast with

the commonly society's condition and principles. Hedda doesn't want to become involve in any sort of relationship in which she herself maybe shaper that is she evades the responsibility while in her society, people commonly are drawn together by taking responsibilities.

Hedda is the daughter of an Aristocrat General Gabler Her Aristocrat background has given her leisure but no direction energy, but no channel for it. She becoming increasingly desperate. Having married rashly she feels her identity is threatened. The group of relationships she sees in her marriage frightenens her,. She can't involve the relationship with her husband's family and also with others. Her distress at the thought of having a child is further indication that she doesn't want to involve in anykind of relationship itself. Through Hedda's fear of relationship the self-individualism is presented.

Hedda then shapes others' desteny. She seeks to fulfill herself by controlling Lövborg's life untill to the point of death. Finally when Lövborg is dead and Tesman and Mrs Elvsted are ocuupied each other, and Hedda at Judge Brack's mercy, Hedda chooses to kill herself. This behaviour, however is the reflection of the effect of self-individualism.

For that reason, the writer chooses Hedda Gabler , emphasizing on Hedda's behaviour as the reflection of the self-individualism and its effect.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

The problem studied of which the writer is expected to be found in this study is : First what kind of Hedda's behaviour is in contrasting with the condition and principles of society in the play? The second, what kind of effect which is resulted by self-individualism ?

1.3 Objective of The Study

The objective of the Study is to know the character of Hedda Gabler, especially her behaviour which reflects the self-individualism and the effect of this kind of behaviour toward herself and society which elaborated in the play itself.

1.4 Significance of The Study

By studying of Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, is expected to get the deep understanding of the social and psychological problems. In more specific area is about human being who can't involve with the principles of society where the people are drawn together and the responsibilities is taken in every kind of relationship.

It is also hopes to contribute the understanding of self-individualism with its effect toward oneself and society's life.

The writer of this thesis also hopes the readers will have more understanding about some aspects of psychology which have important role to understand the problem of human being and society's life.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The problem studied here is limited only to two points. They are the self-individualism of Hedda and its effect toward herself and also toward others. Thus only certain aspects of the play which supports the study will be analyzed. Furthermore any parts which doesn't relate with the study will be left.

1.6 Theoretical Background

The writer of this thesis tries to gain the aim by using theories and approach. The first theory is objective theory, structural approach. So that the point can be reached through the element of the play itself that is character and characterization.

Instead of it she also uses psychological theory with the Humanistic personality approach for it is properly to analyze the character within the literary work, for a human personality is complex of many traits or qualities of character, many motives and desires, some in conflicts with one another.

1.7 Method of The Study

In analyzing the play, the writer of the thesis uses two kinds of methods. The first method is descriptive and the second is interpretive.

Descriptive method is useful to present the verbal portrait of a person, place or thing (Mc Crimmon;1984;163). Thus, here, this method is useful to present the facts which lie in the play.

An interpretation shows how the interpreter reads a work, what the work means to him or her (Mc Crimmon;1984;431). But though it is her personal response to the play, to be acceptable her interpretation must be consistent with all of the facts of the work, Hedda Gabler. This method however is useful to find the meaning inside the facts.

Finally the first step, the writer of this thesis will analyze the play and its elements descriptively. It means she collects the facts presented in the play. Further step, the analysis will be continued interpretively, especially the element, character and characterization.

In analyzing descriptively and interpretively, she first, collects the facts in the play, sometimes by quoting them in pure form, then she interpretes and illustrates their meaning according her personal respond. But the way

she interprets its meaning is guided by the facts in the play, so that her interpretation is reliable.

1.8 Organization of the paper

To organize the thesis sistematically, the writer divides it into four parts. Each part named as chapters. First part or chapter I introduces us to know the background and the problem, methodology and also theoretical framework, which finally used in this thesis. It is also completed by the definition of key term which guides to the understanding of the title of the thesis.

The second part (chapter II) presents the further explanation of theoretical framework as her basic to analyze the problem.

The analyzes of thesis becomes the part of chapter III. The objective theory and psychological one are judged to gain the purpose of thesis writing.

At last, chapter IV will guide to the conclusion of this thesis writing.

1.9 The Definition of Key Term.

Dealing with the deeper understanding of this study, the writer of this thesis tries to explain the definition of each word in the title, stated from the dictionary and expert's opinion.

The term *self* is belongs to the psychological one, so that the writer of the thesis only depicts the definition or the meaning from expert's opinion. Carl Rogers, the Humanistic Psychologist described the *self* as the irreducible unit out of which the coherence and stability of the personal emerge.

Individualism in Oxford English Dictionary means : (1) self entered feeling or conduct as a principle a mode of life in which the individual pursues his own ends or follows out his ideas, free and independent individual action or thought (2) the social theory which advocates the free and independent action of the individual as opposed to comunistic methods of organization and state interference.

Self-individualism, then is irreducible unit out of the personality emerge, entered feeling or conduct as a principle a mode of life in which the individual pursues his own ends or follows out of his ideas, free and independent individual action or thought.