

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of The Study**

Looking at the common social life of the world, there is always stratification in the society. Social stratification is an arrangement of society into various orders; a gradation of social classes mostly based on the economical status or political status in the society. Social stratification can be found from the earlier epoch of history and each of it has its own characteristics. In the ancient Rome, we have patricians, knights, and slave; in the Middle Ages, there are feudal lords, serfs, and so on. The social stratification exists until now.

One of the classes is the working class. The term working class refers to the manual workers who sell their power in order to live. The term working class becomes more specific when it entered the industrial revolution era. The industrial revolution era first began in England in 1700s. The idea of it was to minimise the labour force and maximise the natural force and the using of machinery in the industries. It aimed to gain profit with lower costs. From this production activities raised two social economical classes; bourgeoisie and proletariat; the employers and the labours.

The relationship between bourgeoisie and proletariat produced gap between them. The employers, the bourgeoisie, concerned to gain profit with as low costs as possible, the labour felt that they were forced to work hard to gain profit but on the other hand, their right were less concerned. The condition triggered class struggle. The term 'class struggle' became so famous in the last two centuries. It was the conflict between classes, in this matter, was the moment of the labours fight for their right.

The live of the working class and the class struggle become interesting objects to be analysed. In literature many authors portray these themes in their works. In Scottish literature there is an attempt to portray the urban working classes on stage and these portrayals are made based on the authentic history of Scotland. It was made to accommodate, describe, and pay tribute to the authentic Scottish working classes. This discourse namely 'Clydesideism', it was acknowledgement of the Red Clyde of the 1910s to 1920s. ([http://arts.qmuc.ac.uk/ijost/volume1\\_no2/d\\_pattie.htm](http://arts.qmuc.ac.uk/ijost/volume1_no2/d_pattie.htm)).

Bill Bryden is one of the Scottish playwrights who writes and directs many plays; such as *Benny Lynch*, *The Mysteries*, *The Good Hope*, *Willie Rough*, and so on. Bill Bryden concerns on the social life and religious studies; *Benny Lynch* is about an artist who struggles to express himself in a society designed to stifle his ambition; *The Mysteries* is about religious studies; and *Willie Rough* is one of his plays which can be

counted as Bryden's application of Clydesideism which this thesis analysed.

Willie Rough first played in 1972. The play set on the city of Greenock around 1914-1916. The drama portrays the class struggle and their involvement in the Red Clydeside era. The Red Clydeside era was the time that the industrial revolution era gave the worst effect in Scotland; poverty, mass dismissal, starvation, and so on. These conditions met the preparations of the World War I between England and German. The labours were directed to go to the fronts, to volunteer and follow the conscription. Not only that, the government also issued some policies for the war need; from the taking over property, labour control and concentrations, applying censorship, and some fundraising actions. The most oppressed was the working class. The working class decided to oppose, gather, and move, struggle for their rights. Later, these actions with certain period of time are named 'Red Clydeside'. The centre was in Glasgow and the scopes covered urban areas around the city on the riverbank of River Clyde (<http://gdl.strath.co.uk>).

Scotland is one of the crucial parts of the British Imperialist State. It gives contribution to the British economy, from the service industries, manufacturing, natural (agricultural, forestry, and fishing) and energy (oil and gas) sources. In the 1800s and the first half of the 1900s large

numbers of Scots worked in such industries as shipbuilding and engineering.

Willie Rough is an unemployed handyman comes to Greenock looking for a job in the shipyard. He is advised to go to the nearest pub; there he meets some locals who then become his close friends, Pat Gatens and Hughie. His new friends initiate him to bribe a shipyard foreman, Jake Adams to give him a job start. Willie gets his job and soon befriends with Jake too.

Willie and friends talk about many things, such as works, sports, family, and so on, but there is a special topic and it becomes the starting point that reveals Willie's ideology. The topic is about the First World War and the policies raised as the impact of it. Unlike his friends, Willie briefly opposes it, that the labours should not join the war. He speaks rhetorically and it is obviously frightens his friends because this kind of discussion is considered subversive.

Willie is so impressed to an activist, namely John MacLean. John MacLean is a famous Red Clydeside activist and he gave deep impact to Willie's ideology in a particular ways. MacLean's activities motivate Willie to join a left-wing union. Willie attends its regular workers meetings; the more he joins the more he concerns to the labours right. The meetings rise to rank of workers and engineers to negotiate wage raise two pence an hour. This happens because of the effect of World War I,

the government makes some policies to support the war's need, and these give impact to the increasing prices of daily needs and also house rent.

Through the union, Willie fights for the labours' rights and he absolutely opposes the war. He is an anti-imperialist person, he sees the war as the imperialist war and the labours should not join. Willie thinks that the labours sacrifice their lives not for the sake of the world but for the sake of the capitalist imperialist group. Willie clashes in the pub with the co-workers about going to the front, he has many people, the pro-wars, hate him, but he does not care. He keeps intact with his standpoint. For the labours' problem in the country and determined to hold fast for the good of the workers, Willie and the union call a strike. The strike is an affiliation between the trade allies (Willie's union) and ASE (an engineers union). The strike spreads and is participated by the workers along the Clyde. This strike is not the one and only strike shown in the play, there are some other strikes but this strike is counted as the biggest.

Jake, the foreman, introduces Willie to a socialist namely Charlie McGrath. The man is even hard-liner than Willie is. He gives Willie courage in the movements to hold fast to face the poverty, but then the escalating war makes nothing easier. Many people die in riots and Willie and Charlie are eventually jailed after Charlie publishes Willie's article questioning the workers' need to go to the front.

After six months in jail, Willie tries to go back and decide to continue his struggle. He returns to his work but unfortunately Jake has decided to stop hiring him. Jake gives the reason discreetly that it is not Jake's decision but it is the manager's policy. The debate between them is unavoidable. Willie sees that the dismissal is unfair to a person who fights for the labours' rights.

Willie Rough's life represents the life of Red Clyde activists and Bill Bryden portrays his characters with the conflicts and setting refers to the authentic period of Red Clydeside in Scotland. The portrayal of the era and the class struggle's ideology by Willie are interesting objects to be analysed.

### **B. Statements of The Problem**

- How are Willie's views on World War I, Capitalism, labour movements, and social condition?
- How does Willie react against the government, capitalism and the labour condition due to his disappointment?

### **C. Objectives of The Study**

- To dig Willie's views on World War I, Capitalism, labour movements, and social condition.

- To scrutinise Willie's reaction toward his disappointment to the government, capitalism and the labour condition.

### **B. Significance of The Study**

By analysing the major character in Bill Bryden's *Willie Rough*, it is hoped that the reader will have broader knowledge about the life of the working class in the Red Clydeside era. The major character is the representation of the labour activist. He will be analysed in two ways, about his point of views and his reaction toward the life condition, especially the labour condition as the result of World War I. Willie Rough also gives the reader information about the general life of a labour activist, not only in Scotland but also in the other part of the world. Another significance is that it is hoped that the readers will get valuable information to broaden the reader knowledge about life struggling. Finally, the analysis is expected to contribute something for further literary research.

### **C. Scope and Limitations**

The drama is the combining between the history of Scotland and the life struggling of Willie Rough. The writer needs to make scope and limitations to the analysis so that the study will not move from the main subject and object of the analysis. The analysis is limited on the problems

as stated in the statement of the study and the objective in the objective of the study. The analysis is focused on the major character, Willie Rough, about his way of thinking and standpoint toward some points in his country, especially the labours life and also his reaction toward it.

In order to support the analysis, the writer adds a chapter concentrating on the influential factors of the problem. The influential factors are about the history of Scotland, concentrating in the preparation of World War I and Red Clydeside. Some points about John McLean, Willie's idol, will also be included.

#### **D. Theoretical Backgrounds**

This thesis applies Marxism study as the theory in order to make an adequate analysis. In general, the theory will be used to reveal the background of Willie's point of view and reaction especially toward the labour condition. The theory used is *The Communist Manifesto* 1848 that contains Marx and Engels conceptions on state, class struggle, capitalism, and revolution.

#### **E. Method of The Study**

After reading Bill Bryden's *Willie Rough*, the study is started by finding the proper problems to be analysed. The study then continued by



determining the significance of the study, making the scope of limitations, and finding the relevant theory to be used to analyse the drama.

The data and material are collected from various books both on criticism and Scotland history during the Red Clydeside era, encyclopaedias, articles, and other printed material dealing with Bill Bryden, especially *Willie Rough*. The data and materials collected are divided into primary and secondary data. The novel is considered the primary data and the other materials dealing with Red Clydeside are the secondary data. The data and materials will then be analysed by using one of sociological theory. The sociological theory used to analyse the data is Marxism. It is used to discuss Willie's point of views and his reaction due to his disappointment toward his life as a labour, the government, and capitalism.

#### **F. Definitions of Key Terms**

- **Working Class:** Workers as a class, especially, industrial workers as a class, refers to manual workers who sell their power to live
- **Ideology:** A form of social or political philosophy in which action can be based are as prominent as theoretical ones; it is a system of ideas that aspires both to explain the world and to change it (The Encyclopaedia Britannica Vol.20)

- **Revolution:** The changing of a small process which then also followed by the changing of action, way of thinking, and society order in general.

## CHAPTER II

## LITERATURE REVIEW