

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

According to Marxist, there are two classes in society, those are the class of the landowners or the owner of production properties, and the class of people who do not have lands and only work the lands of nobility, (Soekanto, 1982:228). This system also rose in Russia in the 17th and 18th century. This condition is reflected in *The Cherry Orchard* which was set in Russia at that time. The writer will analyze the condition of Russia according to this work, without looking on the condition of Russia outside this play.

At that time, Russia had two class systems that is class division into two classes: the nobles or the upper class and the common people or serfs. At that time the serfs lived poorly because the nobles had overpowered them. They were not allowed to have lands and were obligated to work on the nobles' lands as serfs. Their life was full of sorrow as they only received small wages for their hard work. Because of that the serfs had to be very careful in spending their money in order to fulfill their daily necessities. The serfs depended on their master completely so they had to obey their masters' orders and they also had to bear all their bad treatment by the nobility to gain their wealth. As human beings, they also wanted to have a better life. They

did not want to be bound to the soil all their life, they wanted to be free men. Because of that, they revolted against the nobles. This condition forced the serfs to fight for better life. They worked hard to get freedom. They dreamed of revolution and a better life. And then, they demanded the same right to the nobles.

Anton Chekhov, as the writer of *The Cherry Orchard*, understands this condition, because he came from the basis of all his plays. In fact, his own grandfather had been a serf and had purchased freedom from serfdom.

Chekhov knew Russia well and filled his works with representatives of all walks of society, from peasants to nobility. Chekhov's background as descendant of peasants who had risen from the lower middle class to become a physician and then a celebrated writer, active in the intellectual circles of his time, provided variegated material for his works, (Hochman, 1983:494).

Based on Hochman's statement, thematically Chekhov's plays contrast with real life, as seen as "compassion, tolerance, useful labor, and unspoiled nature, with hollow life, represented by coarseness, self-delusion, boredom, triviality, and vulgarity. His characters waste their lives either by camouflaging a painful truth behind fantasies and rationalization, or by immersing themselves in banal, meaningless activities."

The Cherry Orchard is a play in four acts by Anton Chekhov, written and produced during 1903-1904, during the last year of the author's life. It is about the

sale of the Ranevskaya properties, including the family's beloved cherry orchard. The family is on the verge of bankruptcy and collapse. Lopakhin, the wealthy grandson of a former serf, suggests to Madame Ranevskaya that she chop down the orchard and build houses on the lands.

The main theme of *The Cherry Orchard* is the passing of an old family estate into the lands of rich businessman. *The Cherry Orchard* reflects the age of tense social relations and turbulent social movement prior to the first Russian revolution. The world of landowners and bourgeoisie is presented in a critical light and the people striving for a new life in bright tones.

The writer of this thesis chooses Anton Chekhov as the author of her object of the analysis on this thesis because Anton Chekhov is known as one of Russia's greatest dramatist, primarily because of his skill in recreating the atmosphere of the Russia of his day (Cubeta, 1962 : 279). He gives a clear picture of the environment contributes to the development of his characters' lives. In other words, all Chekhov's works are rooted in a sense of society, (William, 1969:146).

The writer has been interested in *The Cherry Orchard*, one of Chekhov's plays and not others, because it evokes a memorable picture of the social landscape of his time, in which the playwright manages to freeze that moment in social evolution when traditional ruling class is forfeiting its position of superiority, and other classes are rising to take its place. In this play, Chekhov combined the vision of

Russian life with an apparently inexhaustible good humor and cheerfulness. The characters he draws may be lovable, but there is little in them to admire or to imitate.

The interesting thing in *The Cherry Orchard* is it evokes the tragedy of a family. The writer of this thesis is interested in the way of Anton Chekhov to reveal this tragedy. It is a comedy play, but actually it contains much sadness and unfortunate for the characters, It also reveals some condition of a society represented only by the orchard and it's surrounding. The writer would like to find the social condition that represented by the fate of the cherry orchard.

1.2. Statement of the problem

1. What are the background of the sale of the cherry orchard?
2. How do the characters face that sale?
3. How does the sale of the cherry orchard symbolize the passing of the old order?

1.3. Objective of the study

1. To find the backgrounds of the sale of the cherry orchard through the life style of Ranevskaya and Gayev as the owner of the cherry orchard.
2. To analyze how the characters in *The Cherry Orchard* face that sale before and after the orchard was sold.

3. To explain how the sale of the cherry orchard can symbolize the passing of the old order.

1.4. Significance of the study

The writer surely hopes that this thesis will give contribution to the world of knowledge in general and the world of literature in particular. The writer also hopes it will contribute to research and studies on literature specially in English Department of Airlangga University where many similar researches have been done for many years.

The writer hopes this thesis can enrich her knowledge about literature, also keeps her awareness about life. Hopefully, it will give another view on a n aspect of human characters and on society, so that she can have an insight about the characters of the people in real life.

At last, the readers of this work, to whom the writer's keen enthusiasm is aimed to, it is hoped that they will get something precious to enlarge the knowledge about life and all that related to it.

1.5. Scope and limitation

In analyzing The Cherry Orchard the writer limits this study only through intrinsic elements, those are characterization, plot, setting, and symbol. The writer does not pay any attention to extrinsic elements.

This work is concerned with the condition of Russia at the beginning of nineteenth century. In this study, the writer limits this condition that only related with this play, and not looking to Russia's condition outside this play.

1.6. Theoretical Background

This thesis is concerned with the analysis of the passing of the old order through the sale of the cherry orchard. In analyzing it the writer uses the objective theory as the framework of analysis. The writer also uses the literary approach to get into the analysis of this play. The literary approach is used to analyze the intrinsic elements, those are character, plot (and conflict within, setting, and symbol. The analysis cannot be separated from the entire story and the internal relation among the elements.

1.7. Method of the study

The writing of this thesis is entirely done through the library research. The writer of this thesis collects the data from books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or some printed materials dealing with Anton Chekhov's works, specially *The Cherry Orchard*. Besides that, also collects some critics about the story and the author's biography.

The writer of this thesis uses descriptive analysis. By collecting some words from the script as the datas. In analyzing those datas, the writer quotes them as it is, also describes them or symbols by paraphrasing and quoting. So that there are many quotations in order to support the analysis.

The interpretative analysis is used in this thesis in order to analyze the character's problems and to explain the meaning of symbols that found in *The Cherry Orchard*. The interpretation of the writer of this thesis done by selecting and arranging some of the incidents and dialogues. It is a subjective one because it guided by her view of the story, and not contradict to the text.

1.8. Definition of key terms.

1. Passing :

- Lasting for only a short time, brief.
- The process of going by
- In this thesis, passing means the end of the authority of aristocracy and change by other

2. Order :

- The situation in which laws, rules, authority, etc. are obeyed.
- An instruction or demand that somebody must do something, given by someone who has power over that person.

3. Old order :

-Laws, rules, or authority that are not obeyed anymore and change by the new one.

4. The Cherry Orchard : (*The title of Anton Chekhov's play*)

-Symbol of glory of Ranevskaya's family when their authority as aristocracy is still acknowledged by people.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND