

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Misogyny, the hatred toward women is already known since the pre-literate societies. It was rooted deep in the male psyche as the representation of an instinctive fear in male psyche. This instinctive fear, part of it came from their anxiety of women's ability to give birth and to menstruate. Those abilities were considered as the weird and mysterious power of women (Larner 93). Since women had those scary powers, they were not allowed to participate in any human activities (Hays 48).

This misogyny also occurred in old Greece, especially in mythology. Zeus, the king of gods, had created the mythological first woman named Pandora. She was 'blessed' with sensual appeal that made men believe in everything she said, the mind of a bitch, the nature of a thief, and the gifts to be the reason of men's failures (Hesiod, qtd. in Hays 83).

In Aristotle time, women were considered imperfectly human. This point of view influenced the early church, taken by the Romans and transformed, and its magical inheritance disguised by an ethical rationalization (Hays 78, 86). Some Church thinkers assumed that women were morally and mentally inferior to men. They were a temptation and easily tempted into evil (Quaife 84-85). Of course there is an exception. She was Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. The mythology was created that even after giving birth to Jesus, she was still a virgin, a pure holy

woman. Then the ideal female was simplified into her and her opposite was the servant of Satan.

Misogyny keeps living until this second millennia through many situations and changes. We can see it through the existence of Feminist movement that fights against the misogyny. There was August Strindberg whose literary works, most of them, are on the opposite side of the feminists since they reflected his misogyny.

He is a famous Swedish dramatist and novelist. His influence on the novel and the drama throughout Europe and America is enormous. He is cruel and vicious; an irresponsible and uncontrollable lunatic. Nevertheless, he is a genius and his works have brutal beauty. And he remains as the greatest author of Sweden (Hartmann 799).

He was born and grew up in poverty, lack of love and affection, and the only one in his family who gave him a thought of affection or care was his grandmother. His mother died and his father married their housekeeper. He had had a hard life. It seems like he failed in almost everything he tried to do, including his marriages. He had married for three times but they always ended in divorce because he had always been so cruel to his wives. His failures made him insane but still genius in producing literary works. All Strindberg's writings are his autobiography and his confession. When he died of cancer, thirty thousand people came to his funeral. This showed that lots of people adored his works (Hartmann 799-800).

One of the most popular plays he produced is *The Father*. *The Father* is a play portraying the tragedy of a couple, a father and a mother, who are struggling for the absolute control of their child. The father's love is concerned with the development of their daughter, while the mother's is interested mainly in the possession of her. The Captain does not have enough self-confidence to defend his own thoughts while his wife is a very cunning woman. She fights her husband with everything she can do to gain her goal in having the rights to make decisions for the future of their daughter, Bertha, and to make Bertha hers only. She even tells her husband that Bertha is not his daughter. She also convinces everyone around them that her husband is insane because he thinks the child is not his offspring. This is a very good tactic. Her main weapon, related to interfering with his work and telling lies of his growing madness, influence him slowly. Finally she defeats her husband and gets Bertha for her own. The husband dies as a victim of maternal over-dominance by having a heart attack for he cannot bear it any longer.

*The Father* is one of his works that depicts 'the battle of sexes'. Most of his works such as *Miss Julie*, *The Dance of Death*, and *The Link* also express this 'battle of sexes'. According to Strindberg, the bad person or the antagonist would win, that is the woman, and the man was defeated (Gassner, 148). This shows that he is a misogynist. He became a misogynist since he considered his mother's death and leaving him unloved was the cause of all his failures in his life.

Based on the fact from many critics that Strindberg is a misogynist, the writer is interested in analyzing the way the author expresses his misogyny and his

inner conflict in his play. There is something interesting in this play. Even though he is a misogynist, it seems that he is missing his mother's existence in his life. It means that there is a contradiction: there is inner conflict in Strindberg. To understand the contradiction between the playwright's point of view on women as a misogynist and his longing of mother's existence as a human being, it is a must to start the research by analyzing the intrinsic aspect towards the work. And the intrinsic aspect to be analyzed here is the character and the characterization.

Then, what the writer must do is analyzing the extrinsic aspect, which is also an important element of this study, to make a complete analysis. Derived from this idea, the analysis includes the biography of the playwright, which influences the creative process in making *The Father* and his other 'battle of sexes' plays. By doing the analysis of both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects, the writer can acquire a complete and obvious depiction about the playwright's point of view upon women as a misogynist and his longing to his mother's existence in his life as a normal human being.

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

The discussion of background of the study leads the writer to some questions that rise in her mind that can be formulated as below:

1. How are the characterization of Laura and the Captain described in the play?



2. How does the characterization of Laura and the Captain reflect the playwright's inner conflict in his unconscious mind that makes him a misogynist?
3. What result the writer can achieve after reading this play?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, the study has the objectives that are to find objective reality through analyzing the characterization of the main characters, and the relationship between the intrinsic and the extrinsic aspects.

Thus, the objectives can be specified as:

1. To find out how the main characters' characterization: Laura and the Captain are described.
2. To find out and to clarify how the characterization of Laura and Captain reflects the playwright's inner conflict in his unconscious mind that makes him a misogynist.
3. To know what result the writer can achieve after reading this play.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

By this study, the writer expects to give a meaningful contribution in the study of August Strindberg and his works generally, and especially his play *The Father*, since there is no one who has discussed it before. The writer also hopes that this study about Strindberg and this play can be a means for the students of

English Department in understanding the plays of Strindberg as the most outstanding author from Sweden.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

Having a subchapter called Scope and Limitation is important so the writer can do the analyzing without going beyond the object of the study. The study of *The Father* consists of two main areas, which are the intrinsic aspect and the extrinsic aspect. In the intrinsic aspect, the writer focuses on the discussion of the main characters and their characterization. While from the extrinsic aspect the biography of the playwright is the focus of the discussion.

The main characters in the play who give much contribution to the analyzing of the object of the study are Laura and her husband called the Captain. They are chosen as the focus of the intrinsic aspect's analysis since Strindberg is elaborating his idea about women through both characters.

The biography of Strindberg is chosen as the focus of the analysis of the extrinsic aspect since his background can be the supported material for the study of relationship between this play and his idea about women as a misogynist and as a normal human being who longed for his mother's existence in his life. The analysis of his biography is emphasized only in his childhood and in the period of his first marriage.

The analysis of extrinsic aspect of the play will be carried out by applying psychoanalysis theory. Furthermore, the application of the psychoanalysis theory is limited into some specific parts, which are the unconsciousness of human mind,

the ego defense mechanisms, and dreams, that can be used in this analysis, to keep this analysis on the right track so that it will not turn out into a conclusion of another subject of study.

## **F. Theoretical Background**

The study of literary work scientifically cannot be separated from theory. Theory plays an important role for the writer in explaining the problems, which exist in the statement of the problem. The right theory will be able to find the right answer for the problems. It is obvious that theory will help the study of literary work as scientific research by collecting the supporting facts and formulating the answers of the problems. In this subchapter, a brief explanation about theory and approaches used here and the reason for choosing it as the instrument to analyze the play will be given.

This study is using two kinds of approaches to answer the problems. Since this study discusses the play from both sides: the intrinsic and extrinsic areas about the relationship between the play and its playwright's idea about women as a misogynist and about his longing to his mother's existence as a normal human being, the writer decides to use the intrinsic approach and extrinsic approach. The intrinsic approach deals with the characters and their characterization, while the extrinsic approach consists two approaches, i.e. biographical approach since it deals with the biography of the playwright, and psychological approach as well for the main purpose of the study is analyzing the unconscious thoughts of the

playwright that are expressed through the characterization of the main characters in this play.

For the theory, the writer decides to use psychoanalysis theory considering the unconscious thoughts of the playwright that emerge through the characterization of the main characters in this play are the focus of this study to find out the answers of the problems. Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychology, which is often related to literary works. Both psychology and literature have the same topic of discussion that is human being. Psychology learns about the human being's mental process, and literature is the means to express the mental process of human being.

This branch of psychology has its specialty in the unconscious part of human being. Sigmund Freud was the first psychoanalyst and he believed factors that influence thought and action exist outside of awareness. He also believed that unconscious conflict plays a part in shaping normal and abnormal behavior, and that the past has an effect on the present. Psychoanalysis is a general theory of human mental functioning that always maintains respect for the uniqueness of each individual life. By using psychoanalysis theory towards a literary work, we can reveal its author's life, thoughts, and ideas (American Psychoanalytic Association 2).

A literary work from the psychoanalysis' point of view can be categorized as a way the unconscious of the author / playwright / poet gets out from his thought. His unconscious thought related to the theme of his work whether he realized it or not, will influence the way he depicts the characters in his work. The



word *unconscious* as the keyword of this theory, according to Freud, means thoughts, and wishes that a person is unaware of. The unconscious mind is a part of human which filled with feelings and thoughts that repressed or pushed out of awareness, for they are in some way threatening to us but still influence behavior (Freud 305).

### **G. Method of the Study**

To make this literary study complete as the scientific one, the writer does the research from many sources. She does the research in the library as well as the research on the Internet to help her to get the proper analysis.

From those researches, she collects information dealing with Strindberg and his play *The Father*. She also finds data about psychoanalysis to complete her study.

After collecting data, the writer categories the data into primary and secondary data. Subsequently, to understand the contradiction between the playwright's hatred toward women and his longing of mother's existence that is shown in this play, it is a must to start the research by analyzing the intrinsic aspect towards the work. Thus, the intrinsic aspect to be analyzed here is the character and the characterization.

The writer analyzes the main characters by describing them so that she can figure out their personalities. For this reason the writer will apply descriptive analysis method. However, the writer thinks that the method is not enough to attain the best result for the data found from each character still have to be

interpreted properly to get the reason for every action the characters take. Hence, the writer will apply the interpretative analysis method.

Then, what the writer must do is analyzing the extrinsic aspect, which is also an important element of this study, to make it complete. Derived from this idea, the analysis includes the biography of the playwright, which influences the creative process in making his 'battle of sexes' plays, especially *The Father*. By doing the analysis of both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects, the writer can acquire a complete and obvious depiction about the playwright's hatred toward women as a misogynist and his longing to his mother's existence in his life as a normal human being.

## H. Definition of Key Terms

Defining some key words will enable the readers to understand this study more easily. The readers will often meet some words below:

- ***Misogynist***: a person who hates women and tries to dominate them physically and/or psychologically to feel safe (Carter par. 1-5).
- ***Unconscious***: the area of our experience outside our awareness because its contents never were conscious (traces or events before we had language when we were infants), or because its contents have been repressed or pushed out of awareness, because they are in some way threatening to us (Freud 305-306).
- ***Psychoanalysis***: a branch of psychology that has specialty in studying the unconscious of human beings (Eagleton 158-159).

- ***Oedipus Complex:*** an unconscious desire of a boy to possess his mother and to get rid of his father as his rival (Hjelle and Ziegler 99).
- ***Contradiction:*** a condition, (in this study) a mental condition where a person have two contradictory feelings at the same time.

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**