

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

According to Goldman in his essay *The Genetic-Structuralist Method in the History of Literature* (1964:55-74), "literary work is the expression of imaginary *world-view*. The author creates characters, objects, and the relation among them in his imagination".

The above statement indicates that literary product has a social function, such as expressing the author's *world-view*. The *world-view*, in this case, is not merely the empirical fact, but also includes the idealistic reality. However, it is important to know that the *world-view* expressed in the literary work cannot be genuinely considered as the author's idea. It can be the *world-view* of his contemporary society which later influences the author as a nuclear member so that the analysis of the literary work in conjunction with the author's biography in a broader context of his associated social group structure becomes unavoidable to convey the author's *world-view*.

To reconstruct the author's *world-view*, it is a must to begin with the analysis of the intrinsic aspect of the work towards the genetic factors which includes the author and its contemporary socio-historical facts. The analysis of the intrinsic-structure comprises of characters, plot, setting, point of view, and theme. However,



the analysis of the intrinsic structure can partially take one element or whole elements in inter-relationship.

Substantially, the literary product as a socio-cultural system cannot be separated from the extrinsic context as long as it has close relationship with the center issue of the study. Based on this idea, the research also includes the biography of the author to contribute the exploration of the creative process of the author as the member of certain society and his ideological background.

Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan* is a drama portraying a moralist prostitute woman who lives in a society wherein immoral conduct is necessary for survival. She is later known as Shen Te, the good woman of the title. She suffers from a dilemma that leads her to a complicated conflict within herself. Since she lives in a corrupt society, she is torn in two by the gods' command to be good and her need of survival. She cannot be good to herself and other people at the same time. She has to give in her need of survival when she is good to others. However, she must step on others when she treats herself properly. She has to drop her genuine self-personality and take the form of her fictive cousin namely Shui Ta who is a ruthless and wicked man. But Shui Ta is very important to her to make her impossible do the good activities to other people. He provides financial capital by operating his business strictly and makes people miserable so that Shen Te's goodness is still in demand.

" Brecht's plays, " says Harold Clurman in *Lies Like Truth*, 1958 " are morality plays as surely as anything written to demonstrate the road to salvation or to

mock the civil one. His play which is being discussed in this study does not merely illustrate goodness but also immorality side of a man. By means of Shui Ta's characterization, Brecht elaborates the moral destruction which is inevitably unavoidable to survive in the society. Brecht describes the moral destruction as his way to present the cathartic experience with which the audiences are naturally purified (Gassner, J & Dukore, B. 1970:868-869). From this view-point, we come to know that Brecht's play has social function. The role of the social function lies on dialectical activities done by the readers towards the mission of the work.

Brecht is a major modern playwright, a significant dramatic theorist, and an important director whose work in each capacity informs his practice in the others (Gassner, J. & Dukore, B. 1970:868). He is also considered as one of Marxist playwright whose objective is to change the corrupt society by exposing the socially formed characters.

He believes that his *anti-Aristotelian Epic Theatre* is able to dramatize a complete social picture. It portrays human beings as 'the sum of all social circumstances' and gives 'a comprehensive picture of the world' (Goldman, 1964:46). Its major goal is to make the audiences actively and critically analyze not only social behaviour but the structure of society as well (Gassner, J. & Dukore, B. 1970:870).

Moreover, he is exploring the learning plays, didactic ones which teach social attitudes by showing social types and actions. Briefly the *Aristotelian* play is essentially static, its task is to show the world as it is. The learning play is essentially dynamic; its

task is to show the world as it changes and also how it may be changed (Baranski, Z & Short, J. R. 1985 :79).

In the writer's opinion, the *World Vision* held by Bertolt Brecht has a close relationship with his moral vision since the author is a moralist whose works concern much with morality. Based on the above description, the problem of the author's moral vision is an essential point because the literary world's existence is considered as a part of socio-cultural system which cannot be separated from the extrinsic context. Therefore, the major problem to be researched is about the author's moral vision as reflected in the work.

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

The discussion of background of the study above leads the writer to some significant problems that are formulated as follows :

1. How far can the characterization support the manifestation of the author's moral vision ?
2. How far is the author's biography closely related to the moral vision expressed in his work ?
3. How far does the socio-cultural system influence the author's moral vision ?

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

The study has the explorative objectives. Based on the statement of the problems above, the study is to find objective reality through analyzing the relationship inter phenomenon. However, the specific objectives of the study, thereby are mentioned below :

1. To find out the characterization of the work as the manifestation of the author's moral vision.
2. To figure out the relationship between the biography of the author and the work researched.
3. To explore the socio-cultural background which influences the author's moral vision.

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

This study is contemplated to reveal the socio-cultural phenomenon which lies in the author's *world-view*. By means of it, the awareness of past experience could be achieved to avoid of having the same unprofitable condition in the future.

Exclusively, this study is expected to give a meaningful contribution in the study of Bertolt Brecht's works generally and his *The Good Woman of Setzuan* particularly. The writer effort to present the moral vision embodied in the work is also expected to enlighten the readers about both the humanity and inhumanity side of

human being through dialectical activities. Furthermore, the readers could apply it in their own world.

The writer hopes that the outcome of this study may broaden our sense about the practice of humanity extensively. And may it is not an exaggeration thing that this study will give a considerable contribution in the development of literary study particularly in the English Department of Airlangga University.

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

In this subchapter, the writer is presenting the scope and limitation of the study. It is very important to have agreement in the limitation because it will prevent the writer from analyzing beyond the object of the study.

The study of Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan* covers three main areas include the intrinsic aspect of the work with the focus on the main characters, the biography of the author, and the last area is the socio-cultural system in which the work taken place.

The main characters in the play whose characterization give much contribution to the finding of the theme are Shen Te and Shui Ta. Taking Shen Te as the central aspect of the study is under consideration that Brecht is elaborating his idea of how a person behaves to give a meaningful response to a particular situation in a corrupt society through Shen Te's characterization most which is in contrast with Shui Ta's.

## **F. Theoretical Background**

The discussion of literary work scientifically cannot be separated from the theory. It plays an important role in the writer's explanation of the phenomenon existing in the object of the study. The right theory will be able to answer the proposed problems. Furthermore, it is obvious that the study of literary work as a scientific research needs theory as the instrument to answer the problems by collecting the supporting fact and formulating the relationship of the inter-phenomenon. Moreover, theory can help to define statement of the problem, the objective of the study, scope and limitation, and the analysis of the data.

In this subchapter, a short description about theory used in this study and the reason for selecting it as the instrument to analyze the play will be given. In the writer's opinion, Lucien Goldman's *Genetic Structuralism* is applicable in this research because it is focusing the analysis on the intrinsic structure in relation with the extrinsic elements of the literary work which include the author's biography and the social system of the associated society.

This thesis is a sociological study of a literary work but it regards the explanation of the whole meaning of the work as the main source. It is explained that from the point of view of the literary sociology, structuralism pinpoints the literary work as a basic datum of research, seeing it as 'a layered system of meanings' which add up to an integrated whole and which is closely related, but not wholly determined by external factors.

Goldman's *Genetic Structuralism* is based on the assumption that the structures of literary work are homologous with the mental structure of certain social groups or is in intelligible relation with them. It can be further appeared according to the following model : the group constitutes a process of structuration that elaborates in the consciousness of its members affective, intellectual, and practical tendencies towards a coherent response to the problems presented by their relations with nature and their inter-human relations (Goldman, 1964: 158).

This study covers some of *Genetic Structuralism's* categories such as *structuration of literary work, world-view, and collectivity of the subject*. The first one will explain inter-phenomenon in the work itself. The description of world-view will be used as mediation to explain the homology between the structure of the work and society. The last part will explore the description of social condition in the associated society. Meanwhile the biographical approach will be given to clarify the ideological background of the author which supports the thematic structure of the work itself.

### **G. Bibliographical Study**

As far as the library research has been conducted, especially at the libraries of Airlangga University, study on characterization and its relation to the author's biography and the social condition as a global phenomenon in a certain era in an



integrated discussion has not been found, and neither has the study on characterization and social phenomenon in Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan*.

There are several source books used in this study among others :

1. Gassner, J and Dukore, F. B. *A Treasuring of the Theatre* (1970) which discusses the characterization of the play.
2. Goldmann, L *Toward a Sociology of the Novel* (1964) which describes theory of Genetic-Structuralism.
3. Short, R. J. And Baranski, G. Z. *Developing Contemporary Marxism* (1985) which talks about biography of Bertolt Brecht.

#### H. Method of the Study

The study of the structure of a society in certain era implied in the heroine of Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan* will use explorative method. It will explore the structure of the work and its relation to the structure of associated society through the categories of Goldman's *Genetic-Structuralism*. The sources are accumulated by library research which is done by collecting, reading, and selecting the information concerning to the play, theory, and its playwright.

The steps and the techniques of data collecting employed systematically in this study can be defined as follows. The first step is collecting all of the data on the characterization of Shen Te in the play researched. After that, all of the data

successfully collected are observed whether they are significant enough to be enclosed in the research. The following step is classifying the data into primary and secondary data. Only the primary data are included into the analysis. The primary data on the characterization of Shen Te are then analyzed and the outcome of the analysis is eventually interpreted to find its implication toward the associated society. The data analysis is principally conducted in conjunction with theory used in the study. And the technique of the data analysis are descriptive and interpretative.

### **I. Definitions of Key Terms**

- Moral** : Individual's state of behaviour constructed by religious background.
- World-view** : a convenient term for the whole complex of ideas, aspirations, and feelings which links together the members of a social group. And only the great writer's work that a world vision is expressed, based on the human condition and an exceptional awareness of major social trends.
- Genetic** : The factors that deal with the origins of the literary work. In the state of Lucien goldman Genetic Structuralism, they could be the author's world view or his contemporary socio-cultural background.

**Structuralism** : Concepts of system in which the elements under analysis form numerous dynamic relations with other elements, with the other parts of the system, and where every element has a meaning only in relation to the other parts.

## **CHAPTER II**

# **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: GENETIC- STRUCTURALISM**