

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

I.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As a student in literature, there is a very important question we must deal with. "What is literature" is an important question which in fact is very difficult to answer.

Literature is the way of an author to express his or her feeling, attitude, idea or thought about life and the world by the medium of language. (Rees, 1973:19)

Talking about literature means that we are dealing with a work of a human being which represents the aspects of human life. Literature should be able to pass to us some feeling or idea we at once recognized as part of our own experience and truth in life. Regarding this fact about literature, it is understandable that literature is significant in our life because literature can bring a man into contact more closely with the real life, more understanding, adequacy and satisfaction with the others. The use of literature is to help us toward a better understanding of ourselves and our fellow human being. (Rees, 1973:11)

As a part of literary forms, the writer chooses novel as the subject for her thesis.

C. Hugh Holman in "Handbook to Literature" defines novel as a fictional prose narrative in which the

world, for the novel itself is infact so far ahead its own time. It is still alive and valid today as when it was written.

Clyde, the main character, can be regarded as a tragic character. Surely it will be easy to hate Clyde for his being a greedy opportunist whom fervid ambitions in pursuing the luxury of life has made him ignore all moral restraints and for his being a feckless and heartless youth. Nevertheless, Clyde is pitiable as the victim of social forces he can not resist and dare not to deny. It will be easy enough to feel sorry for him as his life is a tragedy of failure, indifference and ignorance. Clyde becomes a man who deifies material success because it is only those kind of men will be accepted in the society where he lived. Without it, he is nothing.

I.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There are several interesting questions that arise in connection with this novel :

- (1) How do Clyde's character and background support the emergence of his dreams and efforts to have a luxurious life ?
- (2) What kind of social conflicts happen around Clyde that effect his psychological ones ?
- (3) How does the conflict end ?

I.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

It is the objective of the study to reveal the background and character of Clyde that has contributed in the emergence of his dreams and efforts to have the luxurious life.

This work also tends to reveal what kind of social conflicts and problems folding Clyde that effected his psychological ones.

The last is to reveal how the conflicts end, with a tragic ending or with a hopeful way out.

I.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Conducting a research on a literary work such as this, the writer hopes that the result, no matter limited it might be, will give contribution to the world of knowledge in general and the world of literature in particular. Also, it is hoped that this work will contribute something to researches and studies on literature especially in English Department Unair where many similar researches have been conducted all the time.

The writer hopes that this research will enlarge her knowledge about literature, also will sharpen her awareness about the 'mystery' of life and human experience. Hopefully, it will help the writer towards a better understanding about life itself and the relationship with other fellow human being.

to use the *the psychological and social approaches* to support the analysis of the conflict.

I.7. METHOD OF THE STUDY

In the process of writing this thesis, especially because the writer is dealing with the work of fiction, the writer must collect and find materials and data to make a proper analysis. Therefore, the writer is using the *library research*. A library research is a process of finding information which are useful in helping the writer to direct the research. The writer collects data and informations from various books, articles, encyclopedias and all kinds of related materials. This is also what the writer does concerning materials and data for the literary theories and approaches. (Komaruddin, 1982:18)

Considering the subject of the study, the *descriptive analysis* is used. Descriptive analysis depicts the problems through dialogues, events, and actions. This method applied is based on the work itself and supported by other information about this work. (Komaruddin, 1982:18)

I.8. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

American Dream:

A myth which is believed by most American at large that men constantly desires to better his lot, spiritually as well as materially.

Capitalism:

A term related to a particular system of the socio economics organization (generally contrasted with feudalism on one hand and socialism on the other hand).

Materialism:

A view believing that all facts (including facts about human mind and will and the cause of human history) are casually dependent upon physical processes or even reducible to them.

I.9. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

The writer has devided this thesis into six chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction which is devided into nine sub-chapters, namely the Background of the study, the Statement of the Problem, Objective of the study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Theoretical background, Method of the Study, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of the Paper.

The second chapter is the Theoretical Framework in which the writer will explain about the theory and approaches used in the analysis. In this chapter, the writer also explains the reasons why this theory and approaches are significant.

The third chapter is about the author and his work. Here the writer has discussed about Theodore Dreiser's life and the works which he has produced during his lifetime.

The fourth and the fifth chapter are the analysis. In these chapters, the writer is making an elaborate analysis on the character, plot, setting and conflicts.

The sixth chapter is the conclusion. The problems concerned with this thesis are going to be answered in this final chapter.