

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

Although Blanche Dubois's obsession can be traced through several element on this play. I will only limit on three elements of the play. They are plot, setting and characterization. From my study, I believe that Blanche Dubois's problem or suffering are clearly revealed through these elements.

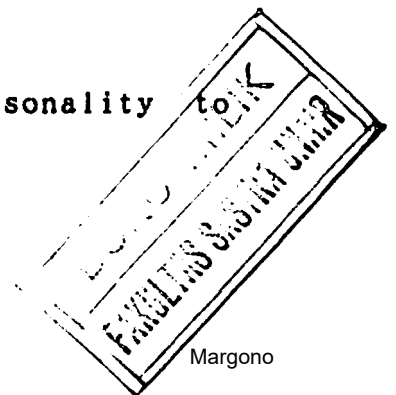
III.1 Plot

The sequence of events are arranged in chronologically in which they are able to reveal the inferiority feeling of Blanche Dubois. The sequences of events are :

1. Blanche Dubois visits her sister, Stella Kowalski who lives in Elysian Fields a New Orleans.
2. When Blanche has entered the Kowalski's home, she criticizes her sister's place which is not comfortable enough for her. She scolds Stella for not telling her about its real condition.
3. Blanche tells Stella that she is taking a long "leave" from teaching because her work is very exhausting.

4. Blanche Dubois tells Stella her struggles in holding Belle Reve, taking care of their sick parents and relatives, and all her burden she has carried all by herself. But she can not save Belle Reve since she can not pay all the debts.
5. When Stella is crying and goes into bathroom, Blanche Dubois meets Stanley Kowalski. He questions her about her past marriage which makes her sick.
6. Stella informs her husband the reasons of Blanche's coming to visit them and the lost of Belle Reve.
7. Being suspicious Stanley insists her wife to search Blanche's belongings which she keeps in her trunk.
8. Blanche explains the loss of Belle Reve by showing the papers and documents concerning the place.
9. In the following night, after Blanche and Stella return from watching a film, Blanche meets Mitch, a friend of Stanley who is playing poker in Kowalski's home.
10. Stanley becomes angry because Mitch has left the poker game for a long time in order to chat with Blanche. He becomes more furious especially since Blanche and Mitch are dancing while the music from the radio is turned on loudly.
11. Stanley throws the radio and hit Stella who tries to stop him.

12. Blanche is shocked knowing that Stella still loves and return to Stanley after his bad conduct to his wife.
13. Stella convinces Blanche that anything can happen when a man drinks and play poker. However, nothing is serious.
14. Blanche urges her sister to face the real fact that she is married with madman. She force Stella to leave out from him.
15. Blanche also tells Stella that Stanley is like an animal in which their conversation are heard by Stanley and he does not say anything to them.
16. In the days following, Blanche plans to date Mitch and gradually "traps" him.
17. Blanche tells Stella that She really likes Mitch. She plans to decieve him about her real age, so that Mitch will be attracted in order Mitch love to her by thinking that Blanche is not that old.
18. Blanche explains to Mitch how much Stanley hates her very much. She also tells him about her past story partaining to her young husband's suicide.
19. In mid September, Stella prepares a surprise on Blanche's birthday.
20. Stanley keeps picking on Blanche's personality



his wife and tries to reveal that Blanche has been deceiving them, but Stella doesn't believe him.

21. Stanley informs his wife that Mitch won't come to Blanche's birthday party which upsets Stella.
22. Blanche can not understand why Mitch does not come to her party.
23. After Blanche's birthday party, Stanley becomes angry since his wife commands him to clean the table, a request that has never done before.
24. Blanche receives a birthday present from Stanley, a bus ticket back to Laurel. Not strong enough to face this Stella feels the symptoms that she is going to deliver the baby and has to be brought to the hospital.
25. The following night, Mitch visits Blanche telling her that he will not see her anymore.
26. Mitch also convinces her that he will not marry her, because she has deceived him and has told her that she is not clean enough to bring in his house with his mother.
27. Blanche is shocked, she screams to Mitch to leave immediately.
28. After Mitch leaves, Blanche has drunk rather heavily.

29. Stanley returns from the hospital and explain to her that his wife is in good condition and the baby won't come before morning.
30. Blanche is very frightened when Stanley reveals all the truth about her, particularly when she was in Laurel and her reason for "visiting" them.
31. Stanley rapes Blanche.
32. The doctor takes Blanche to mental institution.

This play is introduced by the arrival of Blanche Dubois to her sister, Stella Kowalski's place. From the way she dresses, Blanche acts as if she were pure and innocent. The exposition is introduced in this scene by introducing the place (cosmopolitan city, busy town) and some of the characters (Stanley, Blanche Dubois, Stella Eunice, and Mitch) and finally conflicts or problems.

The conflicts occur at the moment Blanche enters Stella's place. Blanche's arrival has effected Stella's family and the people around her. Blanche does not tell the truth about her real self, her guilts and her past life in Belle Reve and later in Laurel. She tries to displace her painfull thought in the past and in the present to others. Her thought is distrubed when she saw the condition of her sister's place. It is against her beautifull dream, thus she tries so hard to

influence her sister like what she really imagined. We can see how Blanche criticizes Stella's house. Which according to her is not good enough to live in or we can say it is not appropriate with her dream that have ever been possessed before. In this case, Blanche's obsession to live in Romantic World is very strong eventhough her obsession caused many problem in Stanley's house.

Because of all these, Blanche must conceal her failure in the past by telling lies, doing tricks, myths, and pretending in order her obsession will come true or at least, the society will accept her world anymore. Blanche even lies to her own sister about her not being a teacher anymore. According to her, she stops teaching due to her being exhausted of becoming a teacher. She teels Stella by pretending to be the best and busy teacher. She does not tell Stella that actually she is fired and is asked to leave Laurel forever. Blanche has disgraced her self by her love affairs, moreover, after attempting to sedure her student, a boy of seventeen.

Blanche will tell the truth only when she thinks necessary, such as the lost of Belle Reve, the deaths of the Dubois 'sisters' parents and relatives. She has to tell the truth because the only fact concerning

Belle Reve is due to the debts that she can never paid.

Blanche does not want people to know or guess her age, because she does not want to grow older. She always obsesses to become the Belle of the plantation, the perfect and beautiful girl who is admired by all the young men there - a time in the past before the tragedy of the Southern Plantation. Therefore, she is always avoids direct sunlight on bright light when meeting people, particularly Mitch. She obsesses to be young and beautiful.

Stella : It's drive, that he has. You're standing in the light Blanche!

Blanche : Oh, am I!

(She moves out of the yellow streak of light. Stella has removed her dress and put on a light blue satin Kimono).

(Tennessee William, 1947, 64)

Knowing Blanche's stories, Stella realizes Blanche's sufferings, Stella always believes whatever story she tells her whether it is true or a lie.

Blanche is deceiving Mitch as well in order to attract him. She refuses drinking beer when Mitch offers one by denying that she hates beer. She wants to

convince Mitch that she is a good innocent girl who never performs a harmful thing on her life. Blanche wants to make sure that her arrival is to help her sister from the rundown. Blanche believes, by telling Mitch that Stella can not adapt herself in this new world which is different from Belle Reve. In reality, it is Blanche who can not adjust herself with the "New" world.

Mitch : (adjusting the lantern) I guess we strike you as being a pretty rough bunch.

Blanche : I'm very adaptable - to circumstances.

Mitch : Well, that's a good thing to be. You are visiting Stanley and Stella.

Blanche : Stella hasn't been so well lately, and I come down to help her for a while, she is very rundown.

From that quotation, we can see how Blanche acts to convince Mitch that she can survive even though she lives in Romantic World. In this case Blanche tried so hard to get rid of in Romantic World in her life, she was sure that her world could survive on it, but actually her world was already displaced.

Blanche really deceives Stella's life and other people like Mitch by all her lies. She realizes that

she is not a good woman, and believes that people will ridicule and insult her if they know the truth. To avoid this, she has to pretend to be good, and well - behaved. On the contrary, Stanley who likes being frank realizes Blanche's existence and influence on his family and friends. Actually, he is willing to accept Blanche, as long as she behaves normally by being honest about herself. He understands Blanche as a human being, but he cannot tolerate her telling lies, and underestimating his place, friends and wife. Blanche's obsession makes Stanley hate her. This conflict becomes complicated when Blanche has really interfere with his contentment. As he plays a poker game with his friend, Mitch leaves him and talk to Blanche for a long time. By neglecting the game, Mitch and Blanche have disturbed the players by turning on the radio loudly. Stanley cannot stand this any longer, he throws the radio and hits his wife who is trying to stop him.

Mitch : I guess that some of them are more interested in other things.

Blanche : How very right you are! their literary heritage is not what most of them treasure above all else. But they're sweet things and in the spring, it's touching to notice them

making their first discovery of love! As if nobody had ever known it before (the bathroom door opens and Stella comes out. Blanche continuous talking to Mitch) Oh! Have you finished? wait - I'll turn on the radio. (Stanley talks fiercely through the portieres into the bedroom. He crosses to the small white radio and suatches it off the table. With a shouted oath he tossess the instrument out the window).

From that quotation, we can see that Stanley's contentment is distrubed by Blanche's illusion so that he can not concentrating on his game. Stanley belongs to the kind of people who will destroy anybody who tries to interfere with his personal affairs.

After learning the fact, Blanche is very shocked when Stella comes back to Stanley. Blanche considers the scene a serious problem but Stella sees it as some common thing that happens when a man is drinking and playing poker at the same time. She convinces Blanche that there is nothing to worry about. In this matter, Blanche doesn't realize that she has caused trouble in her sister's place. On the other hand, she is persuading Stella to leave her husband and start a new

life. Stanley is "mad" and therefore deserves no pity or love any longer. Blanche tries to convince Stella that Stanley is a "primitive" an animal man. Ape-like, sub-human and the survivor of the stone age. What Blanche done in this case, is to persuade her sister not to follow Stanley's world. He is not deserve to be her wife, he is different from her world that ever had before.

In the following days, Blanche plans to date Mitch. Before he (Mitch) comes to Stella's place, Blanche informes Stella about her plan in deciving Mitch. Blanche is very sensitive about her own age and her appearance, she is afraid if Mitch will not like her because of her appearance and her age, therefore she prefers no to tell her real age to Mitch.

Stella : Why are you sensitive about your age?

Blanche : Because of hard knocks my vanity's been given
 What I mean is -he thinks I'm sort of -pirms
 and proper, you know! (she laughs out
 sharply) I want to decieve him enough to make
 him -want me

(Tennessee William, 1947, 73)

The quotation above shows that Blanche has inner conflict about her own appearance, she is worried if

Mitch will not love her, that's why she tries so hard to get rid of it. Her obsession to be beautiful woman like in the past is still shadowing her mind, in this case, she will tell a lie about she real age if someone asks her about the real age.

Eventually, Stanley knows all Blanche's tricks, lies and conceits. He feels that the existence of Blanche has ruined his family's unharmony, whether between his wife and his friends. Stanley also feels that Stella is paying more attention to Blanche's need as if Stella take a prerioty for Blanche's need so that his position on his place has been moved by Blanche's obsession. And this problem achieve the climax when Stella order her husband to clean the table. In which it is never happened before. Stanley becomes very angry, he emphasizes that he is the king of his own place and he will rule his place as he pleases.

Stella : Your face and your fingers are disgustingly greasy. Go and wash up and then help me clear the table. (he hurls a plate to the floor)

Stanley : That's how I'll clear the table! (He seizes her arm). Don't ever talk ever talk that way to me! "pig-polak-disgusting-vulgar-greasy!"- them kind of words have been on your tongue

and your sister's too much around here! What do you two think you are? A pair of queens? Remember what Huey Long said "Every man is a king!". And I am the king around here, so don't forget it (He hurls a cup and saucer to the floor). My place is cleared! you want me to clear your places? ..

(Tennessee William, 1947, 82)

From time to time Stanley has told his wife that Blanche's stories are not true. Blanche has been feeding some tricks, illusion, conceit and lies to them but Stella does not believe them. Stanley tries to reveal all Blanche's past secrets and affairs when in Laurel by gathering information from the people who used to go to Laurel. Meanwhile, Blanche keeps on telling lies to Mitch, by saying that she has never been kissed by some fellows and she wants to leave the exhausting job, concealing the fact that she has to quit teaching due to her mixing up with seventeen year old boy.

After knowing Blanche's obsession, Mitch comes to see Blanche, he wants to convince that he was not marry her anymore. Since Mitch meets Blanche, he never sees her in the light. That's why he urges Blanche to turn on

the light so that he will know how her appearance he has because everytime he asks her to go out in the afternoon she always excuse. When Stanley turn on the light, Blanche looks older than Mitch imagine. Blanche's obsession to be perfect woman has already revealed after Mitch turn on the light, Blanche really could not hide her obsession anymore and finally she confess to Mitch that she is unfit for any position but in other hand, she has obsession in order her world could be accepted by the society again. Or at least the society could take a balance between her world and material world. She realizes that she has nowhere to go and making any tricks. Lier, illusion and obsession are the things that she can introduce her world to the society and accepted it again. Blanche admits that she considers Mitch only as an escape out of lone-liness. However, Mitch blames Blanche due to her lying anytime to him and he decides not to marry her because she is not clean enough to bring in his house with his mother.

Mitch : (fumbling to embrace her). What I been missing all summer.

Blanche : Then marry me, Mitch!

Mitch : I don't think I want to marry your anymore.

Blanche : No?

Mitch : (dropping his hands from her waist). You're not clean enough to bring in the house with my mother.

(Tennessee William, 1974, 86)

From that quotation, Mitch finally decides to break his relationship with Blanche because Mitch realizes that Blanche has dared to say liar, trick and illusion to him in Mitch himself always tells the truth to her. She dares to do that before she becomes his wife and what about if she has already become his wife, maybe more than that, that's why he breaks his relationship with her.

Mitch's departure in that miserable condition causes Blanche great pain and disappointment. She drinks very heavily and talks loudly to herself. At that time, Stanley enters and tells her that baby won't come before morning and so the doctor has sent him home. Despite the fact that Stanley has known everything about Blanche, she still lies to him. When Stanley comes home from the hospital, Blanche directly informs to him that she has just received an invitation from Mr. Shep Hunteligh to join him for a cruise to The Carribean. She even tells Stanley that Mitch has come to her beg her forgiveness; by sending her a box of

roses. But she has sent him away since 'according to her "Deliberate cruelty is not forgivable". All these lyings are denied by Stanley since he has already known her tricks since she came to his place. He blames her that all her attitudes on his place as if she were the queen of the Nile. These make Stanley urge to destroy her in order his world is not destroyed by her world moreover, misunderstanding, unharmony on his family do not occur anymore. That's why he thinks that it might not be too bad to interfere with Blanche and finally he rapes her.

Blanche : I would! I will if you

Stanley : Oh! so you want some rough house! All right, let's have some rough house (He springs toward her, overturning the table. She cries out and strikes at him with the bottle top but he catch her wrist) Tiger - tiger! Drop the bottle-top! Drop it! We've had this date with each other from the beginning!

(She means. The bottle-top falls. She sinks to her knees. He picks up her inert figure and carries to the bed. The hot trumpet and drums from the Four Deuces sound loudly).

(Tennessee William, 1974, 89)

Stanley who can no longer stand Blanche's obsession, is tempted to shake her up from her dreams. Raping her is the only way to bring Blanche to reality. Two things have happened as the resolution of the play. Blanche can not survive in the real world. In the past had tempted many men because she had been afraid she had lost her attractiveness and charms toward men and her obsession could not come true.

However when a man like Stanley Kowalski is attracted physically to her, despite his hatred regarding Blanche's make believes, Blanche is shattered into pieces. Her obsession to be living in the world of the past as the southern Belle has been destroyed after her being raped. The man she needs has left her, and she does not expect another man, particularly Stanley, to take with place. She has nobody to hang on, she has nowhere to go. She is ruined, and her only place she can go is the mental institution.

From those explanation above, we can take a conclusion that Blanche is symbolizing some of the south people who still love her world (best culture). She is not real character but she represent the society who its culture lost as result of materialism in the north. Because of this, this people's mind were

disturbed, they felt humiliated, they obsessed in order their world could exist anymore in the society. That's why they performed some efforts to make their obsession become true or at least the society realized that Blanche's world could give some happiness besides material, so that it is kind of reminding to the society not to leave their best culture entirely.

III.2 Characterization

Physically Blanche Dubois is not more than 30 years old, but since there are some wrinkles on her face, she looks older. Because of this Blanche realizes that her beauty has faded away. She feels lost because her only weapon in facing the real world is by being young and beautiful. Therefore, she tries to conceal her appearance from being exposed too strong. Blanche is most concerned in her appearance, because she does not want anybody, especially men, to see her wrinkled. Blanche believes completely that wrinkles are signs of old age and ugliness. Blanche realizes that the only way to attract men's attention is through physical appearances. It is her intention to "try" Mitch by undressing in the room with the light on, so that Mitch can see the outline of her body. She also agrees to go out with Mitch only in the evening - so that Mitch can

never see her face clearly. However, her obsession to be beautiful and perfect woman is very strong like when she was young.

Mitch : I've never seen you in the afternoon.

Blanche : Whose fault is that?

Mitch : You never want to go out in the afternoon!

Blanche : Why, Mitch, you're at the plant in the afternoon.

Mitch : Not Sunday afternoon, I've asked you to go out with me sometimes on sundays but you always make an excuse. You never want to go out till after six and then it's always some place that's not lighted much.

(Tennessee William, 1974, p. 85)

Blanche is really fond of dim light or the time after six so that her real wrinkles could not be seen. Moreover, she uses some powder and perfumes to attract man's attention. Blanche doesn't realize that nobody can conceal his on her appearance for long. One way on another the truth will come out. She does not know that people do not pay attention about one's age on one's wrinkles. But Blanche has never known about this and so she has to be. Dishonest as well in order to impress men. She has to pretend to be innocent, proper and

pure. When Mitch offers her a glass of beer, Blanche tell him she has never touched alcoholics on all her life, on one knows, she thinks, that she is addicted to alcoholic drinks. She even tells Mitch that she has never been touched by more than one man - and that was her young husband. She wants to convince Mitch that she is a virgin and is Naive about the world around her "sheltered" life. Infact, Blanche is a great pretender.

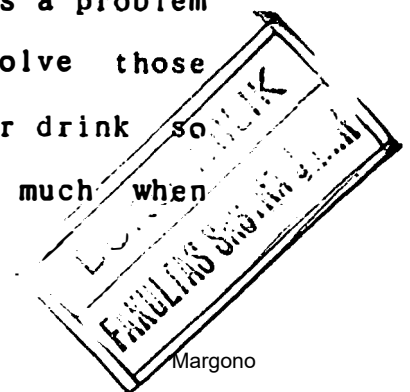
Blanche does not realize that her obsession to be innocent and untouchable has led her to self destruction. It it beyond her thinking that Mitch will at last know the truth about her. Mitch is very disappointed when he knows that all the while Blanche has been deceiving him. Mitch is very hurt and admits that he has sacrificed everything for her, while Blanche on the contrary has lied to him. To Blanche, Mitch says that he thinks that the outer beauty is not the same with the inner beauty. Mitch can not forgive Blanche for lying and so he breaks his relationship with her.

Blanche, who is very certain that Mitch will be hers is unprepared by the sudden charge of event. Blanche has dream that Mitch is going to be a strong harbour where she can rest, Mitch will be the man who can give her a sense of belonging and who is also

captivated by her girlish charms. But her way of approaching him is wrong. She is not frank with herself. What she fails to understand is that Mitch is a serious man who can not accept lies from the person he trusts and loves. Beauty for Mitch means being beautiful physically and mentally. Her attitude does not bring her dreams come true, but on the contrary, they have caused her own destruction. Mitch has not ruined her, but Blanche herself has created her own destruction by her lies and more believes.

Her past experience is still shadowing her attitudes when behaving in the present world. She is not prepared with the situation which is very new to her. She is unable to adapt and adjust herself with the real world. Blanche is used to live in a very sheltered and comfortable life in the past. Her mother and her servant were always there to fulfil her needs. Therefore she becomes dependant to other people. She can not survive when she is left on her own after her parents died and Belle Reve no longer belongs to the Dubois.

As a human being, Blanche can not be aparted from encountering the problems. Everytimes she has a problem or some burdens, Blanche always avoids to solve those problems and event she creates an illusion or drink so much to lighten her problems. She can not do much when



she has to experience a great change in the plantation life. She is ruined when she can not stand the burden any longer. She is helpless when she lost Belle Reve, her parents and relatives had died one after the other. She has nobody to help her ease the burden. She has to face everything alone, which is too much for her, who is so used with the easy and comfortable life in the past. When she faces financial problems she has no one to help on support her, with the lost of Belle Reve, Blanche also lost her dream and honor she once possessed.

After the loss of Belle Reve, Blanche expects somebody that functions as her mother. Then she marries with Allan. With him, Blanche hopes she can face the hard life smoothly as she dreams. That's why she lies her whole hopes on him. Blanche also hopes to build harmonious family life, which comes true for a short time. But it does not last long because she later finds out that her husband is a homosexual who has an intimate relationship course with an old man. Blanche feels that her husband is being disloyalty to her anymore. Finally she provokes him that she has learned everything about her husband. She tells all these to Allan while soon being ashamed of himself, Allan commits suicide. The loss of Belle Reve and the loss of

her husband makes her afterwards become a fragile woman, since losing them is similar to losing of her beautiful dreams that she always has.

As a young beautiful widow, Blanche can not defend her status. She does not behave as required from a widow in order to gain respect from people around her. Blanche gets mixed up with strangers, in this case, men. Her love affairs and scandals are the only way she can do to fulfill her loneliness and emptiness. She is trying to forget her tragic life by seeking comfort from one man to another, hoping that she will finally meet the "right" man who will protect her fragility.

Blanche is also a teacher. As a teacher she should have given them good models and examples both in learning and moral conduct. Blanche has made an unforgivable example to her students as well as the people in Laurel. She has seduced a seventeen year old boy; and because of this, she is fired and is asked to leave Laurel forever. Blanche has been destroyed totally, not only has she lost her fortune but also her job. She is an outcast in her own town and by her own people. She has nowhere to go and nothing to hold except the papers and documents of Belle Reve and her outfits. The only place she knows is Elysian Fields where her sister, Stella, lives happily with her

where her sister, Stella, lives happily with her husband, Stanley. However, Blanche has never learned her lessons. Despite her past life in Laurel of Belle Reve, Blanche still obsesses to be an important "Aristocratic" lady who requires respects from the people who know her. She is certain that no one in Elysian Fields has known of her former life. She feels safe to play the role of the innocent, pure and well-mannered lady from the Southern Plantation. She is quite confident that her secrets are safe, once and for all. Thus with all these in her mind she begins a new life, with her new tricks and lies in a new place.

Blanche realizes that her world has no place anymore. Most of the society lived in a new way of life, materialistic life. One thing should be done by Blanche is to make a change. She wants to convince that her best traditional could bring the happiness and welfare, her desire is to bring back the society into the peaceful life that she ever possessed before, but the way of her action makes other people cause some disharmony.

Blanche's obsession can be seen through how she criticized Stella's place. Her obsession to have a maid and servant like in Belle Reve in the past is so strong. That's why when Blanche found her sister's place has no maid she directly criticized her.

Blanche : No, now seriously, putting joking aside. Why did not you tell me, why didn't you write me, honey, why didn't you let me know?

Stella : (carefully, pouring herself a drink). Tell you what, Blanche?

Blanche : Why, that you had to live in these conditions?

(Tennessee William, 1974, p, 54)

As homeless, Blanche should not say like that because she actualt also needs a shelter to live whatever it is. In this case, Blanche is still comparing the condition of the past with the condition of the present and she believes the past is good way of life, but she doesn't realize that the past she possessed once is lost and she must face the real fact of the present.

Blanche's obsession to defend her best culture back to the society is not supported by reliable effort but she makes some pretense, illusion, disillusion and lying. She won't tell the truth about the real fact of her personality. Her lying can be seen from her information why she does not stay in a hotel. She does not do this not only because of her unabilty to be alone but the fact is that she can not afford the hotel charges. She is flat broke after she stops teaching but

she never admits that her own problem. She does not want anybody to underestimate her.

Stella : Oh, yes. Yes, types is right!

Blanche : Well-anyhow-I brought nice clothes and I'll put up at a hotel, but I'm not going to put up at a hotel. I want to be near you, got to be with somebody, I can't be alone! because - as you must have noticed-I'm not very well ... (her voice drop and her look is frightened).

(Tennessee William, 1974, p, 55)

From that quotation, Blanche does not tell the truth concerning her financial problem to Stella, she is very afraid to be considered a poor. She makes a feign information that contradicts with the real fact.

Blanche can not separate her life from liquor and beer, since these two things help Blanche to enlighten the problems and the burden on her nerves, she has become addicted to them and she realizes that it is bad especially for a woman. To overcome these problems, Blanche sometime does not make a solution to stop drinking totally or impart about her problems frankly to other people. On the other hand, Blanche conceals them and acts as if she were pure, proper and decent

who never performs harmful things on her life. That's why when Stanley and Mitch offer her a bottle of liquor, she refuses it by saying that she never touches it.

Stanley : Where you from, Blanche?

Blanche : Why, I - live in Laurel.

(She has crossed to the closet and removed the whiskey bottle)

Stanley : In Laurel, huh? Oh, yeah. Yeah, in Laurel, That's right. Not in my territory. Liquor goes fast in hot weather. (he holds the bottles to the light to observe its depletion). Have a shot?

Blanche : No, I - rarely touch it.

Stanley : Some people rarely touch it, but it touches them often.

(Tennessee William, 1974, p, 57)

From the quotation above, Stanley actually knows that Blanche has already touched it after she observes the depletion of it. In this matter, Blanche wants to conceal her bad attitudes by telling a lie to Stanley. She pretends to be good.

Blanche is the type of woman who can not judge the real fact of her own personality as well as other's.

When she sees Stanley's brutality, she finally judges him as madman and asks Stella to leave him. For Stella this is not a problem because it always happens when a man play poker and drink. At the same time from the explanation above, I can see that Blanche can not face the real fact of Stanley's habit and influences Stella to leave him. Blanche remembered her former boy friend named Shep Hunteligh, she plans to contact him to see if he can help her out of her situation. In this case, Blanche acts as if she could grant Stella's life if she leaves him, but the real fact is Blanche herself has a difficulty to find her own position in any place. She only obsesses to grant stella a better life. Stella refuses her advise because she is a practical woman who loves her husband very much.

Blanche : I have to plan for us both, to get us both-out!

Stella : You take it for granted that I am in something that I want to get out of.

Blanche : I take it for granted that you still have sufficient memory of Belle Reve to find this place and these poker players impossible to live with.

Stella : Well, you're taking entirely too much for granted.

(Tennessee William, 1974, p, 69)

Based on that quotation above, Blanche is sure that Stanley's world is full of conflict, it could not give her some happiness. In which it is different from her world that's why she influences Stella to leave him. But Stella refused it and she is an adaptable person.

Stella's refusal from leaving Stanley makes Blanche feel that her obsession is not supported by her sister, even though Blanche keeps on bringing Stella into self-realization, but Stella is on her husband's side. Blanche realizes that her obsession is confronted by Stanley's concept of life from the first time she arrived on his place. She considers that he has blocked her obsession to achieve her goal. Because of this, Blanche deems him as her competition and she tries so hard to be higher than Stanley. She brags about his bad attitudes, she calls him like animal, every motion is like animal habit, ape-like and many other names. Blanche is also comparing her world and his world to prove to the people around her that her world is higher than Stanley's.

Blanche : It won't be the sort of thing you have in mind. This man is a gentleman and he respects me. What he wants is my companionship. Having great wealth sometimes make people lonely! A cultivated woman, a woman of intelligence and breeding, can enrich a man's life-immeasurably! I have those things to offer, and this doesn't take them away. Physical beauty is passing. A transitory possession. But beauty of the mind and the richness of the spirit and tenderness of the heart- and I have all of those things -aren't taken away, but grow! Increase with the years! How strange that I should be called a destitute woman! When I have all of these treasures locked in my heart

(Tennessee William, 1974, p, 88)

Here Blanche compares her world with Stanley's world. She considers his world as being gone. While she considers her world as still growing every years and is higher than his world. In this case Blanche's obsession still survive eventhough there is change in the society, and she doesn't see this change of the society's life, that is they tend to have in material

success. Everything is measured by material standard, and spiritual value is put aside by the society, because, at that time, people consider that material success can bring them into happiness.

Actually Stanley knows about Blanche's real condition and her obsession. Stanley feels that her presence in his house has almost destroyed his marriage. After Blanche's arrival, there are often little arguments or misunderstandings between his wife and Stanley, he feels no regret over Blanche's destruction. Eventhough Blanche feels her presence caused many problems. Blanche keeps on living by her being dishonest, telling lies and fabulous story about recieving a wire from her admirer an invitation for a cruise in the Carribbeun with Shep Huntligh. Actually there is no wire from Huntligh. Blanche, in this matter, acts as if she were wellknown woman in the past and there are still many people admiring her and even respect her. It is a fabulous story invented by Blanche. Blanche also informs to Stanley that Mitch come with a box of rose to beg her forgiveness but she refuses to do that because 'deliberate cruelty is not forgiveable'. It is clear that Blanche's information are absolutely against the real fact. It is are of her obsession to become innocent people and her world never

performs such harmful things. That's why she conceal the real fact.

However, Blanche Dubois on this play is actually not the real character, she symbolizes the southern people who their culture lost as result of the north's culture. She is the representative of southern people who become the victim of mechanical ritual by the north. The southern people has chosen the materialistic culture to reach their welfare and the happiness. In other hand they ignore their best culture that ever possessed before. Their life is not based an religion, morally or their culture but it is based on material only. Because of this, Blanche (representative of some southern people who still love their culture), was very sorry, she feels humiliated and her mind was disturbed. They obsesse that their culture is able to be accepted by the society. That's why they try so hard to introduce this culture to the society again, they still believe that their culture could bring some happiness and welfare mentally as well as physically. In short, eventhough Blanche's action caused many trouble an this play, but what's she has done is equal with the obsession of the some of the southern people who want their culture exist an the society.

III.3 Setting

The background of this play is the change of cultural traditional in the South as the result of the influence of materialism and industrial movement from the North. The industrial movement has brought the changes of cultural values in the society. The society doesn't lean on its best cultural tradition that ever had been possessed before but they are faced with the mechanical rituals and simple pragmatics of a material life that promise to improve the welfare. Naturally, the society's view of life is also changed, their life as focused on the materialistic value without considering the cultural traditional of the society.

The materialistic life of this society is reflected by Stanley and his friend's life. They like play poker and bowling and hunting. All of them have muscular, lumpish sensuality and crude energy since their way of life is based on materialistic value (money), thus one is demanded to be an active to face this situation otherwise, they will have difficulties in surviving. I also observe that Stanley's view of life lies on this view. When Stanley explains to him about the loss of Belle Reve, Stanley's mind is directly focused on the Napoleonic code (money) in which he must get a piece of the property.

Stanley : let me enlighten you on a point or two, baby?

Stella : Yes?

Stanley : In the state of Louisiana we have the Napoleonic Code according to which what belongs to the wife belongs to the husband and vice versa. For instance if I had a piece of property, or you had a piece of property - (Tennessee William, 1974, 59)

Another materialistic view of life is reflected by Stanley's attitude is the way of his judging Blanche's in expensive summer furs and jewelry on her trunk. Stanley believes that all of them are very expensive eventhough they are absolutely imitation. It is clear that the society has similarity with Stanley's view of life, that is materialism as a result of the industrial movement in the South. One has to possess a strong force and crude energy to live in this society, and the one who can not adapt will not survive. This is what happens to Blanche.

In this simple pragmatics of material life, Blanche who has the best cultural tradition from the South is an outcast from this era. She is one of the victim who is unable to face this physical world. It happened because she still uses the imagination in

which the imagination itself is under assault by physical world. She should have tries to make a balance between her world and the society's world, so that they will create a harmony relationship.

To adapt in this society, one must be active in many ways, one has to possess some encouragements to solve problem alone, if not, one's existence in the society will not survive, as happen to the protagonist of this play, Blanche. Blanche, in this case, is a passive woman, she still needs someone to protect her. She can not stand by her own feet to face the physical world. Moreover, eventhough she realizes about those weakness, Blanche never confesses her imperfectness, but on the contrary she acts as though, she were an active woman who is able to arrange everything by herself. Blanche is an individual who can't adjust to the materialism world since she still keeps on leading with way of live 'This is how I look at it', she says. She really refuse to capitulate to the social process or the simple pragmatics of the material life. Her strength lies on her personal dreams and myths in order to survive in this world. Naturally, they are surpressed by the reality and the idea of survival of the fittest.

In materialistic life, reality is an important role. When in living in it, a person belongs to the society where he or she can see, taste and enjoy the things that can bring them happiness and pleasure. Blanche Dubois is inexperienced with all these things. She lives in a world of promise and hopes. She lives - alone in her dream, her illusion and her myths. Her dreams only bring her destruction, because they are nearly dreams that have never come true. Her dreams and her myths are just to deceive someone. She lacks her own real personality in facing the real world. For that reason, she does not belong to the society. She is afraid of her not being perfect and avoid being revealed in this society.

Her past failure is caused by the industrial movement but Blanche is either unaware or does not want to be aware of this. Because she lives in a dream, she does not exist in the real world. She should take valuable lesson that her world can not answer the physical fact in the society. The beauty of the mind and the richness of the spirit and tenderness on this society are removed by the physical beauty. The one who can't realize this situation will be left behind. The loss of Belle Reve and dreams are caused by her being unadaptable to this circumstance. She is always passive

and dependent to, thus when there are problems, she can not do anything much to overcome. After these failure Blanche is not willing to change her attitude. She keeps acting like in the past. There is no improvement on her personality to adapt in the practical society and for this reason she is isolated from the society. When she comes to Stanley's place with the same actions, she has causes many problems to the family. It can be proved by Stanley's comment, "The trouble with Dame Blanche was that she couldn't put on her act anymore in Laurel! They got wised up after two or three dates with her and then they quite, and she goes on to another, the same old line, same old act, the same old hooey! but the town was too small for this to go on forever". Laurel is too conventional for Blanche who behaves disgracefull as a respectable woman. Her affairs with many men contradicts with the norm at her people. However, when she enters the materialistic, easy going world she behaves like a traditional puritan lady. Blanche does not belong to any world.

In this material society, the people want to survive, they want to keep on living happily it. They will elimanate anything that can not give them happines, pleasure and welfare. They must struggle hard to obtain these. Blanche, in this sense, does not

want to perform like those member of society. She is passive and keeps on her imagination world to survive in this practical world, of course, she can not survive. But, Blanche always convinces others that she is an adaptable woman in many ways as stated in her dialogue with Mitch.

Mitch : (adjusting the lantern). I gues we strike you as being a pretty rough bunch.

Blanche : I'm very adaptable - to circumstances.

(Tennessee William, 1974, 65)

From that dialogue, we will know how Blanche convinces to Mitch that her world could take an adaptable in any circumstances, it is her obsession that she is sure her world could adapt in practical world. But the real fact is she is not adaptable woman. She is isolated from the society due to her own actions. She has never changed, she always refuses to capitulate to the social process but she does not know or realize that her refusal will bring her own destruction.

Blanche is unwilling to accept that the industrial movement in the society is undeniable in which the traditional value will be remove little by little. The society's view will focus on the physical world. Blanche, in this case, still considers her world

as higher than the new practical world. That's why she tells to Stanley will grow every years and never lost, but the society, in other hand, has other view of life, that is simple pragmatics of material life and the fragile and weakness of view of life will be isolated or perhaps into destruction. Actually, if Blanche wants to survive on this society, she must accept this change or if she combines these two worlds into good balancing so that they will create material happiness as well as mental happiness. But Blanche still obsesses that her world could bring some happiness and welfare even though the society has different idea with her.

III.4 The Impact of Blanche's obsession

Blanche's obsession has made several impacts to the people around her as well as her own personality. Her obsession has troubled other people's harmony. It is caused Blanche's strengths lie on tricks, illusion, pretens, myths and conceits. To achieve this goal (Romantic World), Blanche has misinterpreted the society and of course, what Blanche's attitude causes some impacts to the society as well as to her own personality.

Blanche has caused disharmony to the Kowalski's and their friends. Since Blanche come to Stanley's

place, several arguments, and misunderstanding have appeared on his family which never happened before. The people around her are confused when she tells things, they are not sure whether her obsession is true or not.

Blanche has endangered the Kowalski's marriage. Stanley can not controll his wife anymore. Stella does not give Stanley her usual attention, she is busy fulfilling Blanche needs. And this is what Blanche really wants. She needs attention from people. And all these create trouble both to Stella and Stanley. Stella has ordered her husband to clean the table - as if her husband is a servant. Stanley can not stand it any longer. He wants everything back to normal. He realize that Blanche has caused all the trouble. In his anger, Stanley says to his wife, "your sister's too much around here 'what do you two think you are? A pair of queens? Remember what Huey Long said- "Everyman is king" and I am the king around here. My place is cleared 'You want me to clear your place". We can see that sooner or later Blanche will no longer wellcome by Stanley. She has to leave the place one way on another. Stanley's pleasures are sometimes distrubed by Blanche's myths and dreams. Her pretense has attracted people's attentions. When Stanley plays a poker with

his friends, Mitch, one of Stanley's friends, leave the game in order to have a talk with Blanche. Mitch's long absence has bothered Stanley's concentration in playing. He becomes very angry when Blanche and Mitch turn on the radio and hits Stella who tries to stop him. Stanley feels that Blanche's presence has always caused conflicts on his family and friends. Blanche's lies have caused trouble not only to other people but to herself as well. She has denied her own personality without realising that this may cause her downfall. She likes to fool men, flirting with them. But she pretends to be innocent. When the men no longer want her pretending as an honest, pure woman who has never been touched by a man, Blanche can not survive. Blanche does not realize that her obsession at the same time endangers herself, Mitch, and then Stanley can no longer be deceived. Stanley's raping Blanche shows that the "play" is over, Blanche should live in reality. However, Blanche who is too engrossed in her dreams can not face reality. Stanley and Mitch's world is cruel compared to Blanche's world in Belle Reve and Laurel. She is again isolated from the society - this time she can live happily in her dream in a mental institution. However, Blanche's obsession to defend her world in the practical world is not successful, it is caused her

obsession is not supported by reliable efforts so that the society will believe what she tries to do. But the most important of Blanche's obsession and the impacts of Blanche's obsession are of we will know the important thing from those two world. That is, in living in this single world, we should live on both world, romantic and unromantic world, so that it will create harmony relationship.

