

CHAPTER IV

C O N C L U S I O N

After making a critical analysis of the concepts and ideas opposed by Shaw in Major Barbara through the previous chapters, finally I come to the conclusion of what I have discussed in this thesis. Here I have to look back at the earliest chapter of this thesis dealing with the objective of this study. I stated in that part that I will find the concepts and ideas which are opposed by Shaw in one of his plays entitled Major Barbara through the theory of expression and imitation and through the biographical approach.

Shaw had been familiar with poverty during his childhood since he used to be taken by his nursemaid into the slum area. He then reflected this experience together with his acquaintance with the Salvation Army in his play. He did not only imitate his experience which is also a reality in his work, but he also combined it with his own idea. He expressed his opposing ideas about the conventional ideas of the people in his play.

The main theme in Major Barbara is *poverty*. It is the worst of crime, said Undershaft. Through this play, Shaw wanted to oppose :

- The concept of human enemy. According to the people in

the majority, the human enemy is the devil but for Shaw the enemy is poverty.

- The concept of salvation which is done by the Army since it is only bribing the poor. According to Shaw, the best way to do the salvation is by fulfilling the physical needs first as Undershaft did. Bribing the poor may also result that the people do not really convert.

- The evil of capitalism

Shaw also opposed the system of capitalism in England which is incapable of providing adequately for aging workers as shown in Peter Shirley. Instead, he suggested the system of socialism in which all the able-bodied should work. There must be an equality in all aspects of society.

- The concept of acquiescence to one's fate since it makes the poor remain passive or accept their condition without any protest. Here Shaw wanted them to rebel to find a higher level of live.

- The concept of atonement in Christianity

For Shaw, atonement only gives one more chance for the sinner to make sin again. A sinner should be warned and tolerated but if he kept stubborn, just kill him.

To my opinion Shaw is too rigid in rejecting the concept of atonement. All depend on the personal self-awareness whether he wants to convert or uses the chance to sin again. For me, a religion creed cannot be understood

through logical thinking.

- The idealistic type

Shaw opposed Barbara's idealistic attitude when she refused Undershaft's money for her church. For her, it is tainted money since Undershaft's industry is making armaments to destroy people. Shaw suggested that all people have chance to do good things, moreover if it helps to eliminate poverty.

- The romanticism

For Shaw, romanticism only makes us feel more miserable about the poor and poverty. He opposed it with realism which help us to see the facts more realistically. The poor should not be pitied too much but they must be encouraged to struggle for a better life.

Examining the two opinions of Barbara and Undershaft, I agree to Shaw's idea that in order to do the Salvation we must fulfill the physical needs first. We cannot talk religion to a hungry man. We should feed, clothe, and house them first. So Barbara is defeated in this play since she jumps to save the soul.

Undershaft's opinion about salvation which provides his employees with good food, good house and high wages before might also be a way to abolish poverty. Shaw insisted upon the importance of wealth and power in eliminating poverty. Those two can only be reached with money, therefore to Shaw, money is the most important

thing in the world. In this case I agree that money is important but it is not the most important thing

Eliminating poverty is not an easy task, yet it must be done if we want to make this world a better place to live in. All element in the society should take part in this effort. Not only those who have wealth and power, but the poor themselves should struggle.