

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I.1. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

It is obvious that literature has a certain role in human life. Indeed, literature is said to be the essential part of human culture.

"It contains the record of the peoples' values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts---in short, their whole way of life" (Little; 1966; p.1).

The characteristic of a group of people can be seen from its literary works as a representative form of its culture. In fact, literature is a mirror to the fact that reveals as well as represents the whole fact as what it is. It reflects human life in reality and performs the values of life which are oftenly missed from people's attention. M.H. Abrams strengthened this characteristic as he stated that:

"If art imitates the world of appearance and not of Essence, the works of art have a lowly status in order of existing things. Since the realm of Ideas is the ultimate locus (not only of reality but of value), the determination that art is at second remove from the truth automatically establishes its equal remoteness from the beautiful and good"(Abrams; 1953; p. 8).

Thus, literature provides a teaching on human life and universal truth that bind all human beings. It guides

people to obtain a better understanding of life and what it concerns with. Rene Wellek made a quotation of Freud's statement on what a literary work presents as follows:

"The artist is originally a man who turns from reality because he cannot come to terms with the demand for the renunciation of instinctual satisfaction as it is first made, and who then in phantasy-life allows full play to his erotic and ambitious wishes. ....with his special gifts, he moulds his phantasies into a kind of reality, and man can concede them a justification as valuable reflections of actual life. Thus by a certain path he actually becomes the hero, king, creator, favourite he desired to be, without the circuitous path of creating real alterations in the outer world" (Wellek; 1978; p.82).

All the quotations above explain how literature means for human beings, how important it is and the role it has on human life. Based on these opinions, the thesis writer decides to make a study on a literary work, particularly on a play, which as a form of literary works carries on the same mission and, thus, worthy to study.

In particular, she chooses one of William Shakespeare's plays to be studied based on the consideration that the Elizabethan period, to which Shakespeare belongs, is said to be the outstanding period in English Literature. Besides, Shakespeare himself is an excellent author, one of the best authors in the world of English Literature. His works are regarded as great works, still famous in this modern era and even taken to be studied by stud-

ents of literature in various countries. Due to a modern critic named George Sampson, Shakespeare's talent and ability in creating his works is amazing as he stated :

"The kind of knowledge eminently possessed by Shakespeare is something beyond mere acquisition---the kind of knowledge that comes only to 'an experiencing nature'; and the experiencing nature, like creative genius, is 'a gift', not an acquirement " (Sampson;1959; p.258).

Later on he stated that Shakespeare becomes so great and special because of the 'gift' as quoted :

"His three greatest gifts, his power of poetic expression, his power of character creation, and his power of weaving both into a story, were exactly what was needed to turn this formless agglomerations into real organisms, possessing life and beauty" (Sampson;1959;p.261)

Eversince the first performances, Shakespeare's plays are admired by his audiences that vary from common people to the educated aristocratic ones. As stated in a critical note by A.C. Ward (1863; p. xiv), Shakespeare's first audience are so fond of his play's performance though at first they know nothing about him as they come to the theatre. And Shakespeare becomes famous and manages to be the most successful playwright of his generation, with the common people as well as with the educated aristocracy.

One of his great plays, Julius Caesar, is going to be studied here. It is a tragic play with memorable characters; a tragedy of a great caesar, named Julius Caesar,

who is assassinated by his own friends. The leader of the group is Caesar's old friend, Cassius, who then becomes one of his officers, a senate member. However, though Cassius and his group manage to assassinate Caesar, at last they are defeated by the successors of Caesar including Antony, Caesar's most trusted officer, and Octavius, Caesar's heir.

It is amazing to see how clever Cassius is in implementing his plan. Yet, there must be a certain motive that encourages him to set the plan which ends with Caesar's murder. This is indeed what is going to be studied by the thesis writer, as she wants to find out whether there is a motive called 'jealousy' on Cassius' mind. If such motive exists, she is willing to explore the causes and also the implementation of the plan.

In order to reveal the phenomena of the 'jealousy' the writer will analyze only the dramatic elements of the play, among which are plot, character and characterization, and setting. This is so because these three elements are counted representative to the story and also closely related as a man's nature, thought and action cannot be separated. Hopefully, the analysis will result in an explanation of the death.

The main object of this study is the play itself, so, there will be no use of any references on the author

or the audience, as the writer makes use of the objective orientation. The whole things about the theory and the analysis will be discussed further in the next chapters.

### I.2. LIMITATION OF PROBLEM

The problem studied here is limited on the assassination of Julius Caesar. Thus, only certain aspects of the play which are related to the study will be involved. Any part which does not support the finding of the problem's answer will be left untouched.

### I.3. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The problem studied of which answer is expected to be found in this study is :

- Is Cassius' jealousy towards Julius Caesar, indeed, the core of Julius Caesar's assassination ?

### I.4. FORMULATION OF PROBLEM

As stated in the previous part, what is going to be studied here is the cause of Julius Caesar's assassination. The writer wants to make a proof whether the cause is really Cassius' ill feeling towards Julius Caesar.

### I.5. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

One of the purposes of this study is to find a

proof that supports the existence of jealousy in the play. However, the main purpose of this study to find out whether the assassination of Julius Caesar in this play is started by such a feeling of an old friend. Some critics claimed that such motive may exists as the core of the assassination. In relation, the thesis writer has a desire to prove the righteousness of the hypothesis that the assassination is caused by an ill feeling.

#### I.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

It is expected that this study will, firstly, bring a deep understanding, upon the play Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, especially about the assassination. By this, hopefully this study will be able to be a contribution to the human knowledge, or to the understanding of English literature in particular.

Secondly, this study is expected to be a contribution to the understanding of the values of life as, concerning the nature of a literary work, such values may be revealed in this play.

#### I.7. METHOD OF RESEARCH

In analyzing the elements of the play, two types of methods are in use: descriptive method and objective hermeneutics. The first one is commonly found in such a

literary study and, thus, need not be discussed any further. In short, it tends to describe the studied matter as the way in analyzing it. Meanwhile, the second one refers simply to the science of interpretation. In this case it is used as a method, not as the basic theory on which the analysis is built. The purpose of such a method is finding the meaning of the work by means of interpreting it as stated by Friedrich Schleiermacher:

"The purpose of hermeneutics was to reconstruct the original context so that the words of the text could be properly understood." (Newton;1989;p.103)

In particular, there are two types of hermeneutics, one of which is used here, positive and negative hermeneutics. The first one tends to understand the text in relation with its original context. This means that in obtaining the meaning of the text, a man must place himself in the exact era in which the story happens. Meanwhile, the second one tends to understand the text in present thought, either by relating it with the modern concept or just by making it meaningful. Thus, the meaning of the text will fit the era in which it is interpreted. This has something to do with the fact that the values of life presented in a literary work are universal.

The one used here is the second one as the writer agrees to what is stated by Hans-Gorg Gadamer about it:

"To understand it does not mean primarily to reason one's way back into the past, but to have a present involvement in what is said."  
(Newton;1989;p.106)

Thus, in this study there is no use of any ancient concept that may work in the era when the story takes place. In relation with the theory used in this study, the kind of hermeneutics used hereby can also be said as an objective one. This is so as the interpretation is based on the facts presented in the work of art, no outer references are used in this case.

As mentioned before, at first, the three dramatic elements will be analyzed descriptively. Then, the analyses will be continued interpretatively, especially the third one. This is so as in setting the point discussed is the one behind the realistic view, and this may be obtained by looking for whatever the real setting suggest behind them.



