

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

I.1. Background of the Problem

Literature as a form of art which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward life is important to human being in understanding the problem of life, even the life itself, since it can enlarge human thinking and give them precious lessons, new experiences and valuable perceptions. Therefore, it can make us more sensitive in facing the problem of life.

"Good literature adds to our understanding of life in the world around us. It embodies thoughts and feeling of matters on human importance." (Little, 1966:2)

Literature is also something from which we get moral education. It actually has moral purpose. Plato states that by studying literature we are in some sense making ourselves better people. The use of literature is therefore same as philosophy that helps us toward better understanding ourselves and our fellow human beings (Rees, 1973:15). Based on that description, it can be seen that by studying literature human being is guided to obtain the best value of life.

There are several forms of literary works constituting the record of human life which reflects and portrays some aspects of activities and experiences that human being deal with. One of them is drama, a composition in prose or verse presenting in pantomime and dialogue, a narrative involving conflict usually designed for presentation on stage. In this thesis, the writer will analyze drama since it reflects how people life more obviously. It can be seen before our eyes in public performance by presenting its story in action, dialogue and expression making vivid impression. Therefore, an analysis of drama will be more easily received and understood by the reader.

"Drama is a peculiar literary form, in that it may be treated as a literature to be read privately, or as theatre, to be seen in public performance."
(Little, 1966:112)

Oscar Wilde, whose drama will be discussed here, is a famous English dramatist. He introduced wit and freshness of dialogue. His play actually aren't great but amusing, that made his drama more attractive. His first success is *Lady Windermere's Fan*. He has never done his works more ingenious and wittily than he does in this drama. Therefore, it can be concluded as his masterpiece.

The writer here is interested in *Lady Windermere's Fan* since it presents the idea of the story in freshness, compared to the other literary works which is more difficult to understand. It actually tells the story which is not so different with the reality we face in life but it

becomes more attractive since it is presented in comedy. It tells about a wife who suspects her husband for having scandal, but actually he hasn't. Ironically, the woman she meant in fact is her mother who saves her marriage from the ruin later.

In this thesis, the writer wants to describe the theme of this drama since she wants to know further about what the general idea or insight the entire story reveals. Besides, by knowing the theme, we will understand more easily what actually this drama is talking about.

In this drama, Oscar Wilde tried to portray the problem of life dealing with love and sacrifice toward the three main character's conflict. By understanding their conflicts, we can get a brief description of theme of this drama. Therefore, the writer will try to identify the theme of this drama, especially through the three main character's conflict.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

1. What kind of conflicts are experienced by the characters ?
2. How do the conflicts describe the theme of this drama?
3. What is the theme of this drama?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Objective of the study here is ~~to describe the theme~~ of Oscar Wilde's drama *Lady Windermere's Fan* so that the



readers can understand what actually this drama is talking about. Therefore, the writer will make the analysis of the character's conflict, and also the plot, setting, and characters, that lead her to understand the basic idea or the theme of this drama.

1.4. Significance of the Study.

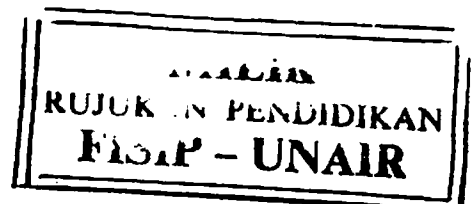
Hopefully, this thesis will encourage the English Department's student to know more on Oscar Wilde's works, especially *Lady Windermere's Fan*. By analyzing the characters and their conflicts to describe the theme, the writer hopes this thesis can give a usefulness in understanding the problem of human life.

This study is also surely expected to give contribution to the study of literature in general, and especially to the study of English literature. At least, it is hoped to be a useful as a reference of literary work analysis.

In general, the study here is to know better about Oscar Wilde's works, especially this drama, and to increase our literary criticism to the literary works, specifically *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

Dealing with the problem that will be discussed in this thesis, the writer tries to find the way in describing the theme so we will know what we must do to answer the problem. Therefore, the writer will focus the analysis



on the conflict of the characters of this drama since it can leads us to theme description.

Furthermore, the analysis of character is also needed to understand the conflicts since the conflicts happen because of clash of actions, ideas or desires in characters. Therefore, the writer will limit this study to the character and conflict analysis to get a brief description of this drama. Besides, she also discusses plot and setting to support the analysis itself.

1.6. Theoretical Background

The writer of this thesis will use the objective theory in analyzing this drama since she focuses the discussion only on the work itself, disregarding any extrinsic aspect. Another reason why the writer chooses this theory is that she has only a little bit of time to finish this thesis so that she won't talk any deeper about this drama from the point of view of its external aspects.

To support the objective theory in this thesis, the writer also uses some approaches in the analysis. She uses *formalistic approach* which regards that form and content in literary work are inseparable since she divides the analysis based on its form and its content. Both analysis on the form and on the content discuss the intrinsic elements of this drama - plot, setting, character and conflict - that means she uses *intrinsic element*, too.

1.7. Method of the Study

The writer will use *descriptive method*. She analyzes *Lady Windermere's Fan* to describe the theme of this drama. The main source of the study of course the drama itself, *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Then, she searches for any relevant theoretical books used to support the analysis, collects them altogether and elaborates them by applying the descriptive analysis to comprehend the significant relation for an accurate analysis.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

Conflict :

A clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills (Perrine, 1970:137).

Theme :

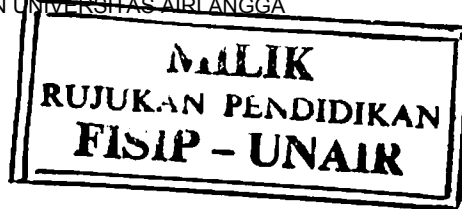
The idea that put the basis of the story. It also means whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals (Kennedy, 1983:103).

Love :

Feeling of affection that leads someone to do everything for the one whom he loves and for the sake of love itself

Sacrifice :

An action which is done willingly to protect another one from the ruining life or miserable thing.



1.9. Organization of the Paper

This paper consists of four chapters. Chapter one is Introduction that introduce the readers what will be discussed in the following chapters. There are nine sub-chapters here. The first one is Background of the Study in which the writer explain the literary works and the reason why she chooses the particular object to be analyzed. The second one is Statement of the Problem. The third one is Objective of the Study that tells the idea what becomes the target of this analysis. The fourth one is Significance of the Study that tells about what advantage might be taken from it. The fifth one is Scope and Limitation. Theoretical Background in which the writer establish the theory and approach is the sixth one. The seventh one is Method of the Study and the eighth one is Definition of Key terms. The last one is Organization of the paper that shows how this paper is organized.

Chapter two is Theoretical Framework in which the writer will elaborate the theory and the approaches that have been stated in the Theoretical Background.

Chapter three is Analysis. In this chapter, the writer tries to find the theme by analyzing character's conflict. She also discusses plot, setting, and character to support the analysis. This chapter is actually the main body of this thesis since it presents how the writer

discusses the problem and tries to find the answer of it.

The last chapter, Chapter four, is conclusion. It tells about the solution of the analysis. In addition, Bibliography will give information about references the writer uses in writing this thesis so that it can be scientifically recognized.

