

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1. Background of the Study

Literature is a product of human creative imagination created to be read, enjoyed, understood and utilized for the good of society. It is an expression of society that represents "Life", in large measure, a social reality. It contains the record of human values, their thoughts, their feeling, their problems and conflicts. So, whatever presented in a literary work may be related to the actual ones. Literature may be regarded as the chief art of mankind.

Literature of a people is the principle element of its culture. It contains the record of the people values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts - in short their way of life. Whether transmitted through the spoken or the written words, literature may fairly be regarded as the chief art of mankind (Graham, 1966 ; 1).

Literature can give a pleasure, takes us from the real world to the dream one. But a good literature not only takes us into the dream world and gives us a pleasure, it also deepens, broadens and sharpens our awareness of life. It takes us, through the imagination, deeper into the real world and it enables us to understand our troubles in life.

A good literature says something worthsaying, adds

to our understanding of life in the world around us. It embodies thoughts and feelings on matters of human importance (Graham, Little, 1966 ; 2). Therefore through a literary work, whether it is a poem, short story, novel or drama, we can study the aspects of human life.

A drama is a work of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of - and dialogues between - a group of characters (Russel, 1966 ; 5). That is we must never forget that drama is designed to be acted on the stage, though we speak a drama as a literary work or a composition. The unique of a drama is even when we read a drama we have no real grasp of what the play is like unless we at least attempt to imagine how actors on the stage would present the material. For the most part, a drama is a vehicle of life presentation on the stage. It is more than the representation of life and characters through actions and dialogues, it is also an entertainment. Entertainment is one of the ostensible objectives of drama, since a drama is written to be acted on the stage.

Tennessee Williams is one of the best American playwrights. His works are still controversial and shocking. He has attracted his wide audiences. And no wonder that so many critics have read and honored his works.

Tennessee Williams is .sensus, prone to immersion in romantic tragedy. Williams turned away from a direct concern with social structures, seeing them simply as images of the facticity which threatened the necessary fictions of his characters. In his best works the note of self - pity which is never entirely absent, is contained by a rigorous honesty about the desperate self - deception practised by his characters. His plays deal in violations of the body and spirit. He transformed his life into art, reshaping it in an attempt to come to terms with what he admitted to be the pressure of a life deformed by psychic confusion.

His common characters are southern gentlewomen complete with the characteristic. These female characters are superior to the domesticated housewife. They are far from the real world, ignore the world around them. And they live in their own making world as their escape mechanism from the present world. Their world is their sentimental memories with their success in the past.

His protagonist is ill - equipped to survive in the practical world of the present. All of his characters are crippled in one sense or another - emotionally, spiritually - and out of that imperfection there comes a need which generates the illusions with which they fill their world, and the art which they set up against the reality.

The Glass Menagerie is one of his best plays ever written. It is a memory play in which the dramatist tries to come to terms with his troubled youth and to understand his rebellion against his family. Williams, in The Glass Menagerie, by his poetic imagination, careful selection of realistic details, and skilful use of theatrical techniques communicates the pathos of one American family 'lives of desperations'. This play reveals the universal nature of human hopes and frustrations, and of the destruction of romantic illusion by cruel reality. It is about the tragedy of human incomprehension, that is the inability of people to understand one another.

This condition occurs on Amanda Wingfield, one of the characters in The Glass Menagerie. Amanda is presented as a complex character. There is a heroism as well as a foolishness and cruelty in Amanda Wingfield. As a mother she is a strong one who can survive and grow her children alone after she was left by her husband. But, on the other hand she fails to understand her children. She fails to understand the different personality her children possess. She cannot acknowledge Laura's painful shyness or to admit to her crippled leg. She expects to her very much without realizing that she expects too much. She even lives in her own world of illusion with her gentlemen callers and she escapes from the reality she faces.

The considerations above are the reasons why the writer takes The Glass Menagerie and Amanda Wingfield as the object of the study.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

To make a clear focus on the problems and to systemize the discussion, it needs to arise some questions that will be the starting point of the analysis.

I.2.1. What conditions lead Amanda Wingfield to be in illusion and escape from reality ?

I.2.2. What are the effects of her illusion and her action to her children ?

I.3. Objective of the Study

- To analyze the character of Amanda Wingfield, one of the main characters in The Glass Menagerie.
- To analyze Amanda's illusion and its effects upon her children.
- To broaden and sharpen our knowledge horizontally or vertically on literature, especially Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie.

I.4. Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study will give a contribution to the body of knowledge, especially to the understanding on the nature of literature, specifically the characters of Laura and Amanda.

It is also expected that this study can give us an understanding on the problems of human life, that is human illusion, so we can live more wisely and can face the reality, in order that we will not be trapped in the world of illusion.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

This thesis will focus the analysis on Amanda Wingfield 's character and her illusion. It will analyze the factors that cause her illusion and the effects to the children.

I.6. Theoretical Background

In analysing this study the writer uses the objective theory as the tool of analysis. The analysis will be focused on the structure of the work such as plot, characterisation and setting. To analyze the structure of the work, the writer uses the structural approach.

Since the study deals with the illusion of the character, and the word "illusion" itself belongs to the psychological terms, so the writer will also use the psychological point of view. By using the psychological point of view the writer tries to find the psychological back-

ground of the character's illusion, the factors of the illusion, the motives and the effects of it to her children.

I.7. Method of the Study

The writer uses the library research in analysing the problems of the study by collecting some source, interpreting and summarizing. Collecting means the writer collects some source related to the topic of the study. Interpreting will be done in analysing the problems of the study. And finally the writer comes to the summarizing of the play and the biographical of the author.

The methodology of the study that is used is the descriptive method. The descriptive method will give us some descriptions about the aspect of the literary work that is analyzed.

I.8. Definition of the Key Terms

Illusion ; a false belief accompanied by uncertainty as to whether it should be given credence. It is produced by the breakthrough of unconscious emotion without consciousness surrendering to its completely.

Menagerie; the collection of the favourite things, it can be made from wood, glass, paper and etc that is considered behave a special value.

Caller ; someone who visits a girl for a date.

I.9. Organization of the Paper

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first is the introduction which consists of background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of the key terms, organization of the paper and synopsis.

The second chapter is theoretical framework which consists of the related theories and the related studies. The third chapter is the author and his works.

The fourth is the analysis which consists of three main discussions ; plot, characterization, and setting in which the analysis focuses on the character's illusion and its effects to her children. And finally the conclusion will be given in chapter five.

I.10. Synopsis

In Wingfield apartment, Amanda lives with her working son - Tom - and her crippled daughter - Laura. At dinner she nags upon him on how to eat that spoils his appetite. She tells Laura to be fresh and pretty to welcome her gentlemen callers, eventhough Laura has no gentlemen callers. She recalls her youth in Blue Mountain and had seventeen gentlemen callers in one Sunday afternoon.

A few days later Amanda comes home from Laura's business school after finding that Laura has deceived her by pretending going to school. Amanda is shocked and wonders what they will do with their life since Laura cannot occupy a position. Laura rather lives in her glass menagerie. Knowing that all her obsession and hopes upon her are broken, she comes to the thought that she must have a caller for Laura. And Laura tells her that she ever liked a high school boy, namely Jim. Amanda tells her that she will marry a nice man. Laura protests that she is a cripple. Amanda refuses that Laura is crippled and never allow to use the word.

Amanda has a quarrel with Tom about a book that she took back to the library. The quarrel drives Tom to leave the house to the movie. Before he leaves the house he makes Laura's glass ornaments shattered. The next morning Tom apologizes to Amanda. She then asks him to find a clean -

living, non drinking man in the warehouse to be invited to meet Laura. A few days later he tells her that he has invited a young man named Jim O'Connor home for dinner. Amanda begins to make a plan to welcome the gentleman caller.

On the night of the arrival of the caller, Amanda makes a fuss upon Laura by adding some gay deceivers to the dress to make Laura more attractive. When she knows the name of the caller is Jim O'Connor, she tells her that she cannot come to the table. Amanda forces her to come though Laura is sick when the caller comes. At dinner she is physically sick and has to be excused.

Amanda then sends Jim to the living room to accompany Laura. As they have a talk, Laura loses some of her shyness and becomes rather charming because Jim can build her confidence up. He kisses her and then he explains he is engaged to an other girl. Amanda is shocked knowing that Jim is engaged and she blames Tom for playing a trick on them. The play is ended by Tom's leaving the family.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK