

A B S T R A C T

Eugene O'Neill is one of the famous American playwrights . Some of his works are adopted from Greek Myth, and one of them is *Mourning Becomes Electra* . The drama is adopted from a Greek tragedy, *Oresteia*, that is written by Aeschilus, based on a Greek Myth . O'Neill does not copy the whole part of the tragedy, but he used it as the basic of his drama . That is why there is a relation between the drama and the tragedy . In this study the writer will show the relation through a comparative study of Christine Mannon, a character .in *Mourning Becomes Electra*, and Clytemnestra, a character in *Oresteia* .

To describe those characters, the writer will use structural approach since the study will deal with literary works and the elements of drama . The writer will also use theory of comparative literatur for she will compare and contrast the characterization of Christine Mannon and Clytemnestra related to their roles as wives and mothers .

Furthermore, she will also discuss about drama, especially tragedy and Greek tragedy, since the literary works

discussed here are the two modes of drama . Besides, she will describe the character and characterization of Christine Mannon and Clytemnestra separately from the other elements of drama .

In the analysis, the writer will describe Christine Mannon and Clytemnestra's characterization related to their roles as wives and mothers . In addition, she will do a comparative study of Christine Mannon and Clytemnestra by finding the similarities and dissimilarities characterization between those women . The aim is to show that several parts of Christine Mannon's characterization is adopted from Clytemnestra's .

A B S T R A K S I

Drama adalah suatu bentuk karya sastra yang populer . Salah satu penulis drama terkenal dari Amerika Serikat adalah Eugene O'Neill . Beberapa karya Eugene O'Neill diangkat dari mitologi Yunani, salah satunya adalah *Mourning Becomes Electra* . Drama tersebut diangkat dari sebuah tragedi Yunani kuno yang berjudul *Oresteia* . Tragedi Yunani tersebut ditulis oleh Aeschilus berdasarkan sebuah mitologi Yunani . Dalam menulis *Mourning Becomes Electra*, O'Neill tidak menjiplak *Oresteia* secara mentah-mentah, tetapi ia menggunakannya sebagai dasar cerita . Pada skripsi ini penulis membahas hubungan kedua karya sastra tersebut melalui studi komparatif antara Christine Mannon, seorang tokoh dalam *Mourning Becomes Electra*, dan Clytemnestra, seorang tokoh dalam *Oresteia* .

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan struktural dalam mendeskripsikan tokoh-tokoh tersebut . Disamping itu penulis juga menggunakan teori sastra banding untuk mendeskripsikan persamaan-persamaan dan perbedaan-perbedaan dari Christine Mannon dan Clytemnestra berkaitan dengan peran mereka sebagai istri dan ibu . Penulis juga akan menerangkan drama, khususnya tentang tragedi dan tragedi

Yunani karena karya sastra yang akan dibahas berbentuk tragedi dan tragedi Yunani . Selain itu penulis juga akan membahas karakter dan karakterisasi dari Christine Mannon dan Clytemnestra terlepas dari elemen-elemen drama yang lain .

Penulis bermaksud mendeskripsikan karakterisasi dari kedua wanita tersebut diatas sehubungan dengan peran mereka sebagai istri dan ibu . Dalam melakukan komparatif studi, penulis akan membahas masing-masing tokoh serta persamaan-persamaan dan perbedaan-perbedaannya . Dengan demikian dapat diketahui sejauh mana karakter Christine Mannon diangkat dari karakter Clytemnestra .

THE SYNOPSIS OF MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA

The Civil war is over, Christine and Lavinia Mannon are waiting for the homecoming of Ezra Mannon and his son Orin . As a noble family, the Mannons has got a tragic history . Years ago, Lavinia's grandfather drove his son, Dave Mannon, from the house because he had done an adultery with a French nurse, Marie Brantome . The son of the couples is Adam Brant, who seems to like Lavinia . When Lavinia discovers this secret, he admits it and accuses Lavinia's father as the cause of his mother's death . Lavinia also finds out another secret, that is Brant and her mother are lovers .

Christine is not easily threatened by Lavinia to break her relation with brant . However she admits her guilt, justifying her behaviour by explaining how awful it is to give her body to a man she hates as much as she hates Ezra Mannon . She even asks brant to send her some poison that she plans to give it to her husband . She tells him that if they killed Ezra Mannon, Adam can have Christine's share of the inheritance . It is a common knowledge that Ezra has heart trouble, therefor his death will be believed as the result of a heart attack caused by

the excitement of returning home .

At night after Ezra's homecoming, in their bedroom Ezra and Christine quarrel over their failing marriage . Ezra gets a heart attack when Christine on purpose tells him that she and Adam Brant have a close relation and she loves Adam very much . When Ezra gasps for his medicine, Christine gives him the poison instead . As he lays dying in Lavinia's arms, he accuses Christine as the murderer .

Christine, worries that Lavinia will tell Orin about what she did, attempts to regain her son's close affection as soon as his homecoming . She tells him how much she loves him and accuses Lavinia to tell lies . In fact, Orin is not sorry for his father's death . He tells Christine that he can forgive her for murdering his father, but not for associating with Brant . Christine believes that she has got Orin's trust, but she still worries about Brant's life . Lavinia tells Orin the truth, but Orin does not easily trust her . He needs a proof .

Christine visits Brant on the ship shortly after Ezra's funeral . Orin, who has been told about the murder and adultery done by their mother, wants an evidence . The brother and sister follow their mother to Brant's ship,

where they overhear the lovers plan to run off together .
 When Christine has gone, Orin goes into the cabin and
 shoots Brant . Then they rifle the ship's cabin and
 Brant's pockets to make the death appears as a robbery and
 murder .

Christine is told by Lavinia and Orin that they
 watched her visit to her lover . Orin cruelly tells her
 that he has killed Brant and her promises to make her
 forget Adam Brant and that he will take her to some
 islands where they will live together . For Christine
 could not bear the death of her lover, she decides to end
 her own life by shooting herself . Orin blames himself for
 his mother's death, he accuses himself as his mother's
 murderer .

Lavinia takes her brother on a long trip to help him
 overcome his feeling of guilt . When they return, Orin is
 completely under Lavinia's control . During the trip
 Lavinia has grown to look and behave like Christine . Then
 Orin begins to write a family history, primarily about the
 family crime, that can destroy both him and his sister .
 Knowing this, Lavinia drives him to commit suicide .
 Finally Lavinia realizes that she could not free herself
 from the dead Mannons and she decides to live in the house
 to spend the rest of her life with the dead .

THE SYNOPSIS OF ORESTEIA

Agamemnon, the king of Argos. led a great force to Troy to capture Paris and restore Helen to her rightful husband . But the army was unable to sail for Troy because of adverse wind . A soothsayer who accompanied the army declared that he goddess Artemis was responsible and could only be appeased by the sacrifice of Agamemnon's daughter, Iphigenia . He agreed to sacrifice his own daughter to the goddess . The wind changed and the army boarded its ship and set sail for Troy . Finally the city fell and was sacked by the Greek army .

Clytemnestra, Agamemnon's wife, is left in Argos to rule the country . She and Agamemnon have three children, Iphigenia, Orestes, and Electra . Knowing that her husband will come back, she prepares a triumphal reception when he enters the city . But ironically, her husband does not come alone, he makes a triumphal entry in a chariot with Cassandra at his side . Clytemnestra welcomes her husband warmly and declares her love for him before the eyes of the elders . She tells him about the hardlife that she must undergo while her husband is away at war and many

times these fears caused terrible nightmare . She also sent her son, Orestes, to stay with King Strophus of Phocis, where he would be safe from danger .

Clytemnestra invites Agamemnon to enter the palace and orders her maidens to spread a luxurious crimson tapestry on the ground, which usually fits only for the gods, for him to walk on . Agamemnon rejects it for the man who dares to walk on it will take the god's glory . But Clytemnestra successfully urges him to satisfy her desire to honour him . Meanwhile, Cassandra, who has an ability to foretell the future, ignores Clytemnestra . She recounts the curse on the house of Atreus and foretells the murder of Agamemnon and even herself, but nobody believes her .

Suddenly Agamemnon's voice is heard from inside the palace . He is screaming that he has been stabbed . Then Clytemnestra tells how she strapped him in a net as he stepped from his bath and hacked him to death with three blows of an axe . She thinks that the murder of Agamemnon was justified because of the sacrifice of Iphigenia and his infidelity with Cassandra . She and Aegisthus, her secret lover, set themselves as the new rulers of Argos .

Orestes, who was sent to Phocis by Clytemnestra,

comes back to Argos with his friend, Pylades . When they visit Agamemnon's tomb to ask the dead man's spirit to assist in avenging his murder, they see Electra and some women coming to the tomb . Meanwhile, Orestes regards he has got an unquestioned duty from Apollo to kill Clytemnestra to avenge Agamemnon's death, and if he fails to obey this command, he will get the most horrible torments . He and Pylades then plan to kill Clytemnestra and Aegisthus .

Clytemnestra in palace receives both Orestes and Pylades, who are disguised as travellers with an important message and are looking for a place to stay for the night . They bring a message for Clytemnestra that Orestes is dead in Phocis . Clytemnestra believes the news and laments for the death of Orestes . Aegisthus, who doubts the news, wants to interrogate the two strangers . A moment later his screams are heard and he is killed by Orestes . Knowing that Aegisthus has died, Clytemnestra realizes that Orestes is back and has tricked her .

Clytemnestra and Orestes confront each other . Clytemnestra asks him to remember that she is the mother who gave him life and raised him . Remembering this, Orestes hesitates in confusing, but his friend reminds him

of Apollo's command to avenge Agamemnon. Although Clytemnestra pleads for mercy and reminds him that she saved his life by sending him to Phocis, claims that she was justified in killing Agamemnon, and also threatens that her curse will torment him forever, Orestes still kills her.

The ghost of Clytemnestra urges the Furies to hunt Orestes and torment him until his death. Meanwhile, Apollo, who has given Orestes the duty to kill his mother to avenge his father's death, promises that he will never forsake Orestes. He says that the furies will pursue Orestes wherever he goes, but he must endure their torments. Apollo sends Orestes to Athens, the holy city of Athene, the place where Orestes will find sanctuary.

Orestes, exhausted of the long wandering that also purged him of his guilt, arrives to Athens and prays to Athene to save him. Sometimes the furies warn him that he can not escape their wrath for Clytemnestra's death can never be revoked and he must pay for her blood with his own. When Athene comes in, the court is opened. Interrogating both Orestes and the furies, Athene finds out that she must establish a special court made up by her finest citizens to hear the evidence and come to a

decision .

Finally the twelve jurors, and Athene are ready to open the court . After listening to Apollo, the furies, and Orestes, it is the time for the jurors and Athene to make up their mind . Athene announces that she casts her vote in favor of Orestes . The jurors cast their votes too . There are six for conviction and six for acquittal . For Athene votes for acquittal too, Orestes is freed .

XX

