

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Personality is a stable set of characteristics and tendencies that determine those commonalities and differences in the psychological behavior (thoughts, feelings, and actions) of people that have continuity in time and that may not be easily understood as the sole result of the social and biological pressures of the moment (Maddi 9). Personality of every individual will be different one and another, and also have their own characteristics. Personality is usually shaped with the influence of the environment

The first thing that influences someone's personality is the family. Since a child was born he will know his family first before he knew anything else. The family will teach him everything for the first time. Everything that a child learns from his childhood will shape the child's personality. Everything that happens in the family will have a big effect toward the development of personality itself.



Besides family, the environment such as neighbors and friends will also influence the development of someone's personality. Daily relationships of someone with others more or less will also influence this person's personality. Someone's personality can become better or worse it depends on the environment itself. People can know how a person is from his personality; from the way one's talk or behave will reflect the personality of that person. There is something else that also influences the shaping of someone's personality that is religion.

Religion is life guide for human being to survive in facing the problems of life. The faith in God will help people to determine measure and purpose in every circumstance. Without faith people will get into vacillation and doubt to make a decision. Usually people will easily lose their faith if they are disappointed, when they want or wish something and that is not granted. The feeling of faithless in God will cause the confusion, because it will be difficult for people to control themselves. People cannot control what they do and what they actually want. Everything

will become hazy and unclear, and it will influence their daily life.

That is why religion also influences the shaping of personality. If the basic of faith in God is strong, people will have a strong personality. On the other hand, if they have lack of faith in God they will not have a strong personality. This is because people do not have enough faith and life guide. The less strong personality can also happen to them who have unhappy background of life. Their disappointment will make them not to believe in God and reject His presence.

This phenomenon can be seen in society nowadays. Someone who has a bad or unhappy background of life will have a tendency to grow up with unstable personality. A deep disappointment with something can also change the personality. Without any consideration, the changing and unstable personality will turn someone to become a person who has split personality. This happens because there is inner conflict in that person. In one side people can still keep their good things but in another side they will do the opposite and it happens out of our consideration and control. This split of personality will influence the daily life. It

seems that someone is not fully himself. That is the factor that usually makes a person easily get influenced to do the negative and bad things. Usually people will rely more on emotion and desire without thinking about it further. Sometimes they realize to do something good but in the other time they will do something controversial. Those things come into an existence simply because there is no balance in their personality. This attitude will always happen as long as we cannot face the problem itself. It means people can accept and go through that problem and not avoid and deny it. After someone can face the disappointment and the bitterness, he will find his self again, just like he used to be.

Similar phenomenon can also be found in the play Days Without End, one of the works from the famous playwright in America, Eugene O'Neill. Days Without End was published in 1934. It tells about the inner conflict that happened to John Loving, the major character. John Loving gets into conflict with his self about belief or disbelief in God. It begins from his childhood experience, in which John has to lose both of his parents although he already prays to God not to

take his parents from him. As the result, John grows up with two different personalities inside him, as John and Loving, the other part of him. Although John already gets married with Elsa and loves her, Loving who already dominates him always tries to influence John for disbelieving in God and also love. Then there is a problem when John, who is under Loving's influence at that time, has an affair with Lucy, Elsa's best friend. John tells about it in front of his uncle and Elsa through the character in his novel. Finally, Elsa knows that it is her husband's own story. Elsa who is sick becomes shock and dying. Loving tells John that Elsa will also die and leave him alone just like his parents. John who loves Elsa tries hard to fight Loving by going to the church. John really prays for Elsa's recovery. Because of his sincerity in praying, John succeeded in defeating Loving, and Elsa gets well. Besides, John can prove that there is God.

Days Without End is a complex religious drama which the theme is redemption through faith (Gould 77). So it is clear enough that religion has a role in this play. The central contrivance of this play is the introduction of the two conflicting impulses of a

single individual in the form of two separate characters, the man and a visible "alter-ego" - man's split personality made flesh (Gassner 158).

It is very interesting that in fact, love and fear of losing may turn the faith in God back and make a better personality of John's character. Days Without End was a modern "miracle play" in which the hero's split personality becomes whole again through a return to the Catholicism of his childhood (Gagey 62). This also shows that O'Neill wants to remind people nowadays about the importance of faith in God that God exists and someday He will become the only one for people to share. O'Neill prior to Days Without End had always assumed that faith was itself a phenomenon of this world, the expression of a universal psychological needs (Cargill 154).

John's character that gets into split personality is very interesting to be seen since it can happen to everyone. The most interesting part is although he is already dominated by Loving, John still has awareness and tries to defeat Loving. So, through this paper the writer wants to answer those things. First, about the factor that causes the split personality in John

Loving's character and the effect of his split personality in his life. Second, about the way John can defeat Loving and John's life after Loving is gone.

### **B. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study that is already explained above, the writer finds several questions that are very interesting to be seen. For knowing the messages behind John Loving's problems, the writer will try to answer these questions:

1. What is the factor that causes John's split personality?
2. What is the effect of John's personality in his life?
3. How can John defeat Loving?
4. How is John's life after Loving is gone?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

1. To find out the factors that causes split personality in John's character.
2. To find out the effect of John's split of personality in his life.
3. To find out the way John can defeat Loving.

4. To find out John's life after he can defeat Loving.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

By analyzing about split personality as the topic the writer hopes it will provide something valuable to enlarge our understanding about the works of Eugene O'Neill, and especially to understand the aspects of life through John Loving's struggle in facing his split personality. Furthermore, this study is also expected to be meaningful for us, especially for those who intend to study literature.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

It is necessary to limit the scope of the study to avoid moving far away from the main point of the discussion. First, the writer will see from the play itself, that is the intrinsic elements. From these intrinsic elements the writer will analyze through character, plot, and setting to support the discussion. Besides, the writer will also focus on John Loving's character as the central discussion. And to make the topic about split personality clearer, the writer will



see John's personality in which he has two different personalities, as John and Loving. The writer will also see John's background of life and his present life.

#### **F. Theoretical Background**

Since the writer analyzes the topic that is connected with the character in the play, so first she will use the play itself as the source. She will analyze the play through the analysis of character as the main discussion. To support the analysis the writer will also analyze through setting as the element that influence the character, and plot as the element that build up the story chronologically. Those structural elements lying within the play as intrinsic constituents that the writer brings out to analyze in associated with the signs and other codes of languages. From that concern, it will be used the structural-semiotic theory. It means a systematic study of signs which is a part of structuralist's 'method of enquiry'.

Besides using the semiotic theory, the writer will also use psychological approach by using Carl Jung's theory about analytic psychology. From this theory the writer will analyze John Loving's

personality and see the factors that influence and shape John Loving's personality.

#### **G. Method of the Study**

In this paper the writer will use the play itself as the main source. The writer will use descriptive analysis method, which is as a descriptive explanation of the problems through character's dialogues, events of the story, and actions.

In addition, to support this analysis the writer will also use semiotic analysis method. In which it will be seen through the symbols and signs that give the meaning for the play. The symbols and signs can be seen through the dialogues, actions, and setting of the play.

#### **H. Definition of Key Terms**

**Split personality:** A rare disorder in which the person alternates between two or more distinct personalities, each well integrated and well developed, with its own tastes, habits, memories, and learned behaviors.

**Shadow:** the dark side of human personality or the evil side of humankind.

**Dualism of religious attitude:** the feeling that believes in God in one side but disbelieves in God in another side, feeling that puts God into doubt.

## **CHAPTER II**

# **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**