

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I.1. Background of the Study.

Literature is one of the great, creative, and universal means of communicating the emotional, spiritual or intellectual concern of mankind. Literature contains social information, psychological, political, philosophical, and religious values. According to Wellek in his book *"Theory of Literature"*, literature is social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But furthermore, literature 'represent life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, eventhough the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation' (94). Literary work is a potrayal of human life, we can learn many aspect of life that we can apply in our real, daily life.

Literature appeals to us because it enlarges our experiences of the world and of ourselves and in literature these two kinds of enlargement are the same enlargement, for insofar as literature opens a new world for us, and a new view of the world we have lived in, it also indicates new kinds of response to the world. The study of literature is one of the things that can lead to the discovery of new dimension of the self (Brooks,1976;1).

One of the literary form is drama. The word drama is derived from a Greek word 'dram' meaning 'to do', 'to act'. It was referred to by Aristoteles as 'imitated human action', a definition that remains serviceable. A play, like a novel or short story, tells a story. Characters who we come to know through their speeches, their thoughts, and their actions, are important in a play. The interesting things in dramas are they are not only entertaining to watch but also enjoyable to read and when the readers read them, they can also imagine how the characters act and speak on the stage.

In this paper the writer will analyze Eugene O'Neill's play which entitled The Hairy Ape. According to A.H. Quinn in his book *"The Literature of the American People"*, O'Neill was the first American playwright to be recognize abroad as comparable in importance to the leading dramatic writers of England and the Continent (Quinn ; 1951 ; 928). He won the Nobel Awards for literature for Beyond The Horizon, Anna Christie, Strange Interlude, and Long Day's Journey Into Night.

The Hairy Ape which was published in 1922 is considered to be O'Neill's best-written play. The play is interesting since it tells about man and his struggle with his own fate. It focuses on the social outcast on the modern Industrial Age, Yank, who rootless, and his bitter struggle against a hostile society is the consequence of his obsessive search to find his place to 'belong' in the society. Yank's belief that he is a vital part of the social order is shattered when he meets Mildred Douglas, a daughter of the rich , capitalist class, that makes him realize that he does not belong as he imagine he did. Yank is an outstanding example of a figure, below the 'norm' defined by society, who fails in finding the sense of belonging.

The society plays an important part in Yank's searching in the very beginning of his life. It influences his way of thinking and his behavior, then leads to his failure to reach self-actualization, the highest stage of human needs, through his failure in finding his sense of belonging.

The importance of sense of belonging to Yank, the way he faces it and the society's influence toward his struggle have been the writer's most interest to analyze it in a proper way.

## **I.2. Statement of the Problem.**

Based on the background of the study and to systemize the discussion, it needs to arise some questions that will be the starting point of analysis:

I.2.1. Why is the sense of belonging so important to Yank?

I.2.2. How does Yank struggle to regain his sense of belonging ?

## **I.3. Objective of the Study.**

In this thesis the writers wants to emphasize Yank's struggle to regain his sense of belonging, how reaction toward the society regarding his struggle.

The writer hopes this study will broaden and sharpen our knowledge on literature, focusing in O'Neill's plays, most especially O'Neill's The Hairy Ape.

#### **I.4. Significance of the Study.**

By analysing this play, the writer hopes it will provide something valuable to enlarge our understanding about the works of Eugene O'Neill, and especially to understand the aspect of life through Yank's struggle. Furthermore, this study is also expected to be meaningful for us, especially for those who intend to study American literature.

#### **I.5. Scope and Limitation.**

In this thesis, the writer will focus the analysis on the intrinsic elements of the play such as plot, setting and characters, especially Yank's character. Yank's struggle then is analyzed through psychological approach.

#### **I.6. Theoretical Background**

In analysing the play, the writer will see the play from its existence as a work of art. She will focus on some intrinsic elements of the play such as plot, setting and characters. In this way, the kind of approach she uses is *Intrinsic approach*. Therefore the theory she chooses is *Objective Theory*.

In evaluating the society's influence and Yank's behavior in facing that, the writer applies *psychological approach*, by using Maslow's concept of human behavior. The approach is used to clarify the stages of Yank's responses toward the influence, how the society influence his behavior, and how he finally finds his end result. To clarify and explain the analysis, the writer also uses *Extrinsic Theory*,

since psychology is the external aspect of the play, but it will support and give clearer explanation to the previous analysis which is focused on the intrinsic elements of the play.

### **I.7. Method of the Study.**

In writing this thesis, the writer applies library research. She collects many informations from encyclopedias, dictionaries, books on literary theories, and any printed materials dealing with O'Neill's The Hairy Ape. The main reference of this study is the play itself. However, some relevant books on literary theories are required as a support to understand the theory that are also used in analysing the play. Yet, some more books or printed materials are also used as references. These can be seen in the bibliography.

The method used by the writer in this analysis is the descriptive method. This method will give us some descriptions about the aspect of the literary work that is analyzed.

### **I.8. Definition of Key Terms.**

- Sense of belonging* : It is a feeling that one has the social qualification or ability to be a member of a group, circle, or society.
- Ape* : A member of the Pongidae (kind of primates), used especially of the larger tailless such as gorillas,

chimpanzees, orang utans (Ox-ford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).

- Internal Conflict* : A conflict between two desires in the chief character or man against himself (Little, 1966 ; 84).
- External Conflict* : A conflict between man against man, between the main character with the environment (Little, 1966 ; 84)
- Class-consciousness* : actively aware of one's position or one's responsibilities or privileges as a member of a particular social or economic class or of one's identity of interest or common status with others of the same class (Webster's Third New International Dictionary)
- Society* : An enduring and cooperating social group whose members have developed organized patterns of relationships through interaction with one another, also: the complex structure of social institutions of such a group (Webster).

### **I.9. Organization of the Paper.**

This paper is organized into four parts or four chapters. The first chapter is *Introduction*, the content of which introduces to the readers what will be discussed in the following chapters. The first chapter has nine sub-chapters. The first one is *Background of the Study*, in which the writer gives a short explanation about literary work and the reasons why she chooses O'Neill's The Hairy Ape to be analyzed. In the

second sub-chapter, *Statement of the Problem*, the writer states her main problems to be answered in this thesis. The third sub-chapter, *Objective of the Study*, shows the readers the target to be achieved by writing this thesis. In the fourth sub-chapter, *Significance of the Study*, the writer tells the readers what advantages might be taken from reading this thesis. In the fifth sub-chapter, *Scope and Limitation*, the writer gives an exact limitation to the study, so that the discussion will not go beyond the limitation and the readers or critics will not question anything beyond it, too. The sixth sub-chapter is *Theoretical Background*, in which the writer establishes the theory and approach she applies in the analysis. In the seventh sub-chapter, *Method of the Study*, the writer explains about the methods she uses in arranging the analysis in this thesis. In the eighth sub-chapter, *Definition of Key Terms*, the writer defines some terms used specifically in this thesis so that the readers will have the same interpretation with the writer about the terms. The ninth sub-chapter or the last sub-chapter in the first chapter is *Organization of the Paper* which shows how this paper is organized.

In the second chapter, *Theoretical Framework*, the writer will elaborate the theory and the approach that she will apply in the analysis. She will tell the readers how she can use such terms and approach within her analysis.

In the *Analysis*, chapter three, the writer elaborate analysis on intrinsic elements of the play such as plot, setting and characters.

This thesis will end with *Conclusion* in chapter four. She will make conclusion about what she has explained in the previous chapters. Besides, in this chapter, the readers can find the answer for the problems that has been stated by the writer.

**In addition, the *Bibliography* will give information about references the writer had used in writing this thesis, so that it can be scientifically recognized. The *Synopsis* helps the readers to understand the play is also enclosed.**



## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**