

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

Considering what has been discussed, the writer see that O'Neill's The Hairy Ape concerns with the problem of Yank in finding his sense of belonging, a place for him to belong in the society. In his struggle, he has to face oppression and rejection from outer forces, mainly the society in which he lives. The society plays very important role in his life. It influences his life from his childhood until his adulthood.

The sense of belonging is very important for Yank, because like every human being, he needs a feeling to belong to a group of people; a psychological need that is essential for man. In the stage of human psychological development, after the physiological needs such as eating and drinking are fulfilled, then man might be concerned with his psychological needs. He will search for safety or security. In his childhood, Yank has lost his feeling of safety because of the ill-treatment from his parent that makes him run away from them. Then in his adulthood, he feels that he has found his sense of belonging to a steamship, a place where he lives and works in. He feels secure in this environment and it emerges a strong sense of belonging within him. His sense of belonging to the ship is aroused by his certainty of being an indispensable part of the ship. His sense of belonging is very strong that it can give him esteem, a higher psychological need that reflect man's wish to set himself a part by

being recognized as someone special. By belonging to the ship and its member, Yank is certain he has a status in society.

The society strongly influences Yank's struggle that it is also influencing his way of thinking and his behavior. From the very beginning of his life society plays its important role to him. In his childhood Yank has run away from his home, a first place where a child should belong. His family, as the smallest part of the society can not give him the feeling of safety. Meanwhile it is the basic element for the emergence of the sense of belonging. The ill-treatment from his parents makes him feel he is rejected by them and he chooses to run away from his home. Because he thinks that his parents do not want him anymore, he tries to look for another place where he can be accepted. Then in his adulthood he thinks he finally find a place to belong, that is in the steamship. He is pleased lives there because the stokehole society respect him. They even treat him as a leader, a high position that emerges an esteem within himself. The acceptance from his small society in the stokehole bring him to a higher psychological need than only belongingness. But when the incidental meeting with Mildred happens, it destroys his sense of belonging and his esteem as well. His sense of belonging is easily destroyed because actually it is illusive, since in reality he is only a labourer, a slave, in the view of the capitalist class, the one who really belong to the modern world. Yank's narrow and uneducated mind can not understand that outside the stokehole there is the 'real' society, who views him totally different with his friend-the stoker. Actually after the incident with Mildred, Yank goes backward to the first stage, that is he only can satisfy his physical need. This is just like what has happenned when

he was a child, running away from his home, belong to nothing and nobody. It emerges his obsessive search again in finding his lost sense of belonging. Then he tries to fit in the Fifth Avenue society, the capitalist class like Mildred. But they reject him. So he continues his search and tries to join the Industrial Workers of the World, an organization for the labourers like him. Unfortunately he is also rejected here, meanwhile he think that is the best place that fits him. All that rejections disappointed him that a degenerated mind comes to him, to think that if human world can not accept him, may be the animal world will fit him. The influence of the society indirectly responsible for Yank's decision in coming into animal world.

Yank's reaction in facing the influence from the society develop as well as his mental growth. In his childhood, all he can do was run away when an outer force attacks him. He was not strong enough to fight and can not think to do anything to defend himself. In the adulthood, he is strong; and although he is not clever, he can defend himself by his physical power. So when he feels that his pride is hurt by Mildred, he wants to take revenge to her. When his friend, Long, makes him realizes that the fight is between classes, he tries to join the industrial Workes of the World in order to make his revenge. But then the organization also rejects him. At last he goes to a gorilla cage, but the animal also reject him. Until the end of his life, Yank can not reach his sense of belonging.

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**