

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The significance of the play will leave something unforgettable in people's mind especially when it is related to love and marriage. This phenomenon of human life will result long discussion since many aspects of life can change the essence of marriage and love itself. Marriage is a legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife. As traditionally conceived in Western culture, marriage combines several elements: first, commitment to life-long companionship and to sexual exclusivity ; second, it is expressed publicly in formal legal or religious ceremonies and it is made between one male and one female. In discussing the definition of love, William James and William Mc Dougall noted that love can be stated as an emotion or sentiment and instinctually based and consequently demanding more than that its emergence and expression can be observed (80). Love usually implies more than intense feeling and love may be restricted to feeling

with strong sexual component. An instrument to unite love and sexual feeling in legal union is marriage.

Play is important and complete literary genre since in the play the playwright can guide the readers and the audiences easily to the playwright's intended message. Through *The Way of The World* written by William Congreve in 1700, the readers are invited to contemplate the reality of life. The deterioration of sincerity of marriage is not one phenomenon anymore but it has been one concept of love, which can be seen clearly in that play. People once consider marriage as a beautiful self-sacrifice but it is then shifted to self-fulfillment. Marriage is viewed as a co-operative living contract between a man and a woman - co-operative in every profitable thing - but the contract will be finished when these two persons do not see the contract as a profitable facility. Some people choose to marry because they believe it is the best avenue for finding love, emotional support, sexual satisfaction, an enriched sense of self-worth, and economic security. Marriage can be politicized to achieve profitable purposes.

William Congreve (1670-1729) is the playwright of *The Way Of The World*, a play that will be discussed in

this thesis. He was born in Yorkshire. In 1691 he was admitted to Middle Temple in London to study Law. It is likely that, like young Witwoud in *The Way Of The World*, his interest in law is only a means to take him to London, the center of excitement. During his life, Congreve has produced some works including novels and poems. *The Way Of The World* is one of his famous works during Restoration Period.

In *The way of The World*, Congreve is more than holding up to ridicule the assumption that govern that society of his time, "he could not regard love merely as the gratification of lust or as a beetle of sexes, a matter of wit rather than feeling" (Encyclopedia Britannica:538). Mirabell, the main character of this play represents the ideal Restoration attitude, intense yet balanced, his love is based on the mutual esteem with no surrender of individuality. In Mirabell's eyes, love and money are valuable to be taken in account at all times. Matrimony is an ideal apparatus or way to reach such things legally.

The writer is interested in *The Way Of The World* as a subject of her thesis because this play has a special characteristic compared to other Restoration works. The term 'Restoration play' is usually applied

to the plays written during the period from 1660 to 1710. The particular tone of Restoration period is a reaction against the Puritanism, the period defied the era of English Protestant in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when it was strict in morals and regarded pleasure as sinful. In fact, the relation between the court and the theatre was more than merely casual. In the early years of the Restoration, the Theatre depended very greatly on the support of nobility, it reflected the taste of the court and its activities. An English tradition of social comedy that treated the love game with lightness, humor, and some ribaldry in Restoration plays, respectively comedy was found easily. According to Fiskin in *Congreve's The Way Of The World Notes*, there was a strong influence which led to elegance of plotting, characterization, and acting (9).

Congreve's love passages can be graceful and dignified; he treats love and marriage with objective rationalism that is quite apart from the concept of lechery is something uncommon at that period though it really happens currently. According to Torsina, love is trivialized because of anxiety toward commitment in marriage. Marriage is not viewed as an obligation

anymore but merely a choice. Individuals tend to look for their self-satisfaction; they hunt for their self-potential with the independent personality, regulate their lives and chase happiness (16). In this case, the essence of love and marriage, which base on the unified bond and the integrity of love is felt as one system that requires compromise, consensus, and sacrifices.

The approach of the problem, however, is balanced, love without money would be a problem; but money without love is not the purpose. This is the way of the world, Congreve depicts in his play. Love without money is a sentimental dream, although money often corrupts what love there is.

Mirabell is significant to consider as an ideal Restoration character. He has vice and virtue character. He has been a successful woman chaser. He arranges for the marriage of his former lover to a man presumably his friend in order to cover their reputation. He devises a plot that would blackmail Lady Wishfort into consenting to her ward's marriage; however, he distrusts Fainall, his former lover's husband and forestalls Fainall's villainy to protect his ex-mistress's money.

At the end of the play, Mirabell succeeds to politicize marriage. Being consented by Lady Wishfort, Mirabell is able to marry Millamant and automatically gains her wealth.

#### **A.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Based on the background of the study above, it is interesting to analyze the politization of marriage. Some interesting questions that arise in the writer's mind after reading *The Way Of The World* can be formulated into these following questions :

1. How far do Mirrabell's character and background support the politization of marriage ?
2. How does Mirabell resolve the conflict arising from his politization of marriage toward Millamant ?

#### **A.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

1. To explore Mirabell's character and background which support the politization of marriage.
2. To find out the way Mirabell resolves the conflict arising from politization of marriage toward Millamant.

#### **A.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study aims to describe the concept of marriage, how it has been politicized, and the aspects that contribute to the politicization of marriage. The writer hopes that this study shall be useful for the the world of knowledge in general and the world of literature in particular. It is also hoped that the outcome of this study will be useful not only for the student of English Department of Airlangga University but also the other students who want to broaden their knowledge and understanding about marriage as one phenomenon of life.

#### **A.5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION**

This research is concentrated on the analysis of Mirabell in politicization of marriage in order to achieve his pleasure.

To obtain this purpose, the writer limits the focus of attention on the three intrinsic elements respectively plot, characterization, and setting. The writer convinces that those elements are considered to be representative enough as the main elements of the

play in which they are interrelated to one another to express the impression of the play.

#### **A.6. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

This thesis is focused on the analysis of politization of marriage in gaining the purpose. The writer limits the analysis on the characterization, setting, and the plot, which are parts of intrinsic aspects of the play. Therefore, the writer decides to use the intrinsic criticism since it will clarify the explanation of the analysis, and limits it from unrelated study.

#### **A.7. METHOD OF THE STUDY**

In the process of writing this thesis, the writer uses library research. According to Komaruddin, "a library research is a process of finding information which are useful in helping the writer to direct research," (18). The writer collects data and information from various books, encyclopedias, and other printed materials dealing with William Congreve's work especially *The Way Of The World* and other related study.

Regarding the subject of the study, descriptive analysis is used as Komaruddin stated, "the descriptive analysis is the descriptive explanation of the problem through the dialogues, events, and actions. This method is applied based on the work itself and supported by other information about the work," (18).

#### **A.8. DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERMS**

In this thesis, the important terms which are to be noted will be given as follow :

*Politization :*

A particular way in which people use it to get their intended purpose.

*Marriage :*

An instrument to unite love and sexual feeling in the legal union.

*Objective Rationalism :*

Marriage purpose has been changed into more realistic and materialistic object due to the increasing material needs.



analysis about politization of marriage that is encountered by the main character.

The fourth chapter is conclusion. The problems concerned with this thesis are going to be concluded in this final chapter.