

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Emotion is a part of human inner aspects, which plays an essential role in determining someone's life. During his life, a man would certainly experience many problems that may lead him to acquire happiness, joy, and excitement. In spite of that, life is not a mere nice thing after all, for there have been so unbearable facts that someone would unavoidably get through. Such facts may take him to come to life of sadness, of pain, and even of gloom. How he reacts towards or against the life involving particular and spontaneous feelings is something what we assume an emotion (Carlson 350). The emotion is always accompanying every man wherever he is, whatever he does, and in what situations he is involved.

Emotion comes after particular situations in which someone is present. An environment to where he is attached essentially influences it as a stimulus triggering someone's emotional responses towards it (Carlson 345). Through his environment, someone might have a social interaction that places him to become a part of it. Such association would absolutely lead individuals to implant a resemblance in their way of thinking, behaviors and norms. Whenever he is in correspondence to his

environment's thoughts, he would automatically react to the positive function. In this case, his emotion serves the very positive function in forcing the individual to organize a changed environment. Consequently, it will conduct him to happiness. On the contrary, when he is against the norms he is living with, he would automatically react to the very negative function, namely instinctive and irrational, which may lead someone to endure negative emotional state, sadness, despair, etc. Such reactions towards or against the particular situations are called an emotion (Hilgard 330).

The failure or success of a man is primarily determined by his responses against situations or social conditions emerging as realities he is dealing with. The so-called physiological responses are basically spontaneous, and are assumed, as an emotion, thus an emotion, indeed inevitably remains unavoidable. In general, emotion views us to a negative aspect since mostly, someone becomes emotional when he could not endure a situation that he has never imagined to burden. Yet, he expects it perversely, to an ideal one. When someone is able to express his behavioral responses over a dissatisfied condition in such a tolerable way, thus, in other words, he has successfully led his emotion to be under control. This persistence would greatly bring about a contentment of life, which has been being sought by all human beings living on the earth. Contrariwise, when someone fails to get by on such conditions in a good

manner, he would automatically achieve no rewards of life except a misery for he could not hold his emotion to endure the heavy burdens. Unquestionably, he might be declining, continuing living aimlessly since he could be desperate to realize his failure in gaining what he thinks it ideal.

Above all, we may presume that an emotion always comes along someone's success or failure, someone's happiness or pain, in other words, an emotion is strongly decisive in someone's endurance to face the realities.

One of Russian famous authors whose works are mostly exploring human emotion is Anton Pavlovich Chekov, the first modern dramatist. All the heart of Chekov play, there lies not emotional isolation but emotional contact between human beings. In moment of stress or crisis, people underlying preoccupation become highlighted and emotions flow between them most uninhibitedly. Disruption may also very often be followed by its opposite, by some kind of reconciliation or emotional recovery, and this enabled Chekov to range widely between the extremes of harmony and disharmony (Lindstrom 203).

One of Chekov's masterpieces is *Uncle Vanya*, which first appeared in print in a collection of Chekov's works published in 1897, and went to the Moscow Art Theatre in 1899. *Uncle Vanya* had a curious history. In 1899, Chekov submitted a play called *The Wood Demon* to the Peterburg

Dramatic and Literary Committee. The Committee rejected the play as being nothing more than "a dramatized story". However, *The Wood Demon* was finally put on in December of 1899. It was a miserable failure. After attempting further revisions, Chekov ultimately abandoned the play. It was *The Wood Demon*, pruned down, tightened, with a new pivotal situation and minus several characters, which emerged as *Uncle Vanya* in the collected works of 1897. Many of the scenes and the dialogue have been retained in *Uncle Vanya*, but Chekov considered it a new play. This play became a smashing success. Chekov's other masterpieces are *Ivanov*, *The Sea Gull*, *The Three Sisters*, and *The Cherry Orchard*, also brought about a radical change in playwriting and were instrumental in the triumph of Moscow Art Theatre.

Anton Chekov's *Uncle Vanya* portrays a lofty devotion, however torturing, which is experienced by mainly three characters, namely, Vanya, Sonya and Astrov who have been spending their entire lives of for a routine and wretched toil to Prof. Serebryakov. It brings about such a frustration of life, which is, in addition, also strongly influenced by the condition of Russian rural society at the time, by the social laws conducting the pattern of patriarchy. The feeling of unfairness stimulated by a humdrum life trigger Vanya, Astrov, and Sonya to unexpected and extraordinary behavioral responses, which are seemingly as means of relinquishing their mental depression. In the first very impression after

reading *Uncle Vanya*, the writer captures the most striking element of the play to be analyzed. To name one, the significance of emotional process supported as well by psychological stimuli as well by the social condition that lead to the basis of extraordinary behaviors. The writer finds it interesting to explore human emotion through the work of Chekov, *Uncle Vanya*, due to the fact that human emotion would remarkably determine someone's life, the glory or the pain he would gain. Through *Uncle Vanya*, specifically, the writer traces the emotional process conducting the disruption of Vanya's, Sonya's, and Astrov's life.

B. Statements of the problem

Considering the background of the study above, the writer formulates some problem statements as follows:

1. What are the conditions that cause Vanya's, Sonya's and Astrov's rebellion?
2. How do Vanya, Sonya and Astrov appeal to their behavioral responses as elicited by their emotional feelings?
3. How significant is the emotion in determining their life – a success or a failure --?

C. Objective of the Study

Since the principal analysis of *Uncle Vanya* is the power of emotion, thus, firstly the writer would attempt to trace what conditions that Vanya, Sonya and Astrov must undergo, in which may ultimately lead them to a rebellion. Furthermore, the writer will elaborate how they appeal to their behavioral responses as a strike against such conditions, which is predominantly stimulated by their emotional feeling. Finally, the writer may accomplish her analysis after figuring out the significance of human emotion in determining Vanya's, Sonya's, and Astrov' s life.

D. Significance of the Study

This study, hopefully will be a meaningful contribution to the development of literature especially in the English Department of Airlangga University.

Specifically, by this study, the writer intends to reveal the sensitive part of human, namely, human emotion which is ultimately magnificent and powerful in stimulating extraordinary reactions. Indirectly but automatically, these reactions which reflect emotions will definitely be the most influential part in the determination of someone's success or failure in life.

Mostly, one would never realize that their emotion plays a great important role within his life. By exploring the deepest side of human

emotion, the writer is attempting to reveal that somehow someone would admit that all the happiness, glory, sadness, or gloom are mainly due to the rightness or falsity of the treatment of his emotion.

E. Scope and Limitation

The writer, in compiling this study, will specifically attempt to restrain the discussion upon the psychology of literature and sociology of literature. The employment of psychological and sociological aspects is of some value since the analysis focuses on human emotion stimulated by social conditions with which the main characters have to deal.

F. Theoretical Background

Since the analysis will mainly explore the psychological and sociological aspects of the play, thus the writer employs Rene Wellek's psychology and sociology of literature. Furthermore, the analysis will be supported as well by some psychological approaches, appropriately focusing on James-Lange's Theory of Emotion. Sociological approach will also be applied to decipher the social laws penetrating the characters' way of life that triggers them to be mentally frustrated and emotionally to act peculiarly.

G. Method of the Study

In working on this thesis, the writer is purely utilizing a library research. Some related data and references are taken from original writings, critical studies, and collections of essays, article, encyclopedias and other printed material in relevance to the works of Anton Chekov particularly *Uncle Vanya*.

Considering the theory, the writer reads some particular books corresponding to the literary theories and approaches that will be employed in the analysis. But as the main source of the analysis is the work itself, in this case is *Uncle Vanya*, whereas the other sources are used as supporting studies.

The method used in the study is descriptive method, therefore, after reading the play, the writer describes the problems through, events, actions and dialogues of the play with the references and information related to the study.

H. Definition of Key Terms

- Emotion : on a psychological level, is a bodily process involving sharp fluctuations in one's state of arousal. An emotion is experienced as either a highly pleasant or a highly unpleasant reaction.

- Emotional feeling : any feeling elicited by situations and gives rise to particular responses either physically or mentally.
- Behavioral response : any behavior elicited by a stimulus, as an answer toward the stimulus.
- Emotional response/state : intense emotional feeling, which is reflected from behavioral response describing someone's psychological state.

CHAPTER III

THEORETICAL

FRAMEWORK