

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

It is true that some people believe that behind every successful man there is always a great woman and that usually the role of a woman is considered influential to the success or the fall of a man. The influence of a woman, as many people have always talked about, is no doubt the most interesting subject to be discussed nowadays, not only for the physical attraction of a woman but also for the intelligence and the continuing development made for the good of oneself and her friends.

We have found many supporting facts about woman's influence toward powerful man in the work of literature and also in reality where the woman has the ability to determine the greatness of the man. The most controversial evidence perhaps is the story of *Evita Peron*, wife of Argentina's president. She is the true evidence of what a woman can do in order to gain power. She is able to smoothen the way for her husband's political career by manipulating the mind of her people with her kindness (Dine. pp. online. 1-2). Another recent examples is the interdependence between our former president Suharto and his wife, Ibu Tien. This has proven that women nowadays are very much influential whether in the explicit or implicit way.

It has also been proven in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* that the influence of Lady Macbeth, wife to Macbeth himself, has played as the most important aspect that triggers the downfall of a man who should have become a great man. In fact, the ambition of a woman in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is the driving-force for all the following orders and

disorders that make up the entire idea of making one's dream to become a reality in such an improper way.

The play itself may not portray Lady Macbeth as the most important character, but her influence toward her husband is what makes her important in the way she conquer her husband's mind and emotion. Not only being the woman behind all the neat plan of murdering Duncan, she can also be considered as an extraordinary character to whom many would expect more. She could have been the good motivator for Macbeth but instead she had chosen the evil way to gain what she wants. The most interesting part is that the evil way she had chosen does not make her a bad wife to Macbeth. Though she appears as a depraved and immoral person, there is not a hint within the play that says Lady Macbeth is an unfavourable wife who may betray her husband. In fact, she is loyal to her husband as any other good wife. Beside making her own desire into reality, she is also trying to push Macbeth in order to smoothen their way to power. She does not think purely about her own desire but she is also being attentive to her husband's need.

Lady Macbeth herself has been portrayed as a woman who truly believes that ambition is the requirement to gain success. This also shows that she considers herself as a much stronger person than Macbeth and throughout the play, she appears to be the most influential character in Macbeth's life as she describes how she will pour her 'spirits' in his ear and also from John Peck and Martin Coyle's *How to Study A Shakespeare Play*: " Much of the play focuses on Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, as they murder their way to power ..." (85)

Her ultimate achievement is that she is finally able to convince Macbeth to gain his ambition because in that way her ambition to be the Queen of Scotland will soon be realised as well. Her dominance of influencing Macbeth is no doubt the interesting aspect to be observed for it leads to the orders and disorders mostly found within the play. Whether the influence is considered implicit or explicit, it is the fact that the growth of Macbeth's characterisation much depended on the ambition of Lady Macbeth. Her ambition is the push-factors in Macbeth's decision making toward a certain situation. Thus, from most of the reasons presented above, the writer is interested in making a deeper study on the power and ambition of Lady Macbeth in influencing Macbeth's character development.

From the opinion above the writer wishes :

- (i) To obtain all the supporting information within the play particularly on Lady Macbeth's ambition. As we all know that in reality a man should know and accept the limitation of what is possible and what is not in achieving the ideal expectation. In Macbeth, this fact of limitation is being exposed by the promise of the witches and with the ambition presented by Lady Macbeth. This exposure becomes the system of gain and loss (G.K Hunter qtd. in Wells 138). This ambition drives Macbeth's decision-making process to meet the ideal expectation within the order and disorder of the events, or in the success or the downfall of the characters. Since none of this could have happened without the ambition of Lady Macbeth, the writer considers it crucial to define ambition with a proper term as represented in the play, as well as to compile what is Lady Macbeth's ambition; then determine whether the ambition is aimed for her own advantage or her husband's.

**(2) To strengthen the idea of the influence from Lady Macbeth toward her husband.**

**Influence itself can be defined as the ability of one person to affect the behaviour and thinking of another person (Athos and Gabarro 290). Through Psychological approach, the writer will try to analyse the influence of ambition mostly in Macbeth's relationship with his wife and in his decision-making process. From here, the writer will be able to determine whether this ambition will portray Lady Macbeth as a good or a bad wife. The last aim is to determine the relation of ambition with the evil events mostly found in the play.**

#### **B. Statement of The Problem**

**From: the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problem as:**

- 1. What is Lady Macbeth's ambition ?**
- 2. How does Lady Macbeth's ambition influence Macbeth's behaviour ?**
- 3. Does Lady Macbeth's ambition bring success or failure for herself and her husband ?**

#### **C. The Objectives of The Study**

- From this study, the writer wishes to obtain all the information about Lady Macbeth's ambition as reflected in Shakespeare's Macbeth. It is also expected that from those information, the writer will achieve a deeper understanding on the particular work of Shakespeare, the greatness and the unique element that makes this unique character worth-discussing.**

- From the first objective of the study, the writer also wishes to make an analysis on the influence of Lady Macbeth's ambition toward Macbeth's behaviour and the significance to the orders and disorders mostly found within the play.
- The writer wishes to conclude a certain understanding based on the analysis of ambition. From this conclusion, the writer will be able to determine the success of The Macbeths in the play and how they cope with the failure later on.

#### D. The Significance of The Study

Since the writer wishes to specify the analysis on ambition in general and its influence toward human life in particular, it is undoubtedly suited that Shakespeare's *Macbeth* contains a different conception of ambition; how it is achieved and how it gives the ending to the characters in the play. It is interesting to know that ambition does not belong to a certain gender or a certain type of person. Lady Macbeth, through the order and disorder of the play, has shown that there are many options of gaining one's ambition, be it good or bad.

This study is also expected to be a valuable suggestion for a better literary understanding as well as for the benefit of human conscience. By this, the writer hopes that people may be able to decide what is best or worse for their lives in a wiser way. Seeing things through so many perspectives is the important aspect in this play or in Lady Macbeth's characterisation in particular. That way people will have a deeper consideration before doing certain actions that may result in a total disaster.

Thus, the writer considers that the significance of this analysis is clearly focused on ambition and its influence toward human. In the pursue of life values, many people may be faced with obstacles as a mean to differ between what is proper or improper. Hopefully, the readers are able to get worthy lesson from this drama as well as a better literary understanding.

#### E. Scope and Limitation

The writer is concentrating on the study of Lady Macbeth's character and her ambition that influence Macbeth's behaviour in achieving his goal. It will be limited mainly to the motives that build up Lady Macbeth's ambition and how she uses those motives to change her husband's behaviour according to her expectation. The theory used is through Psychological analysis and it will focus specifically on the study of motives, ambition, influence and behaviour of the character.

#### F. Theoretical Background

From the background of the study, the writer will try to analyse the content of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* through the psychological approach. Thus, *the Incentive theory* from the conception of motivation is considered as a suitable base to learn the characteristic of Lady Macbeth's influence to her husband's behaviour since in this play Macbeth is a weak character who could never make up his mind on anything.

Instead of focusing on internal factors, incentive theory explains motivation in terms of the nature of the external stimuli—the incentives that direct and energise behaviour (Hoyenga qtd. in Feldman 225)

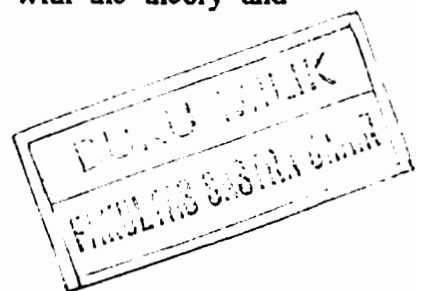
The Incentive theory attempts to explain why behaviour is not always motivated by an internal need such as the desire to reduce drives or to maintain an optimum level of arousal and thus, Lady Macbeth's ambition can be considered as the external stimuli for Macbeth's behaviour.

We can also analyse the content from the intrinsic element especially on the characterisation that the work of literature mostly contains such as the human behaviour, attitude and soul and what we are about to discuss is Lady Macbeth's ambition that motivate the evil within Macbeth's behaviour. As what Davis Daiches said in *Critical Approaches to Literature*:

We can look at the behaviour of characters in a novel or a play in the light of modern psychological knowledge and in their behaviour confirms that what we know about the subtleties as a mean of elucidating and interpreting work.

#### G. Method of The Study

The method of literary research is aimed to reveal the object of analysis through three principles: validity, reliability and objectivity (Wuradji qtd. in Jabrohim 3). In doing this thesis, the writer applies the library research to support the analysis from the reference books, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, or other printed materials as well as internet dealing with William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and its criticism. The writer also tries to find out some information from other books dealing with the theory and approach used in the analysis.



Using the descriptive method, this study is based on analysis principal that consists of: description and analysis (Jabrohim 165). After describing the data, the writer tries to analyse the problem contained in the drama. The description itself can be separated from the analysis stage because the outcome of the study is the interaction result between the writer and the work.

Also there's a specific method used to analyse the work of Shakespeare according to John Peck and Martin Coyle in *How to Study A Shakespeare Play* by first looking for the broad pattern of the play in order to find the trigger for the complications of the play. Then the second step is to capture the distinctive qualities of the play by starting to look in more details at the plot or concentrate on a few scenes or acts as the focus of the discussion. And also by focusing on images of order that is set against images of disorder (6-9).

## II. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Ambition** : (1) eager; desire to succeed; to achieve power, wealth, fame etc. or a strong desire or steadfast purpose to achieve something commendable or a kind of object of aspiration or desire.(2) The ardent desire to rise to high position, or to attain rank, influence, distinction or other preferment.
2. **Behaviour** : it is anything an organism does, any of its action, aggressive behaviour takes place when one organism makes a hostile attack, physical or verbal, upon another organism or thing (Corsini 24)



3. **Motive** : objectively defined as a hypothetical state in an organism used to explain its choices and goal-oriented behaviour and subjectively defined as a desire or a wish (Corsini 140)
4. **Motivation** : it is the combination of character traits and circumstances that causes a character to act in a certain manner (Pooley et als 517)
5. **Incentive** : An event that is presumed to be a reinforcer for a given response, but which has not yet been shown to be a reinforcer of the response. It is positive or negative depending upon whether it is presumed to increase or decrease habit strength.
6. **Decision-making process** : it is a certain condition or process in which a person has a careful thought or consideration about several possibilities.
7. **Order and disorder** : it is language of a play and thought of a play, which more commonly refer to as a play's themes. They will reflect the same tension whether the action will either be violent or chaotic, or more diciplined and organised (Peck & Coyle 8)
8. **Evil** : (1) immoral, or cruel, or very unpleasant (Cambridge International Dictionary of English 474). (2) the cruel, vicious and murderous side of man, to see his self-seeking, hatred and violence (Peck & Coyle 54)
9. **Influence** : It is one person's ability to affect the behaviour and thinking of another sources of influence or bases of influence (Athos and Gabarro 290)



## **CHAPTER II**

# **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**