

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

William Somerset Maugham is one of the very intelligent British authors. This is proved by his competence in his medical ability in addition to his aptitude in speaking several languages. He had excellent qualification for French, Spanish, German, Italian, and English (Cordell, 42). He can also be considered as a creative writer because he writes a wide range of literary forms from prose, plays, and criticism on other literary works (Magill, 1843). Just between the age of twenty three until forty he has already written at least eight novels, ten plays, travel books, and some amounts of short stories (Altman, 100). He was a professional writer for over than sixty years, and he had been very dilligent ever since. As a hard working writer, Maugham produced more than twenty novels, more than thirty plays, books of travel, anthologies, volumes of short stories, journals, and memoir which contains of Maugham's personal

opinion for his famous friend (Cordell, 251). That is why he is known as an English fiction writer, playwright, and memoirist (Smith, 233). He wrote interesting novels which are recognized by readers. "They keep book reviewers in full employment with his writings which are innovative in technique and have full scale essays in English language." (Connolly, 3). Connolly also added that "Maugham's writings have given more for human pleasure." Reading his books will be fun. Maugham is also described as one of the "World's supremely readable story teller." (Raymond, 437). Thus, the writer finds her personal interest in choosing Maugham as the author of the book for her thesis. Besides, John Raymond in Critical Heritage declared that Maugham is a "master of life." He was a qualified doctor, and one of the members of the Royal College of Surgeons and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (Cordell, 35). He had done many different jobs during his lifetime. "He drives farm trucks, has served his country as a secret agent, speaks perfect French, and he is also a medical student who delivered 62 babies in South London's slum." (Raymond, 439). He served as a dresser and ambulance driver for Red Cross unit in France during the war, and was

transferred to the Intelligence Department as a secret agent. Because of his excellence in speaking many foreign languages, he was finally sent to the United States on a "mission of information", and to Russia for another important mission (Cordell, 41-43). Next to his plentiful journeys around the world, these activities showed that Maugham really lived his life as excitingly as the way he liked, as the master of himself. He was an excellent entertainer who poured his own life experiences into literature in an interesting way. The materials of his works were gathered through travelling (Altman, 101), and he was "probably the most travelled writer in all history." (Cordell, 44). His career as a novelist, however, was decided at the age of twenty-three. After the success of his first book, *Liza of Lambeth*, he gave up his medical practice and becomes a professional author (Curtis, 366). His readers are from all classes all over the world (Curtis, 371). Because of his intellect and interesting way in producing works of art, the writer decides to analyze one of his novels.

The writer is interested in choosing his novels rather than his plays because novels have more

description of characters and plot. Besides, Maugham is known as an author who keeps his track of writing in linear narrative, a narration which is simple and easy to understand because it is not complex. Magill remarks that Maugham's style flows smoothly, showing simple pattern and lucid description. He furthermore stresses that Maugham is able to tell a story with "clarity and grace", a clear, simple, and elegant prose to entertain his readers with understanding into character and life. He brings his characters up to life with splendid portrayal. His words are highly idiomatic, fluent, and he narrates the story from unique angle of vision (Magill, 1844-45). This statement is strengthened by Curtis who considers Maugham as "a literary conservative who is capable of arousing readers's curiosity from the beginning to the end with plain and simple prose." (Curtis, 366). Maugham is an excellent author who is able to please readers with so many facts and details of life and characters in such an exciting way. Due to these facts the writer is more fascinated in Maugham's novels.

Maugham's book, The Magician was written during the first six months of 1907, and published in 1908.

Although Maugham also wrote other novels of mysticism and occult experiences besides The Magician, he was never converted to any mystical view of life (Cordell, 49). The novel represents the end of Maugham's first phase of being a novelist, as for the next five years he concentrated himself on the writing of many successful plays. Although The Magician is not his major work, Maugham himself in the autobiography-in the beginning of the novel-claims that the style of "lush and turgid" interests him. It is a form of writing that is characterized by richness in details and exaggeration by using bombastic words (Maugham, ix). The Magician is a story of horror, dealing with black arts and magical illusions. In "Somerset Maugham: An Appreciation", Wilfred Altman was once told by Maugham to "write about what you know. Never surrender to fantasy and imagination." (Altman, 99). The thesis writer herself is impressed by the intrigues and frightening effects of mystic and witchcraft appear in The Magician. The story is undoubtedly terrifying and suspenseful to follow.

Many novelists write about love because it is a universal theme which people experience from the past until the present time. "Love is an art" which every

human being need to learn in order to progress (Fromm, 4). By learning about love, one will realize that love is primarily profitable for the soul (Fromm, 5). It means that love is important for one's feeling, body, and mind. So it is worth learning. The writer is interested in choosing love as her topic for her thesis because it is a factor that is common for human being. Love is a part of every human life. There are various kinds of love, whether it is parental love, romantic love, or friendship love. In the analysis the writer uses theory of romantic love. Romantic love takes form in many ways, through words, thoughts, or action. Love has become a topic for many literary works. "Almost every work of the imagination includes the idea of love. It is included as naturally in literature as it is in life." (Bayley, 3). Moreover, "love becomes so universal a theme because of the remarkable variety of its world." (Bayley, 5). This statement refers to the definition that love is very broad, and has various kinds of meaning that we can give to love an attribute of 'world'. The writer chooses The Magician because the novel has a unique story of love. The novel combines two types of love, that are true love and fake love. By reading the

novel extensively, the writer knows that both Arthur and Haddo want to win Margaret's love. Each would do anything to have Margaret's love. Their conflicts become an attempt to win Margaret, and they try to show their love to her.

#### 1.2. Statement of the Problem

The writer is curious to know whether Arthur's or Haddo's love is truthful towards Margaret.

#### 1.3. Purpose of the Study

After close reading and analyzing the characters of Arthur and Haddo, the writer wants to know whose love is the true love. In her thesis, the writer would like to analyze the love of Arthur, as well as of Haddo towards Margaret by comparing their love and discussing their conflicts.

#### 1.4. Importance of the Study

From Maugham's The Magician the writer would like the readers to have more knowledge about Maugham's prose which is interesting to follow and exciting to read.

Like Cyril Connolly says in Critical Heritage that

"Maugham has the excessively rare gift of story telling, now so unfashionable. His death is actually our loss rather than his." (Connolly, 453-454).

Due to true love as the topic chosen, the writer hopes for the readers to have a further view that love is not easy to define and it is not always perfect and true. There are possibilities that some people use other people's love to get what they want and use it as a revenge to the one they hate. There are true love, but there are also many fake ones. The characteristic of true love and fake love is shown through actions of a person towards his/her loved ones.

The writer also wants the readers to realize that one's character traits can influence the way of loving of a person.

#### 1.5. Scope and Limitation

In order to analyze the topic thoroughly, the writer discusses true love as the scope and limits her study only in discussing the main male characters, Arthur Burdon and Oliver Haddo in order to accomplish her analysis. The writer will also discuss an internal conflict of the main female character, Margaret Dauncey

to emphasize the love of Arthur. Moreover, the writer will include their conflicts and characterization, as well as psychological theory in analyzing the love of Arthur and Haddo.

#### 1.6. Methodology

Because The Magician is just another work of Maugham and it is not one of his major works that becomes famous like Of Human Bondage, The Moon and Sixpence, or Cakes and Alle, the writer finds some difficulties in finding more criticisms on the novel. Beside doing library research, the writer has to close read the novel by herself. She gains her sources through close reading the novel, and through the library where she finds some articles of biography, autobiography, criticisms, and opinions that are related to the writer's topic. She uses literary approach namely the theories of conflict and characterization to analyze the two characters's love in the novel. And she also uses psychological theories, "oral character" and "reaction to boastfulness" to complete the discussion of character. As in the study of love, the writer uses Erich Fromm's The Art of Loving to

support her analysis. From these, the writer will accomplish her analysis thoroughly.

#### 1.7. Organization of The Study

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first is the introduction which contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Importance of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Methodology, and Organization of the Study. The next chapter is the Review of Related Literature. This chapter contains of Review of Related Literary Theories, conflict and characterization. This chapter also contains Review of Related Studies which contains of criticisms and some psychological theories. The third chapter is the analysis of the study of love of the two main male characters in Maugham's The Magician. In this chapter the writer writes all the analysis that she has done. And the fourth chapter is the conclusion of the writer's analysis.