

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF SCENES I, III, AND IV

In the first, third, and fourth scenes of the play, O'Neill is trying to drag his readers down into one side of the world where the men are working hard, cursing and talking to each other in a cramped quarter of the firemen. The situation and condition are very dirty, hot, and it seems that there is not any good ventilation in that room. All part of the room are surrounded by hot steel and iron. The first scene gives the impression of a constricted cage where the firemen live and work. The firemen are caged in or imprisoned by their hard and unfavorable life they have to go through. The firemen feel satisfied because they think that they belong to the ship. They never know the growing society in the outside world. In their cage, they feel secure and can socialize with each other. One of the firemen, Yank, who seems to be bigger than the others is the vivid portrait of well-contented man. Yank is really satisfied with the place

where he works and feels belonged. He, as the strongest person, uses his physical strength and power to regard himself as the leader of the firemen. He never feels that he is actually imprisoned and isolated from outside changing world. He still has a view that physical strength is the most important thing if someone wants to be belonged in a certain society. He keeps on stressing that he really is something. He is proud of his powerful physical strength and he uses it to threat his other friends, so that he will always be regarded as the most powerful man. Yank never thinks about any complicated things. He only feels that he has to feed the ship which makes him think that he has already had a certain place to identify himself with and he is very important person on that ship. He treats his friends very roughly, because he thinks that everybody needs him; therefore, he must be respected and obeyed. Everybody on that ship feels that they have to obey Yank, because he is the most powerful person. Everybody is afraid of him.

In this first analysis, the writer of this thesis notices that Yank based himself on his primitive principle, the fittest will survive, the most powerful person will be able to survive and lead others who are not powerful. Yank sticks to the law of the jungle. He thinks that he is the most powerful and strongest person; therefore, he will be able to

be the leader of the isolated group. He never has any knowledge about the outside world, nor does he have any good educational background, because since he was a kid, he has been away from his home and tried to find a job in different places, and at last he found the suitable job on the steamer. Since thereafter, he has been caged and isolated from the outside world. He never sees or goes out of the stokehole. He just works and works without realizing that as the time passes by, the world also grows into a modern materialistic and capitalistic world, all of which place the wealthy and well-performed men in the highest position. Yank still stresses again and again that he belongs to the ship and he is the most important person. He is really a man who is full of self-confidence and he also states that the present world relies upon power, force, and brutish strength. The modern man must have power to work so that he will be able to be placed in a higher position in the world. Yank never knows that modern world needs an intelligent and brilliant man to conduct the world. Yank never realizes that brain is more powerful in modern world than physical strength. He never realizes this because he never has any chance to see the outside world and society. He has been isolated for a long time; therefore, his way of thinking is just simple and primitive.

Not until Yank encounters the woman, who most probably represents the outside capitalistic and modern world, does he begin to open his mind and try to think deeper about his real existence in this world. Yank feels a little bit confused and distressed when the woman calls him filthy beast. His peaceful life and well contented mind seem to be gradually destroyed. He is very surprised that there is somebody who dares to insult him. Never does he think anyone will have the nerve to insult him. Yank begins trying to think, but still his pride cannot be totally erased. He still sticks to his old view and principle about the need of having powerful physical strength. He even tells his friends that he is going to show the woman who really belongs to this world. One of Yank's friends, Long, who is a class-conscious and realistic man, tries to make Yank see that they are just labors who work under the capitalistic class. Long tries to explain to Yank that his view that the fittest will survive is an old-fashioned view, because the society has been divided into classes, and they belong to the lower class of society. However, Yank is not concerned about the differences in classes. He only thinks that he has to work and whoever dares to insult him, he will take revenge on her. He still maintains the primitive view that there are no classes in society, and the only classes which exist are only the powerful and the weak. Yank never knows that he is far left behind by

the changing world and society.

The coming of Mildred into Yank's world has shocked both Yank and Mildred, for both of them are isolated in their own society. This can indicate that the gap between the high and low class people are big enough that makes both parties unable to know and accept each other. Yank's primitive and simple intelligence is being opened and broadened when he feels that he is actually being caged, imprisoned, and enslaved by the capitalists. Through the coming of Mildred, Yank knows that she is the one that is respected because of the money and position she has. Mildred's father is the owner of the ship, and Yank, who at first treats the steel and engine as his friends, feels that the engine and steel are actually the cage where the capitalists enslave him. But still, he tries to maintain that he is the most powerful man on that ship and he wants to build his pride and self-confidence again by saying that he will take revenge on Mildred. The act of Yank leaving the stokehole symbolizes that he wants to break free from the cage where he has been imprisoned for a long time, and lets others know that he is really something although he is outside his former world. His first and main reason for leaving the stokehole is to take revenge on Mildred. However, the writer of this thesis feels that he also wants to know the truth about self-identity and

existence in this world.

Although one of Yank's friends, Long, advises him to take revenge on the society where Mildred belongs, Yank does not take any attention to him because Yank thinks that it is a personal insult; therefore, he has to solve it personally. Yank never realizes that it is better to crush the society where Mildred belongs to than take revenge personally on Mildred herself until he is put into prison and being told by other prisoners about taking revenge on the capitalistic society where Mildred belongs. Yank still relies heavily upon his physical strength maintaining that his power can crush and defeat everything. v

Yank is really a man that is full of self-confidence., This is clearly seen from the fact that he always thinks that he is powerful, and due to his physical strength, everybody seems to be afraid of him. Yank becomes very proud of himself. He never thinks about anything else except thinking

Yank:To hell wit 'em all!(O'Neill, 1974, p.18).

S: In the firemen forecastle

P: Yank and his friends

E: Stressing that he needs nobody, because he is the most powerful man

K: angrily and mockingly

Whenever Yank feels unhappy or distressed because of

disobedience of his friends, he will easily blow his emotion out by using taboo words.

Yank: Aw hell!. . . . All dat bull's dead, see? And you're dead, too, yuh damned old Harp, on'y yuh don't know it! (O'Neill, 1974, p.9).

S: In the firemen forecastle

P: Yank and his friend

E: Commanding his friends to shut up

K: Scornful

Yank: Aw, yuh make me sick! Lie down and croak, why don't yuh? Always beefin', dat's you! (O'Neill, 1974, P.29)

S: In the firemen forecastle

P: Yank and his friend

E: Scorn his friend who always complain about his job as a fireman

K: Angrily

The fact that Yank uses taboo words when he talks or scolds his friends is because of his being full of self-confidence and proud of himself. He thinks he is everything in the stokehole. Everybody or even everything needs him; therefore, he is free to say or do anything he wants to do or say.

Besides taboo words, Yank also uses a lot of imperative sentence to give command to his friends. The imperative sentences are usually noted by the use of exclamation mark at the end of the sentence. Yank is again and again giving command to his friends to do this and that. The only and best reason why Yank can give order to his friends is because he thinks that he is the most powerful man and he is the leader among other firemen.

Yank: Choke off dat noise!... Gimme a drink, one of
youse guys! (O'Neill, 1974, p.7).

S: Firemen forecastle

P: Yank and his friends

E: Commanding his friends to shut up and give him a
drink.

K: Contemptuous authority

Yank: Come on youse guys! Git into de gamne! She's
gittin' hungry! Pile some grub un her! Trow it
into her belly! (O'Neill, 1974, p.29).

S: In the firemen forecastle

P: Yank and his friends

E: Commanding his friends to begin their work.

K: Commandingly

Another marker is that Yank uses a lot of exclamatory

sentences when he wants to say something. This can indicate that he can exclaim or even scream to others because he, as the most powerful man on the ship, has the right to do so. Yank uses a lot of imperative and exclamatory sentences in this first three scenes because he thinks that he is the most powerful person. He can do or say everything he wants to say or do, for he feels he is the most needed person. Everyone or everything on that ship depends on him very much. Yank fully believes in his power which is based on his physical strength. He can blow his emotion out whenever he is angry with his friends; therefore he uses a lot of exclamatory sentences.

Yank: Aw, yuh crazy Mick!...Say! Sure! Sure! Sure I
you old Harp! (O'Neill, 1974, p.16).

S: In the firemen forecastle

P: Yank with his friend

E: Scolding his friend who suffers a homesick

K: Threatening

Through the Speaking factors, the writer of this thesis also knows that Yank is really a man that is full of self-confidence, because SPEAKING factors provide the social factors whenever Yank utters his language. SPEAKING factors provide a support for the writer to know the setting, parti-

cipants, tone, or the end of Yank's speaking his language. In this first analysis, the writer knows that everytime Yank speaks, he always gives command or scolds his friends in a tone of contemptuous authority. This can indicate that on the steamer, Yank really feels that he is the most powerful and needed person; therefore when he speaks with his friends his main aim is to give order or to scold his friends if they disobey him, and he always speaks his language in a tone of contemptuous authority, anger, or commanding.



Ling. factors Scene	Imp.	Excl.	Interro.	Taboo	Total
I	16 16%	61 61%	8 8%	15 15%	100 100%
III	38 66%	10 18%	2 3%	7 13%	51 100%
IV	8 11%	50 63%	14 17%	7 9%	79 100%
V	1 1%	37 51%	24 34%	10 14%	72 100%
VI	- -	15 51%	14 49%	- -	29 100%
VII	- -	16 44%	20 56%	- -	36 100%
VIII	- -	10 30%	23 70%	- -	33 100%

In the first three scenes, Yank uses a lot of taboo words, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, while in the last four scenes, Yank decreases the use of taboo words, exclamatory, and imperative sentences, and increases the use of interrogative sentences. This can clearly indicate that at first, Yank really thinks that he is the most powerful man; therefore he uses a lot of imperative sentences and taboo

words either to command or scold his friends. He is full of self-confidence. The fact that Yank also uses a lot of exclamatory sentences in the first three scenes may show his wild and strong emotion. However, Yank uses few interrogative sentences, because there is nothing on that ship bothers him. So, he never questions anything. He thinks that he is the most needed and powerful person that knows everything about the ship and needs to ask nothing to others. However, towards the end of part one, chapter IV, that is after he meets the woman character, he has gradually decreased the use of imperative sentences and taboo words, and he increases the use of interrogative sentences. This may indicate that he begins to ask a lot more question, especially about his self-identity. Yank also increases the use of exclamatory sentences after meeting the woman character to show his wild emotion and anger after being called filthy beast by the woman.

After understanding the content of the play deeper, and collecting the language data, the writer of this thesis can feel that the fact Yank is using taboo words can also tell her about the character Yank has when he is in the stokehole. His self-pride and confidence which make him think that he is the most powerful man make him free to talk or say words or anything he wants to say. He is free to use taboo words among his friends, because nobody dares to stop him from uttering his every word. He scolds his friends by using taboo words.