

## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Literature is a reflection of human life. It usually talks about every aspect of life, but mostly about the reality people face in this world, which is about their condition, like happiness, excitement, misery, sadness, or even death (Little, 1966:4). There are several manifestations of literature, such as poetry, novel, short story, and drama.

Drama, as a part of literature, also deals with human life and its aspects. It is a picture or representation of human life and imitation of human action whose story is told by means of dialogue (Reinert, 1966). This means that a drama offers more about the image of real life. It imitates people's life story so that it is easy for the readers to grab and absorb the ideas and the messages that the author wants to. Besides, the dialogue among the characters can reflect the details of day-to-day living. It means that drama tells a story about man's ordinary life, including his problems, conflicts, feeling and so on.

The writer chooses to analyze a drama because she can feel the hopes and fears of the characters, and follow the characters' conversation and action as if they were real. By analyzing it, she may put herself in the story and experience the events in the drama as if she were in the same situation, such as fate, flaw, and downfall. For that reason, her imagination can be aroused through the characters' choice to face his life and the way s/he struggles. Besides, the dialogue in drama can stimulate her imagination and helps her to think critically to analyze and evaluate the drama itself, and her imagination will not be limited by the comment of the author.

Arthur Miller, as one of the prominent twentieth century's playwrights, has lived long enough to become one of the world's living theater legends, and now he is one of the greatest theatre figures (Martin, n.d., 8). He has created many

greatest works in literature and he has received many awards for all those greatest works. All My Sons (1947), for instance, received New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and Donaldson award; The Crucible (1953) received Donaldson Award and Antoinette Perry Award; and Death of the Salesman (1949) received even more awards, such as the Pulitzer Prize, Antoinette Perry Award, New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, The Theater Club Award, and Donaldson Award. On the other hands, A View from the Bridge, as one act play (1955), was not as successful as his previous works. Yet, after it was extensively revised into two-act play (1956), it became the next successful works of Arthur Miller. It won two Tony Awards in 1998. The awards that have been given to his works show that Arthur Miller has a great position in the American theater.

As a well-rounded writer, Arthur Miller has created many literary works, and his uniqueness is in the way he brings the real life situation to his works. Miller is a playwright of enlightenment and social consciousness. For him, writing is about all our lives, and remains so despite social change and alleged progress. (Mahoney, 2001, para.2). He stated in an interview after his first big successful play, All My Sons, that "In all my plays and books, I try to take settings and dramatic situations from life which involves real questions of right and wrong. (An Overview, n.d., para.3). For Miller, social play is the drama of the whole man (Cubeta, 1962). He thinks that only in drama people might know how much the same they are, and if people lose that knowledge, they shall have nothing at all.

The writer is interested in Miller's idea about the social problems because she considers that Miller is aware about the ills of society. As an American playwright, Miller is concerned about the life of ordinary people and their problems in the society, especially the American society at that time. After Focus, All My Sons, and Death of the Salesman, many playgoers decided that Miller was a topical dramatist who deals with injustices in American society (Moss, 1980). Their interpretation can confirmedly be seen in The Crucible. This play is actually addressed to the controversial subject of the early 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigation of Communist subversion in the United Nation. However, Miller had apparently camouflaged his condemnation of those

proceeding with the tale of an equally notorious witch-hunt conducted at Salem in 1692 (A Overview, n.d., para.5).

Due to his concern for the reality that people face in this world, Miller gives some trademarks to his play. One of his trademarks is The Great Depression. The Great Depression bankrupted Miller's father in real life, and in his plays, Miller reflects it on Victor Frank's father in The Price, the dozens of individuals and families who wander through the scenes of The American Clock. In All My Sons, the minor industrialist Joe Keller extricates himself from the summit of late Depression bankruptcy by wartime profiteering. The other trademark is the theme of man's responsibility to his fellow man. This is strongly expressed in All My Sons, where one man's greed haunts him in the worst possible way, in the death of his son. The guilt of the survivor, also became Miller's trademark, as it mentions in All My Sons, Chris Keller, unlike his father, bears no responsibility for the death of his brother and other victims of the war. Meanwhile, the other trademark like an ordinary man's tragedy doubling as symbol of a larger societal flaw is reflected in story of Willie Loman in Death of a Salesman. It is a realistic drama about one man's downfall on one level. On a broader symbolic level, it is also an examination of the delusions attendant on the pursuit of the American dream. A View from the Bridge updates the Greek tragic mode to depict the downfall of a Brooklyn dock worker in the 1950s (An Overview, n.d., para.6).

Having been impressed by Miller's greatness and interested in his concern, the writer chooses one of his literary works as the object of her thesis. She chooses A View from the Bridge considering that this play has never been discussed before. Thus, the writer feels challenged to analyze this play. She is interested in love, dignity, and betrayal, which result in one's death. Besides, she considers this play interesting to read as it contains many experiences of life that will be good to learn. Hence, she wants to dig more about the story of this play, especially about Eddie Carbone's illicit love and its consequences.

A View from the Bridge is a play, which talks about a man, named Eddie Carbone, who falls in love with his own niece, Catherine. Eddie is a good man, who is respected in his community. However, he cannot figure out the unbearable affection and passionate feeling he has to Catherine, whom he has raised as his

daughter. Eddie is confronted with a situation for which he is unprepared. Rodolpho, an illegal Sicilian immigrant, falls in love with Catherine, and they intend to marry. Eddie's jealousy and repressed sexuality make him cannot understand or control himself. He does everything to stop Catherine from marrying or leaving. On the other words, Eddie Carone's illicit love finally drives him to act in ways that ruin his family and break his community and his actions lead him to his death.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Since Miller's play, A View from the Bridge, tells about a story of a man, named Eddie Carbone, who raised his niece, Catherine, as a daughter and loved her as a lover, it is interesting for the writer to know how Eddie Carbone shows his love to his niece, what are the other characters' response to his attitude, and what are his efforts to keep Catherine for himself, and what are his efforts to gain his honor.

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

In this research, the writer wants to reveal the ways Eddie Carbone shows his love to his niece, find out the other characters' response to his attitude, observe his efforts to keep Catherine for himself, and discover his efforts to gain his honor, considering that Eddie Carbone's love to Catherine is the illicit one because he loves her not only as a niece, but also as a lover.

## **1.4 Importance of the Study**

Arthur Miller, as one of the greatest dramatist, has absolutely produced many good literary works. Thus, through this paper, the writer expects that the readers know more about Arthur Miller, appreciate and interpret his works better, especially his play A View from the Bridge that she discusses in this paper. She hopes that after reading this paper, more students of English Department would be

attracted in doing research about this play, or Miller's other plays because she believes that Arthur Miller's works are interesting, outstanding, and worth discussing and analyzing, as is proved by The Gold Medal Award for Drama that he received in 1959. As a result, the writer hopes this paper gives some contributions to other students who are also interested in writing a paper on Miller's works.

In this paper, the writer discusses the consequences of Eddie Carbone's illicit love. By discussing it, the writer wants to learn more about how man deals with his desire to get the love that he wants, which actually is forbidden. The conflicts that Eddie Carbone faces in this play, as a result of his illicit love, seem to be more realistic and relevant since the problems, such as love affairs and jealousy might also happen to common people in any modern society today.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

Since the topic of this paper is about Eddie Carbone's illicit love and its consequences to other characters, the writer wants to focus her discussion on analyzing Eddie Carbone, as the main character in A View from the Bridge, who falls in love with his own niece, Catherine. In addition, she wants to analyze the character of Beatrice, Catherine, Rudolpho, and Marco since she thinks that they have an important contribution.

### **1.6 Methodology and Procedure**

The writer uses library research in collecting the data, and she classifies the data into two groups, which are primary and secondary data. Her primary data is the play itself, A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller that published in 1956. Meanwhile, her secondary data includes the review of related materials, such as the historical background of the modern drama, theory of literature, comment on the author, and the critics of the play.

In doing this research, she uses Literary Approach, which consists of theory of characterization and conflict. Beside literary theories, she also uses

definition of love. She believes that by using it she can figure out Eddie Carbone's love toward his own niece, Catherine.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

The writer divides this paper into four chapters. The first chapter introduces the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, importance of the study, scope and limitation, methodology and procedure, and organization of the study. The next chapter consists of the literature related to the problem analyzed in this paper, including some theories used in the discussion. Meanwhile, the third chapter is the beginning of the analysis of A View from the Bridge. Finally, in the fourth chapter, she makes a conclusion. This last chapter also consists of bibliography, appendix, biography, and synopsis of the play itself.