

4. Conclusion

Through the analyses, I have explained that the three main characters in The Iceman Cometh have their own illusions that are burdensome. Hickey feels that his wife's forgiveness is a kind of a way to humiliate him. Therefore, Hickey thinks that killing his wife will free him from the humiliation. However, after killing his wife, Hickey cannot accept the fact that he is so sinful that he pretends to be insane when the policemen arrest him. Larry feels guilty because he urges Don Parritt to commit suicide. Larry then wishes that death would come sooner for him for he has sent Parritt to death. However, there is nothing he can do but to wait for his death. Don Parritt feels that he deserves a punishment for his betrayal to his mother. However, he is not able to find a way of it, unless somebody else decides it for him. Therefore, Parritt obeys Larry's order to commit suicide.

I see that in The Iceman Cometh, O'Neill does not cover faith in God in Larry Slade, Don Parritt, and Hickey. By the time the truths about Larry Slade, Don Parritt, and Hickey are revealed, the revelation of truth seems to burden them so that they cannot stand it. Therefore, the revelation of truth in The Iceman Cometh bring about three kinds of resolutions, namely despair, as in what has happened to Parritt, denial, as in what has happened to Hickey, and apathy, as in what has happened to Larry. However, these three resolutions have one thing in common, namely the loss of the spirit to go on living. Therefore, I conclude that the process of the revelation of truth for Larry Slade, Don Parritt, and Hickey in Eugene O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh tends to see death as the only solution to their problems which leads each of them to a spiritual death.