

Chapter I

Introduction

Through this chapter, the writer intends to put forward several reasons that make the writer finally come up with the topic. Besides, she also discusses statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the importance of the study, scope and limitation, methodology and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The thesis writer chooses drama as her analysis because drama is one form of literature. Basically drama uses dialogue, stage and action. In drama, the actors communicate the dialogue to impersonate the characters. It is clear enough that drama cannot only be read, but also

performed (Reinertxi). In other words, drama is distinguished from the other forms of literature, like poetry and prose. Moreover, drama arouses a visual curiosity of the audience (Cohen 31). The visual curiosity comes up because drama is full of incidents, which stand out above the ordinary happenings of everyday life. They are usually significant to appeal strongly to the imagination or emotion. Moreover, they leave the impressions on the mind and remain there for many years afterward. That is why she chooses drama as her analysis.

August Strindberg is "a Swedish playwright and an artist of prodigious energy who makes innovative contributions to a variety of literary genres -drama, poetry, biography, novel, short story and essay" (Hochman 557). He proves his talent by writing forty-seven full-length plays, twelve short plays, and four dramatic fragments. Both George Bernard Shaw and Eugene O'Neill made known their intense admiration for Strindberg's achievement (Douglass 2136). They admire Strindberg's plays, which proves that Strindberg really has the capability of writing plays. Moreover, another writer named Ibsen influences Strindberg while he writes his play such as The Father and Miss Julie because those two plays are written partly in reaction against Ibsen's play

A Doll's House (Styan 37). Those two plays by Strindberg make him an international writer of the first rank.

One of the famous American writers, Eugene O'Neill calls him "the precursor of all the modernity in their present theater" (561). It is because August Strindberg makes a pathway as a forerunner or a pioneer to create a kind of dramatic action with a sequence of images in language and visual composition, which become technically possible only in film (Williams 76). It is obvious that Strindberg was using the form of a play that is totally different from any other writers at that time.

The thesis writer also admires the struggle of August Strindberg in achieving his success by becoming a journalist in the beginning of his career. His journalistic experience may have helped Strindberg's writing style, which has remained as fresh today as when the plays were first written (558). For example, if we read one of the plays we will never know that the writer wrote it in the 19th century. Moreover, he is pre-eminently the dramatist of a dynamic psychology (William 112). He is so creative in a pure technical way in the capacity to find new and dynamic forms through psychological process. Besides, according to Douglass, The Swedish Academy also awarded him a Nobel Prize when he was at the age of twenty-one (2171).

The writer chooses Miss Julie to be discussed in her thesis since Strindberg makes his figures "characterless" and he wants the readers to see and value whether his character is a good character or not. Strindberg states this in his author foreword of Miss Julie:

I do not believe in simple character on the stage. And the summary judgements of men given by authors: this man is stupid, this one brutal, this one jealous, etc should be challenged by naturalist who know the richness of the soul complex and recognize that vice has a reverse side very much like virtue. . . . My souls character are conglomerations of past and present stages of civilization . . . (Sprigge 65).

So he wants to make the readers aware of the complexity of human's soul of the past and present in his play by mixing the old and new kind of civilization in his modern characters. He wants to express that there is no completely bad person or completely good person as a person is certainly influenced by other forces, psychological forces or series of motives as what happened in Miss Julie.

However, the main reason why the writer wants to discuss Miss Julie is because the author, Strindberg talks

about the special relationship between class and the battle between sexes (Styan 41) and this attracts the thesis writer to analyze this play. In this play, it seems that he wants to tell about the clash between Julie and Jean in their ideas and he also wants to emphasize Julie's weakness in facing her problem in her life. For example, Julie as an aristocratic girl is attracted and falls in love with her father's valet, Jean. Then, Jean responds to her by using her weakness for his own ambition.

Since Miss Julie stands as "a play which made Strindberg the forerunner of a new kind of drama" (Hornstein 427)' this Swedish play has been accepted as one of the literary works in the English literature. Many translators translated this play, such as Edwin Bjorkman, E. M. Sprinchorn, and Elizabeth Sprigge. Moreover, the writer decides to choose Miss Julie translated by Elizabeth Sprigge in 1955, as the primary source of her thesis since she translated almost all of Strindberg's plays into English such as The Father, Miss Julie, The Stronger, Easter, a Dream Play and The Ghost Sonata.

In Miss Julie, the major character is Julie. She is an aristocrat's daughter who lives together with her family and servants. In the society and in her life, she has to face many problems since she feels that everyone rejects her. At the end of her life, she commits suicide.

The thesis writer finds out that there are some reasons that cause Julie to end her own life. The sense of tragic life in the play has triggered the writer's interest to analyze Julie's life in Miss Julie.

The thesis writer is interested in analyzing the external and the internal factors that influence Julie to commit suicide. She sees that it is not easy for Julie, an aristocrat's daughter, to live in the world without love and being accepted from the people **who** live near her. Therefore; the thesis writer is interested in discussing and analyzing this topic.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The thesis writer sees the problems that happen in Julie. Julie can be considered as a character, who fails in life, and there are many factors that influence her. Therefore, the writer wonders what factors cause Julie to her tragic life, and how the factors lead her to her tragic life.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In this thesis, the writer attempts to find the factors and the process that lead Julie to her committing suicide.

1.4 Importance of the Study

The factors that lead Julie to her tragic life are very relevant to the modern society problems. There are many children who cannot get affection and love from their parents and their surrounding nowadays. Through the analysis, the writer wants to show that this kind of problem also happens to Julie. She cannot get love and affection from her environment. After learning the factors, the writer can learn that we should have courage to face the bitter facts from Julie's experience. The writer also hopes that the reader will learn the factors and the conflicts that **lead** Julie to her tragic **life**. Moreover, the writer wants to encourage the other students in Faculty of Letters to read Miss Julie since she finds that only a few of students in Petra University have analyzed Strindberg's work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Julie is the central figure and the representative character, who experiences tragic life will be the prime discussion of this thesis; therefore, the thesis writer limits the analysis through Julie's character traits in order to accomplish her analysis. The thesis writer analyzes the external factors. It is important to analyze some influential people like Julie's mother, her father,

Jean, and the servants who live around Julie that lead to her tragic life since those people are indirectly involved in the process of her disappointment and tragic life.

Furthermore, the writer also analyzes Julie's internal factors, which also bring her into her tragic life.

1.6 Methodology

In analyzing the thesis, the writer is using the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data that is used is the play Miss Julie, written by August Strindberg and translated by Elizabeth Sprigge, and published by Doubleday Anchor Books in 1955. The secondary data that are used to analyze the problem of the thesis are collected through the library research. The data are the biography of August Strindberg, literary theories, namely characterization and conflict, and the psychology theory about psychological reasons on suicide. The thesis writer uses the literary theory as the main theories to show the factors and Julie's character traits. The psychology approach is also used as a support to analyze Julie because it has the relation toward her character traits. It is used to show that Julie's surrounding also takes part in influencing her psychology so that at the ending can be concluded that the factors really influence her in her life, how she determines and values her life.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter that is the introduction discusses the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, importance of the study, scope and limitation, and methodology. The second chapter is the review of the related literature whose main concern are the theories used to analyze the play like characterization and conflict, supported by psychology theory. The thesis writer analyzes the play to show factors that influence Julie to end her life **in** the third chapter. The last chapter is the conclusion of the thesis.