

## CHAPTER II

### Review of Related Literature

This chapter will be about the literary theories. They are the characterization, conflict, and satire. However, Bernard Shaw, The Doctor's Dilemma, and the medical profession at Shaw time will be discussed first to support the analysis of Bernard Shaw's satire on medical profession.

#### II.1. Bernard Shaw, The Doctor's Dilemma and the Medical Profession

In Shaw's time, the public had something to believe in because since Charles Darwin had banished God from the universe they did not believe in religion any longer (Adam 89). At that time Darwin found a new idea that was different from what the people understood from the Bible. In On the Origin of Species Darwin wrote about the reasons why the old idea of special creation of species was not valid and showed that evolution could explain the diversity of living being on the earth. On the other hand, the Christian belief said that God

created a man perfectly and without passing a long process ( see Genesis 1:27 ). This understanding is clearly different from Darwin's theory which believed that there is an evolution of living being. But, people at that time tended to believe in Darwin's theory and left the Bible. This time was a time when faith decreased.

The decrease of faith gave a good effect on medical profession. In public's point of view, the doctor has a good reputation because he can do the miracles. He can cure the sick person. For example, a man caught influenza came to a doctor and the patient got the medical advice and the medicine. Finally, he recovered. In public opinion, recovering was the miracle and it was what the people wanted. That's why the medical profession easily took the position of faith in public heart. Besides, a doctor was also required to administer spiritual comfort that religious people seek from a priest (Ward 189). In this case, the doctor tried to reassure the patients that there was a hope of being cured. Actually, it was very useful for the cure of the patients. It gave them confidence and very useful for their recovery.

As a consequence, the doctor almost had the unlimited power. (Adam 88) A doctor is considered infallible. He can never do the wrong thing. The doctor was praised for the successful treatment or even for a new invention. Bernard Shaw said that the doctor got the credit of curing if he healed the patient (Shaw 10). AC Ward said when Shaw wrote The Doctor's Dilemma, people looked upon the doctor as the person whose only function was to cure the disease (Shaw 188). The people thought that he was so marvelous, he could do the great thing. The achievement of his treatment could be the recovery of a patient while the usage of the invention was very useful for the development of the health system. It is really

good for the doctor's action since it meant a development of the medical profession which was very significant for human being. On the other hand, when the doctor failed to save the patient, it was forgivable. The public could easily accept the failure of the doctor. They thought that the patient died naturally. This tendency made them rely on the doctor and do everything to acquire the doctor's treatment.

A fact that people of that time depended on the doctor so much really was not good for the doctor himself. Realizing that the people relied on him made the doctor feel superior and it influenced his attitude in treating the patients. The doctor became selective in choosing the patients. He had a certain requirement that must be fulfilled. The doctor just treated the patient who was worth saving. If the patient was not worth to be saved, the doctor would not treat the patient but, if the patient was worth being saved, he would be treated. However, this fact is very surprising because from the people's point of view, the doctor had a very good moral reputation.

There was an irony here. People at that time admired the doctor so much. They believed that doctor was an honorable profession for he had the ability to heal the sick people and gave the spiritual comfort for them. As a consequence, the medical popularity became higher and the society blindly trusted a doctor. It means that the people would do everything a doctor asked. On the other hand, because of the blind trust to the doctor, the society accepted the bad attitude of the doctor such as the doctor was so selective in choosing his patients. They did not easily get the doctor's treatment anymore. They must have something special that

could attract the doctor to treat them. It was really an irony. The people who really adored the doctor and did everything he said had to accept the bad attitude of a person they admired. One of his bad attitudes was his high requirement and even his refusal to give treatment to the patients.

Bernard Shaw thought that the medical profession did not have a high character but an infamous character (Shaw 2). Medical profession could be identified as a paid occupation in the art of curing disease (Hornby 73). His job was curing disease so that he was paid for it. The doctor was paid to make the patient cured but on the other hand, he was supposed to have many patients, so that he could keep his livelihood. That's why Shaw was surprised how a group of people could take an advantage of other people's disease (Ward 188). In fact Shaw's society at that time admired this profession so much. This condition made Shaw confused in which he found that people pay much money for cutting their foot than for correcting the ingrowing toe-nail (Shaw 1). Even, people at that time completely relied on the medical profession and considered him as God.

When Shaw wrote the Preface of The Doctor's Dilemma, the people looked upon the doctor as a person whose only function was to cure a disease (Ward 188). They thought that whatever the doctor decided was good for their health no matter if the decision took high risks and they had to spend much money. For instance, people at that time would pay hundreds of guineas for the doctor who cut their foot as long as it was the doctor's request. They did not think that this action would be dangerous, they just believed that by cutting their foot, their condition would be better. Even, they ignored the high cost they spent to

omit a part of their body. In fact, the action of cutting their feet could fail and as a result, the patients would die. Talking about this possibility, the people did not blame the doctor for they believed that the cause of the death was the nature, not the doctor's fault. On the other hand, when the patients recovered, the doctor acquired the admiration of curing them. From this picture, it was clear that everything was for the doctor's advantage (Shaw 10).

## **II.2. Literary Theory**

In this thesis, the thesis writer will use some theories of literature. Characterization will be used in this thesis because each doctor character represents a certain kind of doctor. Since The Doctor's Dilemma is a satire on medical profession, (Gibbs 50) the thesis writer will use the theory of satire. It means that the thesis writer will use characterization and satire.

### **II.2.1. Characterization**

First of all, the writer will discuss about characterization. Character is a basic element in much imaginative literature (Potter 1). The definition of a character is a person who figures in a literary work not particularly a peculiar one only, sometimes the one that does not appear but is talked about (Potter 1). Besides, the term character is used to refer to what a person is like, it refers to his whole nature--his personality, his attitude towards life, his spiritual qualities, his intelligence, his physical build, even his moral attributes. The way the author characterizes a character depends on the point of view he uses and the tone he

wishes to establish. Actually, there are three ways of developing a character. Extremely, a playwright may issue a character explicitly. It means that the author gives the characteristics of a character directly. Therefore, the readers directly have a figure of character. Secondly, a character's diction and grammar will indicate a person's age, background, attitudes, and personality. Besides, the character's action is also used to develop a character. In conclusion, a character's action and language is important for the readers to have a clear description of a certain character. Last, a character may have an opinion about the other character. In a play a character may talk about the other character. He may show his feeling towards the other. From this point of view, the readers acquire information of a certain character. It is the last way of developing a character.

### **II.2.2. Satire**

In order to give a clear understanding about what satire is, the writer of this thesis attempted to explain what it is. Satire is a piece of writing that attacked and made fun of foolish or wicked behavior on something or someone (Hornby 1121). It means that a satirical literary work has some important points. First, through the literary work, an author will attack a foolish or wicked behaviour of someone or something. In this thesis the writer finds that Bernard Shaw attacked the wicked or foolish behaviour of the medical profession. Besides, an author who makes a satirical literary work also made fun of the foolish or wicked behaviour of someone or something. In The Doctor's Dilemma Shaw also made fun of foolish or wicked behaviour of medical profession.

Then, the purpose of much satire is to eliminate serious social problems by encouraging people to think on act in a certain way. Through this literary work, for example, the author showed foolish behavior of medical profession, as if he presented something that common people did not think or even did not imagine. Obviously, satire on medical profession is a way of attacking foolish or wicked behavior of a doctor.

Moreover, a satire has one thing in common, it uses humor. It may show the bitterness of life, the weakness of a man and society in humorous way. Without humor, satire is invective, while without literary form, it is mere clownish jeering (Encyclopedia 5).

In order to analyze Bernard Shaw's satire on the medical profession, the thesis writer will use the theory of characterization and the theory of satire. Through analyzing the characterization of each doctor, the writer of this thesis the aspects of medical profession that Bernard Shaw wants to satirize.