

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD VIEW IN A
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: GENETIC
STRUCTURALISM APPROACH**



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary work is a totality; every literary work is a perfection, which lives and is comprehensible through the elements of it. As a product from social world, which always changeable, it is also a dynamic unity, which has meaning, as phenomenon of value and important event in its period.

The literary work and the author cannot be separated since the literary work is a realization of the authors mind. The author, just like the other, is an individual who cannot be free from his own life. As a member of a society, an author is influenced by communities. His works is reflection of the culture, religion, idea, convention in his society. Those statements are related with Rene Wellek and Austin Warren's theory of literature especially the relation between literature and society. As they said that" literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Furthermore, literature 'represent' 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been object of literary imitation" (Wellek and Warren 1977: 94).

Culture is one of the elements of society. It has big influences on society and directly shapes the attitude and behavior of society. For the author, culture is able to influence his view or his opinion into his literary work. Beside that, culture is the result of human activity and interaction with their

environment. In other word, culture shapes the author's opinion, perspective, and view directly but the author does not realize it.

In some way, the author of literary work creates their work by seeing the fact, by feeling the reality, and social reality. He uses his own creativity to make a feature of social life by using imagination of mind and feeling.

“the artist (says Freud) is originally a man who turns from reality because he cannot come to terms with the demand for the renunciation of instinctual satisfaction as it is first made, and who then in phantasy-life allows full play to his erotic and ambitious wishes. But he finds a way of return from this world of phantasy back to reality; with his special gifts, he moulds his phantasies into a new kind of reality, and men concede them a justification as valuable reflections of actual life” (Wellek and Warren 1977: 82).

The authors objective is try to make society realize about the problem and make up their consciousness to make movement or maybe just give an entertainment to the society. Their objective in some perspective mentioned as worldview.

World views are theoretical expression from any social class in particular historical event and then the authors, philosopher, and artist presenting it into their works (Damono 1979: 45). Furthermore, according to Goldmann (1981: 23) “World views are eminently concrete, positive and dialectical”. “The concept of world view explain the documentary level of a literary work and, in so doing, distinguishes the particular task of any aesthetics having sociological aspirations” (Goldmann 1981: 23). As Mukarovsky confirms, that “The world view, which is manifested as the noetic base or as ideology or as philosophical system, exists not only outside the work of art as something expressed by it, but becomes the very principle of its artistics

structuration and acts upon the reciprocal relations between its components and the global meaning of the artistic sign” (Goldmann 1981: 23). “Contrary to a certain Marxist and semiological perspective in which a world view is seen as ideology or false consciousness of given group” (Goldmann 1981: 23). Furthermore, according to Goldmann, in which literary work as a meaningful structure so it will be represent the author’s world view not as an individual but as member of society (Endraswara 2003: 57). In other word, world view tasted as a bridge that connecting the structure of society with the structure of literature, and the authors carry up it to the surface through his literary work, there is no exception, William Shakespeare also do it.

William Shakespeare was born on St George’s day, 23 April 1564. He is the eldest son of a prosperous glove-maker in Stratford-upon-Avon, he was probably educated at the town’s grammar school. In the year between 1585 and 1592, Shakespeare first became a schoolteacher and then set off for London (AMND. vii). His life is dedicated for literature. He wrote poem, sonnet, and drama. Realized or not, Shakespeare’s literary work is the most amazing in the world. Language, contain and the abstract of his literary work are the reason of it. For instance, his literary works such as *Hamlet* (1600), *Othello* (1564), *King Lear* (1605), and *Romeo and Juliet* (1595) prove his literary works are eternal including *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream has long been one of Shakespeare’s most popular works. It probes the very basic artistic of imagination, and it does so with a brilliance that has long made it a touchstone for writers, painters,

composers, filmmakers, and philosophers with a compulsion to explore the mysteries of poetic vision.

It was probably composed in 1595 or 1596; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of Shakespeare's early comedies. "Most scholars believe that Shakespeare wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as a light entertainment to accompany marriage celebration; and while the identity of the historical couple for whom it was meant has never conclusively established". (<http://www.allshakespeare.com/midsummer/>)

"The main plot of *Midsummer* is a complex contraption that involve two couple (Hermia and Lysander, and Helena and Demetrius) whose romantic cross-purposes are complicated still further by their entrance into the play's fairyland woods where the King and Queen of the fairies (Oberon and Titania) preside and the impish folk character of Puck or Robin Goodfellow plies his trade" (<http://www.allshakespeare.com/midsummer/>). "Less subplot than a brilliant satirical device, another set of characters-Bottom the weaver and his bumptious band of "rude mechanical"-stumble into the main doings when they go into the same enchanted woods to rehearse a play that is very loosely (and comically) based on the myth Pyramus and Thisbe, their hilarious home-spun piece taking up Act V of Shakespeare's comedy" (<http://www.allshakespeare.com/midsummer/>).

A Midsummer Night's Dream contains some wonderfully lyrical expression of lighter Shakespearean themes, most notably those of love, dreams, the stuff of both, the creative imagination itself.

In connection with literature as a critique of life and Shakespeare's literary work *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the researcher entitles his research **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD VIEW IN A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: GENETIC STRUCTURALISM APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

Based on the researcher observation in most universities in Central Java and Yogyakarta concerning with the earlier research, the writer found the previous research of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that has been written by Masruroh Arifianti. She compared *A Midsummer Night's Dream* original script with movie version by using structural analysis approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of this research is "what is William Shakespeare's world view in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitations of the study are as follow:

1. Analyzing only the structural elements of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
2. Concerning the concepts of world view in William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the play in terms of its structural elements.

2. To analyze the play sociologically based on Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism.

F. Benefits of the Study

In studying the research paper, the researcher hopes that the study has benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to contribute the development of knowledge, particularly the literary study on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The research will give deeper understanding about the content of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the writer.
- b. The research will give a new experience and knowledge about Genetic Structuralism to the writer.

G. Research Method

In analyzing the sociology of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and revealing William Shakespeare's world view, the researcher uses the qualitative method.

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Shakespeare's original script *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

2. Data Sources

This study uses library data, which are classified into two categories; primary and secondary data involving material about genetic structuralism as the theory of literary criticism.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the play itself, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are other sources, which are related to the primary data such as the biography of the author, the sociological history of England and from the internet.

3. Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is library research. This study collects and records the primary data and secondary data in a sort of documents used as evidence

4. Techniques of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive, that is, to make an interpretation of the text and content analysis, using deductive and inductive methods. Formerly it analyzes the character of genetic structuralism by discovering the underlying ideas beyond the textual description with genetic structuralism.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make the research easier to follow, the paper is organized into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction covering the background of the

study, review of the literary study, the problem of the study, limitation of the study, the objectives of the study, the benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II presents the theory of Genetic Structuralism. Chapter III includes the social background with all aspect of social reality of the England society in the Renaissance period. Chapter IV covers the structural analysis of the original script. Chapter V discusses the sociological analysis of William Shakespeare's world view in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Chapter VI discusses conclusion and suggestion of the research.