

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Hamlet is one of the most famous dramas of William Shakespeare written in 1599 - 1601. The play sets in the Kingdom of Denmark, which tells how Prince Hamlet takes revenge on his uncle Claudius, firstly for murdering the old King Hamlet, Hamlet's father, and secondly for succeeding to the throne and marrying Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. The play vividly describes about feigned madness, sadness, and explores the themes of revenge, treachery, and moral corruption. *Hamlet* is Shakespeare's longest play and among the most powerful and influential dramas in the English language. During Shakespeare's lifetime, the play is one of his most popular works.

William Shakespeare is the greatest playwright in England. His birth is unregistered, but legend places it on April 23, 1564, partially because April 23 is the day on which he died 52 years later. He attended the local grammar school, the King's New School that was staffed with a faculty which held Oxford Degrees. He *did* not attend the university, which was not usual at this time since university education was reserved for prospective clergymen and was not a particular mind-opening experience. His early works especially drew on such Greek and roman greats as Seneca and Plautus. *Hamlet* was written in 1604, when the themes of jealousy and sadness created in this era. The other's

William Shakespeare's works are *Othello, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, King Lear, and Julius Caesar.*

Hamlet was the story about a prince of Denmark who had an occupation but *did* not have an authority to do more than a king. Hamlet was just the prince of Denmark which the authority was handled by the king, he was Claudius. After King Hamlet, Hamlet's father died, Claudius changed the position including made the Queen became his wife. Hamlet felt very angry but he could do nothing. He just could wait and saw what would happen next with him and his mother's life. But one thing that always made him survive that he wanted to know more about the way his father's death. For the first time, Hamlet felt something mistake with the death of his father. He asked the Queen Gertrude and Claudius about it but their answers were always the same. King Hamlet was died because of heart attack. Until someday he met his father's ghost in the Kingdom and told him that the King Hamlet was poisoned by someone, he was Claudius. Hamlet got angry and he promised to kill Claudius as the take revenge of his father. But later Hamlet felt hesitant when he realized that his mother became Claudius's wife and Hamlet *did* not want to hurt his mother by killing Claudius. He *did* not know what to do.

In his confusion, he saw a human's shadow behind the curtain, he thought that was Claudius, suddenly he pricked the shadow. Unfortunately that was Polonius. Polonius was the father of Ophelia. Knowing his father died, Ophelia was so sad. She was confused, because the murderer of his father was Hamlet, the boy whom she really loved. Finally Ophelia sank down to the

river, and died. Hamlet was so sorry for the death of Polonius and Ophelia. In spite of this, Laertes, the brother of Ophelia, was very angry with Hamlet. He asked Hamlet to fight. In this situation Claudius used the opportunity to kill Hamlet. Here, Laertes, Claudius, Gertrude, and Hamlet were died by the poison of Claudius.

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is an example of the people's hesitation. The main character on this play, Hamlet, has a tragic hesitation when he has his own desire to take revenge of his father's death. The hesitation appears when he realizes that the death of his father is unusual. He really wants to know the way his father died. He also wants to take revenge to someone who had killed his father, but there are many conflicts that appear in his personality that finally makes him hesitant. His uncle, Claudius, who now becomes his father in fact, is the person who had killed his father, King Hamlet. He was really shocked and he promised to himself and to his father that he will take revenge to him and absolutely he wants to kill him anyway. He tries to look for the way in order he can kill Claudius, until Hamlet gets depression because his mother Queen Gertrude does not give permission, and he always remembers that he has to take revenge for his father's death. The problem already continues when Hamlet kills Polonius, the father of his beloved girl, Ophelia. Ophelia is shocked until she dies. That problem completely makes Hamlet more hesitant.

Unfortunately, Hamlet's hesitation still occurs in his personality. His hesitation appears when his father's ghost always forces him to kill Claudius.

Hamlet really wants to do it but he feels hesitant if his mother will be sad again. He also feels hesitant if his plans are known by other then they can put Hamlet to the prison. Here, his hesitation becomes tragic which can endanger him. Most of William Shakespeare's works show the psychological development of the characters, not only the major character but also the minor character. Those phenomenons are the object of psychological studies that represents the reality of life.

The writer has four reasons to choose *Hamlet* drama as the object of the study. The first reason is the characters and characterizations of *Hamlet* drama are interesting to be analyzed. Hamlet as the protagonist; he is son of the murdered Danish king and nephew of the present king, Claudius. Hamlet suffers great mental sorrow over the death of his father, the marriage of his mother (Gertrude) to the suspected murderer (Claudius), and the clash between his moral sense and his desire for revenge against his father's murderer. Hamlet is highly intelligent and well liked by the citizens; although at times he can be petty and cruel. The antagonist character is Claudius, the new King of Denmark, Hamlet's uncle. He becomes king after Hamlet's father, the previous king, is found dead in his orchard. Hamlet suspects that Claudius murdered him. The next character is Gertrude, the queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother, and *widow* of the murdered king. Her marriage to Claudius within two months after the late king's funeral deeply disturbs Hamlet. And the other *side* characters are Ophelia, Polonius, Laertes.

The second reason is the setting of *Hamlet* drama is unique, because the setting is around the castle. The main setting of *Hamlet* drama is Elsinore Castle in eastern Denmark. Elsinore is a real town. Its Danish name is Helsingør. Other settings of *Hamlet* are a plain in Denmark, near Elsinore, and a churchyard near Elsinore.

The third reason is about the plot of *Hamlet* drama. The plot of story is chronological, and the climax happens more than once. The first climax in *Hamlet* occurs when Hamlet satisfies himself that Claudius is indeed the murderer of his father, the second climax occurs in the final act during and just after the sword fight, when Laertes, Gertrude, Claudius, and Hamlet die.

The last reason is the theme of *Hamlet* drama is about hesitation; it makes the researcher more interested to analyze the drama. Hamlet has an obligation to avenge his father's murder, according to the customs of his time. But he also has an obligation to *abide* by the moral law. Consequently, Hamlet has great difficulty *deciding* what to do and, thus, hesitates to take decisive action.

That is why the researcher is interested in analyzing the major character, Hamlet, because he has a very important role in the plot, and gives information about psychological phenomenon. He has the feeling of hesitation and confusion when he meets something. The researcher uses Psychoanalytic Perspective to analyze this drama and takes a title for her research: **TRAGIC HESITATION IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature Review

As long as the writer knows, there has been other writer who *did* a research about the play, namely Aprilia Tutut Suharto (2010). The title of her research is REVENGE IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH. In her research she focuses on the revenge that appears in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by using a psychoanalytic approach.

In this occasion, the writer tries to conduct the research paper on the tragic hesitation that appears in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by using a psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is "How is tragic hesitation reflected in *Hamlet* drama?"

D. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. The writer is going to analyze the hesitation that appears in Hamlet's personality in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* based on Psychoanalytic Perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the drama based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the drama based on a psychoanalytic perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is proposed to give a contribution to literature researches dealing with William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from the psychoanalytic aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This study belongs to descriptive qualitative research, which refers to the research based on qualitative data taken from drama William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

2. Object of the Research

The writer takes William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which contains the series of drama description. Here, the writer tries to analyze the tragic hesitation that appears in the major personality.

3. Data Source

There are two data sources namely primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the script play itself, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* drama.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are Biography of the author namely William Shakespeare, websites in the internet about *Hamlet*, and other resources which support to analyze.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

The method of data collection is library research by collecting, note taking, and selecting both of the primary data and the secondary data, which involves the following steps:

- a. Searching the script of the drama from internet.
- b. Reading the script repeatedly.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Identifying the topic of the play.
- e. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- f. Taking note of important in both primary and secondary data.
- g. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of the data analysis used by the writer is Descriptive technique, in which the writer interprets the text and the content relating to the psychological condition of the major character.

H. Research Paper Organization

The study consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction; it deals with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory explaining psychoanalytic perspective used to analyze the drama. The writer presents the underlying theory which consists of the notion of psychoanalytic perspective, the structural personality, the anxiety, and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis of the drama, which involves the structural element of character and characterization, setting, plot, style, theme, and discussion. Chapter IV constitutes psychoanalytic analysis of the major character of drama. The last is Chapter V which contains conclusion and suggestion.