

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*An Enemy of the People* (original Norwegian title: En folkefiende) is an 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen wrote it in response to the public outcry against his play *Ghosts*, which at that time was considered scandalous. *Ghosts* had challenged the hypocrisy of Victorian morality and was deemed indecent for its veiled references to syphilis. *An Enemy of the People* plays in five acts. Many work adapted from this drama. In 1950s this work was adapted by Arthur Miller and the production starred Academy Award winner Fredric March and his wife Florence Eldridge. Satyajit Ray's 1989film *Ganashatru* was also based on this play. In Early 2013, an adaptation was made in Egypt entitled "الاشدعب عدو". Translated from Arabic, the title is "Enemy of the people" or " A Public Enemy". It was a theater production organized and directed by Nora Amin (who herself plays the role of Dr. Stockman's wife) and starring Tarek El-Dewiri as Dr. Thomas Stockmann. (<http://theatrenotes.blogspot.com/2012/10/melbourne-festival-enemy-of-people.html>)

Henrik Ibsen grew up in a poor family in Norway on 20 March 1828. After being apprenticed to an apothecary in his teens, he began the study of medicine, but soon turned to play writing. His early plays gained little popular recognition, but in 1863 he went to Italy on a scholarship, and here he began writing the plays, including *Peer Gynt*, that were to make him the most

famous playwright in the history of Norway. His early plays were in verse, but beginning in 1877, he turned to prose plays, producing, among others, *A Doll's House*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Ghosts*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *The Wild Duck*. He became the director of the Norwegian National Theater in Christiania, the town in which he died in 1906. (<http://www.biography.com/people/henrik-ibsen-37014>)

In this drama major character Dr. Thomas Stockmann is a popular citizen of a small coastal town in Norway. The town has recently invested a large amount of public and private money towards the development of baths, a project led by Dr. Stockmann and his brother, Peter Stockmann, the Mayor. The town is expecting a surge in tourism and prosperity from the new baths, said to be of great medicinal value, and as such, the baths are a source of great local pride. However, just as the baths are proving successful, Dr. Stockmann discovers that waste products from the town's tannery are contaminating the waters, causing serious illness amongst the tourists. He expects this important discovery to be his greatest achievement, and promptly sends a detailed report to the Mayor, which includes a proposed solution which would come at a considerable cost to the town.

To his surprise, Dr. Stockmann finds it difficult to get through to the authorities. They seem unable to appreciate the seriousness of the issue and unwilling to publicly acknowledge and address the problem because it could mean financial ruin for the town. As the conflict develops, the Mayor warns his brother that he should "acquiesce in subordinating himself to the

community." Dr. Stockmann refuses to accept this, and holds a town meeting at Captain Horster's house in order to persuade people that the baths must be closed.

Dr. Stockmann is taunted and denounced as a lunatic, an Enemy of the People. In a scathing rebuttal of both the Victorian notion of community and the principles of democracy, Dr. Stockmann proclaims that in matters of right and wrong, the individual is superior to the multitude, which is easily led by self-advancing demagogues.

Good Reads show that *An Enemy of the People* Drama is good work for the audience or the reader. From more than 200 people most of them say that this drama is incredible. Ben said that this drama shows how someone can endure and open mind from public cases. Erin says that this drama is very interesting because Ibsen can show to the reader clearly about what actually happened, and the last is from Varsha Seshan who says that the plot flows so smoothly that every section is believable, raising questions about the value of democracy, and the ease with which the 'compact majority' can be swayed. Despite of many people like this story, there are some people hate it. In Good Reads page Vixen one of the people who read this drama said that the ending of this drama is not good, and some words that are used are troublesome. Else, William Shinevar in same page says that this drama is not bad, but he didn't create anything great like *Ghosts* or *Hedda Gabler* in the midst. ([http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/246035.An\\_Enemy\\_of\\_the\\_People](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/246035.An_Enemy_of_the_People))

The character of this drama is so great; Peter Stockmann and Thomas Stockmann are brother. In the beginning may be the reader will guess that they are beloved brother, but actually they aren't. They compete to endure which one is wrong and true. Nobody to be a winner or loser, they keep doing what they think is true.

The plot of this drama is so smoothly and raising questions about the value of democracy. Ibsen shows the reader little by little the event in the drama. In every act Ibsen tells reader detail about what occurs, so the reader can understand about the story of this drama.

The subject matter is struggle for public welfare, it is an attractive matter because there are important messages to the reader. The writer of this drama shows the reader about the desire of Dr. Stockmann to keep his opinion because he realizes that his opinion for the public welfare. He wants to save his city and the society.

Based on the reason above the writer will observe and analyze *An Enemy of the People* drama by using sociological approach theory. Thus the writer will conduct a research entitled **Struggle for Public Welfare in *An Enemy of the People* drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen: A Sociological Approach.**

## B. Previous Study

There are some previous studies on this object of study. It can be essay to compare the differences and similarities of this study with the previous study, so it can keep the originality of the writer study.

The first previous study is by Mordecai Roshwald (2004). A new critical edition of novel entitled *The Alienated Moralist in An Enemy of the People*. Roshwald concludes that the doctor is a defiant and militant moralist. He believes that he is true and the people are wrong. Consequently he suffers for his independent and unbending stand, is not an unfamiliar phenomenon, whether in the annals of human history or in the experience of contemporary societies. ([www.mmsi.org/ma/46\\_03/roshwald.pdf/](http://www.mmsi.org/ma/46_03/roshwald.pdf/)).

The second previous study is from UMS by Candra Bagus Santoso (2008). The title is *Making Meaningful Choices In Ibsen's An Enemy Of The People Drama (1882): An Existentialist Criticism*. He focused in how the actor makes a meaningful choice in his problem. Candra shows what actors do to finish some problem with the government in his city. He uses an existentialist criticism to analyze this drama.

The similarity of the previous studies with the writer study is that they have same object of study that is Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* drama. The first previous study is focused on the study on the alienated moralist reflected on the play. Although the doctor has done what the right is but he must be alienated from the society. Meanwhile, the writer focuses on the Struggle for Public Welfare that are reflected in the major character. The

writer will use a sociological approach to analyze the drama. In second previous study Candra used Existentialism criticism, whereas writer used sociological approach. So, the title of the study that will be conducted by the writer is *Struggle for Public Welfare in An Enemy of the People drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen: A Sociological Approach*.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on title and the background of the study, researcher formulates the problem as follow: How people's perception about somebody who is influenced by their interest reflected in *An Enemy of the People drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen* is.

Based on the major question, the research questions are:

1. What is the reason of struggle for public welfare reflected in *An Enemy of the People drama*?
2. How was the struggle for public welfare reflected in *An Enemy of the People drama*?
3. Why was the struggle for public welfare reflected in *An Enemy of the People drama*?

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this study in analyzing *Struggle for Public Welfare* of the major character in *An Enemy of the People drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen* based on a sociological approach.

## **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze structural elements of *An Enemy of the People* drama.
2. To analyze the Struggle for Public Welfare in *An Enemy of the People* drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen based on a sociological approach.

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

In formulating this study, the writer hopes the study will give some benefits as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This research will be a reference to the study literature and will give new contribution, especially for analyzing *An Enemy of the People* drama (1882) by Henrik Ibsen.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study can give more understanding all about *An Enemy of the People* drama (1882) to the researcher, and give much new knowledge about drama.

## **G. Research Method**

In analysis this drama, researcher uses qualitative method that has some steps as follows:

### **1. Type of the Study**

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research. Here the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory. It purposes to analyze the movie using a sociological approach.

### **2. Objects of the Study**

The researcher takes the *An Enemy of the People* drama (1882) as an object in this study. The author of this drama is Henrik Ibsen and it will be analyzed using a sociological approach.

### **3. Types of the Data and the Data Source**

The types of data are written literature. There are two types of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data is taken from *An Enemy of the People* drama translated by Farquharson Sharp.

#### **b. Secondary Data**

The secondary data are from books, information, author bibliography, and the relevant information.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

Researcher uses note-taking technique in technique of data collecting.

Step of note-taking technique are:

- a. Reading drama repeatedly
- b. Searching some important data from internet



- c. Taking note from the primary data and secondary data.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data
- e. Collecting some supporting data from other reference based on the topic.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the drama and sociological approach.