

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human beings as the part of this earth have the opportunity to pass life and solve each event that result many problems. In this opportunity, every human will face many periods which they will give some impact, such as in social, economy, and personal life. Human life is like a story in the theatre. People try to achieve the goal of their life, and meet the needs of life in the world.

Theatre is also called drama. According to Kennedy (1983: 812), Drama means “action” or “deed” (from the Greek dran, “to do”) they use drama as a synonym for play, but the words have several meanings. A play is a work of story telling in which the characters are represented by actors. The performance of a play, however is much more than an occasion for exchange of emotions between performers and audience. Kennedy (1983:809) said that most plays, this literary works to which give the collective name drama are written not to be read in school books but to be performed. It means that drama is imitation of life which is going on the stage or play that is written to be acted on the stage.

The Life and Death of King John is a collection of theatre from William Shakespeare which is popular in the world. *The life and Death of King John* is written by Shakespeare in 1595. This work was published by

The Electronic Classics Series. This document file is finished free and without any charge of any kind. William Shakespeare depiction of his characters and their unique situation continue to weave their magic over readers almost a hundred years after the author created them. This is a must-look the theatre lovers as well as for those who want to take a dip into the world of classics.

William Shakespeare is a national poet from England and the "Bard of Avon". Shakespeare was born and died in Stratford-upon-Avon. William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564.

William Shakespeare is the most famous author in the world. He ever feels formal education although for a moment "Education of William Shakespeare probably at free school of Stratford, at what time and under what circumstances, he left school possibly an assistant in the school and afterwards in an attorney's office, his handwriting, his marriage with Anne Hathaway. The preliminary bond given by Fulk Sandell and John Richardson. Birth of Susanna, the first child of William Shakespeare and his wife, Anne" (Types, 1956).

According to William (1965: 323), *The Life and Death of King John* is a history play by William Shakespeare, dramatizes the reign of John, King of England (ruled 1199–1216), son of Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine and father of Henry III of England. It is believed to have been written in the mid-1590s but was not published until it appeared in the First Folio in 1623.

John (24 December 1166 – 19 October 1216), also known as John Lackland or Softsword, was King of England from 6 April 1199 until his death. His reign saw the loss of the duchy of Normandy to the French king Philip II in 1204, resulting in the collapse of most of the Angevin Empire

and the subsequent growth in the power of the Capetian dynasty over the rest of the 13th century. King John received an ambassador from France, who demands, on pain of war, that he renounce his throne in favor of his nephew, Arthur, whom the French King, Philip, believed to be the rightful heir to the throne.

John adjudicates an inheritance dispute between Robert Fitzcoeur and his older brother Philip the Bastard, during which it becomes apparent that Philip was the illegitimate son of King Richard I. Queen Eleanor, mother to both Richard and John, recognized the family resemblance and suggests that he renounce his claim to the Fitzcoeur land in exchange for a knighthood. John knights the Bastard under the name Richard.

In France, King Philip and his forces besiege the English-ruled town of Angiers, threatening attack unless its citizens support Arthur. Philip was supported by Austria, who was believed to kill King Richard. The Bastard proposed that England and France unite to punish the rebellious citizens of Angiers, at which point they propose an alternative: Philip's son, Louis the Dauphin, should marry John's niece Blanche, a scheme that given John a stronger claim to the throne, while Louis gains territory for France.

Though a furious Constance accused Philip of abandoning Arthur, Louis and Blanche were married. Cardinal Pandolf arrived from Rome bearing a formal accusation that John had disobeyed the pope and appointed an archbishop contrary to his desires. Pandolf pledged his support for Louis, though Philip was hesitant, had just established family ties with John.

Pandolf brought him round by pointing out that his links to the church were older and firmer.

War broke out; Austria was beheaded by the Bastard in revenge for his father's death; and both Angiers and Arthur were being captured by the English. Pandolf suggested to Louis that he now had as strong a claim to the English throne as Arthur (and indeed John), and Louis agreed to invade England.

Hubert found himself unable to kill Arthur. John's nobles urged Arthur's release. John agreed, but was wrong-footed by Hubert's announcement that Arthur was dead. Hubert had a furious argument with John, during which he revealed that Arthur was still alive. John, delighted, sent him to report the news to the nobles.

Arthur died jumping from a castle wall. The nobles believed he was murdered by John, and refused to believe Hubert's entreaties. John attempted to make a deal with Pandolf, swore allegiance to the Pope in exchange for Pandolf's negotiated with the French on his behalf. John ordered the Bastard, one of his few remaining of allegiance, to lead the English army against France.

While John's former noblemen swore allegiance to Louis, Pandolf explains John's scheme, but Louis refused to be taken by John. Many English nobles returned to John's side after a dying French nobleman, Melun, warns them that Louis planned to kill them after his victory.

John was poisoned by a disgruntled monk. His nobles gathered around him as he died. The Bastard planned the final assault on the Louis's power, until he was told that Pandolf had arrived with a peace treaty. The English nobles' swore allegiance to John's son Prince Henry and the Bastard reflected that this episode had taught that internal bickering could be as perilous to England's fortunes as foreign invasion.

The Life and Death of King John drama is an interesting drama. There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this drama. First reason is the play dramatizes several topics that would have interested Shakespeare's contemporary audience: a struggle with the papacy, the danger of invasion, and the debate about legitimate rule. These same topics were hotly debated during Queen Elizabeth's reign. Yet *King John* differs from Shakespeare's other histories. It portrays the thirteenth century rather than the fourteenth or fifteenth, and unlike other historical plays that were part of a series, this play stands alone. Other historical plays focused attention on the balance of power between the nobility and the king, and gave account of popular unrest; this play, by contrast, completely marginalizes the populace and does not attribute much strength to the nobles.

The second reason is the researcher looks at the economic position of playwrights and actors in this theatre; it might also study the political ideas expressed in the plays or discuss how the nature of theatrical audience

which was usually all male unless the play was produced at court helped determine the subject, tone, and language of the plays.

The third reason is the researcher explores the relationship between artist and society. Sometimes it looks at the sociological status of the author to evaluate how the profession of the writer in a particular milieu affected what was written. The social content of literary works—what cultural, economic or political values a particular text implicitly or explicitly promotes. Finally, sociological criticism examines the role the audience has in shaping literature.

The fourth reason is the theatre has purpose to aesthetic conclusion. Shakespeare's earlier history plays, *King John* does not portray a providential movement of history, where everything happens for a reason on a predestined path to a moral conclusion. While the play focuses on some of the historical events of King John's reign, it also delivers less narrative drive than plays such as *Henry V*. Events in the plot disrupt the connection between intention and outcome throughout the play--the characters are thwarted by historical accident and adversity, making *King John* more a pragmatic representation of political events than a story shaped according to aesthetic ends.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher observed *The Life and Death of King John drama* using Sociological theory. So the researcher constructed the title **THEATRE CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD POLITICS OF SIXTEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND REFLECTED**

AT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN* DRAMA (1595): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

The Life and Death of King John Drama (1595) by William Shakespeare is the best drama. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the play has been conducted by a student and from international journal. The first study *The Life and Death of King John* drama (1595) is conducted by Eva Hartby which is entitled with the title *The End of King John* (2000). She argues that the monk's crime in William Shakespeare's play *The Life and Death of King John* does not take place, but it is presented as a mere rumor contention that the rebelling lords' return to John does not imply submission but a change of strategy; causal relation between King John's misgovernment, his crime against Arthur, the people's revolt and his eventual murder coherence and effectiveness of the play's plot.

The second study is conducted by James P Saeger entitled *Illegitimate subjects: Performing Bastardy in King John* (2001). It is published at University of Illinois Press. He focuses on the centre of the play's public political struggle and the Bastard Philip Faulconbridge. Personal legitimacy and individual identity are analyzed. He uses Philip's bastardy as a mean of establishing an alternative and independent identity that draws upon historically emergent conceptions of the self and expresses self as an exaggerated.

The third study is conducted by Thomas Meriam which is entitled *King John and Henry V as Anomalies* (2011). He focuses on literary criticism of the plays “*King John*” and “*Henry V*” by William Shakespeare. It uses stylistic authorship analysis to compare the plays. Topics discuss attribution of various plays sometimes included in Shakespeare’s works, differences between poetry and prose, and coherence.

The fourth study is conducted by Eamon Grennan. It is entitled *Shakespeare’s Satirical History: A Reading of King John* (1978). He focuses on persistent sense of strangeness in English dramatist William Shakespeare’s Historical play of *King John*. Plays that comprise Shakespeare’s Yorkist tetralogy; Treatment of character in conventional historia and in the play; Characters that are direct critique of the historical mode of characterization.

The fifth study is conducted by Kennet Tucker which is entitled *Did John Webster Know Shakespeare’s King John* (1988). He examines the playwright John Webster borrowed from play ‘*King John*’ by William Shakespeare. The similarities between Webster’s play *The Duchess of Malfi*’ and ‘*King John*’; evidence of Webster’s borrowing; Apparent use of a line from ‘*King John*’.

The sixth study is conducted by James H. Morey which is entitled *The Death of King John in Shakespeare and Bale* (1994). He focuses on the comparison of the characters between William Shakespeare’s ‘*King John*’ and John Bale’s ‘*King Johan*’. Parallel’s between the monkish poisoner of

John and Judas Iscariot; parallel of the story in John Foxe's Actes and Monuments.

The differences among the researcher's research from the sixth previous researchs is the writer uses Sociological Approach to analyze the data and using *The Life and Death of King John* (1595) drama as an object. The writer analyzes **THEATRE CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD POLITICS OF SIXTEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND REFLECTED AT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF KING JOHN* DRAMA (1595): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this study is how theatre contribution to world politics of sixteenth century England is reflected at William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama viewed from sociological approach.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing theatre contribution to world politics of sixteenth century England reflected at William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama (1595) based on sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follow:

1. To analyze the drama based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the drama based on its sociological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the development of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest with literary study on William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama from a sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher will use the qualitative research. Statistic is not necessary in examining and exploring the facts in qualitative research. It purposes to analyze drama using sociological approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama (1595). It is analyzed by using a sociological perspective.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two sources that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources.

a. Primary data source

The primary data sources are William Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* drama (1595).

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data sources from other sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, some book that support the analysis.

H. Paper Organization

Research paper organization is conducted to give a clear guidance in reading and understanding the content of the study. In order to have guidance to the reader in reading the whole content, this research paper consists of six chapter. Chapter I is introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research method. Chapter II is dealing with underlying theory. It consists of sociology of literature, aspects of sociological theory, theory of theatre, structural

elements of the drama and theoretical applications. Chapter III contains the social historical background of England society at the sixteenth century. Chapter IV is structural analysis which consists of structural elements of drama and discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis of the drama and its discussion. Finally, in Chapter VI the researcher concludes her research paper into conclusion and suggestion.