

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every single person always have some dreams in their lives, they always want to get it. People have many ways in order to reach it. Sometimes they do with hard way or we can call "*pursuit*". Pursuit means a following with a view to reach. They can do everything to pursuit something they want to reach. Although pursuit to get or reach something is hard, at least the better condition is able to reach. The pursuit varies, such as pursuit for justice, pursuit to get a job, pursuit to get a higher position on their profession, pursuit for freedom, pursuit to get achievement, pursuit for life, and also pursuit for love. The last is as important as the others; lack of love will make people feel anxious, bored and lonely. Love can make people happy, sad, cry, laugh and angry. Love means a feeling of strong attachment induced by that which delights or commands admiration. It is sacred, means that everybody deserves love even though he or she has to pursuit for it.

In the pursuit to find love, people's personality and life style can change. People will try to be better when they meet someone that they love. Someone who is falling in love will always feel happy and try to look better and better in front of the person that they love. They will do everything as a form of sacrifice. Although they realize that love is not always beautiful like their wish, because of love their life has a meaning.

In this research, the researcher would like to discover how people pursue his love in literature works. Drama is one of some literature that showing the reality of human being, and love has also including in the drama story. So that, the researcher interest to find it in the famous works of Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* that believes by the greatest works of him.

The Importance of Being Earnest is a Drama directed by Oscar Wilde. He was born in Dublin on October 16, 1854. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Magdalen College, Oxford before settling in London. During his days at Dublin and Oxford, he developed a set of attitudes and postures for which he would eventually become famous. After a stunning performance in college, Wilde settled in London in 1878, where he moved in circles that included Lillie Langtry, the novelists Henry James and George Moore, and the young William Butler Yeats.

Literary and artistic acclaim were slow in coming to Wilde. In 1884, when he married Constance Lloyd, Wilde's writing career was still a work in progress. He had gone on a lecture tour of North America and been lampooned in the 1881 Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *Patience* as the self-consciously idiosyncratic philosopher-poet Reginald Bunthorne, but he was celebrated chiefly as a well-known personality and a wit. He may have been the first person ever to become famous for being famous.

During the late 1880s, Wilde wrote reviews, edited a women's magazine, and published a volume of poetry and one of children's stories. In

1891, his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, appeared and was attacked as scandalous and immoral. In that same year, he met Lord Alfred Douglas, who would eventually become his lover, and Wilde finally hit his literary stride. Over the next few years, he wrote four plays: *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at *St. James's Theatre* in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae in order to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humor, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

Set in "The Present" (1895) in London, Jack Worthing, the play's protagonist, is a pillar of the community in Hertfordshire, where he is guardian to Cecily Cardew, the pretty, eighteen-year-old granddaughter of the late Thomas Cardew, who found and adopted Jack when he was a baby. In Hertfordshire, Jack has responsibilities: he is a major landowner and justice

of the peace, with tenants, farmers, and a number of servants and other employees all dependent on him. For years, he had also pretended to have an irresponsible black-sheep brother named Ernest who leads a scandalous life in pursuit of pleasure and is always getting into trouble of a sort that requires Jack to rush grimly off to his assistance. In fact, Ernest is merely Jack's alibi, a phantom that allows him to disappear for days at a time and do as he likes. No one but Jack knows that he himself is Ernest. Ernest is the name Jack goes by in London, which is where he really goes on these occasions—probably to pursue the very sort of behavior he pretends to disapprove of in his imaginary brother.

Jack is in love with Gwendolen Fairfax, the cousin of his best friend, Algernon Moncrieff. When the play opens, Algernon, who knows Jack as Ernest, has begun to suspect something, having found an inscription inside Jack's cigarette case addressed to "Uncle Jack" from someone who refers to herself as "little Cecily." Algernon suspects that Jack may be leading a double life, a practice he seems to regard as commonplace and indispensable to modern life. He calls a person who leads a double life a "Bunburyist," after a nonexistent friend he pretends to have, a chronic invalid named Bunbury, to whose deathbed he is forever being summoned whenever he wants to get out of some tiresome social obligation.

At the beginning of Act I, Jack drops in unexpectedly on Algernon and announces that he intends to propose to Gwendolen. Algernon confronts him with the cigarette case and forces him to come clean, demanding to know

who “Jack” and “Cecily” are. Jack confesses that his name isn’t really Ernest and that Cecily is his ward, a responsibility imposed on him by his adoptive father’s will. Jack also tells Algernon about his fictional brother. Jack says he’s been thinking of killing off this fake brother, since Cecily has been showing too active an interest in him. Without meaning to, Jack describes Cecily in terms that catch Algernon’s attention and make him even more interested in her than he is already.

Gwendolen and her mother, Lady Bracknell, arrive, which gives Jack an opportunity to propose to Gwendolen. Jack is delighted to discover that Gwendolen returns his affections, but he is alarmed to learn that Gwendolen is fixated on the name Ernest, which she says “inspires absolute confidence.” Gwendolen makes clear that she would not consider marrying a man who was not named Ernest.

Lady Bracknell interviews Jack to determine his eligibility as a possible son-in-law, and during this interview she asks about his family background. When Jack explains that he has no idea who his parents were and that he was found, by the man who adopted him, in a handbag in the cloakroom at Victoria Station, Lady Bracknell is scandalized. She forbids the match between Jack and Gwendolen and sweeps out of the house.

In Act II, Algernon shows up at Jack’s country estate posing as Jack’s brother Ernest. Meanwhile, Jack, having decided that Ernest has outlived his usefulness, arrives home in deep mourning, full of a story about Ernest having died suddenly in Paris. He is enraged to find Algernon there

masquerading as Ernest but has to go along with the charade. If he doesn't, his own lies and deceptions will be revealed.

While Jack changes out of his mourning clothes, Algernon, who has fallen hopelessly in love with Cecily, asks her to marry him. He is surprised to discover that Cecily already considers that they are engaged, and he is charmed when she reveals that her fascination with "Uncle Jack's brother" led her to invent an elaborate romance between herself and him several months ago. Algernon is less enchanted to learn that part of Cecily's interest in him derives from the name Ernest, which, unconsciously echoing Gwendolen, she says "inspires absolute confidence."

Algernon goes off in search of Dr. Chasuble, the local rector, to see about getting himself christened Ernest. Meanwhile, Gwendolen arrives, having decided to pay Jack an unexpected visit. Gwendolen is shown into the garden, where Cecily orders tea and attempts to play hostess. Cecily has no idea how Gwendolen figures into Jack's life, and Gwendolen, for her part, has no idea who Cecily is. Gwendolen initially thinks Cecily is a visitor to the Manor House and is disconcerted to learn that Cecily is "Mr. Worthing's ward." She notes that Ernest has never mentioned having a ward, and Cecily explains that it is not Ernest Worthing who is her guardian but his brother Jack and, in fact, that she is engaged to be married to Ernest Worthing. Gwendolen points out that this is impossible as she herself is engaged to Ernest Worthing. The tea party degenerates into a war of manners.

Jack and Algernon arrive toward the climax of this confrontation, each having separately made arrangements with Dr. Chasuble to be christened Ernest later that day. Each of the young ladies points out that the other has been deceived: Cecily informs Gwendolen that her fiancé is really named Jack and Gwendolen informs Cecily that hers is really called Algernon. The two women demand to know where Jack's brother Ernest is, since both of them are engaged to be married to him. Jack is forced to admit that he has no brother and that Ernest is a complete fiction. Both women are shocked and furious, and they retire to the house arm in arm.

Act III takes place in the drawing room of the Manor House, where Cecily and Gwendolen have retired. When Jack and Algernon enter from the garden, the two women confront them. Cecily asks Algernon why he pretended to be her guardian's brother. Algernon tells her he did it in order to meet her. Gwendolen asks Jack whether he pretended to have a brother in order to come into London to see her as often as possible, and she interprets his evasive reply as an affirmation. The women are somewhat appeased but still concerned over the issue of the name. However, when Jack and Algernon tell Gwendolen and Cecily that they have both made arrangements to be christened Ernest that afternoon, all is forgiven and the two pairs of lovers embrace. At this moment, Lady Bracknell's arrival is announced.

Lady Bracknell has followed Gwendolen from London, having bribed Gwendolen's maid to reveal her destination. She demands to know what is going on. Gwendolen again informs Lady Bracknell of her engagement to

Jack, and Lady Bracknell reiterates that a union between them is out of the question. Algernon tells Lady Bracknell of his engagement to Cecily, prompting her to inspect Cecily and inquire into her social connections, which she does in a routine and patronizing manner that infuriates Jack. He replies to all her questions with a mixture of civility and sarcasm, withholding until the last possible moment the information that Cecily is actually worth a great deal of money and stands to inherit still more when she comes of age. At this, Lady Bracknell becomes genuinely interested.

Jack informs Lady Bracknell that, as Cecily's legal guardian, he refuses to give his consent to her union with Algernon. Lady Bracknell suggests that the two young people simply wait until Cecily comes of age, and Jack points out that under the terms of her grandfather's will, Cecily does not legally come of age until she is thirty-five. Lady Bracknell asks Jack to reconsider, and he points out that the matter is entirely in her own hands. As soon as she consents to his marriage to Gwendolen, Cecily can have his consent to marry Algernon. However, Lady Bracknell refuses to entertain the notion. She and Gwendolen are on the point of leaving when Dr. Chasuble arrives and happens to mention Cecily's governess, Miss Prism. At this, Lady Bracknell starts and asks that Miss Prism be sent for.

When the governess arrives and catches sight of Lady Bracknell, she begins to look guilty and furtive. Lady Bracknell accuses her of having left her sister's house twenty-eight years before with a baby and never returned. She demands to know where the baby is. Miss Prism confesses she doesn't

know, explaining that she lost the baby, having absentmindedly placed it in a handbag in which she had meant to place the manuscript for a novel she had written. Jack asks what happened to the bag, and Miss Prism says she left it in the cloakroom of a railway station. Jack presses her for further details and goes racing offstage, returning a few moments later with a large handbag. When Miss Prism confirms that the bag is hers, Jack throws himself on her with a cry of “Mother!” It takes a while before the situation is sorted out, but before too long we understand that Jack is not the illegitimate child of Miss Prism but the legitimate child of Lady Bracknell’s sister and, therefore, Algernon’s older brother. Furthermore, Jack had been originally christened “Ernest John.” All these years Jack has unwittingly been telling the truth: Ernest is his name, as is Jack, and he does have an unprincipled younger brother—Algernon. Again the couples embrace, Miss Prism and Dr. Chasuble follow suit, and Jack acknowledges that he now understands “the vital Importance of Being Earnest.”

Based on the story of Drama above *The Importance of Being Earnest* has a lot of values that teaches us something really important. There are four reasons that make researcher interest to analyze this drama. The first is this drama tells the nature of marriage. The play is actually an ongoing debate about the nature of marriage and whether it is “pleasant or unpleasant.” And the important thing, we’re going to marriage soon. The second reason is that this drama fulfill the constraints of morality. Morality and the constraints it imposes on society is a favorite topic of conversation in this play. In many

conversation in this drama has showing the classes of the society in its time. What Wilde wants us to see as truly moral is really the opposite of earnestness: irreverence. The third reason is that it is a wonderful play . This drama was created by Osker Wilde, one of the best writer in that era, The importance of Being Earnest is one of his works. The last reason is, the present researcher is a student in Department of English Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta from Teacher and Training Faculty. This study is necessary to add insight and insert more knowledge to his professional competence as teacher later. And to complete the thesis as the requirement of graduation program.

Based on these reasons above and the meaning or message that researcher can find from the story, the researcher is interested in the Jack Worthing's individual psychology, so the researcher focuses on the hard effort of Jack Worthing to achieve his love and finding the truth of name Earnest.

Therefore, in this study the researcher interested to analyze **“Jack Worthing’s Pursuit of Love reflected in Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* Play : An Individual Psychological Approach”**.

B. Literary Review

The Importance of Being Earnest is the drama play by Oscar Wilde insists a rebel speaking out against the institutions of society, such as marriage, but with attacks that are so flamboyant and humorous that the cleverness of the humor ends up standing apart from the inherent point in this

play. To guide this study, the researcher found previous studies that conduct a study which used this drama play as object analyzed.

The researcher found the study of this play from M. Arifin, study at The Faculty of Language and Culture STIKUBANK University Semarang. In his study, M. Arifin (2006) discussed **The Influence of the Main Characters' Conflicts towards Plot in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest***. This thesis also applies psychological aspect to analyze the main characters' characteristics.

Here, M. Arifin finds several important conclusions from the analysis. The main characters in the play are Jack and Algernon. Both of them experience some conflicts which influence the plot of the story. The conclusions found by Arifin relating to analysis are, firstly, that Jack and Algernon as the main characters have complex characters which are intentionally created. They are urban people who also love to live in the country. Therefore, they make their own "duplicate" with different character for their own aim. Having two different names, they can do anything in two different places, in town and in the country; even both of them use the same name of Ernest to get girls they want. Their double characters seem to make them involved in conflicts. The conflicts mainly focus on the problem of Jack and Algernon because of their double characters. They are anxious about their real identity having been recognized in the future.

That previous study above has the same object of analysis. That is *The Importance of Being Earnest* play. In this opportunity, the researcher decides

to conduct a research on the major character “Jack Worthing”. This research will give more attention on the effort to pursuit his love. So the researcher conducts an Individual Psychological Approach as theory to analyze it.

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher limits the object by focusing more on Jack “Earnest” Worthing as the major character in *The Importance of Being Earnest* drama by Oscar Wilde, and analyzed it using Individual Psychological Approach.

D. Problem Statement

A researcher proposes a single problem statement in this study. The problem statement is “How does Jack Worthing as the major character in *The Importance of Being Earnest* play pursuit his love?”

E. Objective of the Study

According to the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze *The Importance of Being Earnest* play based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze *The Importance of Being Earnest* play especially for the main character of this drama play, Jack Worthing by using an Individual Psychological Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hopes this research can be useful for the other. The researcher expects the benefits of the study into two, they are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contribution to larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* play.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of researcher and other students at UMS or other universities which are interested with literary studies.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study the researcher applies a descriptive qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. The researcher analyzes the data using individual psychological approach. The steps to conduct the research are the following 1). Determining the type of the data, 2). Determining the object of the study, 3). Determining data and data source, 4).Determining technique of the data collection, and finally 5). Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is The Importance of Being Earnest play by Oscar Wilde and was conducted firstly in 1895 in London.

3. Type of Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data, called primary and secondary data, as follows:

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is The Importance of Being Earnest play directed by Oscar Wilde.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the pursuit and love.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Reading the script of the drama repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts which considered as important and relevant data for analysis.

- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the researcher applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows: firstly, analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural elements of the drama play. The second step is analyzing the data based on individual psychological approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of pursuit love to the girl.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “*Jack Worthing’s Pursuit of Love reflected in Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest play: An Individual Psychological Approach*” consist of five chapters which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of the notion of Individual Psychological, basic assumption of Individual Psychological Approach, Pursuit and Love. Chapter III is the structural elements of the drama play by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, theme, style and sound and spectacle of the drama play and a brief discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological

Analysis dealing with the cause and the reaction of Jack Worthing's Pursuit his Love. Chapter V contains Conclusion and Suggestion.