

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The drama *Much Ado About Nothing* is written by William Shakespeare, an incredible English poet, writer, playwright, and actor. As we know, William Shakespeare is one of the famous writers in the world. Some people call him a legend. *Much Ado About Nothing* is one of William Shakespeare's great love comedy stories. This drama comedy is estimated to be written about in 1598-1599 and published in 1600. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a drama which is different from the others, although this drama ends with happiness. Double wedding, this drama is spiced with some elements, they are happiness, fraternity, and political embarrassment in court.

William Shakespeare was an English writer, he is the son of a married couple from Stratford-upon-Avon named John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. He was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England and was baptized on 26 April 1564. At the age of 18 years, Shakespeare married a 26-year-old woman, Anne Hathaway. His marriage to Anne has three children, they are Susanna and the twins Hamnet and Judith. However, Hamnet died at the age of 11 years and was buried on August 11, 1596 due to an unknown disease. Shakespeare was a great writer with a remarkable literary work with

154 poems and 37 plays. He died on 23 April 1616 leaving a wife and two daughters.

The story began with Leonato, a friendly man and reputable nobleman who lives in a small city in Italy called Messina. He lives with her beautiful and polite daughter named Hero and his witty and smart niece called Beatrice. As the play starts in on, Leonato prepares to receive his several friends from a battle. They are the prince of Arragon, a Leonato's close friend named Don Pedro and two men warrior; Claudio, a well-respected young nobleman, and Benedick, a young man with a big spirit of humor. Don Pedro's step brother names Don John also joined in the group. He is sullen and bitter. At the first moment when the warriors are visiting Leonato's home, quickly Claudio falls in love with lovely Hero. While in fact Beatrice and Benedick continue to fight each other by insulting words with each other. Meanwhile, Claudio's love was greeted by Hero, so they decided to get married within a period of seven days. To spend that seven days Claudio and Hero agree to unite Beatrice and Benedick. Their plan goes well, Beatrice and Benedick soon fall in love secretly with each other.

Don John is hater, he decided to disturb everyone's happiness. He has a plan to thwart Claudio and Hero's wedding by having his friend Borachio and Margaret to act as Hero and perform some not commendable scene and brings Don Pedro and Claudio to watch. Claudio is jealousy burned quickly, instantly believe and he considers that Hero is unfaithful it bestows disappointed by leaving Hero at the altar on their wedding day. Hero's family

members finally decided to hide her and create scenarios that Hero had died of shock and sadness that protracted. While they wait for the truth about what really happened. On the other hand, Beatrice and Benedick admits, their feeling to one another.

Don John's plan is exposed when Borachio who is drunk bragging about his crimes in one night. Dogberry and Verges, members of the local police caught him and immediately catch him. After being arrested, Hero name was cleared. Then Leonato asked to Claudio to forget his past and appeal Claudio to marry with his nephew who has a similar face to the Hero. On the wedding day, Hero wears a mask then open it in front of Claudio and on the same day Beatrice and Benedick also get married.

*Much Ado About Nothing* is the most popular romantic Shakespeare's comedies. Some people who really love with literature will be never left out to read his works. Because of that, this drama has many public responses. The responses come from readers, critics, market, and book industries. This novel has been reviewed in some mass media. James Topham wrote his review in Classic Literature that "*Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare, is a delightful comedy, which plays out a number of Shakespeare's best loved themes: confusion between lovers, the battle of the sexes, and the restoration of love and marriage. It also features two of Shakespeare's most formidable lovers: Benedick and Beatrice. These two characters spend the majority of the play bickering and then--as in all great romantic comedies—fall in love in the final acts. ([http://classiclit.about.com/od/muchado/fr/a\\_muchdo.htm](http://classiclit.about.com/od/muchado/fr/a_muchdo.htm))

Meanwhile, Gary in Amazon.com comments that, "Debatably, this is perhaps Shakespeare's greatest comedy. The combination of the hilarious scathing witticisms exchanged between Beatrice and Benedick, the "malapropatic" words of Dogberry, and the underlying beautiful theme of love make this an illustrious masterpiece. It is must-read for anyone interested in studying the Shakespearean canon for all it is worth. It is also a very understandable play; even to someone who is not experienced in deciphering the very awkward style of Elizabethan English. (<http://www.amazon.com/About-Nothing-Dover-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486282724>)

It is common knowledge, if Shakespeare was a great writer. He is a figure of genius, he wrote with his own style with words that are so beautiful and poetic. The trick here is to make the reader be impressed and enduring works of theater and literature in the field. And perhaps that makes people always want to perform Shakespeare's plays and movies. According to the researcher's knowledge, this comedy drama has been filmed several times. In 1973 *Much Ado About Nothing* was filmed by a Russian named Samson Samsonov with the title *Mnogo shuma iz nichego*. Meanwhile, in 1984, BBC TV Movie Miniseries produce its version. In 1993 Kenneth Branagh also made a film version, starring himself as Benedick, Emma Thompson acts as Beatrice, Kate Beckinsale is Hero, and Keanu Reeves plays Don John. And again in 2005, the BBC Drama Group broadcast *Much Ado About Nothing* else in a modern setting. And in 2012 *Much Ado About Nothing* re-filmed by Josh

Whedon and starring Amy Acker, Alexis Denisof, Nathan Fillion, Clark Gregg, Reed Diamond, Fran Kranz, Sean Maher, and Jillian Morgese.

And in the writing industry, there are not any records of awards won by William Shakespeare. At the time that he lived and wrote in, there was not really a system designed to award people for their excellence in writing. If he lived in this day and age, William Shakespeare would be reaping all the accolades for his work. There are festivals held in his name and that focus solely on his written works. Classes are held in college that focus only on his writings and plays. (<http://www.ask.com/question/awards-won-by-william-shakespeare>)

The researcher discovered five reasons why the writer chooses *Much Ado About Nothing* as the research. The first is the character characterization, the second is the setting, the third is the plot, the fourth is the style, and the last is subject matter.

The first reason, *Much Ado About Nothing* is an attractive drama from the legend writer William Shakespeare. With unique characters owned by Beatrice who is generous and loving, continually mocks other people with elaborately tooled jokes and puns. A beautiful daughter of Leonato and the cousin of Beatrice. She is Hero, a lovely, gentle, and kind young lady. Claudio, a young soldier who has won great acclaim fighting under Don Pedro during the recent wars. Claudio falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina. Then Benedick, very witty, always making jokes and puns. He carries on a

“merry war” of wits with Beatrice, but at the beginning of the play he swears he will never fall in love or marry.

The second reason is the setting of this drama. This drama has been made in 1598 and 1559 and published in 1600. The setting located in a small city it is Messina, Italy. When the writer read this drama she can imagine how natural that city in that era with unique culture and the civilization. Not only that the writer also can imagine how’s the costumes and how people through their days by living in empire era.

The third is that the researcher wants to know more about plot in this drama. The plot is very good and makes the writer so interested, because it is showed step by step how Beatrice and Benedick always debate or arguing about some topic with smart words and how they are falling in love to each other. The writer is also anxious to find out how Hero and Claudio countinue their love story.

The fourth is the style. William Shakespeare's writing style is beautiful. The language that he writes is so beautiful, he chose words that is so awesome. Which can give some energize to the language itself so the readers can feel that the words are powerful. Not only that this drama is also supported by the phrases and sentences which so lovely such as a poetry.

The last is subject matter. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a comedy drama based on fiction story. But the story of this drama is not far different from the real world how sometimes we can see how someone judges and has bad or

good impression about person, group, ethnic, religion etc. This situation related with stereotype and prejudice.

Prejudice and stereotype are phenomena in this social life. They are the two of many issues that often happen in our social life. Social life itself is an attractive topic to be studied and discussed lifetime for the reason that it constantly changes every moments, minutes, hours, dates, till years and decade. In a society, stereotypes can happen to anyone, ranging from race, gender, group, culture, age, ethnicity, and another social multiplicity. As part of social life, stereotypes and prejudice also can changed anytime. According Todd Nelson (2009 : 2) he define that “prejudice as a negative attitude toward a group or toward members of the group” and agree that “stereotype represent the traits that we view as characteristic of social groups, or of individual members of those groups, and particularly those that differentiate groups from each other.”

The researcher uses the social psychological perspective as an approach to analyze this drama, because the story of the drama is about prejudice and stereotype. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: “PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPE REFLECTED IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (1600) : A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE”.

## **B. Literature Review**

*Much Ado About Nothing* drama (1600) by William Shakespeare is an interesting drama. As far as the researcher concerns, in Muhammadiyah

University of Surakarta, none of the researchers concerns to study in *Much Ado About Nothing* drama. But the researcher has found the study about *Much Ado About Nothing* drama where take place in Messina, Italy. Such as a study conducted Scheff: "Gender Wars : Emotions in Much Ado About Nothing". The writer uses a sociological perspective to analyze the data. The paper explores the relationship between love and war in *Much Ado About Nothing* using a theory drawn from work on infants-that shows "the affinity between romance, shame and anger". Focuses on "shame/anger sequences" and "skirmishes".

Another second study is conducted by Lyon: "Made Bonds in Much Ado About Nothing and Othello". For *Journal of the Wooden O Symposium (2000) : 161-73*. In investigating the possible conflict between marriage and male same-sex associations, she concludes that the conflict between homosocial bonds and marriage can be peacefully resolved to value the marriage bond highly. Comedie closure is achieved, as in *Much Ado About Nothing* but when "masculine alliances" take precedence over the marriage bond, as in *Othello*, tragedy ensues".

The third study is conducted by Redmon: "'Tis common knowledge': Italian Stereotypes and Audience Response in Much Ado About Nothing and The Novella." For *Shakespeare Yearbook 13 (2002) : 419-41*. Contrast how Shakespeare in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Richard Brome in *The Novella* manipulate audience expectations in their use of Italian cultural

and theatrical stereotypes. Consider, especially, the implications of Shakespeare's refusal "to depict the false staging of Hero's guilt.

The fourth is "Saving the Family Honor in *Much Ado About Nothing*" by Gayle Gaskill for *Shakespeare and Renaissance Association of West Virginia: Selected Papers 24 (2001): 1-16*. Views Benedick as oscillating between military and family honor in *Much Ado About Nothing*, concluding that his devotion to Beatrice, and thus Hero, aligns him with the latter. Asserts that only Don Pedro maintains his military honor, and in so doing, isolates himself. Concludes that Dogberry is a satire of men who give undue emphasis to military honor.

The fifth is "On Harold Bloom's Nontheatrical Praise for Shakespeare's Lovers: *Much Ado About Nothing* and Antony and Cleopatra," by Weil. (Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human [World Shakespeare Bibliography for 1998, item]). Focuses on Beatrice/Benedick (*Much Ado About Nothing*) and Antony/Cleopatra to consider the strengths of Harold Bloom's "character criticism, in particular his response to the generally neglected ability of Shakespeare's character to surprise his readers and audiences."

The object of the research is *Much Ado About Nothing* drama and prejudice and stereotype. The difference between the theory used in that research is social psychological perspective. That's why this research is crucial to be conducted.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem of the study is how prejudice and stereotype is reflected in William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* drama.

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

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of the prejudice and stereotype that influences the psychological of personality in each of group in William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing (1600)* drama by social psychological perspective.

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

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the researcher states the following objectives:

1. Analyzing the play based on its structural elements of *Much Ado About Nothing* drama.
2. Analyzing the play about prejudice and stereotype reflected in *Much Ado About Nothing (1600)* drama based on social psychological perspective.

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

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to contribute to the development of the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* drama.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

The result of the study is expected to broaden the writer's own comprehension about William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* drama.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of Research**

In this research, the researcher uses a library research, which employs qualitative method. The writer also applies social psychological perspective of the characters as a means of further research.

### **2. Object of the Research**

The object of the study is William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* drama to discuss prejudice and stereotype reflected in the character's personality.

### **3. Data Sources**

There are two types of data sources, namely:

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

The primary data source is William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* drama script.

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

The secondary data sources are other sources, related to the primary data such as biography of the playwright, website about the drama, some books of psychology and another data related to this drama.

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

The methods of collecting data in this research is note-taking, and the steps are:

1. Reading the drama script repeatedly.
2. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
3. Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data.
4. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
5. Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with drama, such as drama's subtitles, identity, response of the public, etc.

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

The researcher uses a social psychological perspective and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the researcher is looking for correlation the categories of elements of literary study using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

#### **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II underlying theory,

covering notion of social psychological perspective theory, system of personality and structures element of drama. Chapter III be structural analysis, which includes the character and characterization, plot, setting, style and theme. Chapter IV social psychological perspective analysis of the characters chosen by the researcher in *Much Ado About Nothing* drama, it presents the application of underlying theory in analyzing the problem consists of structure of personality and prejudice and stereotype. Chapter V present conclusion and suggestion for this research paper also the synopsis of the story.