CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Man is born to be a social being who cannot live alone and need someone else to help them as well as they need partner to live their life. Marriage is one of the men's efforts not to live alone. Man and woman who decide to make a commitment in a marriage bounding have a responsibility not only towards their selves but also their partner because they no longer two independent people but they become one who complete and dependent to each other. "Marriage is a bound of loyal vow between husband and wife in which there is a responsibility from the two" (Kertamuda, 2009: 13).

Marriage has a good impact towards men's health; it can make them live longer (Gottman, 2001: 5). It can be said so because there is someone who takes care of them and Campbell (in Duvall, 1984: 4) adds that marriage makes them to live positively. Long last marriage and harmonic family are all spouses dream and no one wants their marriage ends in divorce, but it is not easy to bring it into reality because husband and wife have the difference characteristics, point of view in viewing something, past experience, emotion level, and background which can arise some marital conflicts that will lead to the unhealthy marriage and the worst is it can be ended in divorce if it happens in a long time without any means to fix it up.

That is why the spouses need value of marriage to avoid the marital problems because its functions are as the binding of marriage and strengthener when their marriage is weakening by the problems. According to Redd (in Nancy, 2013) the unhealthy marriage has the low value of marriage. The spouses who have high value of marriage will fix the marital problems up once they arise in their marriage.

There are some definitions of value of marriage, according to Nancy (2013) value of marriage is thing that the spouses believed about what is good and worth, what should be fight for in marriage. Melvile (in Nancy, 2013) states that value of marriage is what is believed in marriage life. According to Setiabudi (2013: 116) values of marriage which we believed are the bases of the decision we made, values which are needed in happy marriage include forgiveness, forbearance, loyalty, and love. It has mentioned before that value of marriage gives contribution in making a long last marriage and harmonic family because the spouses who think that marriage is a worthy thing to fight for will be implemented the value of marriage in their marriage life. According to Nancy (2013) the spouses who view marriage as a worth thing will fight for it by considering their spouse as their friend, colleague, and there is no discrepancy role between husband and wife so the marriage they build is an autonomy, equivalent, and harmonic marriage.

Men and women are biologically different but they have the equal portion as human being who must be treated equally. Women and men have the same rights in developing themselves but in fact, women are still considered as the second class by both men and the society in many fields include marriage life. Wife becomes the subordinate of the husband. In the society view, the field which is most appropriate to them is domestic area like bear the children, take care of husband and family. They have limited almost hardly participation in public area. They are positioned in passive and dependant side to the husband.

Marriage in Victorian era still put the women as the second class because the wife was expected to be the passive side and had the self-sacrificing character for the sake of husband and family. The society view that value of marriage mostly becomes the demand of the wife makes the wife in the suffering side. The value of marriage as the base of happy marriage only works if it is done not only by the wife but also the husband.

An Ideal Husband drama is a comedy drama written by Oscar Fingel O'Flahertie which is known as Oscar Wilde in 1895. *An Ideal Husband* is welcomed well by the society; it can be seen through its publication from the first

performance which was premiering on January 3rd, 1895 in Haymart Theatre and continued for 124 performances but during these performances Oscar Wilde was arrested for accusing gross indecency. *An Ideal Husband* deals with some major issues such as marriage, political corruption, blackmail, forgiveness, honesty, and women's condition in Victorian era especially the upper class. These issues are a form of protest through the lifestyle of Victorian's era at that time. *An Ideal Husband* is not only performed in the theater but also adapted into movie for about five times and radio adaptation in BBC Radio 3. From the five adaptations, the movie which was released in 1999 and starring Cate Blanchett as Lady Chiltren, Rupert Everett as Lord Arthur Goring, and Jeremy Northam as Sir Robert Chiltren is the most successful movie adaptation because it nominated and won some movie awards (imdb).

An Ideal Husband drama was written by Oscar Fingel O'Flahertie which is known as Oscar Wilde, a poet, playwright, wit, and novelist. He was famous for his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray,* and the drama *The Importance of Being Earnest.* Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland on October 16, 1854. He came from a wealthy and honor family. His father, William Wilde, was an eye surgeon who was knighted for his work as medical advisor for Irish censuses while his mother, Jane Francesca Elgee, was a poet with a pen-name "Speranza" she became his influence in writing. Oscar Wilde studied in Portora Royal School, Magdalen College, and Trinity College where he was interested in Greek and Roman studies. He was a clever student it can be seen during his school days he received scholarship and school's prize. After graduated, he moved to London and continued writing focus on poetry. In 1884, Oscar Wilde married Constance Lloyd, a wealthy Englishwoman, and had two children named Cyrill and Vyvyan. Wilde worked as an editor in *Lady's World* magazine when he had his golden year in producing his great works.

He had written many poems, dramas, children's stories, and novel. His first drama, *Lady Windermere's Fan* leads him to be a playwright as his primary literary form. He produced several dramas in a genre satirical comedy; his most

famous dramas are *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). When he was enjoying his greatest years, he was accused of sodomy because of his affair with Lord Alfred Douglas. At that time homosexuality is a crime and forbidden that made him sentenced two years of hard labor and it ruined his life, he lost everything he got in his great years. After released from the prison, Wilde who had broken moved and lived in France and wrote a poem about his experience in prison entitled *The Ballad of Reading Gaol.* He spent his entire life in France till he died on November 30, 1900 because of meningitis and buried in Cimetiare de Bagneux outside Paris (http//www.biography.com).

An Ideal Husband drama consists of four acts. This drama tells about an honor Englishman called Sir Robert Chiltren who is blackmailed by a woman called Mrs. Cheveley. The first act opens with a party held by Lady Chiltren and Sir Robert in Grosvenor Square. Mrs. Cheveley who is an old friend of Lady Chiltren when they were in school asks for Sir Robert's favor about the *Argentine Canal*, but he refuses because it is full of corruption. Face the refusal, Mrs. Cheveley threatens him with a letter about his sin in the past. He is afraid if the letter revealed in public it will ruin his career, reputation, and marriage. He has no choice except helps her out. At another room, Lord Goring who chats with Mabel finds a snake brooch, he tells Mabel to tell him if someone looks for it. After the party, Lady Chiltren who knows about her husband's deals with Mrs. Cheveley and she is very idealistic about moral, asks her husband not to do that because it is such a dishonest and amoral act moreover Mrs. Cheveley is known as a snake-woman who does dishonest act. Afraid of his wife not loves him anymore; he decides to write a denial letter for supporting Mrs. Cheveley's plan (Wilde, 1895: 4-30).

The second act takes place in morning-room of Sir Robert's house. He tells his problem and asks Lord Goring to help him solving the problem. Lord Goring suggests telling the truth to Lady Chiltren. Lord Goring tells that years ago he had engaged with Mrs. Cheveley. Sir Robert who feels sorry and guilty

decides to fight Mrs. Cheveley back. Mrs. Cheveley comes to Lady Chiltren to look for her snake brooch she dropped at the party last night. The conflict arises when Mrs. Cheveley angrily tells Sir Robert's past to Lady Chiltren. Lady Chiltren feels more disappointed when her husband confirms it. They quarrel each other. Sir Robert who feels disappointed with her attitude and her headstrong about her ideology leaves Lady Chiltren alone in the room (Wilde, 1895: 31-54).

The third act takes place in Lord Goring's house. Lord Goring who chats with his father, Lord Caversham, is asked to get marry soon and to stop playing in life. Mrs. Cheveley who comes to Lord Goring's house asks him to marry her and she will hand over Sir Robert's letter, but he refuses by threatened to imprison her for stealing his cousin's brooch. Mrs. Cheveley who is afraid to get jailed hand over the letter which is burned by Lord Goring as soon as she hands over it to him. As revenge she takes Lady Chiltren's letter which is misunderstood as a love letter instead of asking help letter and sends it to Sir Robert. She leaves Lord Goring's house with a look full of victory (Wilde, 1895: 54-74).

The fourth act takes place in Sir Robert Chiltren's house. Lord Caversham who chats about marriage, encourages his son to propose Mabel Chiltren, when Mabel enters the room he asks if whether she can love him in return or not and she says yes. After Mabel leaves the room, Lord Goring tells Lady Chiltren who comes to the room that he had burned the letter. In the same time, Sir Robert enters the room happily with Lady Chiltren's letter in his hand and reads it. He misunderstands that the letter is written for him. Lady Chiltren tells him that he is safe now because his letter has been burned by Lord Goring. Sir Robert feels relief and decides to retire from political life. She encourages his decision, but Lord Goring talks to Lady Chiltren about the role of woman and man then he hands over the Cabinet letter which gives Sir Robert an empty seat in the cabinet. Lady Chiltren then tells her husband that he can do whatever he want and suggests him to take the seat. Meanwhile, Lord goring asks Sir Robert's

permission to marry Mabel but at the first time he refuses giving permission but finally he gives it. The scene ends with the kiss of Lady Chiltren and Sir Robert (Wilde, 1895: 75-93).

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this drama. First, *An Ideal Husband* is a reflection of life and its problems which usually happens in real life. Second, the character and characterization of *An Ideal Husband* is very interesting. Third, the writing style of Oscar Wilde in writing *An Ideal Husband* is interesting. The last, the main issue, the value of marriage is reflected well in this drama.

The first reason, *An Ideal Husband* is a reflection of life and its problems which usually happens in real life such as corruption to get more wealth, threaten other for own sake, marital conflicts, etc. From the problems written in this drama, there are many moral values that the readers can take to be practiced in real life such as do not judge a people by their past (Wilde, 1895: 27), forgiveness, honesty, value of marriage, role of women in supporting their husband (Wilde, 1895: 88-89), help each other, and many more.

The second reason is the character and characterization of *An Ideal Husband* is very interesting because it has round characterization which consists of various characteristics both good and bad that makes the story not monotonous, for example Lady Chiltren who is beautiful (Wilde, 1895: 4), philanthropist, high morality (Wilde, 1895: 28), bright but she is very egoist, easy judging other only from their past (Wilde, 1895: 27), and difficult to forgive someone's mistakes (Wilde, 1895: 52-53).

The third reason the writing style of Oscar Wilde in writing *An Ideal Husband* is interesting. Wilde is known as a playwright who always puts epigram in his works, epigram is a short, often satirical poem dealing concisely with a single subject and usually ending with a witty or ingenious turn of thought (dictionary.reference.com). So is *An Ideal Husband*, for example: "Morality is simple the attitude we adopt towards people whom we personally dislike" and

"Questions are never indiscreet. Answers sometimes are." (Wilde, 1895: 10). In writing *An Ideal Husband*, Wilde used repetition (Wilde, 1895: 39) and hyperbole in several dialogues to make it more dramatic. Wilde also uses another language to show that there are some characters that come from different country. In *An Ideal Husband,* he used France (Wilde, 1895: 14).

The last reason is the value of marriage which becomes the main issue is reflected well in this drama. Value of marriage is reflected in some situations, for example is supportiveness as a wife that is when Lady Chiltren encourages her husband not to do such an amoral act by denied helping Mrs. Cheveley (Wilde, 1895: 28-29).

Feminist literary criticism is the valid method to analyze this drama because the female characters show how the society perception put them in suffering side because the view that value of marriage was the demand of the women only and the women's struggle in rejecting that view.

Relating to the descriptions above, the writer uses feminist perspective to analyze *An Ideal Husband* drama to dig up the value of marriage entitled **VALUE OF MARRIAGE REFLECTED IN OSCAR WILDE'S *AN IDEAL HUSBAND* DRAMA (1895): A FEMINIST APPROACH**. To achieve the purpose of the study, the writer analyzes the novel on the feminist aspects namely women's role, women's position, women's rights, and women's participation.

B. Literature Review

An Ideal Husband (1895) by Oscar Wilde is an interesting play. As far as the writer concerns, the research on *An Ideal Husband* has been conducted by some researchers. The first research is conducted by Aris Setyo Nugroho (UMS, 2012) entitled "Anxiety in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* Drama (1895): A Psychoanalytic Approcah" the aim of this research is to analyze how anxiety is reflected in Sir Robert Chiltren's personality.

The second research is conducted by Putri Churatul Azuni (UMS, 2012) entitled "The Importance of Trust in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* (1895): A Sociological Approach" the aim of this study is to know the importance of trust in the society in late Victorian reflected in *An Ideal Husband* play

The third research is conducted by Martha Kurniawati (Petra Christian University, 2009) entitled "A mistake in the Past and Its Consequences as Seen in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*" the aim of this research is to know the reasons of Sir Robert Chiltren commit his mistake in making his wealth, the consequences of his mistake, and his efforts to pay his mistake.

The fourth research is conducted by Situt Retnowati *et. al* (STKIP PGRI Sidoarjo, 2013) entitled "Illocution and Perlocution Analysis on the Main Characters Conflicts in *An Ideal Husband*" the aim of this research is to analyze speech act, especially illocution and perlocution acts on the main characters conflicts in *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde.

The fifth research is conducted by Shu-Mei Chung (National Cheng Kung University) entitled "Male Bonding as a Theme in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*" the aim of this research is to analyze the theme of male bonding inferred in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* that is, men not only yearn for love from their marital relation but also requires spiritual support from their male bonding.

The sixth research is conducted by Anni Aalto (University of Tampere, 2010) entitled "Queer Representations of Gender, Sexuality, Marriage, and Family in Oscar Wilde's Comedies" the aim of this research is to examine how Wilde represents gender, sexuality, marriage, and family in four of Wilde's dramas include *The Importance of Being Earnest, Lady Windermere's Fan, A Woman of No Importance,* and *An Ideal Husband* and how those deceptions compare to the dominant norms of the 1890s.

The seventh research is conducted by Richard Dellamora (Graduate Centre for Study of Drama, Toronto Canada, 1994) entitled "Oscar Wilde, Social Purity, and An Ideal Husband" the aim of this research is to know the reflection of social purity in *An Ideal Husband* drama.

The eighth research is conducted by Devasi M. Chandravadiya (Shri Arablush Primary School, 2013) entitled "Reflection of Upper Class in *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*" the aim of this research is to know that Oscar Wilde's dramas reflect the reality of the social activities done by the upper class in Victorian era such as their belief, behavior, status, aim, and entire picture of their life.

The ninth research is conducted by Marinela Saraci-Terpollari (Aleksander Moisiu University, 2013) entitled "Female Portraits in Harold Pinter and Oscar Wilde" the aim of this research is to know the differences of female figures between Pinter's dramas and Wilde's dramas include *An Ideal Husband* in facing the oppression and patriarchy system.

The tenth research is conducted by Lucie Hornychová (Tomas Bata University in Zlín, 2010) entitled "Social Criticism in Oscar Wilde's Comedies (*An Ideal Husband, The Importance of Being Earnest*)" the aim of this study is to know the reflection of social criticism in *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* and the identical and distinction between the two.

The eleventh research is conducted by Maria Halim (Bina Nusantara University, 2014) entitled *An Analysis of Woman's Position in Victorian Upper Class Society as Reflected in Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband.* The aim of this research is to analyze the woman's position in Victorian upper class society using feminist perspective and the feminists' view about the concept of an ideal husband.

The twelfth research is conducted by Sarika Priyadarshini Bose (University of Birmingham, 2009) entitled *Women as Figures of Disorder in the Plays of Oscar Wilde.* This research examines Wilde's systematic undercutting of his contemporary ideology of the feminine. The plays which are examined include *Lady Windermere's Fan, A Woman of No Importance, An Ideal Husband, The Importance of Being Earnest,* and *Salome*.

The similarity with the researches above is the same data source that is *An Ideal Husband* (1895) drama written by Oscar Wilde and with the eleventh research is the approach used in analyzing this drama that is feminist perspective.

The differences between this research and the twelve previous researches are the issue, theme, and the perspective. Aris Setyo Nugroho writes his research by using psychoanalytic approach to analyze Sir Robert's anxiety about his sin in the past. The second study from Putri Churatul Azuni is based on sociological approach to know the importance of trust in the late Victorian society. The third is conducted by Martha Kurniawati, she examines the reasons, consequences, and effort in paying the mistakes which is done by Sir Robert. The fourth, Situt Retnowati *et. al* based on the speech acts theory especially illocution and perlocution; speech acts is the branch of linguistic study which study about act performs via utterances. The fifth study is conducted by Shue-mei Chung who focuses on the theme of male bonding in the drama. The sixth research is conducted by Anni Aalto, she focuses on how Wilde represents gender, marriage, sexuality, and family in his four dramas includes *The Importance of Being Earnest, Lady Windermere's Fan, A Woman of No Importance,* and *An Ideal Husband* and compares them with the dominant norms of the 1890s. The seventh study is written by Richard Dellamore which discusses the reflection of social purity in this drama. The eighth research is conducted by Devasi M. Chandravadiya which focuses on reality of the social activities done by the upper class in Victorian era such as their belief, behavior, status, aim, and entire picture of their life which are reflected in this drama. The ninth research is conducted by Marinela Saraci-Terpollari, she discusses the differences of female figures between Pinter's dramas; *The Room, The Birthday Party,* and *Homecoming* and Wilde's dramas; *An Ideal Husband* and *A Woman of No Importance*. The tenth research is conducted by Lucie Hornychová which discusses the reflection of social criticism in *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* and the identical and distinction between the two. The eleventh research is conducted by Maria Halim which is discusses the woman's position Victorian upper class society as reflected in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* using feminist approach and how feminists' view the concept of an ideal husband. The twelfth research is conducted by Sarika Priyadarshini Bose which examines Wilde's systematic undercutting of his contemporary ideology of the feminine

The writer analyzes value of marriage done by the female characters in *An Ideal Husband* drama by using feminist perspective in literature approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this research is "how is value of marriage reflected in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* drama (1895)?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing value of marriage done by female characters which is reflected in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* Drama (1895) based on feminist perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband drama (1895) based on the structural elements of the play
2. To reveal value of marriage by means of feminist perspective

F. Benefit of the Study

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   The writer wishes that this study can give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *An Ideal Husband* drama (1895).

2. Practical Benefit

   This study is wished to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as reference by other university students who are interested in literary study on *An Ideal Husband* drama (1895) based on Feminist Perspective.

G. Research Method

There are five elements in this research that should be taken into account in analyzing *An Ideal Husband (1895)* drama as follows:

1. Type of the Study

In this research the type of the study that is used by the writer is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a qualitative research in a descriptive data from the observed object. Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 1983: 3) state that qualitative research is research in which the result in descriptive data from observed people and their behavior. Descriptive data include the utterances, pictures, and not numeral data, the research report contains quotations to give illustration of the report (Moleong, 1983: 7).

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is value of marriage reflected in *An Ideal Husband* (1895) drama written by Oscar Wilde and has been publicized by The Pennsylvania State University in 2006. It is analyzed by using Feminist Perspective.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two kinds of data namely primary data and secondary data which are needed to do the research:

a. Primary Data

The primary data are the main data which consist of words, phrases, and sentences in the *An Ideal Husband* (1895) drama written by Oscar Wilde and it is published by The Pennsylvania State University in 2006.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data are the supporting data taken from some references such as books, article, and internet which is containing information related to the research.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

The technique used in analyzing data in the research as follows:

a. Reading the script repeatedly.

b. Taking notes of important information in primary and secondary data.
c. Arranging the related data based on its classification.
d. Analyzing the data based on feminist perspective.
e. Drawing the conclusion of the analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive qualitative analysis. It focuses on the analysis of the structural elements of the drama and then feminist analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research organization is conducted to help the readers in understanding the research easier. This research consists of six chapters as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Objectives of the Study, Limitation of the Study, The Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory which consists of The Notion of Feminist, Notion of Marriage, Notion of Value of Marriage, Structural Elements of the Drama, and Theoretical Application.

Chapter III is Social Background of England society in the late Victoria period which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect, religious aspect, and women's condition.

Chapter IV is Structural Analysis which consists of (1) The Structural Elements of *An Ideal Husband* (1895) drama; it covers the narrative elements of the drama such as Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Style, Theme, and (2) Discussion

Chapter V is Feminist Analysis of *An Ideal Husband* (1895) drama which consists of (1) Feminist Aspects which include Women's Role, Women's Position, Women's Right, and Women's Participation, (2) Analysis of the Value of Marriage, and (3) Discussion.

Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.