

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every people has different characters from other. These characters grow up since we are child and develop depend on many factors that influence them. And after that these characters create us to be an individu that has spesific characteristic called personality.

Personality is the set of characteristics that each person possessed. Personality influences how one behaves as well as one's motivations. The personality is the one making the person react in a certain way in various situations.

Here the researcher sees the personality of Ophelia in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as the thing that is interesting to analyze. Ophelia is one of the minor characters in *Hamlet* play. She is Hamlet's sweetheart.

The famous European drama, *Hamlet*, written by William Shakespeare in the 17th century is a play that tells Elsinore Castle, Denmark. Two months after the death of King Hamlet, fanfares announce the marriage of his brother and successor Claudius to the widowed queen, Gertrude. Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark and son of the former king, remains apart from the celebration. He is consumed by remorse and self-doubt and vehemently disapproves of his mother's new marriage so soon after his father's death. His thoughts are interrupted by the arrival of Ophelia, the daughter of the Lord Chamberlain,

Polonius. She is in love with Hamlet and upset by rumors that he intends to leave the court. He assures her that he still loves her. Laertes, Ophelia's brother, arrives. He is being sent on a mission to Norway and entrusts his sister to Hamlet's care. The prince refuses to join the others for the wedding banquet. His friend Horatio appears to tell Hamlet that his father's ghost has been seen.

At night, alone on the ramparts of the castle, Hamlet meets the ghost. He tells his son that he was poisoned by Claudius and demands vengeance for his murder. Hamlet swears to obey.

Ophelia is distressed by Hamlet's indifference. She would like to leave the court, but Gertrude thinks she can help cure the prince's melancholy. Claudius, who also has noticed Hamlet's disturbing behavior, arrives. Gertrude wonders if her son suspects the real cause of the former king's death but Claudius assures her that he is merely losing his mind. The prince enters, rebuffs Claudius for addressing him as his son, and announces that he has arranged for a play to be performed that evening. When the players arrive Hamlet instructs them to perform "The Murder of Gonzago." He hopes that the story of a murder by poisoning will prompt a confession from the king and queen. In order not to arouse suspicion, he plays the fool and invites the actors to drink.

The court assembles to watch the play. It has the desired effect: Claudius erupts in anger as the murderer of the story gains the crown. Hamlet

hides his true feelings by feigning madness, snatching the crown from the king's head, to the horror of everyone present.

Hamlet reflects on life and death: he could have killed the king but did not. He hides as the king enters. Claudius is racked with remorse and calls on his dead brother to intercede for him with God. Polonius appears, calming the king, and the two leave. Hamlet is shocked to discover that Polonius was an accomplice in the murder. When Ophelia enters with Gertrude, he roughly rejects the girl's advances and urges her to enter a convent, declaring that he no longer loves her and will not marry her. Gertrude wonders what really prompted Hamlet's change of heart. Ophelia leaves in tears and Hamlet confront his mother with her crime. She begs for mercy. At that moment the ghost reappears and reminds Hamlet that it is not up to him to judge his mother. Gertrude, who cannot see the apparition, believes that her fears Hamlet has gone mad are confirmed.

Ophelia has lost her senses. She imagines herself to be married to Hamlet and recalls the tale of a water nymph that lures away wandering men. She kills herself.

In a cemetery, two gravediggers discuss the inevitability of death. Hamlet arrives. Unaware of Ophelia's death, he reproaches himself for the way he treated her and the madness his behavior has provoked. Laertes appears, demanding vengeance, and the two men are about to duel when the funeral cortège with Ophelia's body approaches. Hamlet, distraught to

discover she is dead, kneels by her bier. He then rushes at Claudius with his sword and kills him, before being stabbed by Laertes.

In *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare performs Claudius, as the major character. Ophelia is an unbalanced character. She lacks intellect; this is because in society in this time period men told women what to do, therefore women didn't have to think for themselves. Ophelia is a very emotional person; this is shown when she goes crazy after her father is murdered. It is also shown when she may or may not have drowned herself because she is too emotional over her father's death. Being a young girl in the play Ophelia didn't deal with the sensation part of her personality. However she did discuss her "honesty" (her virginity) with Hamlet in this conversation starting with Hamlet "Ha, ha! Are you honest? My Lord? Are you fair? What means your lordship? That if you be honest and fair, your honesty should admit no discourse to your beauty" (Shakespeare III, I, 103-108). Ophelia has good intuition. She is able to see from a very early stage that Hamlet has an interest in her romantically. She also intuited that her father was murdered, this is shown when she sings "He is dead and gone, lady, he is dead and gone, at his head a grass-green turf, at his heels a stone" (Shakespeare IV, vi, 29-32).

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564, a small country town. He was the son of John Shakespeare, a successful glover and alderman originally from Snitterfield, and Mary Arden, the daughter of an affluent landowning farmer. His actual birth date remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on 23 April, St George's Day. This

date, which can be traced back to an 18th-century scholar's mistake, has proved appealing to biographers, since Shakespeare died 23 April 1616. He was the third child of eight and the eldest surviving son. It is not known exactly when Shakespeare began writing, but contemporary allusions and records of performances show that several of his plays were on the London stage by 1592. William Shakespeare Biography, He was well enough known in London by then to be attacked in print by the playwright Robert Greene in his *Groats-Worth of Wit*. In 1599, a partnership of company members built their own theatre on the south bank of the River Thames, which they called the Globe. In 1608, the partnership also took over the Blackfriars indoor theatre. Records of Shakespeare's property purchases and investments indicate that the company made him a wealthy man. In 1597, he bought the second-largest house in Stratford, New Place, and in 1605, he invested in a share of the parish tithes in Stratford.

He was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaboration, consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His early works especially drew on such Greek and Roman greats as Seneca and Plautus. *Hamlet* was written in 1604, when the themes of jealousy and sadness created in this era. The other's William Shakespeare's works are *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Julius Caesar*.

From the statement above the researcher is interested in analyzing William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* due to four reasons, such as:

1. The researcher really loves the classic play such as William Shakespeares'. *Hamlet* is one of the most popular masterworks of William Shakespeare.
2. Setting of place of *Hamlet* is around the castle. The castle has name Elsinore Castle in Eastern Denmark. It is one of the characteristics of classic plays.
3. The play has great possibility to know the phenomenon of psychological problems in the character.
4. The personality of Ophelia that she is unbalanced character and emotional person, this is shown when she goes crazy after her father is murdered.

The last-two reasons are the reason why the researcher analyzing this play using psychoanalysisist theory. Furthermore based on the explanation above, the researcher analyzes a research under the title **PERSONALITY OF OPHELIA IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET* (WRITTEN ABOUT 1602/17 CENTURY): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Reviews

After looking for several literature reviews, the researcher found some researches about the play. The research comes from Rida Fahas (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2012). In the research paper, Rida Fahas analyzes the tragic hesitation in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by using psychoanalytic perspective.

The second research comes from Garnish Oktaviany (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2010). In the research paper, Garnish Oktaviany analyzes the personality of Nina Sayers in Darren Aronfsky's *Blackswan* movie by using psychoanalytic approach.

In this research the researcher analyzes Ophelia's personality. The researcher discusses about the Ophelia's personality in *Hamlet* play.

The difference among Rida Fahas's research and the current research is the topic of the research. Rida's research analyzes about the tragic hesitation in William Shakespeare's Hamlet. The current researcher analyzes the personality of a character based on problem statement. The similarity among them is the usage of psychoanalytic approach to analyze the character.

The difference between Garnish Oktaviani's research and the current research is in the object of the research. Garnish's research uses *Black Swan* movie as the object of the research and the current researcher uses *Hamlet* play as the object of the research. But they have same theory, psychoanalytic theory, to analyze the character.

C. Problem Statement

In this research, the researcher proposes a single problem statement. The problem of the study is "How is the personality of Ophelia reflected in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

To make this research easy, the researcher focuses the discussions of the study and analyzed the minor characters of William Shakespeare's play Hamlet script from the personality of Ophelia based on the Psychoanalytic Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the statement above, the objectives of the studies are:

1. Analyzing the play based on its structural elements
2. Analyzing the play based on the psychoanalytic approach

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the studies are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from the psychological aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Here the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory.

2. Objects of the Study

The researcher takes William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which contains the series of drama description. Here, the researcher tries to analyze the personality of Ophelia reflected in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of the data is text that includes word, sentence, utterances, and dialogues taken from Hamlet drama script.

There are two types of data sources, namely:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the scripts play itself, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are books and other data that have relationship with the research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

- a. Reading the drama script repeatedly
- b. Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data
- c. Identifying the topic of the play

- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive and hermeneutic analysis. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to the psychological condition of the minor character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization is given in order to make the reader understand the context of the paper. The paper is organized as follows: Chapter I is introduction which consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitations of the study and benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of psychoanalytic approach, system of personality, structural element of the play and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis of the play (character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme, and style) and discussion. Chapter IV is data analysis, dealing with the analysis of the minor character using psychoanalytic approach. Finally chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the research.