

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

To be honest means to speak the truth, even if it's difficult or gets you into trouble. Honest people communicate in an open, upfront way; they do not lie, cheat, steal, or manipulate information to conceal it from others. The exception is occasionally telling a "white lie" to protect someone's feelings (Djaba, 2009: 1). In recent days we have seen how dishonesty harms other people, even causing financial and political ruin. Today more than ever, children need to learn the importance of keeping their word, telling the truth, and being trustworthy. Honesty isn't just the best policy, it's the only way society can function.

Honesty could be defined as truthfulness in speech and action (Mahes, 2014: 1). While this sounds simple, it's surprisingly difficult to practise. Being truthful implies the presence of an active conscience and a working knowledge of ethics at the minimum. In everyday life, being truthful means listening to, and obeying, the voice of our conscience.

Honesty in a relationship is a very real value that we should do everything in our power to keep alive. The health and longevity of the relationship depends upon it. Honesty in a relationship is vitally important because it gives us the assurance that we can trust and rely on the person we love (Khanam, 2013: 1).

Most of us want an honest relationship with our spouse. Some people have a need for honesty that gives them a sense of security and helps them become emotionally bonded to the one who meets that need. Being honest is not always going to be easy. But when you start with little lies, they will inevitably build into larger ones (Marriage Counseling, 2010: 1). This kind of dishonesty can easily arouse suspicions in your spouse that are actually unfounded. If we had simply told the truth in the beginning, we could avoid misunderstandings that could lead to serious marital damage.

Honesty helps build compatibility in marriage (Marriage Builders, 2014: 1). When we and our spouse openly reveal the facts of our past, our present activities, and our plans for the future, we are able to make intelligent decisions that take each other's feelings. And that's how we create compatibility, by making decisions that work well for both of us simultaneously.

Honesty is the only way that we and our spouse will ever come to understand each other. Without honesty, the adjustments that are crucial to the creation of compatibility in our marriage cannot be made. Without honesty, our best efforts to resolve conflicts will be wasted because we will not understand each other well enough to find mutually acceptable solutions (Marriage Builders, 2014: 1).

Honesty is also the most important factor in rebuilding the marriage. The future possibilities for the marriage are not determined by what happened in the affair; they are determined by what happens after the affair is known.

Specifically, it's determined by the degree to which the one who had an affair is willing to be honest and answer all their spouse's questions about the affair. Responsible honesty is a special kind of honesty that a couple undertake for the specific purpose of sharing "who you really are," allowing each of you to fully "know each other," so you can build a stronger bond, a stronger connection (Vaughan, 2012: 2). The importance of honesty can be introduced in a drama or play.

Drama derives from the Greek word δράμα, meaning action. In essence, drama is natural human action, which involves searching for truth and bringing it to light. But drama also entails revealing the uncovered truth to others (Carrascao & Dinapoli, 2012: 95). Dinapoli (2003: 16) said that drama is defined as being a natural dialogical process in which meaning is established through action, interaction and personal commitment.

It means that drama is imitation of life which is going on stage or a play that is written to be acted on the stage. Drama is described as a reflection of life or the living in other worlds. Drama represents the experience or the picture of human life. People can study the experience or the picture of human life. One of the plays which will be studied is *Anna Christie* by Eugene O'Neill.

Anna Christie is one historical plays of Eugene O'Neill. It made its Broadway debut at the Vanderbilt Theatre on November 2, 1921. O'Neill received the 1922 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this work. The success of *Anna Christie* helped reinforce O'Neill's reputation as one of the finest American

dramatists. *Anna Christie* was one of the first American plays in which a woman takes charge of her own destiny. *Anna Christie* is a gripping drama of a woman torn between the expectations of two men, her father and her lover, and the shocking confession of her past life that this conflict evokes.

There is good thing from learning drama. People can learn and take conclusion from it. People can learn about honesty from the story of Anna to tell the truth about her life in the past. *Anna Christie* drama also gets many critical responses. Critics praise the play's realistic characterizations, especially of Anna and her father Chris. Percy Hammond, in his opening night review of the play for the New York *Tribune*, writes that *Anna Christie* presents the audience with a "veracious picture of some interesting characters in interesting circumstances." Frederic I. Carpenter, in his book on O'Neill, claims that "the character of Chris, 'childishly self-willed and weak, of an obstinate kindness,' is one of O'Neill's minor triumphs." Several critics have considered Anna a realistic portrait of a street-wise, yet vulnerable, young woman.

Anna Christie is a play in four acts. The first act takes place in a bar, owned by Johnny the Priest and tended by Larry. Old Chris, a coal barge captain, receives a letter from his daughter, a young woman whom he has not seen since she was a 5 years old and their family lived in Sweden. They meet at the bar and she agrees to go on the coal barge with him. The rest of the play takes place on the barge.

The second act tells about the barge crew rescues Mat Burke and four other men, who were in an open boat after a shipwreck. After not getting along at first, Mat and Anna fall in love. Mat decided that he wants to marry Anna. Mat's desire to marry Anna opposed by Chris.

The third act tells about a confrontation between Anna, Chris and Mat. Mat wants to marry Anna, Chris does not want them to get married because he doesn't want her to marry a sailor, and Anna is upset with both of them for trying to be in charge of her. Anna tells them the truth about her life, that she was raped while living with her mother's relatives on a Minnesota farm, and then became a prostitute after her time as a nurse's aide. Mat gets very angry, and Mat and Chris both leave.

The fourth act tells about Mat and Chris return. Anna forgives Chris for not being part of her childhood, and after a dramatic confrontation, Mat forgives Anna for being a prostitute after she promises never to be one again, and Chris agrees to them getting married. It turns out that Chris and Mat have both signed up for the same ship going to South Africa, and they are about to leave the next day, but promise to come home to Anna after the voyage.

Anna Christie is an interesting play because there are three aspects that are interesting to be analyzed. The first aspect is *Anna Christie* had been written by great author Eugene O'Neill. Eugene O'Neill had made many masterworks especially in literature.

The second aspect is O'Neill extensively drew from real life experiences to write his plays. *Anna Christie* clearly shows his passionate love

for the sea. Also, he explored the father-child relationship in many of his plays, attempting to come to terms with his troubled relationship with his own father. Anna's father Chris Christopherson has never been a father to her and has not seen her since she was a small child. Anna is angered when he suddenly assumes the position of a domineering father.

The third reason is interesting to be studied. Anna Christie showed the multiculturalism in America. Between 1880 and 1921, tens of millions of immigrants arrived in the US. *Anna Christie* encapsulates this marvellously. We can find three different accents in *Anna Christie*, two coming from the Europe in the East and one coming from Mid-Western America to meet in a port in Boston. Not only is the sea and the world of sailors on land and shore a perfect setting to explore the exchange of cultures and diverse migration found in East coast America at the turn of the 20th century but, in lots of ways, Anna herself typifies this new world. She has become Americanised. The role of Chris is written by O'Neill with a strong Swedish accent, which can make it difficult to understand on the first reading.

The last reason is *Anna Christie* has been described by Eugene O'Neill as a woman who tries to honest about her life in the past to her father and spouse. Honesty, independence and bravery are revealed in this play. People can know the connection between the play and sociological aspects in literature study. O'Neill wants the readers to give attention that honesty, independence and bravery are important. People can learn honesty, love and give good impact in society and life. The effects can be studied in sociological term which studies the social life of a human.

Based on the previous reasons, the researcher will to observe *Anna Christie* drama by using sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurenson. So, the researcher constructs the title “**THE IMPORTANCE OF HONESTY IN MARRIAGE IN EUGENE O’NEILL’S ANNA CHRISTIE (1921): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**”.

B. Literature Review

Anna Christie (1921) by Eugene O’Neill is an interesting play. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the play has been conducted by a student and from International Journals. The first study of *Anna Christie* (1921) is made by Kumi Ohno for her paper in 2013. Which was entitled *Expressionism and the Psychoanalysis of Freud and Jung in Anna Christie*. She analyzed three components in *Anna* using an analytical method in order to distinguish and clarify the underlying elements. To clarify the influence of German expressionism in *Anna*, first, she had explicated its features through a comparison with those of *The Hairy Ape* and *The Emperor Jones* as explained in her previous thesis. Second, she had verified the influences of Freudian Psychoanalysis in this play and how they shaped the work. In the third part of this paper, she had focused on Chris, the character presented by extensive use of Jungian Psychoanalysis. Her paper showed *Anna Christie* play successfully shows the quality of German expressionism by intelligently highlighting its attributes. Moreover, O’Neill incorporated the Psychoanalytical features of Freudian and Jungian theories into the drama and articulated their Psychotherapy through the characterizations of specific characters, describing

their inner mind in depth. This paper conclude the extraordinary and unexcelled features of *Anna Christie* play that it does not conclude with a perpetually, perfect happy ending, but draws on the element of archetypal ambivalence (the story line provides an on-the-surface happy ending but also implies the possibility of a tragic ending in the long term), making this work unique and special.

The second study is conducted by Victor Imanuel Talahatu for his Thesis at Petra Christian University at 2008 entitled *The Main character's search for happines in Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie*. This thesis discusses Anna Christie searches for happiness in Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*. Anna Christie has a terrible childhood, since she was left by her father. Therefore she lacks of affection and feels lonely. She wants to search for happiness. His aim in his thesis is want to know the causes and her ways to search for happiness. To analyzes why and how Anna Christie searches for happiness, he use literary approach, namely conflict and characterization. He also uses the concept of happiness to support my analysis. Through the analysis, he find out that there are two causes that make Anna Christie searches for happiness. First, she lacks affection and the second she is lonely. She lacks affection because she never felt the love from her parents and her relatives. She is also lonely. She has nobody to share her problems with, so she wants to find happiness. In order to find happiness, Anna Christie has to look for her father and accept the reality of her father's condition. As a result, Anna Christie finds that the sea can give her the happiness which she never got.

The third study is conducted by Wu Hai Xing-Zhou which is entitled *Anna Christie in the tragedy of Complex*. This paper analyzes the *Anna Christie*, the tragic features, combined with the formation of Eugene O'Neill's tragedy of thinking to explore the playwright how to play with the sea, land images, people's legitimate aspirations and destiny of the conflict, to reveal the modern life. The tragic nature of the tragedy showcases its rich complex. This paper conclude that In O'Neill's view, the tragedy as an art, it shows that humanity in adversity with the destinies of a great fight to see the dawn of victory, thus efforts to combat and out of adversity. He believes that all the power of human vision, "the source", and the pursuit of the ideal tragic art can be pursued. Old Chris, Anna, Mat and other characters struggle with the sea, bound to fail, to become a victim of the sea. Human Nature is always at a disadvantage before they keep on fighting and fighting, we will have a heroic inside.

The researcher analyzes the important of honesty in married in *Anna Christie* play by using sociological approach in literature perspective.

C. Limitation of Study

The researcher focuses on analyzing of figure *Anna Christie* conducting the importance of honesty in marriage is reflected in *Anna Christie* drama.

D. Problem Statement

Based on limitation of the study, the research formulate some research questions as follows:

1. What are the importance of honesty in marriage is reflected in *Anna Christie* drama?
2. Why is honesty in marriage is important that reflected in *Anna Christie* drama?

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze *Anna Christie* drama based on the structural elements of the drama.
2. To analyze the important of honesty in *Anna Christie* drama based on sociological approach.

F. Benefits of Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study can help the researcher to give informations and understandings to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Anna Christie* drama.

2. Practical Benefit

This study gives experience, understanding, knowledge and especially for the researcher and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. This study can be used as reference by other universities that are interested in literary study on the play based on sociological perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a kind of research that has the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

2. Subject of the Study

The subject of the study is Anna Christie drama written by Eugene O'Neill and has been published by The Pennsylvania State University in 2010-2013. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two kind of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data of the study is Anna Christie drama written by Eugene O'Neill and has been published by The Pennsylvania State University in 2010-2013.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data source are included books and other data that have relation with the research. The journals and other informations that have relevance with the object of research and analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this research as follow:

a. Reading the script for the several times and repeatly.

- b. Taking note of the important part in primary and secondary data.
- c. Identifying the topic of the play.
- d. Analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It focuses on the structural elements of the play and sociological approach.

H. Paper Organization

The research organizations of *The Importance of Honesty in Marriage Eugene O’Neill’s Anna Christie (1921): a Sociological Approach* are as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of Sociology of Literature, The major principles of Sociology of literature, Notion of Honesty, Notion of Marriage, Structural Elements of the Drama, Theoretical application. Chapter III is Social Historical Background of American society in the middle of Nineteenth century which covers social aspects, political aspects, economic aspects, science aspects, technology aspects, cultural aspects, religious aspects and the life of Eugene O’Neill. Chapter IV is structural Analysis of *Anna Christie* drama; it covers (A) The Structural Elements of *Anna Christie* play; it consists of Character and Characterization, Casting, Plot, Style, and Theme; (B) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *Anna Christie* play. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect,

economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, religious aspect.

Chapter VI is conclusion, pedagogical implication and suggestion.