

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Literature is a reflection of society. Through literary work, the author reveals the problem of life of which the author himself is part of it. Literary works receive influence from society and at the same time are able to give influence society. In fact, people often determine the value of literary works that live in an era, while writers themselves are members of society who are bound by certain social status and can't escape from the influence it receives from the environment that enlarges as well as shapes it.

Psychoanalysis is a psychological theory developed in the late 19th and 20th centuries by Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalysis has expanded, been criticized, and developed in different directions, mostly by some of Freud's 1 2 former students, such as Alfred Adler and Carl Gustav Jung, Wilhelm Reich, and later by neo-Freudians such as Eric Fromm, Karen Horney, Harry Stack Sullivan, and Jacques Lacan.

The Seagull (Russian: Чайка, tr. *Cháyka*) is a book by Anton Chekhov, written in 1895. *The Seagull* is generally considered to be the first of his four major plays. It dramatizes the romantic and artistic conflicts between four characters: the famous middlebrow story writer Boris Trigorin, the ingenue Nina, the fading actress Irina Arkadina, and her son the symbolist playwright Konstantin Treplev.

In this play, the main character Constantine Treplev, who adores both his mother and Nina, does not win their devotion. They both had a strong preference for Trigorin, a well-known author who dated Arkadina and later had an affair with Nina. The play opens in a park on Peter Sorin's

estate in the early summer, with a lake providing natural background behind the stage. Peter Sorin is the famous actress Irina Arkadina's brother. Young author Constantine is busy preparing for his play's debut performance. He is aware that his mother Arkadina does not adore him and does not support his passion for the performing arts. Nina, who enters and tells Constantine her thoughts on becoming a well-known actress, is the woman he is in love with. He tells Nina that she has given him the idea to begin a new narrative about a girl who is destroyed by a man who is similar to the seagull that Constantine shot. Constantine ends up crying because he knows he cannot get Nina's affection. Trigorin enters and asks Arkadina if they can stay on the estate. He is then challenged by Arkadina about his interest in Nina. Fearing that she will lose the man she loves, Arkadina pleads and begs on her hands and knees for Trigorin to leave with her. Trigorin gets convinced to leave. But before he leaves, he shares a few private moments with Nina. Two years later, Constantine says about Nina having an affair with Trigorin and becoming pregnant, but the baby had died. Trigorin then left her for Arkadina and was cheating on them both. Constantine left alone in his study, is shown comparing his writing to Trigorin's with envy. Nina is shown entering the house, feeling nervous and in complete fear. They admit to each other that they have sought each other. Nina admits that her life is difficult and thinks nostalgically about their youthful love. Then, Constantine admits his love for Nina and that she was not present with him to enjoy his success, which is meaningless to him without her. Nina hugs Constantine and then runs out of the door. Constantine shot himself (Kloppel, 2011: 03-05).

There are several reasons of the writer to choose this play. First, the *Seagull* is considered as one of Chekhov's plays that has huge impact in the world of theater. This play is remarkable for its existence as modern play. The play, along with *Uncle Vanya*, *Cherry Orchard*, and *Three Sisters*, is well-known for their rejection of melodrama and the conventional dramatic subjects and techniques that dominated the theater of Chekhov's time. "The *Seagull* represents a significant moment in the history of modern drama, for it shows a

writer of genius beginning to create a new dramatic form. This play portrays people, their behavior, their psychology, frailties.” (Yarahmadi, 2011: 01).

Secondly, the plot of the Seagull is driven by the conflict of Constantine as the major character in pursuing his love affection. This made the play contains so many conflict of love within characters, especially the main character, Constantine. The artists in The Seagull are perhaps the most tortured characters in the play. They yearn for something abstract, unable to articulate exactly what will make them happy, so they place an almost sociopathic emphasis on the art they create (Lederhendler, 2014: 06).

Constantine feel disconsolate, his mental change after knowing that Nina loves Trigorin instead, until his suicide after knowing that Nina still unable to accept his love even in her worst condition, this play has so many love conflicts to be observed using individual psychological approach.

Based on the reasons mentioned above, the writer intended to conduct this research entitled **“DISCONSOLATE OF CONSTANTINE TREPLIEFF IN ANTON CHEKHOV’S THE SEAGULL (1895): A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the explanation above, the researcher proposed this following problems:

1. How is the character of Constantine Treplieff based on individual psychological approach?
2. What is the cause of Disconsolate of Constantine Treplieff?
3. How is the structural elements of The Seagull by Anton Chekhov?

C. Limitation of the study

This study will analyze how the concept of disconsolate feel on Constantine Treplieff character reflected in Anton Chekhov’s works the Seagull using an individual psychological approach.

D. Objective of the study

The objectives to be achieved through this research are as follows.

1. Describe the structural elements of *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov.
2. Describe the character of Constantine Trepleff based on the Psychological approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are divided into two parts:

1. Theoretical benefit

This research is useful for contributing literary knowledge about the *Seagull* drama by Anton Chekhov.

2. Practical benefit

This research can provide a deeper understanding of the character Constantine and the disconsolate he got in “*The Seagull*” by Anton Chekhov.