

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains about background of research that describes about the definition of tragic hero in drama, statement of problems explains about the questions which appeared after the problems are found, research objective is to find out the problems clearly, research significance is to know the importance of tragic hero in this research, conceptual framework is to know the planning concept in this research, and preview studies become the references in conducting this research.

1.1 Background of Research

Literature is a form of writing which is written in a fictional language to create the best words made the author's feelings. The concept idea of author fills in the literary works to express his or her imagination. Literature as "a creative activity, an art" and literature is identical with the words: the expression of human feeling, imaginative process and creativity. The creation of literature refers to the readers with their sense, thoughts, feeling to get the imagination from author (Wellek & Warren, 1972, p. 2). The authors have their different ways to express and to communicate with their ideas and feeling like communicating with the words. The words inside the literary works have the meaning to make the readers understand about the situation is. In addition, they stated that literature is said to be creative, an art, what an author has produced. The statement shows that literature is an art. The authors can imagine the situation and fill it into the words with their mind to be an art. The art produces from imagination through the words in literary works. The literary works are as media to express the ideas of authors. Most of the authors fill the words into the literary works beautifully such as using figurative language, special words with the special words that the authors have, et cetera. Literary works are divided into three genres such as poetry, prose, and drama. From the three genres above, the researcher has a focus to analyze drama.

Drama is a literary work which exist from Greek era until now. It has been performed and developed from time to time starting from the era of Greek theatre, the middle age, renaissance, romanticism and realism (Nuraeni, 2016, p. 1). Drama has many genres such as tragedy, comedy, tragic, absurdism, expressionist and so on. Drama played with actors and actresses on the stage. They play the drama with the script they had remembered, then they deliver on the stage with their expression to make the audience impression. Drama is the specific mode of fiction represented in performance. In performance of drama sometimes delivers the message to the audience about politics, social, issue, conflict and so on. Drama is the form of composition designed for performance in the theater, in which actors take the roles of the characters, perform the indicate action, and utter the written dialogue (Abrams, 1999, p. 69). The important thing in showing the drama is in the character. The roles of character convey the message on the stage to the audience. The characters have their style to make the audience got the meaning. Sometimes, the characters affect the audience's heart to bring the audiences to the story.

The researcher analyzes the drama which entitled *The Hairy Ape*. *The Hairy Ape* is a 1922 expressionist play by American playwright Eugene O'Neill. It is about a beastly, unthinking laborer known as Yank, the protagonist of the play, as he searches for a sense of belonging in a world controlled by the rich. At first, Yank feels secure as he stokes the engines of an ocean liner, and is highly confident in his physical power over the ship's engines and his men. He works in the stockhole in the ship. His role is very important for the people who are in the ship because the ship's engine can run with his energy to refill the charcoal and make the ship goes on.

Beside the story, the researcher assumes that there is a character, which named Yank, that always gets the pressure in the story. Yank, as the main character, cannot solve his problems clearly because the situation and his friends do not support him to make it clear. It can be called social conflict in his life because Yank feels that he is lonely when the problems came cannot be solved by himself. Every Yank wants to do something, there are other characters to make Yank does not do anything because of

them. The researcher assumes that Yank has a role as protagonist. Protagonist is the main character in the story.

"The protagonist is usually easy enough to identify: he or she is the essential character without whom there would be not in the first place. It is the protagonist's fate (the conflict or problem being wrestled with) on which attention of the reader focused (Pickering & Hooper, 1962, p. 24)."

It means that the protagonist has essential character. The character will show his or her style to make the readers and audiences knowing him and her. The protagonist usually faces the problems in the story. The problems that he and she got are more intensive than other character. Then, the protagonist becomes the point of the readers and the readers wait for the next story that the protagonist will solve the problems in the story. With the definition about the protagonist, the researcher assumes that the protagonist can be called a hero. Then the hero that always gets the problems can be called a tragic hero. "... the tragic hero, him or herself, has been a part of the problem all along (Abbotson, 2007, p. 465)." The main character wants to show his role as hero but other characters do not make it true as the hero. The problem that happened to him makes it hard. He can solve the problem but other characters pressure him to cannot solve it. Then, it is a tragedy:

"Tragedy should arouse pity and terror with a tragic hero, a man who neither is superior in virtue and justice, nor undergoes a change of misfortune because of vice and wickedness, but because of some error, and who is one of those people with a great reputation and a good fortune (Aristotle, 1974, p. 42)."

As the explanation above, tragedy happens to the tragic hero. The character that wants the peace is truly mocked by other. The justice than the character wants to do cannot be solve. It arouses pity and terror to the tragic hero. The tragic hero has to become the point and the focus of the audience to guess that the character will be a hero to solve the pressure he or she got.

From the description above, the researcher has a focus to analyze the character of the main character Yank in the story. The researcher has a reason in choosing this

drama because it is the best drama in past. The drama reflects the readers' or audiences' heart to know the real life. This drama taught us, contain the researcher, about the important person in life and the best works are not be appreciated by other or upper class. The role of character in lower class truly do not have a value although he or she does his or her best in work. Thus it is seldom to a drama has the great story about the character of tragic hero. Although it is the researcher's assumption about the tragic hero, the researcher will prove in the analysis in the next chapter and the researcher analyzes the story about *Tragic Hero in Eugene O'neill's The Hairy Ape*.

1.2 Statement of problems

Drama is a literary work that uses the characters as the important roles on the stage. The importance of characters determines the story that points to the purpose. As in this research, the purpose is to analyze in the characteristics of main character that has problems in every scene. The researcher assumes, the main character has the characteristics of hero, and those characteristics are hidden because of mocking and pressure from his friends. It makes him become a tragic hero. In addition, based on the background of the research about the tragic hero, the researcher got the questions through the description of problems. Some problems could be formulated into the research questions as follows:

- a. What are Yank's characteristics that make him as the tragic hero in *The Hairy Ape*?
- b. What are the aspects which affected Yank to tragic hero in *The Hairy Ape*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the statement of problems, the researcher focuses to the research on analyzing the tragic hero. The purpose aims:

1. To find out the characteristics that make Yank as the tragic hero in *The Hairy Ape*.

2. To find out the aspects which affected Yank to tragic hero in *The Hairy Ape*.

1.4 Research Significance

The research significance shows about the explanation about tragic hero in this research. The researcher hopes that the result of this research will be useful for the readers as the references to conduct the new research. The significance of this researcher is divided into two ways:

1. Theoretically

The researcher assumes finding the role of character like tragic hero. The point is to show the description about playing role and important elements that the tragic hero does in the story. Besides, the tragic hero reflects the characterization which happened in life as the message for people to stop bullying.

2. Practically

In addition to theoretical significance, the researcher expects that the practical significance as follows:

- a. The readers

The researcher hopes that this research become a reference for the people who are interested to analyze character in literary works. Sometimes, analyzing character is not only in drama but also in other literary works.

- b. The Next Researchers

The explanation about tragic hero hopes that it can help other researchers to conduct their new research. The next researcher can conduct better research than this research with analyzing about character in literary works.

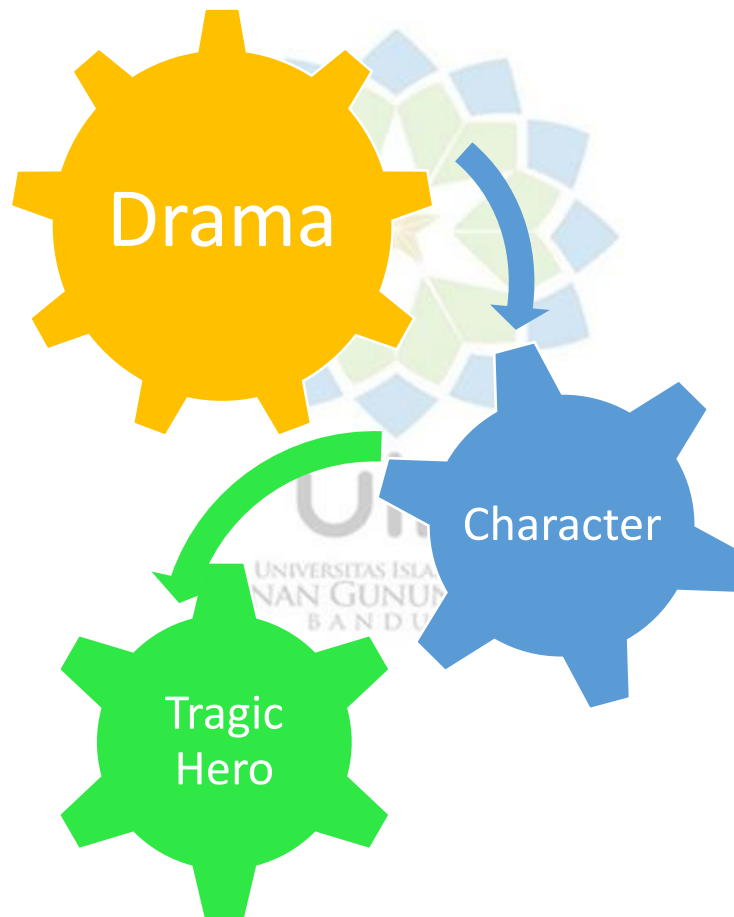
- c. Lectures

The researcher wants to say thank you to the lectures that have given the knowledge about language and literature. Those elements cannot be separated because they connect each other to make the great story in literary

works. The researcher expects that this research can give contributions to lesson, especially for literature, about definition tragic hero. The research is sure that there are the materials that have to be evaluated, thus the researcher hopes that one of lectures can be a partner to analyze other researches outside.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

In conceptual framework consist several discussions that will be delivered. There are:



In this research, the researcher applied the theory of (Abbotson, 2007) that said about tragic hero. His theory about tragic hero showed in step by step to give the description about tragic hero. There are a lot of description about tragic hero in this theory with the step analyzing tragic hero. In analyzing the tragic hero, the researcher

chooses an object as the material to be analyzed. The researcher chose the drama which entitled *The Hairy Ape*. The drama which was written by Eugene O'Neill had become the best drama in the era. The researcher read the story and assumed that the researcher has the point in analyzing the character. After reading the drama, the researcher found the special character that plays a role as the main character. The researcher found many sentences that hurt to be read and affect to the main character's life. The character always got pressure when the problems came in his life. The researcher assumed that this is tragic as the main character that cannot solve the problem.

To support the researcher's analysis, there is the method to make it clear about the narration. The researcher uses the theory of (Tyson, 2006) that explains about structuralism. Structuralism tells about the narration. The story can be explained clearly with narration. The point is to give the description about why the story happened to the character and why the story points to this problem. The researcher will clearly describe through the narration because the theory of Tyson points to the readers catching the story that the story can be clearly explained through the narration.

1.6 Previous Studies

The researcher found several references that related with this study. The previous studies are the point to make the research easier to be done. The researcher connected the previous studies with this research to make the study easily to solve the problems. The researcher has several references to support this researcher about drama and tragic hero. The characterization hero and drama will be shown in this research. Here are some researchers which supporting the information about tragic hero. Some previous studies are:

B. Ayça Ülker Erkan (2012) *A Modern Tragic Hero in Arthur Miller's Play Death of a Salesman*. *Çukurova Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi*, Erkan analyzed about tragic hero in *Death of a Salesman* drama. There are many theories of

tragic hero hence the researcher got more knowledge to analyze tragic hero deeply like the theory from Aristotle (1974). Erkan and the researcher have a significant research to analysis a drama in the same topic. The theory of tragic hero that he used applied in this research to increase knowledge about tragic hero shows in his researcher and this research to analyze the tragic hero clearly. It becomes the similarity in using tragic hero in a drama. Then, the differences are the object. He used the other drama which is entitled *Death of a Salesman* as the object then in this research uses the drama which is entitled *The Hairy Ape* as the object. So, it is easily to understand his thesis because of similarity our discussion.

Rani Nuraeni (2016) *The Role of Woman Character in Pygmalion Drama by George Bernard Shaw*. State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. She analyzed about character in drama. Many theories of drama found in her research. Although our research is different in object, tragic hero and feminism, but her research shows the definition drama which related with this research.

Mumtaz Ali (2007) *O'Neil's The Hairy Ape and Insane Society*. Lecturer in English, Department of English, Govt. Post Graduate College, Chakwal, Pakistan. He analyzed about the culture of America society with describing it from drama *The Hairy Ape*. He portrayed the culture of the insane society of the 1920s in America with Yank (working class) is not only representatives of class struggle but also how the society was ill in structure and approach. There is the difference in the analyzing. The research analyzes tragic hero in character Yank then Ali analyzed insane society through character Yank. Although there is a difference, there are the similarities in this researcher. The researcher analyzed the character Yank in drama *The Hairy Ape*. It helps the resea (Ali, 2017)rcher to conduct the research with becoming Ali's journal as references.

In three the previous studies about drama and tragic hero, the researcher got the point of similarity and difference in analyzing the materials. The previous studies above are similar in the analyzing the topic of tragic hero. Tragic hero applied in literary

works like in the first researcher, B. Ayça Ülker Erkan analyzed *A Modern Tragic Hero in Arthur Miller's Play Death of a Salesman*, there is the definition about tragic hero with using the theory of Aristotle (1974). Then the other researchers have the same object in analyzing drama. The researcher got many theories of drama as the references applied in this research. They are very useful for the researcher in analyzing tragic hero in drama because some of theories can be applied by the researcher to complete this research.

