



The major character in the novel “*Shakespeare’s Hamlet*” ideally each main character, sometimes called the protagonist, and it will be fully described, complex individual who processes both hood and bad traits. (Carl and Carol25). Protagonists generally the roundest, most fully developed character in a work of fiction. According to Gordon and Kuehner, the protagonist may also be the most sympathetic character. (96), in this play, the characters belonging to the major characters are:

1. *Hamlet*, Prince of Denmark. The crown prince of Denmark who returns from the university in Wittenberg, Germany, to find his father dead, his mother married to the king's brother Claudius, and Claudius newly self-crowned King.
2. *Claudius*, King of Denmark dead King Hamlet's brother who has usurped the throne and married his sister in law.
3. *Gertrude*, Queen of Denmark Prince Hamlet's mother, King Hamlet's widow, King Claudius' wife.
4. *The Ghost* Spirit of the late King Hamlet, condemned to walk the earth until his soul is cleansed of its sins.
5. *Polonius*, The elderly Lord Chamberlain, chief counselor to Claudius
6. *Horatio* A commoner, Horatio went to school with Hamlet and remains his loyal best friend.

7. Laertes a student in Paris, Laertes is Polonius son and Ophelia's brother; he returns from school because of King Hamlet's death, leaves to go back to Paris, and then returns again after his own father's murder
8. Ophelia Daughter of Polonius, sister of Laertes, Ophelia is beloved of Hamlet

### **3.1 The Causes of Hamlet's Depression**

The causes of Hamlet's depression deeply when he arrives in Elsinore, there are a lot of problems that is experienced by him, those are: his depression after his father death that makes him fall into deep sadness. For Hamlet, it is the hard situation that he must face it. As a young man, of course, this experience influences his emotion and uncontrolled. In addition, within two months after the king death, his mother married with his uncle. It also influences Hamlet's emotion because he feels annoyed with disloyalty his mom. As a boy, he thinks that his mom is loyalty woman for his father. When he finds the truth of father's death, Hamlet obligates to get square as instruction of his father because he sworn to his father. Furthermore, he cannot get square and this situation also lends itself to fall in deep depression.

#### **3.1.1 He Fails to Carry out His Father's Message**

Hamlet's weakness is; he cannot bring out his father's message about getting square about his father's death. It makes that Hamlet is depression. The writer will discuss the importance of father's message of Hamlet. For Hamlet, his father's message asks him for getting square is obligation. This is a challenge for Hamlet to





He is confused what he must let injustice occurred or doing finished it. It also influences Hamlet in thinking away because he must express the feeling error of his uncle in public and judge him agree with crime. Then, his think becomes limited and it makes Hamlet does not know what must he think to solve the problem. Besides that, the doubt of Hamlet is caused by his feeling afraid. He is afraid if his uncle knows about his aim because he is a king, he can do everything. In other hand, Hamlet is spied by Chamberlain. Therefore, he is afraid and he feels that he will be in bad situation.

Hamlet's hesitancy, however, is likely supported by the coming of a group of players. It excuses Hamlet to prolong the time revenge. He decides to make a play reflecting his father's murder in front of public to see how his uncle would react and prove and that the ghost is truly his father spirit. So, Hamlet's uncertainty leads him to have doubt about the ghost. He is facing doubt within himself if this truly his father's spirit since Hamlet also believes that a ghost might be a disguised devil.

HAMLET. I know my course the spirit that I have seen  
May be the devil: and the devil hath power  
To assume a pleasing shape; yea, and perhaps  
Out of my weakness and my melancholy,  
As he is very potent with such spirits,  
Abuses me to damn me (p.59-60)

Hamlet is still ambiguity what he is in sad situation and confused situation. There are a lot of speculations which appear on his mind but nothing one decision can solve his problem that he found. He does not have certain action or strategy to soulful errors his uncle in public. He decides to make a drama which describes the killing of his father in public. It is done by Hamlet to see uncle's reaction and proves that the devil is really his father. This action is success to express the feeling wrong of his uncle. Hamlet and friend, Horatio is one of person who knows the truth.

After the presentation of drama, Hamlet acts as if he wants to pour out his anger and complete his revenge.

HAMLET. Tis now the very witching time of night,  
 When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out  
 Contagion to this world: now could I drink hot blood,  
 And do such bitter business as the day  
 Would quake to look on  
 Soft! Now to my mother.  
 O heart, lose not thy nature; let not ever  
 The soul of Nero enter this firm bosom:  
 Let me be cruel, not unnatural (p.81)

Hamlet really wants to do his father's command. It can be seen when he passes his uncle's room, he get the chance to kill his uncle. Hamlet takes out his poniard and close to kill him. But, the doubt always prevents his action. It causes the inner conflict of himself. For the first side, he wants to kill his uncle. And other side his doubt is strong enough to forbid him in getting square







cannot decide what he must do to reveal it in public and punish his uncle. The thesis writer finds that his weakness is mainly caused by his lack of experience in taking action. As an educated man, it would be difficult to drive philosophical thought into harsh action. Therefore, he gets confused and involved in his inner conflict. His hesitancy leads him to perform a drama to test his uncle's guilt and if the ghost speaks the truth. Ironically, it leads to a fatal action in which he wastes the best chance to kill his uncle. He feels worthless for not being able to carry out his father's message and fails to show that he is a dedicated son. Compare to Fortibras' army, he is merely a coward who is afraid sacrificing his life for honorable duty which is revenge. He feels worthless for that and he is disappointed for not being able to fulfill his father's expectation. What he does, in fact, is not solving his problems at all and he feels depressed for that.

### **3.1.2 His Mother's Unfaithfulness**

Hamlet feels disappointment because his mother married with his uncle after his father death. He is losing an eye of wise and loyalty mother. He is very disappointed with unfaithfulness his mother. It make him nothing orientation for his future. It brings him to deep depression

It is true that his mother is married, and he does not have mindfully from his mother. He is losing his mother and he must share his mother's loving with his uncle. He is also losing communication with his mother. Whether his mother does not marry with his uncle, Hamlet may still have friend to share his problems. He is so hard to



his first soliloquy, it shows his hatred toward his uncle by comparing his uncle that he hates with a best. He says.

HAMLET. Hyperion to a satyr; so loving to my mother  
That he might not betwixt the winds of heaven  
Visit her face too roughly (p.15)

He compares his father with his uncle who becomes his mother's husband. He says that his uncle like animal to show hatred to his uncle. He can receive that his uncle is a good king. Now, his good father's position is changed by unwell position. Besides that, Hamlet is also disappointed with his unfaithfulness mother. A mother who is proud of him, it must change to disaster. It is clear when he does soliloquy.

HAMLET. My father's brother, but no more like my father  
Than I to Hercules: within a month:  
Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears  
Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,  
She married. O, most wicked speed, to post  
With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!  
It is not nor it cannot come to good:  
But break, my heart; for I must hold my tongue. (p.15)

Hamlet speaks his unfaithfulness mother. He thinks that this wedding as one of incest. This fact forces him to show it, to tell his mind. As a young man, Hamlet wants to protest, tell his disagreement. Unfortunately, he is not brave enough to do. The weakness and the doubt prevent him to do it. Although, it makes him gets

depression. Based on Harmon and Holmon “conflict is the struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two thing opposing forces in a plot” (p.159). His ambivalent trait prevents his desire to act. Therefore, he cannot make any satisfied decision to solve it and falls into more depressed. Poor young Hamlet, for he has no courage to catch and he can only accumulate his displeasure feeling within himself as he says, “But break, my heart; for I must hold my tongue” (p.15).

He thinks a lot of his problem anymore, he is more suppressed. This feeling is so dangerous because it can blew out every day. This feeling appears when he has a chance to meet up his mother in by himself in his room and his condition is in dudgeon. For that time, he cannot hide the fury and be unwell feeling to her wedding and he tells it to his mother.

HAMLET. Look here, upon this picture, and on this,  
 The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.  
 See, what a grace was seated on this brow;  
 Hyperion's curls; the front of Jove himself;  
 An eye like Mars, to threaten and command;  
 A station like the herald Mercury  
 New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill;  
 A combination and a form indeed,  
 Where every god did seem to set his seal,  
 To give the world assurance of a man:  
 This was your husband. Look you now, what follows:



Hamlet tells his fury to her mother. He dislikes about her mother's wedding. He thinks that her mother is too old. The wedding of his mother makes hamlet in situational depression. He asks for himself more and more. He feels that he is losing the wise mother and losing the orientation for his future. Hamlet is also disappointed on his unfaithfulness mother because she is easy to remember his father and go with other man. Hamlet cannot keep the secret of inner till he tells to his mother.

Unfortunately, he tells a loudly to his mother and makes her mother frightened, and his mother thinks that Hamlet is mad. Besides that, as a son, he has just loosen his father, he cannot open his heart for uncle's coming and change his father position and king. Hamlet thinks that his uncle does not same as his father, so he hates him so much. In other hand, this position shows that he does not have the good future for his life. It is clear that the depression can bring Hamlet in unclear thinking.

### **3.1.3 Hamlet's feeling of Exhausted and Disinterested in live**

Feeling exhausted and disinterested in life is one of the causes of depression in Hamlet's life. The thesis writer finds that this feeling occurs since Hamlet has traumatic experience with his beloved. Feeling exhausted and disinterested in life means that Hamlet feels that he has no spirit in his life. As a depressed person, Hamlet cannot cheer his self-up and he also avoids doing any pleasurable things as it is expressed in this following quotation:

HAMLET Seems, madam! nay it is; I know not 'seems.'  
'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,  
Nor customary suits of solemn black,  
Nor windy suspiration of forced breath,  
No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,  
Nor the dejected 'havior of the visage,  
Together with all forms, moods, shapes of grief,  
That can denote me truly: these indeed seem,  
For they are actions that a man might play:  
But I have that within which passeth show;  
These but the trappings and the suits of woe

For God's love, let me hear (p.17)

It shows that Hamlet no longer has spirit in his life so that he didn't really care about his performance especially from his mother. Actually, as a high class person, Hamlet is supposed to keep his good performance in public. For high class people, keeping good performance in public is very important because it included prestige and it can make other people respect them. However, in this quotation the thesis writer sees that Hamlet didn't do that. It shows that Hamlet didn't really care about his life again. He didn't care about other people's opinion on his so that he becomes careless in his appearance, in addition, the thesis writer also sees that the depression which is experienced by Hamlet makes his reluctant in doing things.





### **3.2 The effect of Hamlet's Depression**

The effect of Hamlet's depression can be seen from his behavior. He often spiels himself because he becomes coward. It appropriates with depression's theory that explained about the effect of depression is the feeling blame on himself because failed to act. The doubt prevents him to act to save himself from the risk of his future. Because he is depression, he runs away from the reality and avoids responsibility. It does not solve the problems but he gets suffering in his life more and more

#### **3.2.1 Running Away From Reality**

Hamlet gets depression because he cannot act and solve the problems. Under experience makes him in dangerous position because he must get inner conflict. Hamlet gets depression and chooses to run away from the reality to avoid the responsibility. He does not make the plan to arrange strategy to fight back but he feel afraid to do. Therefore, he often makes the reason and does the strange act to run away. This act is regarded as crazy man by other people.

Firstly, Hamlet tries to run away to release his tension as he gets depressed for his inability to act. Encouraged by the coming of a group of players, Hamlet arranges a drama to reveal his uncle guilt. Actually, Hamlet makes an excuse to delay his actions. Performing drama to reveal his uncle guilt is merely one of his efforts to prolong the time. Actually, he does not need to do it because it is useless. He can only reveal his uncle guilt to himself not the public. Hamlet should have made well-









Those are what Hamlet does as the effect of his depression that makes him unable to think clearly. He gets depressed for his failure to act and it is due to his lack experience. Thus he chooses to run away from reality to avoid burden instead of planning strategy. He runs away from reality and from his responsibility of revenge by making an excuse to prolong his action. He makes unimportant action by performing a drama presenting his father murder. It is also stimulated by his hesitancy that causes Hamlet doubt with the ghost, and he chooses to test it first as well as to prove his uncle guilt. However, it is only Hamlet excuse to prolong his revenge and to hide his inability.

Furthermore, depression leads him to run away from reality by performing strange behavior. It is when he cannot find any good strategy to carry out his father command. However, it convinces other people that Hamlet is mad. It is revealed from his conversation with Polonius, King and Ophelia. The way he talks confuse them so that they really think Hamlet is truly mad. However, it is merely Hamlet way to run away from reality in order to release his burden, his responsibility, his obligation for revenge.

### **3.2.2 Self-Blaming**

According to Goethals and Worchel, people who undergo depression would feel self-hatred, worthlessness, helplessness, and an inability to take any effective action to improve their situation (p.180-181). It means that, the effect of depression can make Hamlet tends to be self-blaming because he fails to achieve his goal to





With forms to his conceit? and all for nothing! (p.58-59)

Inspired by the players, Hamlet has them to perform a drama presenting his father's murder and write a speech to put into the play. Afterward, in his soliloquy, he expresses his ashamed because the players has shown more passion to carry out the performance based on Hamlet's request than what Hamlet has shown so far in taking revenge of his father's death. So, he compares himself with the players in which each of them has mission. The players have mission to carry out revenge commanded by his father.

However, their responses toward their mission are very different. The players are more passionate in carrying it out rather than Hamlet. Therefore, Hamlet consider himself as "a rogue peasant slave" as an expression of his disability. Besides, he also scolds himself for not revealing the truth of foul play in Denmark. He considers Himself as "a dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peal" as an expression of dejection on his apathy on his father's command. Even he asks about the way of behave that make him to feel coward. Poor Hamlet, it seems that the only way he can do to express his deep inner anger is by rebuking himself as he feels no more patient of his weakness. He starts not appreciating himself anymore and mocking his incapability.

HAMLET. Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave,  
That I, the son of a dear father murder'd,  
Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,  
Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with words,  
And fall a-cursing, like a very drab,





