CHAPTER 3

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter tries to discuss the data to get the answer for the question stated in chapter one. The first, this writer wants to know the character of Brick, and then how that character was characterized. The second is, this writer wants to know the causes of Brick being alcoholic in this drama.

3.1 Characterization

In this sub chapter, the writer will discuss about one of literary work's elements sometimes called characterization. The character chosen as the object of the discussion is Brick, one of the main characters in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee William. To describe Brick's characterization, the writer will use the method of characterization stated by Pooley. There are four basic method of characterization. In discussion of Brick's characterization, the writer only uses three methods; those are physical traits and personality, speech and behavior, and the last characterization through other character's opinions.

3.1.1 Physical Traits of Brick

In this method, the author presents character by describing the character through physical traits. It is gives the reader ease to describe how the character

characterized. In *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* drama, Brick is depicted as a slim man. It can be seen from the following:

[He stands there in the bathroom doorway drying his hair with a towel and hanging on to the towel rack because one ankle is broken, plastered and bound. He is still slim and firm as a boy.--His liquor hasn't started tearing him down outside. He has the additional charm of that cool air of detachment that people have who have given up the struggle. But now and then, when disturbed, something flashes behind it, like lightning in a fair sky, which shows that at some deeper level he is far from peaceful. Perhaps in a stronger light he would show some signs of deliquescence, but the fading, still warm, light from the gallery treats him gently.] (Williams, 4)

In the statement above, Brick stands in the bathroom and drying his hair. This statement explains the reader that Brick is slim and firm as a boy. Besides Brick as a slim and firm, he also has a charming smile. This is one of the quotations that describe about Brick's charming smile:

...... One by one he drops ice cubes in his glass, then suddenly, but not quickly, looks back over his shoulder with a wry, <u>charming smile</u>, and says:]

BRICK: I'm sorry! Anyone else? (p. 74)

In the quotation above also emerged to makes the reader imagine the physical traits of Brick in the drama. Brick in this drama described has a charming smile.

Brick's physical also shows that Brick is crippled. He cannot walk perfectly because an accident. He must use the crutch to walking. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: Tell Big Daddy I'm crippled.

BIG DADDY: I see you're crippled. I want to know how you got crippled. (p.35)

In the quotation above, the author describe Brick's physical through the dialogue of Brick and his father. In the Bid Daddy's statement, he wants to know why his son got crippled. After that, Brick gives his reason why he got crippled. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: <u>Jumping the hurdles</u>, <u>Big Daddy</u>, <u>runnin' and jumpin' the hurdles</u>, but those high hurdles have gotten too high for me, now (p. 37)

In the quotation above, Brick tells his father the cause of Brick use the crutch to walking. He said that he has accident because he running and jumping the hurdles but the high hurdles too high for him.

[Brick breaks loose and hobbles toward the gallery. | <u>Big Daddy jerks</u> <u>his crutch from under Brick so he steps with the injured ankle.</u> He utters a hissing cry of anguish, clutches a chair and pulls it over on top of him on the floor.] (p.54)

In the quotation above, narration tells that Big Daddy jerks Brick's crutch so Brick step with the injured ankle. Another quotation describes that Brick use the crutch to walk when he asks to Big Daddy to give his crutch. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: Big Daddy! Give me my crutch.
[Big Daddy throws the crutch out of reach.]
Give me that crutch, Big Daddy.

BIG DADDY: Why do you drink?

BRICK: Don't know, give me my crutch!

BIG DADDY: You better think why you drink or give up drinking! BRICK: Will you please give me my crutch so I can get up off this floor? (p. 54)

3.1.2 Brick's Speech and Behavior

Through Brick's speech and behavior, it can be ease for the reader to understand how Brick's characterized is. In this point, Brick is someone who honest about alcoholic. This is the quotation that describes Brick's honestly about his habit.

BIG DADDY [whistles long and soft with astonishment; he goes back to Brick and clasps his son's two shoulders]: Jesus! I didn't know it had gotten that bad with you. Why, boy, you're--alcoholic!

BRICK: That's the truth, Big Daddy. I'm alcoholic. (p. 51)

In the quotation above, Big Daddy does not believe that his son an alcoholic. But Brick with honestly tells the truth that he is an alcoholic. Based on the statement of Brick, explained that he is an honest person. Not only as an honest person, the author also characterized Brick as a liar person about his sexual habit with his wife, Maggie. It can be seen from the following:

BIG DADDY: How was Maggie in bed?

BRICK [wryly]: Great! the greatest! (p. 65)

In the quotation above, Big Daddy tells his son about Maggie in bed. Then, Brick answers Big Daddy's question with wryly face that Maggie in bed is great.

Whereas Brick during married to Maggie did not want to touch Maggie, he prefers to sleep on the sofa than sleep with Maggie. This statement is supported when Brick said that he asked Maggie to put a pillow on the sofa where he used to sleep.

BRICK: Give me that pillow in the big chair, Maggie.

MARGARET: I'll put it on the bed for you.

BRICK: No, put it on the sofa, where I sleep. (p.89)

Brick's speech also shows that Brick as a selfish person. Selfishness is a person who lacks any concern for the values of others, someone who does not value other people, does not value fairness, justice, or does not see the need to return a value for a value. It means that someone who has a selfish nature tend to please ourselves rather than others. Brick's selfishness is shown in several scenes in this drama. This is the quotation that describes Brick's characterization:

BRICK: I've dropped my crutch.

[He has stopped rubbing his hair dry but still stands hanging on to the towel rack in a white towel-cloth robe.]

MARGARET: Lean on me.

BRICK: No, just give me my crutch.

MARGARET: Lean on my shoulder.

BRICK: <u>I don't want to lean on your shoulder</u>, <u>I want my crutch!</u> [This is spoken like sudden lightning.]

Are you going to give me my crutch or do I have to get down on my knees on the floor and--

MARGARET: Here, here, take it, take it! (p. 11)

In the conversation above, it can be said that Brick's speech in this drama has a selfish attitude. Brick prefer to gets something that he wants rather than to obey Maggie's wishes to lean on her shoulder.

Brick selfish attitude is also in shows at the time Maggie gives information about the birthday of Big Daddy and tells Brick to congratulate on his father. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: I didn't get him a present.

MARGARET: I got one for you.

BRICK: All right. You write the card, then.

MARGARET: And have him know you didn't remember his birthday?

BRICK: I didn't remember his birthday.

MARGARET: You don't have to prove you didn't!

BRICK: I don't want to fool him about it.

MARGARET: Just write 'Love, Brick!' for God's--

BRICK: No. (p. 13)

In the conversation above, Brick is obviously very selfish by not remembering the birthday of his father and do not want to say happy birthday to Big Daddy even if only on a piece of card. Brick's selfishness is also shows when Maggie and Brick discussed about something.

[She rushes to gallery doors, draws the rose-silk drapes across them.]

BRICK: Don't make a fool of yourself.

MARGARET: I don't mind makin' a fool of myself over you!

BRICK: I mind, Maggie. I feel embarrassed for you.

MARGARET: Feel embarrassed! But don't continue my torture. I can't

live on and on under these circumstances.

BRICK: You agreed to--MARGARET: I know but--BRICK: --accept that condition!

MARGARET: I CAN'T! CAN'T! CAN'T! (p.17)

In the conversation above, Maggie begin to discuss about children, and Brick explains that she has agreed to marry Brick. Brick asks Maggie to accept that

condition that Brick has a sexual indifference. But Maggie cannot accept that condition.

Not only as a selfish person. Brick's speech also shows that he is a careless person in this drama. Careless means not giving sufficient attention or thought to avoid harm or errors. It can be said that careless is one of the nature's person who do not care with other. Brick's carelessness in this drama is shown in a several scenes. First, when Maggie starts discussing about child. Maggie tells Brick that Gooper (Brick's brother) and his wife has five children and number 6 is coming. Maggie intends to insinuate Brick who never wanted to have children of Maggie. This is one of the quotations that describe Brick characterization through his speech:

Think of it, Brick, they've got five of them and number six is coming. They've brought the whole bunch down here like animals to display at a county fair. Why, they have those children doin' tricks all the time! 'Junior, show Big Daddy how you do this, show Big Daddy how you do that, say your little piece fo' Big Daddy, Sister. Show your dimples, Sugar. Brother, show Big Daddy how you stand on your head!'--It goes on all the time, along with constant little remarks and innuendoes about the fact that you and I have not produced any children, are totally childless and therefore totally useless!--Of course it's comical but it's also disgusting since it's so obvious what they're up to!

BRICK [without interest]: What are they up to, Maggie?

MARGARET: Why, you know what they're up to!

BRICK [appearing]: No, I don't know what they're up to. (p. 4)

In the statement above, it can be said that Brick is careless with his wife,
Maggie. Brick is not interested in discussion about children. When Brick asks to

Maggie, he asks without expression because Brick is not interested. The attitude was also shown at the time of Maggie asked Brick. It can be seen from the following:

MARGARET [intensely, fearfully]: The way y' were lookin' at me just now, befo' I caught your eye in the mirror and you started t' whistle! I don't know how t' describe it but it froze my blood!--I've caught you lookin' at me like that so often lately. What are you thinkin' of when you look at me like that?

BRICK: I wasn't conscious of lookin' at you, Maggie.

MARGARET: Well, I was conscious of it! What were you thinkin'?

BRICK: I don't remember thinking of anything, Maggie.

MARGARET: Don't you think I know that--? Don't you--?--Think I know that--?

BRICK [coolly]: Know what, Maggie?

MARGARET [struggling for expression]: That I've gone through this-hideous!-transformation, become--hard! Frantic! (p. 8)

In this statement, Maggie asked Brick what Brick is thinking when he saw
Maggie. But Brick feels that he does not see Maggie and did not think anything about
Maggie. After it, Maggie began to feel that she is alone even though she lives with
her husband, Brick. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: Did you say something?

MARGARET: I was goin' t' say something--that I get--lonely.--Very!

BRICK: Ev'rybody gets that...

MARGARET: Living with someone you love can be lonelier--than living entirely alone!--if the one that y' love doesn't love you....

[There is a pause. <u>Brick hobbles downstage and asks, without looking at her</u>:]

BRICK: Would you like to live alone, Maggie?

[Another pause: then--after she has caught a quick, hurt breath:]

MARGARET: No!--God!--I wouldn't! (p. 9)

In the conversation above, Brick careless with his wife who feels lonely in this world. Maggie explains that she was very lonely, she was living alone even though she lives with Brick. But Brick is not concerns with the discussion of Maggie, even Brick talk without looking at Maggie.

Based on Brick's behavior, Brick in this drama is an alcoholic person.

According to MNT article, an alcoholic is a man or a woman who suffers from alcoholism. Alcoholics are obsessed with alcohol and cannot control how much they consume, even if it is causing serious problem at home, work, and financially. Brick's behavior shows by several scenes in this drama. This is the quotation that describes Brick's characterization:

BRICK: That's good after a workout but I haven't been workin' out, Maggie.

MARGARET: You've kept in good shape, though.

BRICK [indifferently]: You think so, Maggie?

MARGARET: I <u>always thought drinkin' men lost their looks</u>, but I was plainly mistaken.

BRICK [wryly]: Why, thanks, Maggie.

MARGARET: You're the only drinkin' man I know that it never seems t' put fat on.

BRICK: I'm gettin' softer, Maggie. (p.10)

In the next conversation between Brick and Maggie, Brick says that an alcohol is a good after a workout. From the quotation above, is it clearly stated that Brick is a drinking man. Drinking in English means consume alcohol. So, Brick is an alcoholic. Brick's alcoholic in this drama also shows that he has a liquor cabinet in his house. It can be seen from the following:

..... and against the wall space between the two huge double doors upstage: a monumental monstrosity peculiar to our times, a huge console combination of radio-phonograph (Hi-Fi with three speakers) TV set and <u>liquor cabinet</u>, <u>bearing and containing many glasses and bottles</u>, all in one piece, which is a composition of muted silver tones,.... (p.2)

[He hobbles directly to liquor cabinet to get a new drink.] (p.12)

In this quotation above, the narration describes Brick's room, there are TV set and liquor cabinet that fulfilled many glass and bottles of liquor. Brick as an alcoholic person also shows at the time when Big Daddy and his son, Brick talks about life. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: Yes, sir. Yes, sir, there is something else that you can live with!

BIG DADDY: What?

r: wnat?

BRICK [lifting his glass]: This!--Liquor...

BIG DADDY: That's not living, that's dodging away from life.

BRICK: I want to dodge away from it.

BIG DADDY: Then why don't you kill yourself, man?

BRICK: I like to drink....

BIG DADDY: Oh, God, I can't talk to you.... (p.57)

In the conversation above, Big Daddy tells Brick about something that can make Brick live. Big Daddy asks to Brick about something else that Brick can live with. Brick says that the liquor is something that can make him live. Brick also said to Big Daddy that he likes to drinks liquor.

BIG MAMA [vaguely]: Yais, bless his heart, wher's Brick?

MAE: Outside.

GOOPER: --Drinkin'...

BIG MAMA: I know he's drinkin'. You all don't have to keep tellin' me Brick is drinkin'. Cain't I see he's drinkin' without you continually tellin' me that boy's drinkin'?

MARGARET: Good for you, Big Mama!

[She applauds.]

BIG MAMA: Other people drink and have drunk an' will drink, as long as they make that stuff an' put it in bottles.

MARGARET: That's the truth. I never trusted a man that didn't drink.

MAE: Gooper never drinks. Don't you trust Gooper?

MARGARET: Why, Gooper, don't you drink? If I'd known you didn't drink, I wouldn't of made that remark— (p.71)

In the quotation above, when Big Mama, Mae, and Gooper talks about Brick who an alcoholic. Started with Big Mama asked Mae and Gooper where Brick was, Mae replied that Brick was outside and then Gooper replied that Brick was drinking liquor. In the conversation above, they argue about Brick drinking habits. Big Mama said that drinking alcohol is a natural thing.

3.1.3 Brick's Characterization through Other Character's Opinions

The last method that the writer uses to describes how an author characterizes Brick in this drama through other character's opinions. The first, Brick characterization through Big Mama opinion that Brick as a bad little boy. It can be described from the following quotation:

BIG MAMA: Oh, you bad boy, you, you're my bad little boy. Give Big Mama a kiss, you bad boy, you!--Look at him shy away, will you? Brick never liked bein' kissed or made a fuss over, I guess because he's always had too much of it! Son, you turn that thing off! (p. 32)

Based on quotation above, Big Mama explains that his son is a bad little boy because he has bad habit. Not only as a bad little boy, but Brick in this drama as a favorite son of Big Mama and Big Daddy. It is supported by Big Mama statement when she asks Brick to come with her. It can be seen from the following quotation:

[Almost instant silence, almost instantly broken by the shouting charge of Big Mama, entering through hall door like a charging rhino.] BIG MAMA: Wha's my Brick, wha's mah precious baby!! (p.32)

BIG MAMA: Here he is, here's my precious baby! What's that you've got in your hand? You put that liquor down, son, your hand was made fo' holdin' somethin' better than that! (p.32)

In the quotation above, describes that Brick in this drama as a favorite son of his parents. Big Mama always calls him precious baby. It makes Brick's brother, Gooper angry when Big Mama always finds out her only son, Brick. It can be seen from the following:

BIG MAMA: Git away from me, git away from me, Mae!

[She rises abruptly.]

I want Brick! Where's Brick? Where is my only son?

MAE: Mama! Did she say 'only son'?

GOOPER: What does that make me? (p. 77)

In this quotation above, Big Mama got information that Big Daddy was positive affected cancer. Then, Big Mama asks to Mae and Gooper where is Brick. But Big Mama's question makes Mae and Gooper angry to Big Mama. Mae asks to

Big Mama why she said only son, even though she has two sons and Gooper the first son.

The last Big Mama's opinion about Brick characterization in this drama is Brick as broken man. Brick as broken man when his best friend named Skipper died. This statement supported by Big Mama statement in act III. It can be seen from the following quotation:

BIG MAMA [unaware of his presence behind her]: That boy is just broken up over Skipper's death. You know how poor Skipper died. They gave him a big, big dose of that sodium amytal stuff at his home and then they called the ambulance and give him another big, big dose of it at the hospital and that and all of the alcohol in his system fo' months an months an' months just proved too much for his heart.... I'm scared of needles! I'm more scared of a needle than the knife.... I think more people have been needled out of this world than- (p.73)

3.2 The Causes of Brick's Being Alcoholic

One of the main characters of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Brick, is a son's of Big Daddy who owns big plantation cotton in Mississippi Delta. He married with a girl named Maggie. They live in a plantation home in the Mississippi Delta.

After year later, problem begin appear in their marriage life. One of them is the fact that they have no children. The fact that no child is born from Maggie's womb makes brick's parents disappointed. They really want to have a grandchild from their beloved son. Brick's parents began asks to Maggie and Brick about their sexual habit. Big Mama accuses Maggie does not like children, so that until now Brick and Maggie have no children. In addition, Big Mama also accuses Maggie that she never makes Brick happy in bed.

Another problem that occurs in the Drama is Brick being alcoholic. In some circumstances, Brick's id appears when he controlled with his desires. Brick shows his id more dominant than his superego because mostly his time is used to satisfy his desires and drinking alcohol. However, his id, in other side, can make his happy and can forget his problems. Freud said that the function of the id fulfills the primordial or initial principle of life is called pleasure principle. Because its sole function is to seek pleasure, we say that the id serves the pleasure principle (Jeiss Feist, 27).

The issue that Brick is alcoholic has been heard by Big Daddy. It is occur in the act II. It can be seen from the following:

BRICK: Fresh'nin' up my drink.

BIG DADDY: Son, you know you got a real liquor problem?

BRICK: Yes, sir, yes, I know. (p.42)

After hearing that Brick is fond of liquor, Big Daddy suggests him to quit drinking for it is useless thing. It can be seen from the following:

<u>Life is important.</u> There's nothing else to hold on to. A man that drinks is throwing his life away. Don't do it, hold on to your life. There's nothing else to hold on to.... Sit down over here so we don't have to raise our voices, the walls have ears in this place.

BRICK [hobbling over to sit on the sofa beside him]: All right, Big Daddy.

BIG DADDY: Quit!--how'd that come about? Some disappointment? (p.43)

In the conversation above, Big Daddy tries to suggest Brick about a drinking man. Big daddy hopes that Brick quit to being alcoholic. In this case, Brick's superego emerges when his Dig daddy gives advice about Brick's alcoholic. According to Big Daddy, someone who alcoholic is throws his life away. The superego thus represents a set of learned ideals (Rickman, 40). Superego is like a conscience which recognizes a good and bad thing (Minerop, 22). Super ego is controlled by moralistic and idealistic principle.

3.2.1. Skipper's Death

The reason why Brick being alcoholic is when his friendship named Skipper died. Skipper is one of Brick's best friends. Started from his Big Daddy asks to Brick why he becomes alcoholic.

BRICK: I had to give you a reason to get a drink!

BIG DADDY: You started drinkin' when your friend Skipper died (p.60)

In the quotation above, Big Daddy said that his son started drinking when Skipper died. Brick becomes alcoholic when his best friend Skipper died. He feel lose his best friend. It can be seen from the following:

[Brick's detachment is at last broken through. His heart is accelerated; his forehead sweat-beaded; his breath becomes more rapid and his voice hoarse. The thing they're discussing, timidly and painfully on the side of Big Daddy, fiercely, violently on Brick's side, is the inadmissible thing that Skipper died to disavow between them. The fact that if it existed it had to be disavowed to 'keep face' in the world they lived in, may be at the heart of the 'mendacity' that Brick drinks to kill his disgust with. It may be the root of his collapse. (p.60)

In this quotation, the narration tells that Skipper died is the cause of Brick collapse or being alcoholic. Brick feel lose Skipper because they are has promise to 'keep face' in the world they lived in.

BRICK [violently]: Skipper is dead. I have not quit eating!
BIG DADDY: No, but you started drinking.
[Brick wheels on his crutch and hurls his glass across the room shouting.]
(p.62)

Another quotation above shows that Big Daddy tells that Brick started drinking when Skipper died. The statement is also supported by Big Mama who also said that his son, Brick becomes a drinker when Skipper died.

BIG MAMA [unaware of his presence behind her]: That boy is just broken up over Skipper's death. You know how poor Skipper died. (p.73)

3.2.2. Pressure to have children

Another reason why Brick being alcoholic is he gets the pressure to have children from his wife and his parents. During Brick marry with Maggie, they have not children. Brick always refuse to touch his wife. Started by Maggie tells her husband that his brother, Gooper and his wife have five to six children and who will soon be born. It can be seen from the following:

Think of it, Brick, they've got five of them and number six is coming. They've brought the whole bunch down here like animals to display at a county fair. Why, they have those children doin' tricks all the time! 'Junior, show Big Daddy how you do this, show Big Daddy how you do that, (p.4)

From the quotation above, Maggie begin discussing about children and wants to have children of Brick by explaining that his brother have many children. Maggie also tries to resuscitate Brick that their sexual life is different from the others.

You know, our sex life didn't just peter out in the usual way, it was cut off short, long before the natural time for it to, (p.22)

In the quotation above, Maggie tells Brick that their sexual life out in the usual way. One more Maggie's discussion that she wants to have a child from her husband, Brick. It can be seen from the following:

Brick?--I've been to a doctor in Memphis, a--a gynaecologist.... <u>I've been completely examined</u>, and there is no reason why we can't have a child whenever we want one. And this is my time by the calendar to conceive. Are you listening to me? Are you? Are you LISTENING TO ME! (p.30)

In the quotation above, Maggie tells her husband that Maggie have been to a Doctor in Memphis to check her reproductive health, and Doctor says that there is no problem with the reproductive health of Maggie. And it is very appropriate moment for Maggie to have children of Brick. Brick always gets the discussion about children from Maggie. Not only Maggie who always demands children of Brick. But Big Mama also wants the grandson from beloved son.

BIG MAMA: Oh, Brick, son of Big Daddy! Big Daddy does so love you! Y'know what would be his fondest dream come true? If before he passed on, if Big Daddy has to pass on, you gave him a child of yours, a grandson as much like his son as his son is like Big Daddy! (p.86)

In the quotation above, Big Mama tells his beloved son that before Big Daddy died, they hope Brick can gives grandchild for them. At pressures above, the writer assumed that Brick obtains the pressure from around to have children. Therefore, Brick wants to vent all by being an alcoholic person.

The causes presented above are the reason why Brick being alcoholic in this drama. Through Sigmund Freud's id, ego, superego, it found that Brick's id stronger than his superego, his id marked when Brick is controlled by his desires and Brick do anything to tries forgetting his problems and to vent all the pressure from his wife and

Big Mama. Ego, on the other hand, arises when Brick still drinking alcohol to satisfy his desire. At the end of the story, Maggie managed to bring Brick to sleep with her. And helped by Maggie to emptying the liquor cabinet from bottles of liquor. And it shows Brick's superego.

