STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

2015

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

Literature is creative expression of human imagination or wishes that is poured in pieces of paper. According to Tailor, literature like other arts, essentially an imaginative act, that is an act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life experience (1997:1). Wellek and Warren in Theory of Literature state that: The term 'literature' seems best if we limit it to the art of literature that is to imaginative literature (1997:3).

According to Eagleton, literature is an imaginative creation that is created by the imagination of the authors, but the reality that occurs in their lives also can be taken as plot elements of literary work (1993:2). Means that, literature is the result of author's imagination that created by an author in a great work. Actually there are some authors who made a work suitable with the historical background at the time. Not only historical background but also author's life experience sometimes we find in plot element of work.

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Aristotle states that in a process of making literary works the author not only imitate the real life at the time, but also the author creates a new world or new topic in a literary work with the strength of imagination. That new world or new topic it might happen although it had never happened (2010:7). Means that, author develop their imagination to create different topic with another work from other author too with the purpose to make reader do not bored to read. Moreover, sometimes the author create new topic in his/her work that never happened before, ot it is just imagination only of the author's itself.

According to Robbins in his article: *The Definition of Literature'* .he states that literature has two 'modern' senses: 'literature' as 'a valued body of secular writings and specialized sense of creative or imaginative writing, as distinguished from the moral, the true, and the useful of literary work(1987:77). Means that, literature has two modern senses, there are first, as valued body of secular writing and second is sense of creative of imaginative writing.

According to Wellek in *From Text to Literature: New Analytic and Pragmatic Approaches,* he states that the use of 'literature' before the end of the eighteenth century were very inclusive; works of history, of philosophy and even natural science were considered to be literature. The 'modern' conception, which refers to 'imaginative literature' and includes 'the poem, the tale, and the play in particular', developed slowly. Means that, the use of literature has two different period. In the past author makes literature just for historical background, philosophy and natural

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science. But now in the modern conception the use of literature has additional functional that is become an imaginative literature, example: tale, poem, drama. Although that work is kind of imaginative literature but we can find some of that work also have purpose to show historical background or author's life experience.

Thus, Tailor with the idea of literature as the act of the writer's imagination, Wellek and Warrens with the idea of the imaginative literature, Eagleton with the idea of literature as an imaginative creation, Aristotle with the idea of the creation of literature with strength of imagination and Robbins with the idea of literature as an imaginative writing, through all of which the writer uses to confirm the statement above that literature is creative expression of human imagination or wishes that is poured in pieces of paper. One of the human's imaginations that arrests the writer's eye to analyze in this thesis is A Raisin in the Sun.

A Raisin in the Sun is drama written by Lorraine Hansberry that tells about Younger family, a poor African American who live in small apartment in Chicago. In their small apartment there are mama (Lena Younger, Walter (son of Lena Younger), Benetha (Lena's daughter), Travis (Walter's son) and Ruth (Walter's wife. Mama or Lena Younger is the matriarch of the family, means that mama is a head of family after her husband was died). She is religious, maternal, and sometimes overbearing and controlling. All of her actions stem from her unwavering, deep love for her family. Mama or Lena Younger has a dream that she wants to use her husband's insurance money to buying her family a house. It is her dream for her family to stay

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together and to see them become secure and hopeful. She wants to have a bigger house with a garden to her children and her grandchild playing together. Mama plays a very importance role to buy a new better house and also to solve some problems when her family is ready to move to her new house. the problem is arrival of Lindner to buy her new house with a high price when her economic was low, then problem about news from her neighbor to cancel to move in Calyborne Park because people who lived there was bombed. First, from social aspects that appear in this story that white people doesn't want to live in the same place with black people with some reasons. There are some suggestions from Lena's neighbor in her apartment to cancel younger's family choice to move in there because some black people who have ever live in white neighbor was killed, and actually some others younger family also disagree with mama's choice. Second, from economic aspect is mama as single parents can manage her husband's insurance money to achieve her dream, then while Mr. Kindler come to younger's apartment, he has a hidden purpose to give some money if younger family wants to cancel her decision to move in Calyborne Park, and at time the economic condition of younger family was suitable after Walter blotting of his father's insurance money to invest in liquor store. But mama can persuade them that her choice is the best for all younger family. And mama believes that every problem can be solved easily if they stay together.

From the brief synopsis above the writers of this thesis wants to make analysis about mama's dream of having a better house in Lorraine Hansberry drama : *A Raisin*

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In The Sun" which is title Mama's dream to have a better house in white neighborhood in Lorraine Hansberry's drama *A Raisin in the Sun.*

In 1959, Lorraine Hansberry made a great drama entitled *A Raisin in the Sun*. The play was subsequently published in more than 30 languages and produced worldwide. In 1961, the play became a popular film starring one of the original cast members, Sidney Poitier; Hansberry's film adaptation won a Cannes Festival Award and was nominated for best screenplay. In 1974, the play was adapted into a Tony Award winning musical, and in the 1980s a major resurgence began with revivals being mounted at many regional theaters. In 1989, the American Playhouse produced the complete play, unabridged for the first time, for television. *A Raisin in the Sun* has since undergone many revivals, including a well-publicized 2004 production on Broadway. *A Raisin in the Sun* predated the explosive revolution in the Black and Feminist movements and was one of the major literary catalysts of the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s. When the play was produced in 1959, several cuts were made. The long running time was a concern, and some of the cuts helped strengthen the play. But other cuts affected specific racial themes, altering the way the play was interpreted. The play was moved to New Haven, Philadelphia, and Chicago, where it received critical and popular support. It opened on Broadway at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre on March 11, 1959, where it was an enormous success, running for 530 performances. Harold Bloom (12-14 :2009).

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Lorraine Hansberry who made a great drama entitled *A Raisin in the Sun* is the youngest American and the first playwright that win the best play of the year award in New York drama critics circle. At the time she was twenty nine years old. Her successful while make *A Raisin in the Sun* can open floodgates for a new generation of Black actors and writers. The success of *A Raisin in the sun* also gave Hansberry a chance become a more influential voice in the American civil rights movement and the African struggle to free itself from European colonial rule. Nobody expected these kinds of success because Hansberry was an African American woman as well as new playwright; it was difficult to find support on broadways. In that drama *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry adds some of her life experience.

1.2 Statement of problem

To develop the explanation of this thesis the writers' make a best statement problem, this is:

1.2.1 What are the important roles that mama plays to achieve her dream?

1.3 Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to answer the questions above, therefore the writer would like to:

1.3.1 To find out the important roles that mama play to achieve her dream comes true

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1.4 Significance of the Study

The benefit of the thesis is important part and important reason why the writer analyzes that literary work. Theoretically, the significance of this thesis is to increase the study about literature especially about feminism study that reflected in drama *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. This significance of this thesis is also to increase the knowledge about feminism. From this thesis, it is expected that the writer can get more knowledge about feminism. Practically, the significance of the research is to motivate reader to read famous and interesting kinds of literary work to create experience while reading, all of literary work has knowledge itself. Hopefully, the result of this thesis useful to student in State Islamic of University Sunan Ampel Surabaya and enrich their knowledge about feminism and also can provide additional resource to the student in there.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Scope of this thesis is *A Raisin in the Sun* drama by Lorraine Hansberry. This thesis investigates part of the drama where mama as a single parent in that drama has a great dream to have a better house in white neighborhood.

To make this analysis is not going to be wider; this thesis analyzes feminist side of mama when she can make her family believe with her decision to move in white neighborhood. This thesis also shows some of other problems that mama faces while make her dream come true.

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1.6 Method of the study

This research is library based. Therefore, the writer makes good use some books including the drama itself as primary source, articles, journals, online resources. The research follows the following steps:

1. Reading the drama to get the complete and well understanding on the whole story.
2. Finding the data in drama to find the word that is related to problem of the study.
3. Selecting and collecting the data in form of narration and conversation from the drama related to the problem.
4. Analyzing the data collected by firstly categorizing them into two points, dealing with the statement of problems. Then, each point is analyzed using existentialism theory and feminism theory, which refers to the objectives of study.
5. Making conclusion based on the result of data.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1.7.1 White neighborhood

White neighborhood is a living house of American. The most inhabitants is white people (people who has white skin).

1.7.2 Insurance money

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Insurance money is some money that leaved by a company of insurance. The function of this company is protecting our self. We can use insurance money when we get an accident like injury, die, etc.

1.7.3Dream

Dream is hope, big wise or something that we want in our thought to happen very much but that is not very likely.

1.7.4 Single Parent

Single parent is someone who has child or children but no husband, wife or partner to live with them.

1.7.5 Black woman

Black woman is woman who has black skin. This is kind of person from Africa

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