

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a part of life, because literature is composed by human being as a medium to express human's senses in attractive form. Literature is an art that is written to express thought, feeling, and attitude of human life. It deals with the experience of life. The authors create the story to show the imagination and to entertain the readers about the beauty of life. By reading literature, the readers can get off from their real life and they will get pleasure of it.

According to Jones in *An Outline of Literature*: "Literature is simply another way we can express the world around us through our imagination (1968:1)". It means that literature is a way to express ideas and imagination of the author about life. Literature can give people more knowledge and it makes people enjoy and involve in it whenever they read or they watch the literary work.

Literature, in its broadest sense includes all written materials such as magazines, newspapers, schoolbooks, dictionaries, etcetera. In its narrow sense, literature may be in the form of novels, dramas, short stories and poems.

Drama is a form of literature, which is enjoyable because it is a beautiful work of art. As one of literary works, drama describes the activity and the life of people. Drama has a certain way to express human life. Drama should be completed with dialogues and actions. Through dialogues and actions, the readers or the audiences are able to know and recognize about the character and the story.

Everybody has to remember that drama is designed to be acted on the stage. From actions or performances, people will see how the actor presents the materials. It should be known that drama is not just the representation of life and character through dialogues but drama is also an entertainment. Drama is performed on the stage. Meanwhile, the other literary works have no characters that perform the actions on the stage. This opinion is supported by Rosenheim in *What Happens in Literature* by saying drama, unlike the other kinds of literature, is written to be performed and hence is largely dependent upon the overt words and actions of actors, representing its characters, for the achievement of much of its artistic effect or not (1960:93). It can be said that drama is composed through the images of characters and actions. The characters who play a drama will speak a dialogue of the drama and it is usually acted on the stage.

In this thesis, the writer is interested in analyzing one of the great dramas of Arthur Miller, that is, *A View from the Bridge*. The writer notices the story in this drama and finds out some elements of the interesting events. In this discussion, the writer analyzes one of the interesting elements, that is, feminism as the victim of masculinity. DeGenova in *Intimate Relationships, Marriages, and Families* says, "Masculinity is personality and behavioral characteristics of a male according to culturally defined standards of maleness (2005:57)." It means that masculinity is the quality of being male which is related to the social rules.

Eddie Carbone as the main character in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, has masculinity sides. He brings a lot of the ideas of masculinity. He has a very powerful view of what means to be a man, and he never holds back to

express that view. For instance, he shows the audience about his masculinity when his niece, Catherine gets a job offer to earn lots of money. Eddie disagrees if Catherine accepts that job. He wants Catherine to finish her school first before doing a job. It means that Eddie is an important person as a decision maker in the family. He proves that man becomes the one who is powerful over the family. Here, Catherine is feminism as the victim of masculinity.

Considering that feminism and masculinity exist in the context of *A View from the Bridge*, the writer chooses feminism and masculinity as a problem for her analysis. Thus, the appropriate title of the study is *Feminism as the Victim of Masculinity in Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Dealing with the preceding discussion in this writing, the research deals with the following questions:

1. How does masculinity oppress the feminism in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*?
2. What are the effects of masculinity in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To find the answer for the problems that have been formulated before, the writer determines two important goals. They are as follows:

1. To figure out feminism as the victim of masculinity in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*.
2. To explain the effects of masculinity in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the writer analyzes the drama entitled *A View from the Bridge* written by Arthur Miller. To avoid some problems out of context, in analyzing this drama, the writer only pays attention to masculinities of Eddie Carbone portrayed in the drama which oppress feminism, and the effects of masculinity.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By reading *A View from the Bridge*, the writer of this study hopes that the reader will get a better understanding about masculinity. The writer also tends to enrich the knowledge about literary work, especially about Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*. It may be considered as additional source for those who are interested in studying literature and also in understanding literary work from the different points of view.