

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work can be met in our daily life. A literary work is a work which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes towards life through a written language. Jones (1968:1) in *An Outline of Literature* defines, “Literature is simply another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feeling, and thought.” Literature is identical with life. The authors tell people and the world around them in literature. By reading and enjoying literature, people can entertain and enrich their experiences of life. Literature is one of the ways to refresh the people’s mind if they are getting stressed. Therefore literature will make them have fun.

Furthermore, literature can be divided into three main branches. They are prose, poetry, and drama. Drama is chosen as the source of data in this research. There are many problems in drama that can be revealed. Those problems can be used as the topic of discussion.

In this research, the drama entitled *Death of A Salesman*, written by Arthur Miller is interesting to be analyzed. According to Reaske (1966: 5) in *How to Analyze Drama*, drama is a work of literature or composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of –and dialogues between- a group of characters. Drama is character in action of intended to be spoken and acted in the stage. Drama is the representation of life and character

through action and dialogue. And drama is written to be acted, to be seen, to be felt by the audiences. That is why reading drama can be exciting and rewarding. The reader can experience the drama as human conflict between a man and the atmosphere around him.

The American Dreams that are experienced by Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman in *Death of A Salesman* are interesting to be analyzed. The American Dream had remained in the American society. It was the belief that America was the land of opportunity where everyone could be “great”. The word “dream” was in fact probably the best way to describe the problems that Arthur Miller could see in this belief. The word “dream” could suggest something wonderful to look forward to achieve, or, it might imply that something was only a dream, something that was impossible to achieve. In the drama entitled *Death of A Salesman*, the dream interpreted in the characters of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman.

The American Dream in *Death of A Salesman* describes the dreams of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman. The three of them had their own American Dreams in their own lives. Willy, the chief character, was not a successful person as he claimed to his family and friends. He was obsessed to be well liked and had personal attractive, so people would like him automatically. His entire life was according to his ideas about personal attractiveness and being well liked. The postwar economic boom had shaken up his life. He was eventually fired and began to hallucinate about significant events from his past. Linda, his wife believed in the American Dream, but she also kept her feet on the ground. Willy

had tried to bring up his children, Biff, in that same world but he could not keep up the false front, and Biff would not live that way after the accident in Boston. Deciding that he was worth more dead than alive, Willy killed himself in his car hoping that the insurance money would support his family and his son Biff could get a new start in his life. Therefore, the American Dream in Arthur Miller's *Death of A Salesman*, is interesting to be analyzed, especially the dreams of the three characters above and the effects of those dreams that they had suffered.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Dealing with the preceding discussion, some statements of problem are presented in the following questions:

1. What are the American Dreams in the lives of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman in *Death of A Salesman*?
2. What are the effects of the American Dreams in the lives of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman?

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

It is necessary to give the limitation of the problem in order to avoid complicated discussion. The drama entitled *Death of A Salesman* written by Arthur Miller is analyzed in this research. This research only focuses on the dreams experienced by the three characters and the effects of those dreams in their lives.

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to find out the answers for the proposed problems through the analysis. Thus, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To describe the American Dreams of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman
2. To find out the effects of the American Dreams in the lives of Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By analyzing this research, it is hoped that this research can give some advantages for the researcher and the readers. This research is useful to analyze as a further study by the next generation which concerns to the identical topic. It involves some interesting problems dealing with the American Dreams experienced by Willy, Linda, and Biff Loman and the effects of those dreams toward their own lives. Next, it is also hoped that this research can increase the knowledge of the readers on the problems about the reality of life for having dream to be a great person, knowing how someone has to fight to get success, and realizing the problems about them. Furthermore, the researcher and the readers are able to widen and enrich their imagination that has correlation with the real life.