

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

In life, we always face some problems. The writer wants to learn something to solve that problem. Literature gives a lot of advantages about how to solve the problem. Literature has become the part of human life since formerly until now and people love reading literature because it gives them some entertainment. Then, Literature is a body of verbal works, written or oral, related by subject-matter, by language or place of origin, or by dominant cultural standards (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). Peoples know that the author of literary can express their idea that happens in daily lives and show it into literary works. According to Rees (1949:3), literature is writing which expresses and communicates thought, feeling and attitude toward life". It means that each of people shows or makes to know a feeling or an opinion by words in writings, looks and actions.

Literature is also a means to express imagination in which people may get knowledge and entertainment. Next, Griffith (1968:3) in *Writing Essay about Literature* states that, "Literature is a subject matter that creates certain expectations in your audience because literature is a complex product of imagination". It shows that literature pays attention about the expectation of the readers, while the author imagines his fictive story to be alive. Furthermore, according to Lewes "Literature is at once the cause and the effect of social

progress” (<http://brwinquote.com>). Therefore, through literary works people can get knowledge, because they give the experience of human life.

In Western culture the most basic written literary types include poetry, prose, play or drama and short story. In writing this thesis, the writer would like to analyze one of the forms of literature, that is, play or drama. Drama is a form of literature, which is enjoyable because it is a beautiful art of words like a novel and poetry. Essentially, drama is a verbal artifact to express thoughts and feelings about life’s most important issue; so drama is human beings and their life problems. For the writer drama is the most interesting forms of literature analyzed, because drama is a work of literature telling about human beings, in which the writer is interested a lot, and which in the same is performed by human beings as well.

A play or drama offers another classical literary form that has continued to evolve over the years. It generally comprises chiefly dialogue between characters, and usually aims at dramatic or theatrical performance (see theatre) rather than at reading (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). Then, Reaske (1965:14) in *How to Analyze Drama* states that, “A drama is works of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting several of actions and dialogue between groups of characters”. In drama, the words mainly appear in dialogues, which enable the readers as if to see the action of each character and listen to their talks directly in front of them when they are reading the drama. Meanwhile, in novel and poetry the words mostly appear in a descriptive word-

arrangement, which possibly do not enable the readers to have as clear description as what they have in the text of drama.

In the field of drama, there are many great playwrights and one of them, whose work the writer use in this is Eugene O'Neill's. Eugene O'Neill was the greatest playwrights in American. He wrote many drama or plays, like, *Bound East of Cardiff* (1916); *Beyond the Horizon* (1920); *The Emperor Jones* (1920); *The Straw* (1921); *Different* (1921); *Anna Christie* (1922); *The First Man* (1922); *The Hairy Ape* (1922); *The Fountain* (1923); *The Fountain* (1923); *The Spook Sonata* (1923); *Marco Millions* (1923-1925); *All God's Chillun Got Wings* (1924); *Welded* (1924); *Desire Under the Elms* (1925); *Lazarus Laughed* (1925-1926); *The Great God Brown* (1926); *Strange Interlude* (1928); *Dynamo* (1929); *Mourning Becomes Electra* (1931); *More Stately Mansions* (1935-1941); *A Touch of the Poet* (1935-1942); *Ah, Wilderness!* (1933); *Days Without End* (1933); *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (1947); *The Iceman Cometh* (1946); *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1957); *A Touch of the Poet* (1958); *More Stately Mansions* (1967); *The Calms of Capricorn* (1983) (<http://en.wikipedia.org>).

Drama or play entitled *Mourning Becomes Electra* is one of Eugene O'Neill's dramas or plays that tell about a tragic story of revenge, in which Lavinia tries to avenge the murderer of her father, Ezra Mannon, by killing the murderers who are her own mother, Christine Mannon, and her mother's lover Adam Brant. She even realizes that she never get happiness in life as a consequence of her doing. Lavinia's revenge in this drama or play influences the behaviors of the characters.

In this thesis entitled *The Revenge of Lavinia in Eugene O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra*, the writer focuses on her analysis in Eugene O'Neill's play or drama entitled *Mourning Becomes Electra*. The writer of this thesis is interested in analysis of what Lavinia's revenge, because the writer wants to know the causes of Lavinia's revenge and the effects of her revenge.

### **1.2 The Statement of the Problem**

The thesis writer observed that in the play of *Mourning Becomes Electra* by Eugene O'Neill, Lavinia Mannon's life is so much of revenge to her mother. Furthermore, the thesis writer would like to discuss the problems as follows:

1. What is the revenge of Lavinia?
2. What are the causes of Lavinia's revenge?
3. What are the effects of Lavinia's revenge?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

In order to answer the problems about *The revenge of Lavinia in Eugene O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra*, the writer determines two aims, namely:

1. To know the revenge of Lavinia.
2. To find out the causes of Lavinia's revenge.
3. To find out the effects of Lavinia's revenge.

#### 1.4 The Limitation of the Study

To have a limitation in analyzing this thesis, the writer wants to give limitation of the analysis. It is very important to guard the discussion runs well. The writer would like to discuss some problems concerning in drama or play entitled *Mourning Becomes Electra*. The writer limits discussions in order to get the clearer understanding on the discussion into two parts. Firstly, the writer analyzes the revenge of Lavinia toward her mother. Secondly, the writer analyzes the causes of Lavinia Mannon's revenge. In this part, the writer correlates the information and the dialogue used in play.

Third, the writer wants to analyze the effects of Lavinia Mannon's revenge toward her life in Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*. Besides that, to make the readers understand them easily the writer will also write about the meaning of each theory to analysis *Mourning Becomes Electra*.

#### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

There are some significance elements in this thesis entitled *The revenge of Lavinia in Eugene O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra*. The first, the writer realizes that the play is written not only to express writer's mind and feeling but also to deliver the information about life especially in revenge, causes and effects of the revenge.

The second, since this study involves the application of some psychological concepts and phenomena in discussing the effect of Lavinia's

revenge, the readers can have further knowledge about psychological concepts happened in this drama.

The third, by reading the drama or play, the readers can acknowledge the interesting of Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*. By this study, hopefully, the readers will be guided to have self-awareness that in their social life interactions, they cannot avoid the feeling of hate, jealous, and anger because of being hurt by others and to know the effect or consequent of revenge.

Finally, this study will guide the readers to have more knowledge and information about some important aspect in drama or plays, especially for the category of tragic play and hopefully with this thesis the reader can understand more about the revenge of Lavinia, the causes of Lavinia's revenge and the effects or consequent of Lavinia's revenge.