

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature has become the part of human life since formerly until now. People love reading literature because it gives them some entertainment. According to Hartoko (1984:5), literature is creation. It is an imitation thing. The creator creates a new word, continuing the process of creation in the word. Literature even also perfects it. Primarily, literature is a direct emotion. It means that literature is a thing created by a person. It has to do with the feeling and emotion of human being. Next, Griffith (1990:1) in *Writing Essay about Literature* says that, "like all arts, literature gives pleasure. It has certain magic that transports us from the "real" world to the seemingly more remote and enjoyable place." Literature consists of some events that happen in the real life that are written in the specific way." Literature becomes more interesting because it is full of imagination and uses beautiful language or words. All kinds of literature, namely drama, novel, and poetry, give much pleasure.

Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. It is also used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but it is most commonly used to refer to works of the creativity imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. We learn about books and literature; we enjoy stories and plays, and we grow and evolve through our literary journey with books (<http://classiclitt.about.com>). It means that literature is the works of a

person that full of imagination and it can make us enjoy and involve in its whenever we read or we watch those works.

Griffith (1990:3) 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 fiction story to be alive. In literature everything can happen. The readers find hope and learn many things from that.

By reading the literary works the readers feel the basic emotion of human being, such as, love, happiness, sad, anger, et cetera. People know that the author of literature applies facts and styles to basic emotion toward each other or another term. It helps us to understand and know ourselves and know the world around us (Jones, 1968:5).

Furthermore, Hudson (1963:10), in *An Introduction to Study of Literature* states as follows:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an experience of life through the medium of language.

The statement above shows that the material of literature is something that happened in the social life and it is also the experience of the author. Moreover, literature uses language as a medium to transfer the idea and feeling.

A drama is analyzed in this thesis. According to Reaska (1965:14), a drama is a work of literature or composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of life and dialogues between a

group of character. Besides, Redman (1964:1) states that “a drama is the representation of life and character through action and dialogue.” It means that the story in a drama is taken from the real experiences. It shows us about the character of the human being in their daily life and it is acted by the certain characters in a form of dialogue.

Moreover, David (1960:12) says that “a drama is a story intended to be acted and spoken on the stage.” The characters who play a drama will speak a dialogue of the drama and usually it is acted on the stage.

This thesis discusses a drama entitled *All God's Chillun Got Wings* written by Eugene O'Neill. He is one of the famous American playwrights. He wrote many plays, namely *All God's Chillun Got Wings*, *Ah Wilderness!*, *The Emperor Jones*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Hairy Ape*, *Beyond the Horizon*, *A Touch of the Poet*, *More Stately Mansions*, *The Iceman Comet*, *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.

All God's Chillun Got Wings (AGCGW) is a drama about a white woman, Ella Downey, and a black man, Jim Harris. The writer chooses this drama as the source for analyzing because it is full of psychological implication of the main characters (conflict within themselves, with each other, and with the society). It is a story about a black man, namely, Jim Harris who loves a white woman, Ella Downey.

This thesis is focused on the analysis of Jim Harris' search for self identity. Self identity or self concept is the mental and conceptual understanding and persistent regard that beings hold for their own existence. In other words, it is

the sum total being's knowing and understanding of his or herself. It is very interesting to be analyzed so that the writer will analyze the searching for self identity on Jim which is influenced by some motivations and reasons, how he struggles for searching the self identity, and also what is the result of Jim's search for self identity.

1.2 The Statements of the Problem

After reading the drama *All God's Chillun Got Wings*, the writer found some problems that are interesting to be discussed. Therefore, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What are Jim Harris' motivations in searching for self identity?
2. What are the reasons causing Jim Harris to search for self identity?
3. How does Jim Harris struggle for searching self identity?
4. What is the result of Jim Harris' search for self identity?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study of this thesis are as follows:

1. To know the main character's motivations in searching for self identity.
2. To know the reasons causing the main character to search for self identity.
3. To describe the struggle of the main character in searching for self identity.
4. To know the result of the main character's search for self identity.

1.4 The Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is about the searching of self identity by the main character, Jim Harris, as seen in the drama. The analysis of this thesis is limited in order to avoid a wide discussion. The scope of the study has some aspects in this thesis. The writer limits the discussion on the motivations influencing the main character, the reasons causing the main character to search for self identity, the struggles of the main character in searching for self identity, and the result of the search for self identity by the main character.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

This analysis hopefully can give some significance for the writer, the readers, and the other researchers. For the writer this research is very interesting and useful. It gives a brief description about how the black man searches for self identity caused by some motivations and reasons. It is hoped that this thesis can make the readers understand well about how the importance of the self identity in human life and how some of the motivations and reasons can cause someone to search for his or her self identity. Finally, this analysis significant because it can be the reference for the other researchers in doing further research about self identity.