

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a work of art that shows the expression of the author's idea. Literature is fiction because it is produced by human being as a medium to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings. It also reflects the author's imagination and human's experience toward life. According to Edward H. Jones in his book entitled *An Outline Literature*, he says that, "Literature is simply another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feelings, and thought" (1968: 1).

The quotation means people can expression their ideas from their experience that happens in their daily life. People commonly read literary work to get pleasure, to enrich their experience in life, and to add knowledge and entertainment. By reading literary work, people can refresh their mind. William Henry Hudson in *An Introducing to the Study of Literature* explains:

"Literature is a vital of what men have seen in life and what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is, thus, fundamentally and expression of life through the medium of language" (1965: 10)

Literature is permanent expression in words of thought or ideas about life in the world. It means that literature is identical with life, it can be used to express some thoughts, feelings or ideas about life. Literature can describe what and how life is and. Furthermore reflect the events that happen in society.

Literature generally is divided into three groups, namely: prose, drama, and poetry. Drama is also called a play. In this writing, the writer is interested to analyze drama entitled *Desire Under The Elms*, written by Eugene O'Neil. According to Christopher Russel Reaske in his book entitled *How to Analyzes Drama*, "Drama is work of literature composition which delineates life and human's activity by means of presenting various action and dialogues between group or characters" (1966: 14). Drama is representation of life and character through action and dialogue and acted on the stage. A play or drama is written to be acted, to be seen, to be felt by the audience. Thus, reading a play can be exciting and rewarding.

The writer is impressed in Eugene O'Neil, one of the famous playwrights, and chooses one of his plays entitled *Desire Under The Elms* to be analyzed because the story is interesting and tells about a problem of Eben Cabot that can not solve his problem, in this case is Oedipus Complex in phallic stage, so that he experiences Unresolved Oedipus Complex. *Desire Under The Elms* tells about a family that consists of a father (Ephraim Cabot) and his three sons from different wives. The story revolves around a struggle for dominance between a son namely Eben Cabot to his father. Ephraim Cabot is described as a gruff father for his three sons; a hard worker who always dictates on them and emphasizes a hard work to keep the farm well. His sons dislike him much, but they cannot afford to struggle. One day, Ephraim Cabot, after his going for almost two months, comes back with his new wife, Abbie Putnam. From this moment, the conflict between Eben Cabot and Ephraim Cabot and his new wife. Abbie Putnam, begins. Eben Cabot adores

his mother so much. When Ephraim Cabot returns with his wife, Abbie Putnam, Eben Cabot hates them. Abbie Putnam makes her position like Eben Cabot's mother. At the first time, Eben Cabot rejects Abbie Putnam's presence, but he welcomes with Abbie Putnam's presence later. Due to his lack of either woman's or mother's love, Eben Cabot is easily flattered until he and Abbie Putnam fall in love and make love. They have sinful affair. One day, Abbie Putnam is pregnant. Ephraim Cabot assumes that the baby is his son, but the fact is the baby is Eben Cabot's. Ephraim Cabot is very happy because of Abbie Putnam's pregnancy.

In this writing, the writer is interested to analyze the factors causing Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex and the influence of Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex on his behavior, by using the psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud, especially about Oedipus Complex and Unresolved Oedipus Complex. Psychoanalytic theory approaches personality from exploring the private personality, the unconscious motivate, and the direct behavior (Hall, 1978: 31). It also concerns with the way the personality develops. The writer is impressed to analyze Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex because the writer wants to observe what is Unresolved Oedipus Complex and the factors that cause Unresolved Oedipus Complex, and also the influence of Unresolved Oedipus Complex for Eben Cabot's behavior, the main character in Eugene O'Neil's *Desire Under The Elms*.

The writer views that Oedipus Complex truly happens in society, but people never seriously pay attention on it. Sometimes, they can solve their Oedipus Complex and sometimes, people cannot solve it or fail to solve their

Oedipus Complex, so that the people experience Unresolved Oedipus Complex. According to Raymond J. Corsini in *Encyclopedia of Psychology*, he states that, "The whole Oedipal experience is so frightened that is thoroughly repressed, and can not be recalled without aid of psychoanalytic therapy. Its effect may well become obvious, however, as when a man marries a woman who closely reassembles his mother" (1984: 152).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What are the factors causing Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex, the main character in Eugene O'Neil's *Desire Under The Elms*?
2. How does Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex influence his behavior?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To explain the factors causing Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex the main character in Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under The Elms*, by using the psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud
2. To find out the influence of Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex on his behavior

1.4 Scope of the Study

The writer analyzes the play entitled *Desire Under The Elms* written by Eugene O'Neil, which was published in 1924. In analyzing this play, the writer limits the focus on the writing on Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex as the main character in *Desire Under The Elms*. The writer limits in the factor causing Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex and the influence of Eben Cabot's Unresolved Oedipus Complex on his behavior. Eben Cabot is the only character whom the writer is going to analyze without ignoring the participation of the other characters, who take part in this play as long as they support the analysis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to give better understanding for people who are interested in reading Eugene O'Neil's *Desire Under The Elms* and to give an alternative material to comprehend the play through the application of psychoanalytic theory, especially from the one of Sigmund Freud's theory.