

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

Literature is a work of art that uses language as its medium to express the author's ideas. The use of language of literature is a special in which it is different from language that is used by scientists or people in everyday speech. Furthermore, the meaning of literature can only come through the study of literature itself. Literature is a product of commentary on the life process, and we can get some sense of the meaning of experience by living it. Hudson (1965:10) states in *An Introduction to the study of Literature* said that:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen life, what they have thought and felt the aspect of which has the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

In addition, the authors of literature often raise the social matters as themes of their works. They can be love, family relationship, deviation, religion, the struggle of someone to gain his success, criticism for political matters, racial discrimination, etc.

Among literary forms, the writer would like to present drama as the subject of the thesis. The play or drama discussed in this thesis is *Ghost* written by Henrik Ibsen. As one of literary works, drama describes the activity and the life of people. It should be completed with dialogues and action. Drama is unlike the other kinds of literature are written to be performed and it depends on the words and the action of the actor here will determine whether the drama has artistic

effect or not (Rosenheim, 1960:5). We must never forget that drama is designed to be acted on the stage. From the actions or performance, we 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.

Henrik Ibsen created *Ghosts* in 1881. It represents how a patriarchal society helps to ruin the female characters very existence. According to Aaditeshwar Seth states that Patriarchal is an age in which the authority controlled by men. Males hold an autocratic authority in a family or government of society. Patriarchal society describes the condition of males dominates the female in society.

Male oppresses female's position. Female does not have powerful to be exist in her family as well as in society. Because of the condition, Henrik Ibsen was interested to write a drama experienced with the condition during that. In analyzing the drama entitled *Ghosts*, the writer of the thesis is interested in analyzing the social criticism against male oriented society experienced by Mrs. Alving. The social criticism is a criticism that concerns with the current social problem as its subject. Sometimes, different classes in the society will make different position and its condition. Moreover, social criticism is a kind of criticism that focuses on the social problem as its subject. It deals with the current social problem which born in conflict and controversy and with the hope of finding solutions that will benefit for everyone.

Female frequently become the victims of male domination because of the important position of male. Female is considered as the second class people. The

functions of female are just to support what male want and do. Male treats female arbitrarily. Female does not have capability to free herself from the violence conducted by male. Men, either unconsciously or consciously, have oppressed women, allowing them little or no voice in the political, social, or economic issues of their society (Bresller, 1990: 180).

Ibsen's *Ghosts* tells about a terrible tragedy of fate. The one who suffers is the woman as the main character; Mrs. Alving. She has elected to play the game of deceit. She is obliged into the deceit for the one she loves, his son, Oswald. However, there are fears in her that Oswald will know the truth and this fear become a dilemma for her. Now, she is in confused whether she should tell the truth about her degenerated husband or not. She lives in a small community with conventional tradition; that is why there are some norms that she should obey no matter she likes it or not.

Actually, there is prohibition to produce *Ghosts*. It is the theme of venereal disease. Bringing this theme into the play, Ibsen is considered as violating one of the major unwritten taboos of the nineteen-century. One of the critic come from James Mc. Farland (1981) in *Introduction to Henrik Ibsen: Four Major Plays* said that "In the group of plays of which *Ghosts* is the defining achievement, Ibsen's attention was thus chiefly drawn to those problems steaming from the inhibitions set upon individual freedom and self-realization by social and institutional forces: by commercial hypocrisy, religious intolerance, political expediency and all the accumulated pressures of conventional morality and established authority."

Ghosts describes the forbidden subject of heredity venereal disease and attached social conventions as destroyers of life and happiness. The subject is the hypocrisy in domestic life. The first show the destruction of marriage by an unreal and insincere relationship between husband and wife. The second is the destruction of lives and souls of the characters by the oppressive tyranny of convention. The issues of self-worth and the deflated value that each female place upon her own importance as a result of male dominance. The play focuses greatly under character of Mrs. Alving to face the wickedness from her husband. Although her husband offends her life, she still covers up her husband's domination. As the result is Mrs. Alving does the hypocrisy to the others.

As what the writer had mentioned before, *Ghosts* is one of the masterpieces about realistic drama. This play illustrates male dominates female in their life. Because of this reason, *Ghosts* is really appreciated especially for the reader of the play. It has been played in many theaters; even now *Ghosts* is still played in some theaters and universities. Not only the performance of the play, but also his books are still being searched and analyzed by many people. The writer of the thesis is interested in analyzing the social criticism against male oriented society from Ibsen's *Ghosts* because the writer of the thesis thinks that the female values must be respected by male in social life. Moreover, this writing has an interesting problem to be analyzed. That is why the writer chooses it as the title of this thesis.

1.2 The Statements of Problem

Referring with the preceding discussion, the writer wants to solve the problems occurring in the play. They are formulated as follows:

1. How is the male domination in the play described?
2. How does the play present of Mrs. Alving's hypocrisy to cover up the male domination in her domestic life?
3. What are the effects of Mr. Alving's domination and Mrs. Alving's hypocrisy toward the others character?

1.3 The Limitation of Problem

To avoid some problem out of context, a thesis must have limitation. In analyzing this play, the writer limits the writing on the male domination, the hypocrisy of Mrs. Alving to cover up the male domination in her domestic life and the effects of Mr. Alving's domination and Mrs. Alving's hypocrisy toward the others character.

1.4 The Objectives of Study

To find the answer for the proposed problems through the analysis, the writer has the objective of the study is as follows:

1. To analyze the male domination.
2. To elaborate Mrs. Alving's hypocrisy to cover up the male domination in her domestic life.

3. To know the effects of Mr. Alving's domination and Mrs. Alving's hypocrisy toward the others character.

1.5 The Significance of Study

Henrik Ibsen is really a great writer of his time. He managed to influence drama to be more realistic. His works always carry messages and critics considering the life of the ordinary people around him. One of his works, *Ghosts* also carries the critics related to the society's ideals.

The studying is a significant reference for other researchers doing further research on the social criticism against male oriented society of such study. By studying this topic, the readers will understand the significance of appreciate one to another and equality between husband and wife in family life. By understanding the social criticism against male oriented society, the readers maybe take the advantages of the result of this study to achieve a maximum level in society. This study also tends to enrich our knowledge about the literary work, in this case the plays by Henrik Ibsen. Furthermore, it will hopefully be input for other further studies concerning this work.