

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works in general contain much important, especially important about moral, ethic, and science. They also give much pleasure for people. That is the reason why people read the literature. Furthermore, the meaning of literature can only come through the study of literature itself. Literature is a product of a commentary on the life process, and we can only get some sense of the meaning of experience by living through it. Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states “Literary is a vital record of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of those aspect of it. It has the most enduring and immediate interest for all of us.”

There are two kinds of enlargement of literature. It opens a new world for us, and a new view of the world we have lived in. It also indicates new kinds of responses to the world. So, the study of literature is one of the things that can lead to discovery of new dimensions of human being.

Literary works such as essay, poem, and especially play are the projections of the author's life. The author has certain ideas about life, even through he may never bother to state them to himself. However, a writer sometimes has difficulties in

expressing his idea by speaking. Thus, he expresses them through the images of characters and actions, which are composed in play.

In this life there are often found confusions, hatred, irregularities, and uncertainties. Human beings have been dominated by the over political power, technology, and desire. Finally they lost their humanity. Samuel Beckett is able to take this kind of situation. He then expresses it into his play *Waiting for Godot*. The characters in the play are fully symbols. Based on the reason above, the writer takes "*Absurdity: An Analysis on Waiting for Godot, A Symbolical Play by Samuel Beckett*" as the title of this thesis.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

As the play, this Samuel Beckett's work is very interesting to be analysed. The writer finds some problems to be analysed. The problems are as follows:

- (1) How does the play present the absurdity?
- (2) How do the characters reflect the absurdity?
- (3) What symbol can be found from the characters and the play?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Knowing the purpose of the study makes the readers easy to understand the intention of the author. The study has the following aims. The first is to find the presence of the absurdity in *Waiting for Godot*. The second is to find the reflections

of the absurdity on the characters and the last is to find the symbols of the characters and the play.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Samuel Beckett in almost all of his literary works writes about the most violent and intense conflict in human life. The writer analyses one of his plays entitled *Waiting for Godot* which has been published in the year of 1948.

Actually there are many aspects that can be analysed from the play. However, to limit his study, the writer analyses only one aspect, that is, on absurdity. To be more specific, the scope of the study will be presence of the absurdity in *Waiting for Godot*, the reflection of absurdity from the characters, and the symbols of the characters and the play itself.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The study is a significant reference for other researches doing further research on the symbol because it can be the normative implication of such study. Besides, the readers may take the advantage of the result of the study to achieve a maximum level of morality in society.

1.6 The Method of Writing

In writing the thesis, the writer uses some methods to help the analysis of the thesis. The first method is Intertextual Study or Explication de Texte. According to Andre Hardjana (1983: 60) in *Kritik Sastra: Sebuah Pengantar*, he says that Explication de Texte is a union between researchers with the work that is going to be analyzed.

The writer also uses Psychological approach. Hardjana (1983: 60) in the same book states as follows:

Psychological approach can be seen from many points: (a) the discussion about the process of creating a work of art and about the writer, (b) the discussion about the teaching or norms of psychology which can be obtained from a literary work, (c) the influence of literary work to the readers or audiences”.

The use of sociological approach is needed. Guerin (1979: 272-273) in *A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature* states that:

The Sociological approach to literature is an approach in which a work of art is studied in social milieu”. “ Those who employ these are conscious of the effect of society on individuals. It is because the individual (including the author) live in society a certain time. Of course, he more or less, will that certain author wrote for the age under specific social condition which are usually different from those of author’s age”. “In dealing with he Sociological approach, the work of art which is analysed is considered to have social themes such as class division, racial discrimination, oppression, liberation, etc.”

The above methods will help the writer to analyse Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot*.