

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is an exciting creative art. It is the writer's means of expressing feeling and thought deeply. It presents a beautiful and expressive language used by the writer to give satisfaction to the readers. The readers are offered the excitement of the depiction of human life. They can get large knowledge and understanding about human life issue, feeling and life itself.

Reading literature furthermore can give advantages for EFL students. The students who read literary works will be able to enrich their English vocabulary. Reading literature also can enhance language competence, not only in language skills such as reading but also language elements such as grammar because literature uses authentic language use. The students can study the language used in literature to get more knowledge.

One of the literary genres is drama. Scholes, Silverman, and Clause (1978:73) state that drama offers people direct presentation of imaginative reality. Drama is a form of literature acted out by performers. Performers work with the playwright, director, set and lighting designers to stage a show. Drama is different from other genres because of its acting and performance on a stage. Drama can entertain the audience who observes the actors or actresses in playing their roles on the stage.

The concept of drama is about sharing experience. Dramas share people's lives in which the drama adapts people's attitude that they do everyday to give pleasure to the audience. Many writers write drama based on their own experience in life. They apply every aspect of life to be shared to the audience. That is why in drama, writers center their works to the value of life. By so doing the audience can enrich their views of life through experiencing the characters' feeling.

One of the drama writers who vividly captures realities of life was Henrik Ibsen. Henrik Ibsen was born on March 20, 1828. He devoted all his life for theatre. He was the forerunner of modern drama. He was known as the greatest and the most influential modern dramatist. Modern drama has special features that distinctly differ from ancient one. Not like ancient drama where the main character has to be noble birth or hold an important social position and has tendency to die in the end of the play, in modern drama the main character is often a common or middle class person, not high born, noble or important. He or she is just an ordinary person showing basic issues of social and personal conflict. Ibsen's works as a writer represented a reflection of people's need to live differently than they do. Therefore there was always a deep feeling of fear in his work. He described people who lived in constant expectation and who were obsessed by their pursuit of something else in life. The distance between what they could achieve and what they wanted to achieve was the cause of the tragic aspect of these people's lives. This

contradiction between will and reality was the main source of Ibsen's works of art.

Most of his dramas such as *The Wild Duck*, *Pillars of Society*, *When We Dead Awaken*, *Ghost*, *Helda Gabler* discussed about human conflict with society. His writings drew people who pursued their own goals, involuntarily trampling on the lives of others. He revealed the negative forces in the minds of these people. His human characterization in his dramas was extremely complex, especially in one of his works entitled *Ghost*.

The play *Ghost* written in 1881 was about a family who struggled to stay together by telling lies and exposing them. *Ghost* related only to the characters, and their particular events. This drama undoubtedly touched upon something essential in Ibsen's demands to dramatic art. It should as realistically as possible unify the three elements: the psychological, the ideological and the social. These three elements were the heart of Ibsen's drama. However, the play was also a desperate warning to wider society, and one that is still significant to today's audiences.

There were only six characters in this drama but all of them had different backgrounds. The problems that they faced were also different from each other. Their backgrounds influenced, Mrs Alving, the major character. The major character felt the "ghosts", which symbolized something frightening and shameful, appeared from each other characters. The characters' backgrounds brought bad memories from the past for Mrs. Alving. The events of the past were frightening and shameful for Mrs. Alving and

caused her to uncover the secret she hid. Finally, she was haunted by the ghosts of her intention hiding her frightening and shameful actions.

The writer chose *Ghost* because it presented many problems in relation with the concept of time, in this case the relation between the past, the present, and the future. The past has strong relation to the present. By looking back at the past, people can find their best way in living their life. How people act in the present is related to what they have done in the past. The past can affect people directly or indirectly. That depends on how people embrace their past as a part of their life, no matter how good or bad the past is.

In relation to the future, the past can have influence as well. By regretting the past too deep, the future can be ruined. The mistake or incident in the past can go back affecting the present and it can bring foolishness in making decision. Therefore there should be a good harmony among the three phases of time.

In *Ghost* the main character, Mrs. Alving, faced many problems in dealing with her past, present or future. The problems arose not only because of her decision but also because of actions and decisions made by other characters. The complication between these ones became the 'ghost' in Mrs. Alving's life. The 'ghost' haunted her present life and shadowed the decisions that she wanted to make for her future.

## **1.2 Statement of The Problem**

According to the background, the problem of this present study is:

What are the roles of influential characters that make Mrs. Alving feel haunted?

## **1.3 Objectives of The Study**

In relation to the research problem, this study aimed at finding out the roles of influential characters that make Mrs. Alving feel haunted.

## **1.4 Significance of The Study**

The writer hopes that by reading the result of this study the reader will be able to understand the play entitled “Ghost”. The writer also hopes the reader can get the moral lesson from the play and broaden their mind through literature to understand life.

## **1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study**

To be relevant with the title and the research problem, this study was focused on particular characters. There were six characters in the play but the writer took four of them to be analyzed. Those four characters were Captain Alving, Oswald Alving, Regina Engstrand, and Pastor Manders. The writer thought those characters had influence in making Mrs. Alving feel haunted. Therefore the writer limited the study only to those characters that had roles in making Mrs. Alving feel haunted.

## **1.6 Definition of Key Term**

To avoid misinterpretation about this study, the followings were the specific terms used in this study:

### *1.6.1 Drama*

Drama is a work of story telling in which actors represent the characters (Kennedy, 1979:833).

### *1.6.2 Play*

According to Oxford Dictionary (1990:885) play is a work written to be performed by actors.

### *1.6.3 Ghost*

Ghost can be described as something shameful and frightening. It symbolize the past that is haunting the present.

### *1.6.4 Haunt*

According to Meriam-Webster Dictionary (2004:331), haunt can be described as having a disquieting effect on something.

### *1.6.5 Character*

According to Scholes (1978:1342), character is a dramatic being known by name, word and deed. The character can be protagonist or antagonist.

## **1.7 Organization of The Thesis**

This study was organized into five chapters. The first chapter was “Introduction” which consisted of background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key term, and organization of the study. The second chapter dealt with “Related Literature Review”. The third chapter concerned about “Research Methodology”. The fourth chapter covered “Analysis”, and the fifth was “Conclusion and Suggestions”.