

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some subchapters. Those subchapters are background of the study, statements of the research problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters are important to be explained because they are required to inform this scientific study.

1.1 Background of the study

Drama is a literary works which is created to be performed by actors on a stage. As Julien (2010: 48) states that in a broader perspective, a drama is any works designed to be presented by actors on a stage. According to Klarer (2004: 41), he states that this emphasis is also reflected in the word drama itself, which derives from Greek “*draein*” (“to do,” “to act”), thereby referring to a performance or representation by actors.

Thornton Wilder is the one of the famous authors of drama. Carey (1965: 5) says that Thornton Wilder was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1897. He is the best author, because he gets three Pulitzer prizes. Based on Thompson (1982: vii), in time fourteen years he has received three America’s most notable literary awards, the Pulitzer Prize, for his novel at 1927 the title is *The Bridge of Sun Luis Rey*, after eleven years later continually in 1938 the turn of his drama *Our Town* that get the Pulitzer prize and four years later *The Skin of Our Teeth* be the third of his Pulitzer Prize in 1942.

One of the best Wilder's works is *Our Town*. From *Our Town*, he wins Pulitzer Prize. Carey (1965: 5) says that Wilder's *Our Town* is one of the most popular dramas that are ever written. It has been translated and produced in almost half the countries of the world. *Our Town* is a very unique drama in division of acts. The unique division of acts is taken place on the typical three act divisions as the basic structure of Wilder's drama. The structure of his drama shows the advance stage of human. Those are "*Daily Life*", "*Love and Marriage*", and "*Death*".

This drama tells about story of Emily Webb's moral development who life in the small town, Grover's Corners. Emily Webb is told in the drama since she has been in child age. Mrs. Webb, her mother teaches her moral. It is about obedience, concern, and respect. The main point of this story is moral development.

There are two studies about moral development that are found but both of them are different with this study. The first study focus on the conventional level entitled *An Analysis of the Moral Development of George Eliot's Characters in Middlemarch according to Lawrence Kohlberg's Theory of Moralization* (2003). The second study focus on the technique of teaching using Lawrence Kohlberg moral development which are entitled *Applying Principle of Kohlberg Theory of Moral Development in Classroom Instruction, Classroom Discipline Procedures, School-Wide Discipline Procedures, District Program and Community Program* (2003). On the other hand this study can be a guideline or a mirror to do activities in daily life based on moral development.

Based on the explanation above, *Our Town*'s story contains moral values in each event. Moral is the big point in *Our Town*. The word “moral” has large meanings that depend on the certain fields those are the development of moral, the philosophy of moral, and the moral of society. Moral is close with human because moral is the basic attitude in human life. Human can distinguish which one is wrong and right because they have moral. As Jonathan (2002: vii) states that moral theories address questions about what is right and wrong, what is obligatory, what is impermissible, what our ideals should be, and the like. Based on Jonathan's statement, moral is the way to think, and to do. Human life cannot be separated from the way of thinking and the way of doing.

Everybody must learn about moral for grip of life. It is same with Emily, she learns about moral from her family and her society. Sometimes there is a difference between moral based on one person to another or one family to another family and it is a challenge for proving what the moral is. This study is going to analyze *Emily Webb's Moral Development in Thornton Wilder's Our Town*. Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory is used to get deep analysis of Emily Webb's moral development aspect. Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory is the theory that gives explanation about the stages of moral since in the child age until in the adult age. It shows the process or the development of moral based on the authority and the tasks or the duties of the object. The object here is Emily Webb. The theory, Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory is suitable with the title of this study, *Emily Webb's Moral*

Development in Thornton Wilder's Our Town. It can be concluded that the theory is appropriate to be used in this study.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

In order to get the clear analysis about this study, *Emily Webb's Moral Development in Thornton Wilder's Our Town*, the study is formulated as the following questions:

1. How are Emily Webb's moral development described in *Our Town*?
2. What are the effects of moral development experienced by Emily Webb in *Our Town*?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To explain Emily Webb's moral development in *Our Town*.
2. To explain the effects of Emily Webb moral development in *Our Town*.

1.4 Significance of the study

The study provides theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study can provide a better understanding on Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory as the tool for analysis of Emily's moral development conducted in *Our Town*. Practically, this study would be a mirror or guideline to do activities in daily life based on moral development for the students of English Department in University of Trunojoyo.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory on Emily in the drama, how each stages of moral development on Emily represent in *Our Town*. This study limits on the characters' utterances and the author's narration that indicate Emily Webb's moral development aspect in *Our Town*.