

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers an overview of the study background, the research questions, and the objectives of the study. Scope and limitations, as well as the significance of the study, are presented in the subsequent parts. Finally, the significance/contribution of the study: theoretical and practical significance are also discussed in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the Study

Drama is one of the products of literary works. Drama is another play written for the theater, film, etc. According to M.H. Abrams and Geoffrey Galt Harpham (1988:95), drama is the literary form of composition designed for performance in the theater, in which actors take the roles of the characters, perform the indicated actions, and utter the written dialogue. A closet drama is written in dramatic form, with dialogue, indicated settings, and stage directions, but is intended by the author to be read rather than to be performed. Related to the length, dramas have many acts that their author arranges. This is because a drama is usually organized based on plot or theme with a focus on character development, conflict development, and action, as is the case with dramas that are specifically staged on the performance stage. So, in studying and understanding a drama, both the audience and readers would know several aspects that build a drama, namely extrinsic elements and intrinsic elements. However, in this study, the writer will only focus on analyzing in terms of the intrinsic elements contained in the source of data of a drama entitled *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw.

Drama has several genres including tragedy, opera, comedy, tragicomedy, etc. The drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw which was performed in 1949 is included in the English comedy genre because the story is filled with illogic or absurdity which is rarely found in other types of English drama (English comedy). Djassi (2000:37) states that comedy is a drama that creates laughter or humor. Therefore, the drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard

Shaw which was performed in 1949 is also included in the English comedy genre because the drama story contains several elements that are the same as the characteristics found in the English comedy genre.

As related to the topic of English drama in this study, *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw, is a three-act comedy that tells the story of a tiny microbe is complaining that he is starting to feel unwell because he got sick from the patient he infected. The patient is the daughter of Mrs. Mopply, whose children have been getting sick and passing away one after another. The patient feels that her life is empty and is not worth living. One day, when her nurse Susan and the nurse's boyfriend, Aubrey are caught trying to take her jewels, the patient is happy. She suggests that they should sell the jewels and pretend to kidnap her so that she can live a different life away from her boring home—the three left. The microbe then tells the audience that the main story of the play is now over and that the rest will be a lot of conversation. Soon, Mrs. Mopply and Aubrey's father, The Elder, arrive at the fort looking for the missing trio. The characters have long discussions about science, religion, and politics. The Elder, an atheist, debates religion with Sergeant Fielding, a soldier who is struggling with his faith. After the Colonel hits Mrs. Mopply on the head with an umbrella, she can not to remember her daughter. Because of this, she and the Patient become friends for the first time and decide to leave together. Aubrey is left alone and says, “we have outgrown our religion, outgrown our political system, outgrown our strength of mind and character.”

English drama, like other forms of literature such as poetry, has its own unique elements. Wellek and Warren (1956:139) state that the intrinsic element is an analysis of the literary work itself. As it is known, these intrinsic elements are the ones that create the drama from the inside, namely including theme, plot, conflict, characters and characterization, dialogue, setting, point of view, and so on. These elements influence the readers in interpreting and understanding what is conveyed by the author in the literary work.

In this study entitled *Conflicts and Themes of English Drama Too True To Be Good by George Bernard Shaw: A New Criticism Study*, the writer focuses on discussing the analysis related to the intrinsic elements of the conflicts and themes

experienced by all the characters that contained in the English drama literary work entitled *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw. Conflict is a struggle between two opposing characters or forces. One of the important intrinsic elements of conflict is that if the conflict is complicated then the storyline of a literary work such as drama can also become more complex. This can be related to the development of the plot. For example, conflict (A) gives rise to the first introduction in the form of an exposition. Therefore, as a function of conflict, it also produces intrinsic elements in the form of themes. The theme is the main idea of a play, and it can deal with the challenges and issues people face in their lives. In this regard, English drama *Too True To Be Good* uses an intrinsic approach in which there are some explanations and elaborations about the different conflicts that can be categorized as internal and external conflicts. It can also be seen in the English drama entitled *Too True To Be Good*, as it is known that the themes in the drama are closely related as the result of the emergence of conflict in each plot in the story. In a drama, of course, there is an implied and explicit meaning that becomes the theme expressed in each plot so that it can also attract the interest of the reader or audience. For this reason, these intrinsic elements are also essential for each other's development in the story.

Based on several reasons discussed previously, the conflicts and themes in the English drama *Too True To Be Good* are worthy of being studied using the New Criticism theory because the New Criticism is also related to intrinsic elements in the literary work, especially in the English drama *Too True To Be Good*. In other words, because conflict and theme are two intrinsic elements, the New Criticism theory is implemented to become a theory in analyzing this drama. Therefore, the writer uses the theory of New Criticism to analyze the drama entitled *Too True To Be Good*. On the other hand, conflict issues and themes exist in all types of literary works, including dramas, novels, poetry, and so forth. Tyson (2011:68) states that New Criticism is the most important instrument in determining the genuine meaning of a text based on the literary work, or the *text itself*. New Criticism is still useful because it focuses only on the text. This makes the meaning of the text reliable, since the author's personal life is not always the best way to understand

what the work is about. When using New Criticism, one also needs to look closely at the text to find its key elements, like conflicts and themes, which help explain its overall meaning.

The analysis of conflicts and theme phenomena in English drama has become a long-standing interest in recent decades. Some of the previous studies related to this study, namely, the first by Rahmani (2022) from the University of Trunojoyo Madura, entitled *Absurdity in Madurese and English Drama: A Comparative Study* analyzed how the absurdities are shown in the Madurese Ludruk *Juragan Hadroh* and *Gara-Gara Tukang Cukur EDAN!!!* By Sukur CS, which was performed in 2021 and is compared to the English Comedy *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw which was performed in 1949. In this study, the writer found that both Madurese and English comedies exist as a form of searching for the meaning of life. The second is by Ernawati (2022) from the University of Trunojoyo Madura, entitled *Identifying Characters of Javanese Comedy Kuntet Edan by Ludruk Budhi Wijaya* identified the types of characters and characterization in the Javanese Comedy *Kuntet Edan*. This study found that the characters of the Javanese Comedy are categorized as flat, round or dynamic, and protagonist. On the other hand, the types of characterization include (1) direct, and (2) indirect characterization. The third is the thesis by Yudhistira (2021) from the University of Trunojoyo Madura, entitled *The Making Use of Conflicts and Characterization in Thomas Harris's Hannibal Rising*. In this study, the writer identified the making use of conflict and characterization in the novel *Hannibal Rising*. The writer focuses on the main character in the novel, Hannibal Lecter. In this study, the writer found that (1) direct and indirect characterization were used to reveal who Lecter is, and (2) characterization and conflicts were used to develop the plot and theme. The characterization in this novel exposed that Lecter has many personalities but the main characteristic is a psychopath. The lecturer's personality causes conflicts. The conflicts are also used to develop the plot. From the phase of exposition until the phase of falling action, internal and external conflicts take place.

The studies above are related to the intrinsic elements issue that the writer discusses in completing this study. The writer wants to know and explain the

building blocks of the drama story, especially conflicts and themes, through the theory of New Criticism by Ransom, Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, and other authors which was then adapted by Lois Tyson (2011). In describing and analyzing the intrinsic elements of themes in conflicts that are embodied in the English drama by using the theory of Greg Johnson & Thomas R. Arp (2016) and then Kenney's theory of literature (1966) about identifying and describing the kinds or the types of conflicts experienced by the characters in the English drama *Too True To Be Good*. Moreover, the writer is interested in studying this topic because only a few study results related to this issue or topic, both from the source of the data in the form of a drama entitled *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw and New Criticism Theory, so this could be a research gap which the writer can fill.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions consist of the main problems that the writer takes in the background of the study above and this study is structured to answer the problems formulated in the following questions:

1. What kinds of conflicts do the characters experience in the English drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw?
2. What themes do the conflicts convey in the English drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research questions above, the writer tries to achieve the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the kinds of conflicts experienced by the characters in the English drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw.
2. To describe the themes that are conveyed in the English drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to contribute both theoretical and practical impacts. Theoretically, it is expected that this study will contribute to the existence of literary

study by applying New Criticism which focuses on intrinsic elements. Analyzing the intrinsic elements of conflicts and themes reflected through characters, especially the main characters and the plot, enriches literary studies, especially in literature, through the English drama as the source of data. Practically, the results of this study will improve the writer's knowledge. This study intends to foster more studies about the intrinsic elements by applying the New Criticism theory, especially in literary works such as the drama entitled *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw. In addition, this study is also expected to provide and contribute useful knowledge and information especially for future writers who are concerned and interested in doing further study related to the analysis of intrinsic elements in literary works by using different theories and objects as data analysis, generally for academics, readers, the students of English Department, government, and community.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the intrinsic elements which are presented through the utterances of the characters of the English drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw. As it is known, the intrinsic elements contained in drama consist of (a) The conflicts in the drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw, (b) The themes that build the story in the drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw, (c) The moral message in the drama *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw. Significantly, for this study, the writer deliberately limits the discussion by focusing on the analysis of intrinsic elements which only include the conflicts experienced by the characters throughout the plot in the drama, including both internal conflict and external conflict, and the themes that build the story so it also contains moral values or is related to moral messages. In addition, this study applies the New Criticism study by Ransom, Robert Penn Warren, Allen Tate, and other authors which was then adapted by Lois Tyson (2011) as the framework or approach. New Criticism theory helps the writer in finding the conflicts and themes in the drama through the text itself. In describing and analyzing the intrinsic elements of themes in conflicts that are embodied in the English drama by using the

theory of Greg Johnson & Thomas R. Arp (2016) and then Kenney's theory of literature (1966) about identifying and describing the kinds or the types of conflicts experienced by the characters in the English drama *Too True To Be Good*.