

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. Those are background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Absurdity is one of the condition that human often experience. The struggles that are experienced by man make him question the meaning of life. Camus (1955, p. 26) defines absurdities as irrational and uncontrolled. Absurdity is a distinctive feature of life that is directly related to human. Moreover, this can be seen when exploring the meaning of life, it will be found that life and human are not clear and rational. Camus (1955, p. 15) states that this world is unreasonable. Man coexists with the absurd world, he hopes with uncertainty. All of that can be argued that reality is not reasonable in itself. Human are given reason to reckon in their every action. The role of the mind is to identify between what is true and what is untrue. Meanwhile, the more you search for the meaning of life, the more absurd you will find.

Further, Camus (1955, p. 75) gives an example of the absurdities by explaining *the Myth of Sisyphus*. This mythical story comes from Ancient Greek. It tells that Sisyphus is given sentence by Zeus because he has a mistake that makes Zeus mad. The sentence is he must bring the rock to the top, but when he arrives on the top, the rock will go down. That sentence must be done by Sisyphus every day, repeatedly. Camus (1955, p. 10) views that the anxiety and dissatisfaction for 'tomorrow' and 'later' make the feeling of the exile exist and make the awareness come. Based on the Camus' statement, the Sisyphus sentence can make the awareness

of his absurdities can be seen. The absurdities can be faced by aware the things around.

To study this phenomenon, philosophy can be used as one approach. One branch of philosophy that is closely related to this phenomenon is absurdity theory or “The Philosophy of the Absurd”. This study uses the theory of absurdity by Albert Camus because the discussion is about finding the meaning of life with human relations and the world. Then, this theory is very suitable and in line with the discussion of this thesis which will discuss the absurdity, exile, death, rebellion and solidarity in George Bernard Shaw's drama *Too True To Be Good*. Besides, there are five points that he describes in his thoughts such as absurdity, exile, rebellion death, and solidarity. Camus' concept is known as “The Philosophy of the Absurd”. For detail views and discussion of absurdism theory, it will be discussed in full in the Review of Related Literature section in chapter 2.

On stage, drama is a reproduction, adaptation, and mirror of reality. Drama is distinct from other literary genres. It has distinct traits that have developed as a result of its unusual nature. It is difficult to distinguish drama from performance since drama conveys real-life experiences to the audience throughout a play's stage performance (Iwuchukwu, 2008, p. 3). This is the reason why the analysis in this thesis will focus on literary works in the form of drama. It is the most tangible of all literary forms. Therefore, the comedy-drama entitled *Too True To Be Good* written by playwright George Bernard Shaw is chosen as the source of the data. This play is written by Shaw in 1934, which has three acts.

This drama belongs to the comedy of the twentieth-century drama. This drama is very rarely discussed and analyzed because it is very interesting drama. *Too True To Be Good* tells a story that focuses on the main character named "The Patient" and the characters related to her. She is a patient in a hospital who has an illness for a long time. In addition, there is the character of “The Monster” who is a microbe who always grumbles because it feels pain caused by The Patient who takes treatment. One day, there are two thieves who disguised themselves as nurses and priests. This is where the fake nurse and priest persuaded The Patient to escape from the hospital. Then, they asked The Patient to bring all her jewelry to sell. Shortly, The Patient, The Nurse, and The Burglar flee to England and come to a forest fort that is guarded by the "Tall Boys". However, suddenly a war broke out, on the sidelines of the war, The Patient, feels bored

because what happen is as empty as her living in a hospital. However, further discussion will be discussed in the discussion section of chapter 4.

Therefore, the focus of this thesis is to discuss the absurdity, exile, rebellion, death and solidarity that are experienced by the characters in play *Too True To Be Good*. This analysis is not only carried out on The Patient's character as the main character, but also it is possible to examine other supporting characters that also represent the absurdities between herself and her life.

Several studies that use the theory of absurdity by Albert Camus include the thesis of Ahdi (2019) analyzes the differences about absurdity through rebellion in Albert Camus' *The Plague* and Iwan Simatupang's *Kering*. Ardiya & Febtiningsih (2019) analyze a drama *The American Dream* by Edward Albee using Camus' theory of absurdity, the discussion in it is about satire and absurdity. Then Rasheed *et. al* (2021) discuss absurdism and existentialism which are compared in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* and *The Trial*. Ali (2018) analyzes eight plays and compares the absurdity in this study, two plays for each playwright: Beckett's *Endgame* and *Waiting for Godot*; Pinter's *The Room* and *Dumb Waiter*; Albee's *The Zoo Story* and *The American Dream*; and Shepard's *Buried Child* and *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*, which will be referred to as *Endgame*, *Godot*, *Room*, *Dumb*, *Zoo*, *American*, *Buried*, and *Dreamer*. Fikri (2020) analyzes absurdism through Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. Patel (2013) analyzes absurdity in *The Outsider* by Albert Camus. All six studies use the same approach, namely the absurdity of Albert Camus. However, the difference with this study is the choice of source of data. This study can deepen the issue of human absurdity with a more details discussion. Then, there are two previous studies use the same source of data *Too True To Be Good*. The first is study by Wixson (2013) analyzes the pathological dramaturgy through character Microbes in Shaw's *Too True To Be Good*. The second is study by Carpenter (2007) analyzes the strategy and the bacteriology through scrutinizing The Microbe in Shaw's *Too True To Be Good*. The two previous studies that use Shaw's drama *Too True To Be Good* have different issue about microbial or bacteriology, but this study analyze about absurdity, exile, rebellion, death, and solidarity.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the problem discussed on the previous point, the research questions which can be formulated are:

1. How absurdity is represented in the play *Too True To Be Good*?
2. How do the characters give response to the absurdity in the play *Too True To Be Good*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study are to find out:

1. How absurdity is represented in *Too True To Be Good*.
2. How the characters give response to the absurdity in *Too True To Be Good*

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be able to provide beneficial contribution. Those are:

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to provide several benefits. First, to support the use of the concept of absurdism theory by Albert Camus. Second, to provide a better understanding and deepening of the analysis of absurdity, exile, rebellion, death, and solidarity, especially in the drama *Too True To Be Good*.
2. Practically, this study is expected to be useful reference for students who plan to conduct a study using the same theory. In addition, it is hoped that this study can be useful for readers, so that they can appreciate our lives more than anything and always be grateful for whatever happens in our lives.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the use of absurdism theory or the philosophy of the absurd by Albert Camus. This theory is used to analyze the play entitled *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw. Furthermore, the philosophy of the absurd is used to find out the absurdity, exile, rebellion, death, and solidarity that exist in *Too True To Be Good* that is experienced by the characters.

This study is limited to the character 'the patient' and character that is related to her. Further, the other limitation is result of the data that limits to the character's utterances as primary data in *Too True To Be Good* by George Bernard Shaw.