
THE INTROVERT CHARACTER AS SEEN IN TENNESSEE WILLIAM'S GLASS MENAGERIE

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ABSTRACT

This thesis tell about a drama Glass Menagerie by Tennessee William. This drama memory play of narrator, Tom wingfield. He is an aspiring poet which work in warehouse to support his mother, Amanda and his sister, Laura. Mr. wingfield, Tom's father, ran off family years ago, except for one postcard, has not been haeard from since. Amanda, originally from a genteel family, regales her children

frequently with tales of her idyllic youth and the scores of suitors who once pursued her. She is disappointed that Laura, who wears a brace one her leg and is painfully shy, does not attract any gentlemen callers. Amanda then decides that Laura's last hope must lie in marriage and begins selling magazine subscriptions to earn the extra money she believes will help to attract suitors for Laura.

Keywords: *drama, character, marriage*

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas sebuah drama yang berjudul Glass Menagerie karya Tennessee William. Drama ini menggambarkan permainan memori dari ingatan narator, Tom Wingfield. Dia adalah seorang penyair bercita-cita tinggi yang bekerja di gudang sepatu untuk menghidupi ibunya, Amanda, dan saudara perempuannya, Laura. Tuan wingfield, ayah Tom dan Laura, meninggalkan keluarga bertahun-tahun yang lalu tanpa menafkahi keluarganya, tidak pernah terdengar sejak saat itu. Amanda, yang berasal

dari keluarga yang sopan, sering menundukkan anak-anaknya dengan cerita tentang pemuda idamannya dan sejumlah pelamar yang pernah mengejanya. Dia kecewa karena Laura yang memakai penjepit di kakinya dan sangat pemalu, tidak menarik perhatian setiap pria. Amanda kemudian memutuskan bahwa harapan terakhir Laura harus terletak pada pernikahan dan mulai menjual majalah untuk mendapatkan uang tambahan yang dia percaya akan membantu menarik pelamar untuk Laura.

Kata kunci: *drama, karakter, menikah*

I INTRODUCTION

Drama is a part of literature. The word literature derives from the Latin which primarily refers to the written or printed words. Literature is the artistic expression of feeling and emotion which poured into words. Literature sprang up from the imaginative mind of the writers and by using their creative imagination, everything happened around their community can be put into literary work. Literature also sprang up from the imaginative mind of people who had the talent to create stories.

There are some ways to express ideas, especially in a literary work. There is a literary work that brings us to the world of dreams and takes us away from reality. In this way, literary works function for pleasure and enjoyment. Literary works include prose, poetry, and drama or play. According to Kennedy in *Literature an Introduction to Fiction* (1979:899), Poetry, Drama and Play are work of storytelling which actors represent characters. Play is a written literary work that reflects and portrays the real human life experiences. The progression of the plot connects the readers or the audiences with their humanity experience.

In this background, the writer gives the reason for choosing this plays. First, literary works are interesting for people especially those who have a great sense of art. The works also enable the readers to enjoy every heart beat of the conflict, the rise and down of the emotion of the story and the life journey of the character in the text. Second, This play was written by one of the American greatest playwrights, Tennessee Williams. *The Glass Menagerie* is one of successful plays written by Williams. His other successful plays are *The Rose Tattoo*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Summer and Smoke*. After conducting the first performance of *The Glass Menagerie* in Chicago in 1944, he won New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945. Williams considered as a highly regarded playwright in America because of the success of the play. The success of the play has triggered me to conduct the research.

The unpredictable ending of the play has touched me to select it as the subject of the thesis. Through *The Glass Menagerie*, Williams also tries to convey moral values of human life. The readers or audiences do not only enjoy each exciting scene, but also discover and learn the valuable messages from the play such as how we

should really understand others sincerely by viewing deeper from their motivation rather than our own perception. In other words, we can get a precious life value that if we want to be understood, we should understand people first. One way to understand others is to know the motivations and reasons behind their actions.

Next, This play builds the readers to view one action through different paradigm which coaches us to understand/help others who are psychologically ill. The other reason is the story itself the three main characters face many complicated problems and conflicts. Although the three of them painfully suffer from the great depression, the study focuses on Laura wingfield since she is the centre of the problems faced by other main characters. Laura's foot defect and her hopelessness construct immense conflicts between Amanda and Tom.

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Finally, The writer concerns with the action taken by Laura and the reasons why she conducts each action, for example is collecting the glass animals, like her character and what is the causes. In this background, narrator Tom Wingfield who is also a character in the play, tells the story from his memories. Set in St. Louis in 1937, Tom works a tiresome job in a shoe warehouse in order to support his mother, Amanda, and his sister, Laura. His father, Mr. Wingfield, left the family years ago, and with the exception of one postcard, has not been heard from since. But his presence is pervasive, as his picture still hangs in the family's living room.

The play tells about conflicts in a family which consists of a mother (Amanda), an older sister (Laura), and a younger brother (Tom). Laura has foot defect that makes her become terribly shy, dependent, and peculiar. Tom as the bread winner has to work although actually he hates the job. Amanda keeps on dreaming of Laura's marriage. The centre of the family problem is Laura. She is very dependent and fails to establish her social world. The aims of his drama are to find the characteristics of Laura

Wingfield as one of the main characters in Tennessee Williams. Laura is so introvert person that she does not have any friend outside. A childhood illness has created her crippled, one leg is shorter than the other. She is frightened by outside world so that chooses to be happy herself alone with her collection of glass animals called glass menagerie. Sometimes she also busies herself with the sound of her father's old Victrola

records. The research is conducted because analyzing Introvert character of Laura wingfield from psychological. Studying the struggle within the mind of Laura is interesting. By knowing the motivation and the real meaning behind Laura's action, one cannot judge her from her physical actions. Two examples of her action are keeping the glass menagerie and dropping out from the course.

II METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

In analyzing Glass Menagerie, the writer needs systematic ways to write this thesis. The writer divides the method of research in the method of collecting the data and method of analyzing the data. This method provides the steps of writer in collecting and analyzing data.

1. Method of collecting the data

In method collecting the data the writer uses method of observation. which collects the data direct that there is a possibility to record matters of behavior, growth, and also when these events occur the authors define, search and obtain data that is literature about drama Glass Menagerie. The writer read and observed the existing problems in the drama to be uses as research material.

2. Method of analyzing the data

In method analyzing the data, the writer uses genetic structuralism approach as the data analysis. The data of the research are paragraph and dialogue quotation of the even that exist on the simple of this research. The steps to analyze data are as follows:

1. Review the data that have been collected.
2. Determining the component parts of the major and minor characters in the drama "Glass Menagerie by Tennessee William".
3. Composing the theories that would be uses for the analyzing.
4. Drawing the conclusion based on the analyzing.

3. Technique of collecting the data

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research. This research is oriented in the library in order to find the related data, however it is not restricted in finding other written material from internet or even from the motion picture. According to Pradopo (2001:23)

Penelitian

pustaka mengacu pada pengamatan yang dieksekusi di perpustakaan, yang mana penulis memperoleh data dan informasi tentang objek melalui buku-buku dan peralatan audiovisual lainnya yang terkait dan relevan dengan topic.(by Pradopo)

Library research refers to the observation that is executed in the library, which the writer gains the data and information about his object through the books and other audiovisual equipment that related and relevant to the topic.(translate by writer)

4. Technique of analyzing the data

In analyzing the data, the information from data collection is processed and presented in form of thesis. In the application, the writer uses Genetic Structural Method. Structuralism in psychology (also structural psychology) is a theory of consciousness developed by Wilhelm Wundt and his protege Edward Bradford Titchener.

This theory was challenged in the 20th century. It is debated who deserves the credit for founding this field of psychology, but it is widely

accepted that Wundt created the foundation on which Titchener expanded. Structuralism as a school of psychology seeks to analyze the adult mind (the total sum of experience from birth to the present) in terms of the simplest definable components and then to find how these components fit together to form more complex experiences as well as how they correlated to physical events. To do this, psychologists employ introspection, self-reports of sensations, views, feelings, emotions, etc.

Introvert Character

Introversion is the state of being predominantly interested in one's own mental self. Introverts are typically perceived as more reserved or reflective. Some popular psychologists have characterized introverts as people whose energy tends to expand through reflection and dwindle during interaction. This is similar to Jung's view, although he focused on mental energy rather than physical energy. Few modern conceptions make this distinction.

Introverts often take pleasure in solitary activities such as reading, writing, using computers, hiking and fishing. The archetypal artist, writer, sculptor, engineer, composer and inventor are all highly introverted. An introvert is likely to enjoy time spent alone and find less reward in time spent with large groups of people, though they may enjoy interactions with close friends. Trust is usually an issue of significance, a virtue of utmost importance to introverts is choosing a worthy companion. They prefer to concentrate on a single activity at a time and like to observe situations before they participate, especially, observed in developing children and adolescents. They are more analytical before speaking. Introverts are easily overwhelmed by

too much stimulation from social gatherings and engagement, introversion having even been defined by some in terms of a preference for a quiet, more minimally stimulating external environment.

Mistaking introversion for shyness is a common error. Introverts prefer solitary to social activities, but do not necessarily fear social encounters like shy people do. Susan Cain argues in *Quiet, The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* that modern Western culture misjudges the capabilities of introverted people, leading to a waste of talent, energy and happiness. Cain describes how society is based against introverts, and that, with people being taught from childhood that to be sociable is to be happy, introversion is now considered "somewhere between a disappointment and pathology". In contrast, Cain says that introversion is not a "secondclass" trait but that both introverts and extraverts enrich society, with examples including the introverts J.K. Rowling, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Gandhi, Dr. Seuss, Yeats, Steven Spielberg and Larry Page.

Human faces may hold more meaning for socially outgoing individuals than for their more introverted counterparts, a new study suggests. The results show the brains of extroverts pay more attention to human faces than do introverts. In fact, introverts' brains didn't seem to distinguish between inanimate objects and human faces. The findings might partly explain why extroverts are more motivated to seek the company of others than are introverts, or why a particularly shy person might rather hang out with a good book than a group of friends. The study also adds weight to the idea that underlying neural differences in people's brains contribute to their personality.

III INTROVERT OF LAURA'S CHARACTER

For this analyze, the writer analysing about Introvert of Laura's character. The writer describes the description of Laura character, the causes of Laura introvert character and the struggle of Laura, that will be analyze as follow:

1. The Description of Laura character

In this analysis of Laura character, the writer describes about the characteristic of Laura in *Glass Menagerie*. First, the description of Laura is presented as an extremely shy and sensitive person. Her shyness is emphasized even more by being contrasted with Amanda's strong

and almost brutal nature. We are made conscious almost immediately of Laura's overly sensitive nature. She is so nervous that she cannot even attend business school without becoming violently sick. She is frightened and nervous when Tom and Amanda quarrel. She possesses a glass menagerie which she cares for with great tenderness. And she has quiet from the world a taking out from what is real into what is make believe and then the gentleman caller arrives. For the first time we see Laura's inner charm. She is fresh and pretty, and she does have charm not as

Amanda wants it, but in her own individualistic way. She is even capable of forgetting her physical handicap. She responds to Jim because he responds to her difference. With Jim, she sees that her difference is an asset and not a handicap. But ironically, she leads Jim more into her world than she enters into his. Thus, when the evening is over, when the unicorn is broken and the hopes are shattered, Laura does not have to retreat back into her world because she has never left it sufficiently enough to necessitate the retreat. Quite the contrary, now that the unicorn is broken, is ordinary like Jim, she sends it forth with Jim, and she remains in her unique world with the other unique glass animals.

"I repeatedly displays a will of her own that defies others perceptions of her, and this will wonder, she said, 'If you could be talking about that terribly shy little girl who dropped out of school after only a few day's attendance?'

"And she said, No, I remember her perfectly now. Her hands shook so that she couldn't hit the right keys! The first time we gave a speed test, she broke down completely was sick at the stomach and almost had to be carried into the wash room! After that morning she never showed up anymore. We phoned the house but never got any answer."

Laura's shy qualities are so extreme as to inhibit normal activity. Like her mother and brother, Laura retreats from reality. She's so far departed that she can't even see reality anymore. She spends her days going to the zoo, or polishing her glass, or playing records. She has no social interaction, and even her brother, Tom, who clearly cares for her, doesn't really break into her little world. Until Jim, Laura opens up to Jim in a way that she hasn't done with anyone else. He recognizes that she is unique that's where this Blue Roses business fits in. Jim recognizes that Laura is one in a million. While Laura's mother tries to conform her to some standard of Southern femininity, Jim appreciates her for who she is. And she loves him for it.

Which brings us to Tom and Laura, Laura ends up mediating between her mother and brother, asking him to apologize, trying to prevent a confrontation when Tom comes home drunk. Laura's pretty much a why can't we all get along girl. But she's also perceptive, Laura

understands Tom's desire to escape and explains it to her mother. She understands that Amanda relishes her stories of the past and makes that clear to Tom. This perceptiveness, along with her dependence on Tom, her break ability, and her innocence, all add up to one guilt inducing memory for the older Tom, the narrator.

2. The Causes of Laura introvert character

The causes of Laura introvert character there are three causes. The first cause is that Laura has a slight physical defect a limp but she has magnified this limp until it has affected her entire personality. Laura's oversensitive nature makes her think that everyone notices her limp, it becomes for her a huge stumbling block to normal living. She cannot get over it and into the real world. Her inability to overcome this defect causes her to withdraw into her world of illusion. The limp then becomes symbolic of Laura's inner nature. As Tom says, it's not just Laura's being crippled that makes her different, but she is just different. So she lives in a world of old phonograph records and glass animals.

"Look! I've got nothing, no single thing.....in my life that I can call my own! Everything is.....Yesterday you confiscated my books! "Tom feels confined not only because of his job and position as breadwinner, but because of Amanda's added restrictions on his life."Where have you been all this time?"

Second, just as Laura uses the glass menagerie as a means of escape from reality, so Tom uses the movies. In a strange way, this notion is a comfort. Watching painful arguments, broken glass and shattered hopes unravel onstage, one can find an almost indescribable peace. In the midst of life's catastrophes, we can always take a step back and appreciate that we are not alone.

Third, Amanda accurately points out that Tom takes after his father, both in his nights out and in his later abandonment of the family. Laura parallels her glass collection in a few different ways. To begin, she has the same sort of translucent beauty, the same delicate exterior. She is also very breakable, in the sense that she freaks out at the slightest social challenge and runs away.

3. The struggle of Laura

When Laura talks about the unicorn, she reveals that it is her favorite glass animal, that it is unique from all the other horses because of its

horn. Not that Laura has a horn, as far as we know, but she is really different from most girls, as Jim recognizes. Part of what separates her from the pack is her off the charts shyness. So when Jim makes her dance with him, and the horn breaks off the unicorn, Laura calls it a "blessing in disguise". she is being made to be a normal person.

"Then all at once my sister touches my shoulder. I turn around and look into her eyes. Oh Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I am more faithful than I intended to be! I reach for a cigarette, I cross the street, I run into the movies or a bar, I buy a drink, I speak to the nearest anything that can blow your candles out! For nowadays the world is lit by lightning! Blow out your candles Laura and so, goodbye...

Although he tried to abandon his family, Tom could not abandon his sister, Laura, in spirit. She is gentle, selfeffacing, and incredibly delicate. Not only does she suffer from a slight disability (one leg is shorter than the other), but Laura also struggles with crippling shyness that often leads her to physical pain. As a figment of Tom's memory, Laura is as slight and as transparent as a piece of glass, but also as stunning and unique.

When Jim breaks the horn from Laura's glass unicorn and announces that he is engaged, the possibility that he will help her overcome her self doubt and shyness is also destroyed. When Amanda discovers that Jim is engaged, she loses her hope that Laura will attain the popularity and social standing that Amanda herself has lost.

LAURA: Little articles of (glass), they're ornaments mostly! Most of them are little animals made out of glass, the tiniest little animals in the world. Mother calls them a glass menagerie! Here's an example of one, if you'd like to see it! . . . Oh, be careful if you breathe, it breaks! You see how the light shines through him?

JIM: It sure does shine!

LAURA: I shouldn't be partial, but he is my favourite one.

JIM: What kind of a thing is this one supposed to be?

LAURA: Haven't you noticed the single horn on his forehead?

JIM: A unicorn, huh? aren't they extinct in the modern world?

LAURA: I know!

JIM: Poor little fellow, he must feel sort of lonesome.

The glass unicorn, Laura's favourite figurine, symbolizes her even more specifically. The unicorn is different from ordinary horses, just as Laura is different from other people. In fact, the unicorn is so unusual a creature that Jim at first has trouble recognizing it. Unicorns are "extinct in the modern world," and similarly, Laura is ill adapted for survival in the world in which she lives. The aloneness that Jim identifies in the lone unicorn is the same loneliness to which Laura has resigned herself and from which Jim has the potential to save her. Without its horn, the unicorn is more appropriate for him than for her, and the broken figurine represents all that he has taken from her and destroyed in her.

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