

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Victorian England was underlying structure determined by social class and shaped by the tradition ways of life in country, town and city. In addition, the classes lived in the separate areas, Victorians believed that each class has its own standards and people were expected to conform to the roles of their class. As Mitchell declares in *Daily life of Victorian England* that:

In the Victorian era, the society of London consisted of hierarchical structure, containing the upper class, middle class lower class. The difference in social classes could be distinguished by inequalities in wealth, education, working and living condition (Mitchell, 2009).

It means that the inequality happens if someone has fortune, education, job and living better than others. Their attitudes to other people depended on their financial and education. The rich has more power than the poor one because by having money they take some advantages to their life. Besides, they also often have parties in their luxurious house to show their wealth.

With that lifestyle, it can be seen that many of Britain who wanted to get luxurious lifestyle and high social class or only for defending and improving their power; they were capable to do everything included in bad way to fulfill their ambition. Therefore, there were some political scandals happened in London society.

Those are some snapshots social life that happened in London society during Victorian era. This social reality can be found in literary works such as drama. Drama is literary work portrayal of human's life, as stated by Aristotle in Morner and Rausch's *NTS Dictionary of literary terms* that "Drama is still, as Aristotle called it, 'Imitated human action' presented through dialogue for the entertainment and instruction of an audience." (1991:55). It can be said that drama is not only as entertainment which amuse audience, but also as knowledge which gives information to the audience about the real story in drama. One of the dramas that discuss about the social reality is *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde.

The drama was opened in London England, on January 3, 1895 and was published in 1896. It was the third of Wilde's four comedic plays to be staged, and it was as big a success with audiences as the previous two. However, critics of the time were not as appreciative as audiences, which was the case for all of Wilde' social comedies (Gale.2002).

It can be said that this drama is critical social of the society of London during Victorian era with comedy genre. It tells about the life upper class European in Victorian era which follows hierarchical and aristocratic culture. Besides, it also describes political scandal happened in parliamentary and luxurious life.

The problems can be found in *An Ideal Husband* when Sir Robert Chiltren reaches a brilliant career by doing corruption when he works in government as a young secretary. He sells a government secret letter to the rich entrepreneur called Baron Arnheim. By selling the Suez Canal, he gets much money and raises a prestige life. No one knows about his past mistake including his wife until someone from Vienna, Mrs. Cheveley, comes and dismantles his secret. And

Lady Getrude knows her husband's secret. As a wife, she is disappointed and angry to her husband.

Based on the researcher's reading toward the drama, it seems that there are many cases relate to political scandal. One of them is corruption, we can see in the following dialogue:

MRS. CHEVELEY.

"[Rising and facing him.] I mean that I know the real origin of your wealth and your career, and I have got your letter, too."

SIR ROBERT CHILTERN.

"What letter?"

MRS. CHEVELEY.

"[Contemptuously.] The letter you wrote to Baron Arnheim, when you were Lord Radley's secretary, telling the Baron to buy Suez Canal shares - a letter written three days before the Government announced its own purchase." (Act 1, p 31-32)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Cheveley knows that Robert did corruption by selling secret cabinet letter, Suez Canal, to Baron; therefore, he got much money and good career.

The illustration above is an important point for the readers. They may know about the reality of political scandal happened in London society during Victorian era and how they are portrayed in literary works like *An Ideal Husband* drama. This research is interested in this drama because it tells about corruption based on story of entrusting the Rothschilds with the purchase of Suez Canal shares to make much money. It is supported by Gale in *An Ideal Husband enotes* that "*An Ideal Husband* was based on a story about Disraeli's making money by entrusting the Rothschilds with the purchase of Suez Canal shares."(Gale, 2002:29)

Since the aim of this research is finding the similarities between London social reality and *An Ideal Husband*, so, this research uses mimetic approach as the theory. "Mimetic approach is reflection and representation of reality life." (Atar, 1989:43). Thus, this approach is applied in this study. For this literary approach also views the reflection of literary work that tells the real historical life. By applying mimetic approach, it is hoped that the portrayal of social reality in London during Victorian era in *An Ideal Husband* drama can be proved.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of study above, this research finally finds the most appropriate question that can be formulated. The question of this research is to what extent does political scandals in London during Victorian era portrayed in *An Ideal Husband* drama by Oscar Wilde?

1.3 Objective of The Study

To answer the statement of problem above, therefore, this research is intended to find out the political scandals in London during Victorian era portrayed in *An Ideal Husband* drama by Oscar Wilde.

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study is expected to give valuable contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the result of this study may give an example to the readers about the analysis of literary works, especially drama in mimetic field.

Practically, the result of this research is expected to be useful for those who want to watch and understand the drama, especially to understand political scandals in drama *An Ideal Husband*. What extent political scandals in England during Victorian era. This research also gives some explanations about political scandals. Therefore, this study may give references to the readers about political scandals in England during Victorian era.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of this research is mimetic because the research analysis the reality of political scandals in London during Victorian era portrayed in drama *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde. To avoid complicated discussion and to make more specific, this research will give limitation and focus on corruption, bribery and the reason of doing political scandals in London during Victorian era portrayed in drama *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde.

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1. Research Design

This research used descriptive qualitative because this research was designed as literary criticism. The academic activity that showed the readers, ability to analyze, interprets and evaluates the text within a literary work. As stated by Peck and Coyle in *Literary Terms a Criticism* that “literary criticism is usually regarded as the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of literary works” (1984: 149). This research described political scandal in London during Victorian era. Specifically the description about words or utterances relate to corruption and bribery.

1.6.2. Data and Sources of Data

The data of this research were the utterances of dialogue between the main and minor characters containing political scandal in drama *An Ideal Husband*.

The data of this research were divided into two kinds; they were the main data and the secondary data.

1. The main data were taken from the drama script of *An Ideal Husband* written by Oscar Wilde. It consisted of 210 pages including Glossary. It was the edition of *An Ideal Husband: Webster’s Thesaurus Edition* for PSAT, SAT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, and AP English Test Preparation. It was published by ICON Classics in 2005 and printed in United State of America.

2. The secondary data were the data that support the main data. Some information which had connection with political scandal in London during Victorian era, they were taken form of books, journals, theses and one dissertation.

1. Chandravadiya. M.D. 2013. *Reflection of Upper Class in an Ideal Husband and the Importance of Being Earnest*. International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences. Vol.1. Issue:7. Retrieved from < rajmr.com/wp-content/.../10/3_11-13-Devshi-M.-Chandravadiya1.pdf > on February, 11th 2015.
2. Fatima. M. 2013. *The Status of Women in the Nineteenth Century Victorian England (Study Case: Charlote Bronte's Jane Eyre)*. Algeria. Kasdi Merbah Quargla University.
3. Girling. J. 1997. *Corruption, Capitalism and Democracy*. London and New York. Routledge.
4. Kam. C. 2007. *Four Lessons about Corruption from Victorian Britain*. University of British Columbia.
5. Wilde. O. 2005. *An ideal Husband*. USA. ICON Classics.

1.6.3. Steps of Data Collection

The following information are some steps in collecting the data of this research, those steps were:

a. Main Data

1. Searching and downloading the script of *An ideal Husband* in enbookfi.com
2. Reading and understanding the dialogue between actors and actress in drama *An Ideal Husband*.
3. Identifying and collecting the utterances that indicated problem about political scandals in *An Ideal Husband* drama.

b. Secondary Data

1. Reading all kinds of books, journals, and sources that related to the drama.
2. Underlining the information that showed political scandals in England during Victorian era portrayed in drama *An Ideal Husband*.
3. Marking the information from books, journals, and other sources about Victorian era
4. Collecting the data that showed political scandal in London during Victorian era from the sources.
5. Selecting the information that had been collected and only the significant information were used to process of this research.

1.6.4. Steps of Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the research analyzed the data by doing the following activities:

1. Analyzing the political scandals in London during Victorian era in drama.
2. Comparing political scandal in the reality with drama, to find out how well it is portrayed in the drama.
3. Explaining the factors of doing political scandals between drama and reality.
4. Deriving conclusion based on the analysis in this research.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The following explanations are some specific terms related to the topic and need to be defined:

Political scandal : public phenomena where private behavior, which is situated and bounded by morals and values, becomes publicly revealed and widely deemed morally outrageous. (Marrs, 2010:15)

Victorian era : One of the most influential and important epochs in history. During Victoria's reign, England was arguably the most powerful nation in the world, setting standards for expansion, trade, and industrial development. From the innovative spirit that drove Victorian society the world received railroads, underground transportation, and many advances in

science and medicine that have shaped the modern culture (Besserman Sara, 2004)

Mimetic : An approach to literary criticism that views an individual work in terms of the “truth” of its representation of reality-the reality of the world an human life and character (Morner and Rausch, 1991:135)

1.8. Thesis Organization

This research divided into four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It consists of background of study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, methodology that consists of four steps; research design, data and data sources, data collection, and the data analysis, definition of key terms, and then thesis organization.

The second chapter is the review of related literature, it will provide some mimetic approach, the structure of the play that consists of four parts, drama, setting, character and characterization and theme. Then political scandals in England during Victorian era and the last is previous study.

The third chapter is analysis. The analysis will be done in three steps; the first is Analyzing political scandal in England during Victorian era in drama, the second is describing and comparing political scandals in drama with the political scandals in the reality, to find out how well portrayal in the drama, and the fourth is deriving conclusion and suggestion based on the all analysis in this research.