

The Disharmony of Jimmy's Family in Look Back in Anger by John Osborne.

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to explore Jimmy's character and his influence on other characters in the play. The generic structuralism approaches applied in order to analyze this play, by using intrinsic and extrinsic elements, the whole and the complete analysis on these elements are important, especially to comprehend the characters and other elements like setting and the disharmony in a family which is focused on the negative effect within the play. The result of this analysis shows that Jimmy's character is different from other characters' and causes many problems and conflicts in people's life. The disharmony has been found in the story is caused by jealousy. Selfishness, revengeful and traumatic, disappointment, unfaithfulness, violence, dishonesty, and betrayal.

Keywords: *Generic structuralism, disharmony, intrinsic and extrinsic elements.*

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INTRODUCTION

In the family life, many people dreaming of having a happy family. Through in reality, not all dreams can come true. This fact can be seen from every media such as television, newspaper, and literary works. One of literary works expresses this reality is John Osborn's play "Look Back in Anger."

In this play, Osborn tries to present a disharmony family. Jimmy and Alison have been married for three years, but they cannot keep their family in harmony, they usually spend a lot of time arguing and acting unpleasantly to each other. One of main characters is Jimmy Porter who has character of immense psychological complexity and interest, a disconcerting mixture of sincerity and cheerful malice, of tenderness and freebooting cruelty; restless, importunate, full of pride, a combination which alienates the sensitive and insensitive alike. His wife named Alison, she is warm and open with Cliff without ever harboring, but sometimes she can become different. Jimmy also has a friend and partner in the candy stall business and shares the Porter's flat. He has different character with Jimmy, he is warm, loving, and humorous, he is always care for Alison, he loves Alison like his own wife, beside Cliff. Alison has a

friend named Helena; she is an actress who comes to stay with the Porters while she performs in a play at the local theatre. She actually has a bad relationship with Jimmy. Jimmy hates Helena so much. According to Jimmy, Helena will give bad influence on Allison. Not only Helena, Jimmy hates Alison's family so much, especially Allison's mother and Jimmy like to mock Alison's Parents with impolite words. Based on the story above, the writer is interested in choosing *Look Back in Anger* as the object of the research, because this play talks about family problems. This problem related to the social identity of characters which finally creates a disharmony in family. To direct this research to the object of this writing, the writer focused her writing on the disharmony of Jimmy's family in *Look Back in Anger* play. To explore this topic, the writer analyses all five characters in the play. Jimmy, Cliff, Allison, Helena and Colonel (Allison's father). The writer considers that these characters help her reveal the factors causing the conflict among them in play.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Study

Based on the writer's observation at Hasanuddin University's Library, the writer finds students who also wrote about this play. Santana (1997) with the title "Konflik dalam drama *Look Back in Anger* karya John Osborne." Santana focusses on the structure of the play that is conflict. Meanwhile, Abdul Rahman (1998) with the title "*Feminisme Sosial Dalam Drama Look Back in Anger karya John Osborne (Suatu Analisis Strukturalisme Genetic)*" focuses on the women life in World War II. In that time, women do not have rights to chooses her future, just can be a housewife. This research studies about the disharmony of Jimmy's family with Genetic Structuralism Approach. This research tends to elaborate the characters of the play in order to clarify the disharmony family which found in the play.

Literary work is a unique phenomenon. It is an organic phenomenon, too. Literary work is full of meaning and function. So, it is full of imagination. Teauw in (Satoto, 1986) says that studying literature is very interesting, the more we study the more we get curious through the complication, one can get pleasure. From that statement, we can assume that literary work is a complex and deep humanity phenomenon. It is full of meaning which must be found by certain approach.

An approach is a perspective of literary works. It forms "area" of literary works. This area relates to aspects which will be revealed in the research. Approach is a frame of all objects which is needed to reveal in research. To analyze "The disharmony of Jimmy's family" in *Look Back in Anger*, the writer uses a Genetic Structuralism Approach.

Genetic Structuralism approach has two aspects that must be considered, intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. The aspects are connected and explained to each other about the problems in plays. Without extrinsic aspect, the intrinsic analysis can still be used alone, however the result will not complete (Sukada, 1993).

Intrinsic aspect of literary works comes from the work itself as autonomous element which builds the literary works without seeing the connection from the extrinsic aspect, the knowledge about the context of literary works from outside

text. Structuralism is the way of thinking about the world especially which connected with opinion and description of structures. In this opinion, literary works assume as phenomena which has structure and connection to other. According to Jean Piaget in Hawkes (1978), structuralism contains three main things: wholeness idea, transformation, and self-regulation. Besides, Teeuw (1981), meaning of structuralism is "sebuah karya sastra merupakan keseluruhan, kesatuan makna yang bulat, mempunyai koherensi intrinsic, dalam keseluruhan itu setiap bagian dan unsur memainkan peran yang hakiki sebaliknya unsur dan bagian mendapat makna seluruhnya dari makna keseluruhan teks." (a literary work is a whole, a unified whole of meaning, has intrinsic coherence, in the whole every part and does not play an essential role on the contrary, the part that gets the overall meaning of the whole text).

The assumption above has shortened by Fokema and Kunnelsch's opinion (1977) who's said that *A work of literature is not an accumulation of devices but an organized whole*. From the concept above we can conclude that structuralism idea is refused by mimetic people and expressive theory and deny the assumption that literary works as a media communication between the author and the readers. Therefore, structuralism emphasizes on the autonomy of literature research.

Emphasis of structuralism is looking at the literary works as independent texts. Research has been executed as objective that focuses on the intrinsic aspect in literary works. The beauty of the text in literature depends on the use of special language and relation between established elements. According to Teeuw (1988) analysis which only based on the structure have some weaknesses that are releasing the literary work from the historical background and from the social culture relevance.

Although these approaches have weaknesses, it cannot be ignored that Structural approach in an analysis is a core of analysis which must give top priority because literary works are intrinsic data from an analysis. Some literary critics are considered that needs other elements to support is analyzing a literary works, including the influence economic, social, and cultural substances. Iswanto (1994) perceives that "jika karya sastra hanya dipahami dari unsur intrinsiknya saja, maka karya sastra dianggap lepas dari konteks sosialnya. Padahal pada hakekatnya tidak demikian melainkan selalu berkaitan dengan masyarakat dan sejarah yang melingkupi penciptaan karya sastra. ("If literary works only reach from their intrinsic elements, then literary works are considered to be separated from their social context. Whereas in essence, this is not the case but is always related to society and the history that surrounds the creation of literary works). Goldman added that conflicting between literature sociology and structuralism ideology is nothing. Goldman In Taum (1997) said that "Every literary work has a significant structure, which is autonomous and immanent, which must be explored by researchers based on careful analysis." Because of that, if literary works just observed from intrinsic element, so data and analysis will do just a bit, and the result of analysis has not got the perfect analysis. Because it is not in line with extrinsic element which shares data not only from the play itself but

also from the outside of play like social element in society when the literary works are created, included the influence from the author himself.

As Goldman has reveals in Damono (1975) that literary works never free of socio-cultural value and history. Literature is an expression of human's life that will never be free from humanity. So, even though sociology and literature are two different things, but they have related each other.

B. Dramatic structure

In literary works, character is important. The Temper of characters in fiction could be considered as partial from individuals in society and they are expected to possibly expose social messages. In the position and function, the characters scope protagonist-antagonist. To simply distinguish protagonist from antagonist, the writer refers to a definition by Sumarjo and Zaini (1991) that said the protagonist is concluding as heroic and antagonist is identical with evil and peril. Furthermore, to recognize characters in literary works, the writer refers to typical elaborated by Sumardjo and Zaini (1991) that mentioned that characters must traced through their conduct, speech, appearance, thought, and explanation.

Generally, Plot is series of story which has causal connection to describe about the process to the solution of problems. Without plot in a story, likes to play, it is difficult to understand and to find the problems. So, it makes the story not interesting anymore. Sumardjo and Saini (1991) says that "*Plot is declared by the author to transmit the reader follows what the story talks about.*" Plot has two elements, conflict, and climax. Conflict consists of internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict is conflict between two wishes from inside a character, and external character is conflict between the characters and their circle of life. The next plot element is climax where the problems cannot be handled anymore and needs the solution to finish it.

Setting is important element in a story, especially in a play. Setting can help the reader to know the place and time of the story. Reaske (1966) give an opinion in book *How to Analyze Drama* that setting consists of three main elements, namely place, time and social. Setting of place shows the location where the event in the story or drama is taken place. Setting of time indicates the time an event in the story occurs. The last is social setting, that relates to everything related the social life of the society in places that have been presented in a literary work. (Nurgriyantoro, 2000)

Theme is an idea, concept, or main idea in the literary work. Sudjiman (1991) says that Theme can help the author to analyze the problems or describe the characters in the story. But actually, the existence of theme itself depends on another element like character, plot, setting. Meaning or main idea of the new story can be understood by analyzing the element of the story. The simplest way to get the main idea of the play is by reading it several times and at the same times paying attention to all it is elements.

C. The social life of women in England after World War II until 1960.

Women position in Britain keep moving to a better change after World War II. Richardson (1993) said that the change has been happening in women's life, the women question her opinion about contradiction between household and outdoor work. All women think about sharing home cleans responsibilities at home, like watch over their children. Some sociologists in Britain consider that marriage is one of institution and it has characteristics and responsibilities have been shaped by convention and norm which are formed by the people themselves. The housewife becomes a distributor of commerce things as result of increased consumerism (Obelkevich and Peter Catteral, 1994).

In 1995, G. Goreer found something imbalance between the right of husband to his wife. The husband needs his wife to respect his egoisms, especially become a good housewife and not talkative. To be a housewife is only spending their entire time (Obelkevich and Peter Catteral, 1994). Feminism Social Movement in Britain considers has help women to breakthrough men institution. These occurred in 1950-1960 (Obelkevich and Peter Catteral, 1994).

According to Bryne in his book, "Social Movement" there are two waves of women's movements in Britain: The first wave is about 1900-1940 was focused the movement into the political problems, for example women's vote right. The second wave is the beginning of 1960 until now which claimed her equal rights for justice to delegation in every instance (Bryne, 1997). The waves of women movement of feminism in Britain is one of the feminism movements was grow in Europe at that time.

RESEARCH METHOD

In academic research, a method is needed to support the researcher to achieve the purpose of the writing. It has been started by collecting data that relates to the writing object. That has been done by doing library research. Furthermore, the data has analyzed by using descriptive method to describe the disharmony among characters in John Osborn's play *Look Back in Anger*. Furthermore, the writer collects some data from the play and some other printed works and internet article as well that has connection with the title of this research to find out some information needed. The writer uses two kinds of data which are categorized into primary and secondary data. Firstly, from *Look Back in Anger* as the primary data, the writer gathers some intrinsic data by John Osborn's play *Look Back in Anger*, the write gets secondary data take from any relevant academic writing and other text.

Both primary and secondary data have been analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. In intrinsic approach, the writer analyzes the theme, plot, setting, characters, and characterization. It has been done by presenting analytical description of each extrinsic element of the primary data which supported by secondary data. Meanwhile, the element of extrinsic approach that has used in this writing in autobiography of John Osborn. Osborn's autobiography has been analyzed

to see the relevance of his life with his play, the writer reveals whether his life is reflected in his play or not.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Disharmony family is one of phenomena in a modern life where amount couple marriages divorced due to the busy job, lack of communication. These facts cause some negatives effects on the relationship of the couple marriage or wife and husband namely:

A. Jealousy

Jealousy is one character cannot release in human life. Jealousy shows up when we are unhappy to see other people happy, or because she or he wants to have a thing like other, or because she or he is not confident or suspicious to someone who he loves. In *Look Back in Anger* play have many quotations which tell about jealousy.

Jimmy : ***“Why don’t you both get into bed, and have done with it?”***

Alison : ***“You know, I think he really means that.”***

Jimmy : ***“I do. I can’t concentrate with you two standing here like that. (Osborne, 1957:31)***

Quotation above prove that Jimmy does not like see his wife to close with Cliff, he feels that he is useless in front of Alison. Jimmy is not confident with himself, he thinks that he is not a good husband for Alison, he cannot make Alison happy, and he just knows how to hurt Alison.

Jimmy : ***(Staring at her anxious face). You’re very beautiful. A beautiful, great-eyed squirrel.***

She nods brightly, relieved hoarding, nut-munching squirrel. (She mimes this delightedly) with highly polished, gleaming fur, and an ostrich feather of a tail.

Alison : ***“Wheeeeeeeee!”***

Jimmy : ***“How I envy you.***

He stands, her arms around his neck (Osborne, 1957:34)

Jimmy is angry and jealous when Alison gets a call from her old close friend, he does not want Alison to contiguous with Helena, because he thought that Alison is happier if she is near Helena, and Helena will bother his family peace’s. We can see in the quotation:

Cliff : ***“Who is this, Helena?”***

Jimmy : ***“One of her old friends. And one of my natural enemies. You’re sitting on my chair. (Osborne, 1957:35)***

B. Selfishness

Egoism or selfishness is one factor that can trigger the disharmony in family, the meaning of selfishness is just care about himself or his opinion and does not want to understand about other people. In marriage, it often happens between husband and wife.

As a husband, Jimmy never wants to understand about his wife, he never asks what Alison wants. Jimmy just knows how to make himself felt comfortable, Jimmy is a selfish husband. Actually, Allison misses her parents so much, she

always sends letters for them, to tell her parent that she is alright and happy, even though in reality she is not really happy, she loves Jimmy so much, that is the reason she cannot leave him. Jimmy never knows that Alison keeps in touch with her parent, because Alison never tells him, Alison knows that Jimmy does not like her parent, he hates them, according to Alison's mother. It can be seen in quotation below:

Jimmy : (Capable of anything now). I've got every right. That old bitch should be dead! (To Alison) Well? Aren't I right?

Cliff and Helena look at Alison tensely, but she just gazes at her plat.

I said she's an old bitch and should be dead! What's the matter with you? Why don't you leap to her defense! (Osborne, 1957:53)

C. Revengeful and Traumatic

Jimmy is one character who always followed by his past, he is not easily person to forgive somebody, especially Alison's mother. Jimmy hates Alison's mother because her mother never agrees with her marriage. Alison's mother said that Jimmy is scoundrel, and not compatible with Alison. She tries to separate Alison for Jimmy, Alison's mother rent a detective to follow Jimmy, and tell her what he is doing every day, and to look for his fault. Alison's father really feels sorry about that. He said that as a parent or father, he never makes her happy and has mistaken with her and Jimmy. Actually, her father does not agree and warns his wife not to rent a detective. But his wife still does that. As a husband, Colonel cannot stop his wife's planning. But Colonel tries to defend his wife in front of Alison, and blames all mistakes to himself (Osborne, 1957: 65). Alison never blames her parent for all problems that have happened between her and Jimmy. She knows that there are other factors which cause her family in disharmony. It is Jimmy's traumatic and revenge. Jimmy has a bad experience in his life, when he was ten, he saw his father dying for twelve months, and nobody accompanied him. He took care of his father alone, he hoped his mother came and took care of his father, but that never happened, he just received cheque every month from his father's family. But they never invited him.

Jimmy: Anyone who's never watched somebody die is suffering from a pretty bad case of virginity. For twelve months, I watched my father dying, when I was ten years old... .. but you see, I was the only one who cared. As for my mother, all she could think about was the fact that she had allied herself to a man who seemed to be on the wrong side in all things... .., the family sent him a cheque every month, and hoped he'd get on with it quietly, without too much vulgar fuss. (Osborne,1957:58)

His traumatic and revenge changes him to be a cruel and emotional person. It causes him always to say rough words, his character has shaped because his experience when his was kid, he learns about life painfully. And he put in his mind that nobody can be trusted, he must take care of his by himself. He struggled to survive alone without anybody near him when he was child.

D. Disappointment

Disappointment can be one of the negative effects on the couple marriage, we can find this effect in *Look Back in Anger* play. Jimmy as a husband is disappointed with Alison because Alison is living when he needs somebody to support him every time, he has big problem or feels so sad. Jimmy just misses someone who he loves so much, Hugs' mother has he considered who like his mother. But when he comes home, he does not see Alison and he gets news from Helena that Alison is living and now she is pregnant. Because of his disappointment to his wife, he does not care about his wife and his baby. It can be seen in the quotation below:

Helena :” ... I'll tell you something I think you ought to know. Your wife is going to have a baby. He just looks at her. Well? Doesn't that mean anything? Even to you? He is taken a back, but not so much by the news, as by her.

Jimmy :” all right-yes. I am surprised. I give you that. But tell me. Did you honestly expect me to go soggy at the knees, and collapse with remorse! (Leaning nearer) Listen, if you'll stop breathing your female wisdom all over me, I'll tell you something: I don't care. (Beginning quietly). I don't care if she's going to have a baby. I don't care if it has two heads! Do I disgust you? Well, go on-slap my face. But remember what I told you before, will you? For eleven hours, I have been watching someone who I love very much going through the sordid process of dying. She was alone, and I was the only one with her. And when a have to talk behind that coffin on Thursday, I'll be on my own again. Because that bitch won't even send her bunch of flowers... (Osborne, 1957:73)

The quotation above proves that, as a husband and a man, he still needs someone who he loves to be near him if his feels down, beside of the fact he is a man, he can be a weak person.

E. Unfaithful

Unfaithful is a character for someone who cannot be trusted. This problem always happens in human life especially in family. Sometime the unfaithfulness comes if we hear something and it not like the reality which we see, etc.

We can find the negative effect in *Look Back in Anger* play by John Osborne. Jimmy picks up Alison's handbag thoughtfully and starts looking through it. (Osborne, 1957:36). This shows that Jimmy does not trust with Alison, even though Alison is his wife and has lived together for three years. He always thinks that someday Alison will kill him. Jimmy never trusts anybody, he just trust himself. He always distrustful with all people around him. Beside Jimmy, Helena as a friend does not trust Alison. Helena thought that Alison and Cliff have an affair, she asks Alison and say that impossible if two people stay together in one flat and does not have a special thing, but Alison answer that she and Cliff are just friend who care each other. It can be seen in the quotation below:

Alison :” We’re simply fond of each other—there’s no more to it than that.”

Helena : “ Darling, really! It can’t be as simple as that.” (Osborne, 1957:41)

The quotation above proves that there is an opportunity to have affair. Therefore, Helena still cannot trust Alison that they are just friend. Unfaithfulness is natural if we see the quotation above, and the situation support the affair.

F. Violence

The violence is aggressive attitude towards others. The violence causes the suffering and hurts people. The violence is not always physically, rough words that hurts people’s feeling can be categorized cut the mentally violence. In *Look Back in Anger* play, Jimmy as a husband always hurts his wife mentally. He often says rough words to Alison. It is proven from the quotation below:

Jimmy :”(Alison leans against the board, and closes her eyes) the lady pusillanimous has been promised a brighter easier world than old sextos can offer her....

Allison : “ God help me, if he doesn’t stop, I’ll got out of my mind in a minute.”

Jimmy : “..... I quote pusillanimous, adjective wanting of title mind, mean spirited, cowardly, timid of mind. From the Latin pusillus, very little and that’s my wife.

(Slums the book shut)

That’s my wife! That’s her, isn’t? Behold the lady pusillanimous

(Osborne, 1957:22)

The quotation above proves that Alison’s heart is hurtled so much, but she still holds on and tries to control her emotion and her anger. But Jimmy never intends to stop his mock to Alison. Besides, Jimmy as the head of family never makes the situation around him alive according to the tradition in his family. Alison always feels under pressured if Jimmy started to show his selfishness and his bad behavior.

G. Dishonesty and Betrayal

Look Back in Anger play has many indications that Cliff tries to tempt Alison, but Alison is not influenced with that. Therefore, we can see that in Jimmy’s family, the loyal person is Alison. Different from Jimmy, he is unfaithful husband, because he has affair with Helena when Alison chooses to go to her parent’s house to calm her soul and looking for a good way to finish her problem with his. It can prove in quotation that Jimmy and Helena have affair.

Helena: (steadily).” I love you.”

Jimmy : “I think perhaps you do. Yes, I think perhaps you. Perhaps it means something to lie with your victorious general in your arms..... Oh Helena...

His face comes up to hers and they embrace fiercely. Don’t let anything go wrong!”

Helena : (softly). “Oh, my darling.....

(Osborne, 1957:86)

Helena has betrayed her friendship with Alison. After Alison leave her house, Helena takes a chance to be mailing closer to Jimmy. She tries to study Jimmy's character carefully; she wants to know why Jimmy is cruel to her and anybody around him. But she makes a mistake because she has trapped with her female instinct.

As long as Jimmy lived with Alison, he never called her "darling". He just knows how to makes a rough word to her and hurt her. But, when he lived with Helena, he changes. He always called her "darling". It proves that Jimmy is not a faithful husband, and he never tries to be looking for Alison, he does not remember about her anymore and his baby. (Osborne, 1957: 86)

After all statements and quotations as evidence above, the writer tries to reveal the causal factor of the disharmony in family, especially in Jimmy's family which can be categorized as young family because they have just been married for 3 years. The writer brings out some important factors which have big roles in the breakup of the family. And, in each character can be founded the causes of quarrel in family. For instance, Jimmy, as a head of family he should be a leader for people around him, but he does the other way around. He is the only person who always makes tense situation in his family.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the writer concludes that intrinsic elements in play consist of character, plot, setting, and theme that becomes important aspects to determine the wholeness of the play. The aspects have the role to determine one theme to be the main study and problem in play. However, intrinsic element cannot cover the wholeness completely without supporting from extrinsic elements. Including the author's aspects and history. *Look Back in Anger* describes about husband's unacceptable behavior to his wife and people around him, and husband who always haunted by his anger and revenge in his life. These negative feelings make Jimmy has cruel personality. Because of his bad behavior, spring up many problems in his family which can cause the family smashed.

Jimmy lives with his past, he always thinks about how unlucky he is. When he was teenagers, he must take care of his father because he is sick and does not have opportunity to live longer. He has been disappointed with his family since he was child. His mother goes out with other man, and his father's family refuses them. He kept an anger and revenge in his heart because he does not know where he can release his anger.

The family which built by anger and revenge cannot survive for a long time. The happy family is when two people try to understand each other and accept the weakness of his or her spouse. There must be openness between husband and wife. The openness is necessary to make a good communication in family and prohibit something like jealousy and suspicious which can trigger misunderstanding and end in divorce. In *Look Back in Anger*, especially in Jimmy's family, there is no openness between Jimmy and Alison. Alison does not tell Jimmy about her pregnancy besides she does not find a good time to tell her husband, she also scared of Jimmy and she

is not ready to accept if Jimmy refuses his baby. Based on the statement above, we can understand that building family is not easy, it needs a lot of and an understanding that love is not enough in marriage.

Look Back in Anger by John Osborne is a play with a lot of interesting elements. This research has revealed the disharmony family presented in through the characters. The writer simply suggests that other students will do research on this play from different aspect.

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