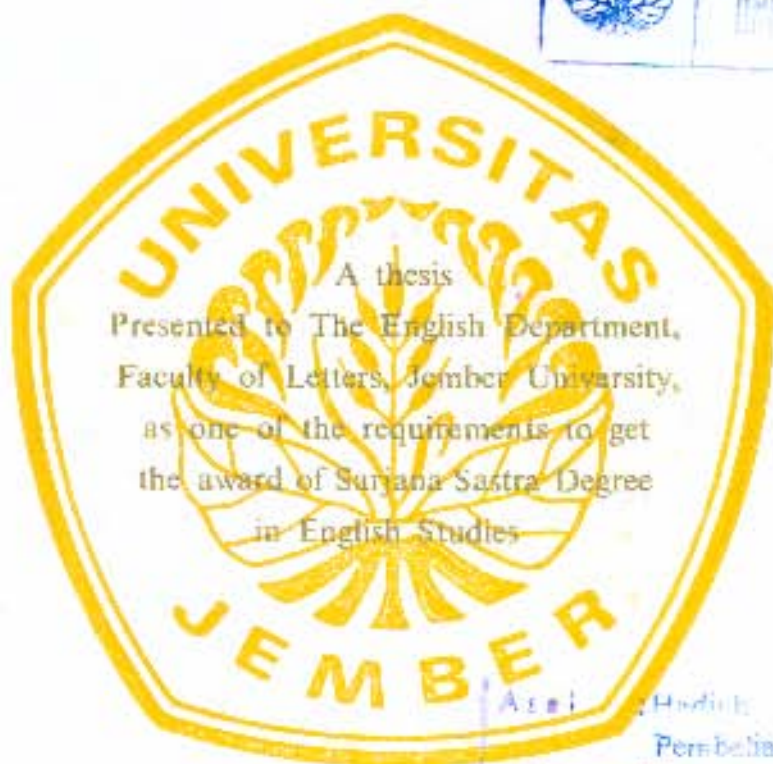


ATTITUDES IN YOUTH BRING IMPACTS TO  
LATER LIFE AS THE THEME IN TENNESSEE  
WILLIAMS' *SWEET BIRD OF YOUTH*



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Rohmy Husniah

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## APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the Examination Committee of the English  
Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Jember, October 23, 2002

Secretary,

( Dra. Dina Dyah Kusumayanti, MA )  
NIP. 132 052 411



Chairman,

( Dr. Hj. Suparmin, MA )  
NIP. 130 286 788

The Members:

1. Drs. H. M. Busjairi

2. Drs. Wisasongko, MA.

3. Dra. Hj. Meilia Adiana, MPd.

## DEDICATION

*Sincerely and tenderly I dedicate this thesis to whom I always convey  
my genuine adoration:*

- ❖ *My beloved father H. Roichan and my beloved mother  
Hj. Emmy Zuroidah R.  
Their unending prayers, tender love and hard endeavors for me are the  
most worthwhile things that I have ever had in this world.*
  
- ❖ *My dearest sisters Rohmy Maharani and Rochmy Laily Novita  
Their affection is like the morning sun in my life.*
  
- ❖ *My Alma Mater*

MOTTO

وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصُوا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصُوا بِالصَّبْرِ



By the time. Verily! Man is in loss, Except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to the truth and recommend one another to patience

(Holy Koran, Al - 'Ashr : 1 - 3)



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I pray, may Allah SWT repay them with proper reward.

Jember, October 2002

Rohmy Husniah

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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Rationale

Literary works are not merely the mirror of human experiences. They are also regarded as a means to entertain people through their ways of delivering idea. Moreover, literary works enable the readers to widen their knowledge about the world and life within it. Taylor says, "Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, an act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life experience" (Taylor, 1981:1).

Literature is divided into two groups; the informative literature and the imaginative literature. The former has the main purpose to offer knowledge, while the latter is to arouse thought and feeling. Literature is also divided into three major forms; they are poetry, drama, and novel. All of them belong to the imaginative literature.

Drama is more vivid compared to the others because of the dialogue within it. The dialogue, together with the other elements of drama, enables the readers to imagine the story as if it is acted before their eyes. Drama is also acted on the stage. Here the viewers are more enjoyable to understand the play because they can watch actions and also can hear the dialogue of the characters. Abrams says, "Drama is the literary form designed for the theater, where actors take the roles of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the written language" (Abrams, 1957: 43).

Drama consists of several elements such as plot, characters, dialogue, setting, theme, and the others. Those elements related to one another to create a real unity in drama. Theme is one of those elements that cannot be separated from each other since it supports the liveliness of the play. It is as the central core in a play, therefore, to understand a drama is by understanding the theme of it. Kennedy provides his description of theme, "The theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals" (Kennedy, 1991: 144).



In relation to the elements of play, this thesis analyzes the theme. The theme to be discussed is *Attitudes in Youth Bring Impacts to Later Life*, taken from one of Tennessee Williams' dramas entitled *Sweet Bird of Youth*.

*Sweet Bird of Youth* was published in 1959. It was presented at the Martin Beck Theatre in New York on March 10, 1959. This drama is expanded from one-act play, by the same author, *The Enemy: Time* (1959) into the full-length *Sweet Bird of Youth*. Here the emphasis is on time as the destroyer of beauty. Although it is not one of Tennessee Williams' masterpieces, the moral teaching of this drama is interesting to discuss.

The two essential themes of Williams' major plays are the vulnerability of both beauty and sensitivity to time and to a violence society. *Sweet Bird of Youth* describes how beauty will endure by the passing of the time; how the society impact one's behavior; and how we should be aware of time in our life. This is known from his writing (in Hochman, 1984: 152), "When you look at a piece of delicately spun glass, you think of two things: how beautiful it is and how easily it can be broken".

The theme of *Sweet Bird of Youth* is interesting to analyze, firstly because of the moral teaching of the main characters' behavior in a society. The second is to know what the causes of their attitudes that are closely related with their psychological conflicts and how the attitudes affect their future.

## 1.2 The Problems to Discuss

In connection with the title that has been mentioned, it is definitely to enunciate that *Sweet Bird of Youth* is a drama of youth's self-awareness of time and the villain of the society. The passage of time, the erosion of perfect form, the collapse of values, ideals, relationships, social mode, love and hope are the problems in this drama. This is supported by Tennessee Williams in his writing as a foreword to *Sweet Bird of Youth*, "All my life I have been haunted by the obsession that to desire a thing intensely is to place yourself in a vulnerable position, to be a possible, if not a probable, loser of what you most want" (Williams, 1976: x).

The problems of Chance Wayne are: his eagerness to win the love of his childhood girlfriend, Heavenly Finley, his ambition to make his life better, and his guilty feeling of wasting his youth in bad attitudes. Meanwhile, Princess' problems are the anxiety of losing her fame and her lack of confidence because of her old age.

The other problems that are related to the society also rise in *Sweet Bird of Youth*. This drama portrays the materialistic society. The society judge things by their standards; money and power. The relationship between Chance Wayne and Heavenly is destroyed by her father because Chance is simply not a good enough political or economical bargain. Chance's failure is profounder than his inability to be successful. His failure is that he feels contemptible and at last he has agreed to judge things by the standards of the society.

This discussion is focused on whether or not the attitudes of youth give the impacts to the main characters' later life and whether or not the society influence the main characters' attitudes.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is needed to avoid any misleading point of the discussion in the thesis. Dealing with the most significant contribution related to the topic, the main characters' attitudes and the society play the important roles. They clarify the condition of the society and the significance of time in one's life.

This thesis is limited on the attitudes of the main characters in their youth, the effects of the attitudes toward themselves, and the influence of the society toward the main characters' attitudes.

### **1.4 The Hypothesis**

The hypothesis is needed to gain a correct solution of the problems through the process of analyzing data. *Sweet Bird of Youth* is an interesting play because it describes ambition, anger and envy on the main characters, Chance Wayne and Princess Kosmonopolis.



The hypothesis of the thesis are the attitudes of youth give the impacts to the main characters' later life and the society influence the main characters' attitudes.

### 1.5 The Goals of the Study

The goals of the study are the basic purposes in writing a thesis. *Sweet Bird of Youth* is a drama which tells about the youth, how young people should be aware of time in their life.

There are several goals of writing this thesis. This thesis is meant to provide deep analysis about how to treat our youth and to enlarge the horizon about American dramas, especially Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth*. Another is to share the knowledge of regarding time in youth with the readers who most of them are young university students. The other is to apply the theories of literature obtained during the academic years at Faculty of Letters.

### 1.6 The Approaches to use

This thesis uses sociological and psychological approaches in analyzing this drama. Sociological approach is related to the society, it concerns with the social values in a society. The life of the main characters in their youth has great impacts not only for themselves but also for the society. Scott concerns with this idea, "...as long as literature maintains its bonds with the society- and that cannot help but be forever- the sociological approach, with or without the persuasion of a particular theory, will continue to be a vigorous force in criticism" (Scott, 1962: 126).

Chance Wayne cannot afford to marry his girlfriend, Heavenly, because of the obstacle from her father. Boss Finley, Heavenly's father does not approve of their relationship because Chance has not any good fortune of material and politics. Being challenged by this condition, Wayne attempts to make his life better by leaving his hometown to a city. Finally, he meets an aging motion-picture star under the name of Princess Kosmonopolis. She adopts herself as Princess Kosmonopolis because she loses her confidence. She is afraid of losing her fame because of her old age.



The attitudes of those main characters are much influenced by the society. The society judge values and power as their standards, therefore, Wayne and Boss Finley try to fill these standards in order to be accepted by them. Meanwhile, the society also connects the fame to beauty and youth. Therefore, Princess is afraid of losing her fame because she is not young anymore.

A psychological approach is also used to support the discussion of the thesis because the attitudes of the main characters are much influenced by their inner conflicts. The inner conflicts of Princess are the anxiety of losing her fame and the ambition to get back her sweet youth where she was beautiful and young. The inner conflicts of Chance Wayne are his unfortunate conditions that force him to make better life and the eagerness to win the love of his childhood girlfriend.

### **1.7 The Method of Analysis**

This thesis uses deductive method in analyzing the drama. The deductive method moves from a general statement, followed by a more limited statement to a conclusion. This is stated by Bramer, "Deductive reasoning is as natural and automatic for humans as inductive reasoning is. Where inductive reasoning leads to generalizations, deductive reasoning allows us to apply generalizations to particular cases" (Bramer, 1981: 257).

The general cases in this thesis begin from the main characters' attitudes in their youth and the conclusion is that the attitudes have great impacts in their later life.

Collecting data and information relating to the subject of discussion is conducted through the library research. Books contain a lot of facts, and many of them contain the inferences and value judgments of their authors. They are used to reach the validity of the data.

### **1.8 The Organization of the Thesis**

The organization is needed to provide the description of the thesis. This thesis is divided into five chapters. The introduction in chapter one describes the rationale, the problems to discuss, the scope of the study, the hypothesis, the goals

of the study, the approach to use, the method of analysis, and the organization of the thesis. The other important descriptions of this thesis are the biography of Tennessee Williams and the synopsis of *Sweet Bird of Youth* lay in chapter two. The next chapter concerns with the explanation of the meaning of the terms. The greatest concentration of attitudes in youth bring impacts to later life in Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* lays in chapter four. The last chapter is about the conclusion of the previous chapters.





## CHAPTER II THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

### 2.1 The Biography of Tennessee Williams

Thomas Lanier Williams was born in Columbus, Mississippi, on March 26, 1911. He is the first son and the second child of Cornelius Coffin and Edwina Dakin Williams. His mother who is genteel and kind is the daughter of a minister, while his father, a shoe salesman, came from a prestigious Tennessee family, which included the State's first Governor and first Senator. Thomas Lanier Williams was called Tom for short. His elder sister is Rose. The family moved to St. Louis in 1918 after his younger brother, Walker Dakin, was born.

The transition from the small Southern town to a big Northern City is difficult for little Tom. In the age of five, he developed diphtheria that made one of his legs paralyzed. He enrolled in the Eugene Field Public School a few years after he recovered from his illness. His schoolmates insulted him because of his small size, his deep South accent and manners, and his incapability for athletics. Tom drew closer to his sister because he could not participate in his schoolmates games and mocked by his unsympathetic father. From that time, he began to write. He called his St. Louis boyhood "Lonely and miserable".

His talent as a writer began appearing when he wrote a story for the first time in his eleven years old. In 1927, he earned his first money for writing by winning a third prize of \$ 5 in a contest sponsored by the magazine *Smart Set*. In August 1928, his short story *The Vengeance of Nitrois* appeared in the magazine *Weird Tales*. He wrote his works under the disagreement of his father because his father wanted him to be in military service.

In 1929, he entered for the University of Missouri where he won prizes in a Dramatic Art Contest. In 1932, his father removed him from college due to his disappointment in Tom and the pressure of financial need. He commanded Tom to work in the warehouse of the International Shoe Company. Tom obtained a \$ 65 salary for his job. He worked there for two years. After working all day and



writing all night for two years, he underwent a nervous breakdown. This made him move to Memphis to get treatment from his grandfather who had moved there after retirement. He reflected his years of frustration and his dislike of warehouse job in the character of Tom Wingfield. Tom Wingfield was one of the main characters in his drama entitled *The Glass Menagerie* (1944). In Memphis, he wrote a play, *Cairo! Shanghai! Bombay!*

In 1935, with the financial help of his grandparents, he attended Washington University in St. Louis. In this University, he wrote plays for a theatre group called the *Mummers*, led by the director Willard Holland.

In 1937, Williams moved to the University of Iowa to study playwriting with Professor E. C. Mobie. His *Spring Storm* (1938) was presented there. In 1938, Williams received his B.A. Degree. He no longer wished to return to St. Louis because of his sister's illness.

In 1939, *Story Magazine* published Williams' short story *A Field of Blue Children*. It was the first work to appear under his new first name, Tennessee. The nickname had been given to him by his university classmates because of the accent he had picked up while at his grandparents' home in Memphis. He compiled four one-act plays in the same year under the title *American Blues*, including *Candles to the Sun*, *The Fugitive Kind*, *Spring Storm*, and *Not about Nightingales*. Those works were submitted to the Group Theatre's American play contest. This collection won a \$ 100 prize and aroused the interest of a New York agent, Audrey Wood, who asked to represent him. Miss Wood helped him to get a Rockefeller grant of \$ 1,000 for playwriting. This enabled him to complete *Battle of Angels*, which the Theatre Guild produced in 1940.

During World War II, Williams was classified 4-f because of his heart condition. Wandering about the country, he lived for a time in New York and New Orleans. Then, through the effort of Audrey Wood, he received a job writing for the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film Company. Nevertheless, it no longer existed. He left Hollywood and converted the script into *The Glass Menagerie* (1944). This play marked Williams's first major success and appointed him as an important American dramatist.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* produced in 1947. This play emphasized the success of Williams's previous play. It was followed by many critical and box-office triumphs including *The Rose Tattoo* (1951), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), and *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959).

During this period, he received many awards. *The Glass Menagerie* won the New York Drama Critics Circle award as the best American play of the 1944-1945 season. He received a second best American play award for *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947-1948 season), which also earned him his first Pulitzer prize. *The Night of the Iguana* (1961-1962 season) won a fourth award from the New York theatre critics.

There is a little doubt that as a playwright, fiction writer, poet, and essayist, Williams helped transform the contemporary idea of the Southern literature. However, as a Southerner he not only helped to pave the way for other writer, but also helped the South find a strong voice where before it only heard as a whisper. Williams died on February 24, 1983, at Hotel Elysee in New York.

## 2.2 The Synopsis of *Sweet Bird of Youth*

After wandering in a city, Chance Wayne, a good-looking young man, returns to his Southern hometown, St. Cloud. He stays in the Royal Palms Hotel in the company of an aging motion-picture star, who is traveling under the name Princess Kosmonopolis. Her real name is Alexandra Del Lago. She adopts herself as Princess Kosmonopolis because she assumes that she is not well-known anymore.

The people of St. Cloud, knowing that Chance has come to his hometown, try to drive him away. Besides the poor person, Chance is also a disobedient son to his late mother. George Scudder, a young doctor, tries to warn him to leave the town. Scudder brings some information for him that his mother, Mrs. Emily Wayne, died when he was gone. The church sent him some telegrams concerning with her sickness until her death but there was not any answer from him. When the church received no answer to its telegrams to him, it arranged for his mother's burial by taking up a collection of money to cover hospital and funeral expenses.



Dr. Scudder also informs him that a girl has to have an awful experience, a tragic ordeal, because of past contact with him.

As soon as Dr. Scudder has left, Chance turns his attention back to Princess. She despairs of getting her glorious fame again because she is not young anymore. She thinks that people have forgotten her as a motion-picture star because of her physical changes. She becomes addicted to drugs to help her release her mental pain. Chance uses this condition to blackmail her. In a desperate attempt to obtain success that he hopes to win the love of his childhood girlfriend, Heavenly Finley, he blackmails Princess for a film contract and forces her to sign several checks for him.

Chance forces Princess to make a contest to find a couple of young stars for future Hollywood artists. The winners-to-be are Chance Wayne and Heavenly Finley. The contest is all under the sponsorship of Princess. He plans this in order to take Heavenly away from St. Cloud and make a new life with her out of the town.

On that condition, Princess learns that Chance has a problem. Finally, he tells his life story to her and the reason why he comes back to St. Cloud. He regrets that he is not a person with good fortune. He is not rich enough to get Heavenly, a daughter of the rich and powerful local politico, Boss Finley, moreover he has not any political bargain. He has no chance to ask her hand in marriage.

Being insulted of his poor condition by the society and Boss Finley, Chance leaves his hometown for a city to make his life better. He becomes gigolo who gives pleasure to the widows, wives, and debutante daughters of the rich people. Princess feels sorry for him and she promises to help him.

Chance has come back to his hometown and now he wants to show his success to the people of St. Cloud, including Heavenly and her father. He puts on his finest clothes and borrow Princess' luxurious car. He plans to make a big display by riding around town and showing his performance before the eyes of the people.



Meanwhile, in the terrace of Boss Finley's house in St. Cloud, Boss Finley is talking with Dr. Scudder. Boss Finley tells him that Chance has had his daughter when she was fifteen and transferred her venereal disease. Therefore, he plans to drive Chance away from St. Cloud. For this reason, he orders his son, Tom Junior, to do his plan.

After talking with Dr. Scudder, Boss Finley is looking for his daughter because he wants to make a conversation with her. He tries to ensure her that Chance means nothing for her. Nevertheless, Heavenly protests against her father for his injustice. He married the woman whom he loved genuinely, but he denies his daughter the right to choose her own husband. She also accuses him that he has broken her late mother's heart. He had a mistress, Miss Lucy, before the death of his wife.

Boss Finley's act toward his daughter destroys her. She cannot choose her own husband. She is in grief and despair. Moreover, she is now sexless by virtue of an operation following her contraction of venereal disease from her lover. She means to go into a convent, but her father forbids her because they live in the state of a Protestant region and a daughter in a convent will ruin his political career.

Meanwhile, in the Cocktail Lounge of the Royal Palms Hotel, Chance Wayne meets Miss Lucy, Aunt Nonnie, and his childhood friends, Bud, Scotty, and Stuff. Here Miss Lucy and Aunt Nonnie, the sisters of Boss Finley's wife, try to persuade him to leave the town because he is in a great danger. Boss Finley threatens to emasculate him unless he leaves St. Cloud. Chance does not want to change his mind; he wants to take Heavenly out of the town with him.

At this moment, Boss Finley and his children arrive at Palm Garden. Their arrival is indicated by the sirens of several squad cars. Chance sees Boss Finley entering the room and he meets Heavenly for a moment. Tom Junior, learning that Chance is in the same place, cannot restrain his anger. He tells Chance how the latter destroys Heavenly by transferring her venereal disease he had years ago. As a result, her reproductive organ has to be removed.

In the same time, Boss Finley makes his speech over an all-Southern television network for the sake of his political campaign. He confirms that he got

a mission that he hold sacred to perform in the Southland. It because the Voice of God called him to execute the mission, that is to shield from pollution a blood. In fact, he is a racist politico, but he pretends as if he regrets the bloodshed of the blacks in an operation done by the whites.

Tom Junior and Boss Finley's men are looking for Chance in the Princess' hotel room. They cannot find him because Chance has hidden in the shadows on the gallery. He approaches to her room when they have gone. She tells him the recent event and warns him that he is in a great danger.

Chance, in an attempt to be an artist in Hollywood, makes a phone call to a distinguished Hollywood columnist Sally Powers, Princess' good friend. He hopes Princess will tell Sally about her new discovery artist, Chance Wayne. Nevertheless, Princess does not mention his name at all, instead, she is telling her condition and her film. Sally brings surprising news for Princess. She tells Princess that Princess' picture has broken box-office records in New York and Los Angeles. This makes her confidence rise again. She decides to go back to the city and she asks Chance once again to accompany her. Chance changes his mind to be a movie star and he prefers to stay in his hometown by taking all the risks that happen to him in St. Cloud.

Once Princess has gone, Boss Finley's men enter the room and castrate Chance Wayne.





## CHAPTER III THE MEANINGS OF THE TERMS

Some terms are engaged in this thesis. Most of them have more than one meanings. Those meanings are used for the different contexts. Therefore, it is better to analyze them in order to apply them in the appropriate use and avoid the misleading understanding of the meanings of the terms.

Some essential terms concerning with the topic of this thesis are: theme, youth, and attitudes. They have close relation to the topic to be analyzed. Therefore, the analysis of their meanings is needed to understand the discussion deeply.

### 3.1 The Meaning of Theme

As the theme of *Sweet Bird of Youth* is the discussion in this thesis, it is necessary to analyze the meaning of theme further. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1989: 1329) theme is subject of a talk, a piece of writing or a person's thoughts; topic. Shaws (1905: 378) provides three definitions about theme: (1) The central and dominating idea on a literary work; (2) a short essay, such as a school or college composition; (3) the message or moral implicit in any work of art.

Schwiebert (2001: 152) explains another definition of theme. He says,

"Theme refers to what the essay is about, its prevailing idea.....Another theme might center on the whole question of which lessons in our lives are the most "primary", "basic", or "important". To articulate or discuss theme is to get the *what* of the essay (i.e., its content and ideas).....".

Kennedy and Reaske emphasize the meaning of theme on a play. The former says that theme in a play is the general point or truth about human beings that may be drawn from it. Perhaps the most meaningful way to study the elements of a play (and certainly the most enjoyable) is to consider a play in its entirety (Kennedy, 1991: 955). The latter states, "The central theme is one dominating idea in a play. This is the ultimate significance of why drama and that

dimension of the artist's labor which outlives entertainment value" (Reaske, 1966: 18).

The conclusion of the meaning of theme from the definitions above is that theme is the central core in a play. It is the message within a play in which the author wants to deliver his idea. Therefore, to understand the whole play is by understanding its theme.

Thus, the theme of *Sweet Bird of Youth* is about how a person can spend his time in the right way when he was young so that he will not regret in his old life. This message is represented by the main characters, Chance Wayne and Princess Kosmonopolis. Chance wastes his youth in the fruitless attempt to win the love of his girlfriend, Heavenly Finley. He does not care of anything instead of thinking of Heavenly and when he realizes that he will never have what he wants, he feels sorrowful. He destroys himself by wasting the time in his youth and does not have any preparation for his old life.

Meanwhile, Princess' youth is very fruitful. She is the famous beautiful motion-picture star. Nevertheless, she gets depressed when she realizes that she becomes older. Her hair becomes thin and her skin wrinkles. She is afraid of losing the glory of her youth, and she tries to get back her sweet life in her youth.

### 3.2 The Meaning of Youth

Another essential term of this discussion is youth because it is closely related to the theme in the play. Before analyzing the meaning of youth, it is necessary to know the meaning of young. According to *Webster Third New International Dictionary* (1976: 2654), young (adj) is 'being in the first or relatively early stage of life, growth, or development; as not long born; being in the first part of life; not yet arrived at adolescence, maturity or age', while youth (n) is 'the time of life when one is young; esp: the period between childhood and maturity'.

Some psychologists also explain the meaning of youth. Kenniston (in Santrock, 1991: 360) states, "Youth is a transitional period of 2-8 years or more between adolescence and adulthood that involves economic and personal



temporariness". Another definition is stated by Hebdige (in Barnard and Terry, 1996: 103). His statement is not concerning with the age of youth, but with the existence of young man in a society. He says, "Youth is present only when its presence is a problem, or is regarded as a problem". Francis Bacon (in Wermuth, 1967: 15) analyzes youth from the different standpoint with the psychologists. He investigates youth not only on his age, but also on what lies in his mind. This is known from his explanation: "A man that is young in years may be old in hours, if he have lost no time; but that happeneth rarely. Generally, youth is like the first cogitations, not so wise as the second, for there is a youth in thoughts as well as in ages".

Thus, the meaning of youth is the transitional period of a man from his childhood to adolescence or maturity. His thinking is usually unstable since he is in the young age. It means that he will act to fulfil his desires without thinking further.

Youth is also a time where someone has much energy to do his activities, and the time when he has good performance and strong body. Therefore, youth is the exact time to build one's future and the problems of youth is interesting to discuss.

In this play, the problems of Chance in his future began due to his attitudes when he was young. He does something fatal in his youth. He has fallen in love with Heavenly, therefore, he does the wrong ways to achieve his desires. On the other hand, Princess makes her endeavors to be a famous motion-picture star in her youth. Both Chance and Princess get their own impacts to their later life.

### 3.3 The Meaning of Attitude

The last term to discuss in this chapter is attitudes. *Webster Third New International Dictionary* (1974: 141) describes that 'attitude' is: a) behavior representative of feeling or conviction; b) a disposition that is primarily grounded in affect and emotion and its expressive of opinions rather than belief; c) an organismic state of readiness to act that is often accompanied by an appropriate

stimulus into significant or meaningful behavior; d: a persistent disposition to act either positively or negatively toward a person, group, object, situation, or value.

The next definitions of attitude are given by some psychologists. The first definition is delivered by Thurstone (in Garrison, 1960: 160). He says that attitudes have been referred to as inclinations, prejudices, or preconceived notions and feelings toward things, persons, situations, and issues. Whereas Newcomb (in Garrison, 1960: 160) explains, "An attitude is not a response but a more or less persistent get to respond in a given way to an object or situation. The concept of attitude relates the individual to any concept of his environment which has positive or negative value for him".

Another definition of attitude is stated by Zanden (1984: 160-161). He defines,

"An attitude is a learned and relatively enduring tendency or predisposition to evaluate a person, event, or situation in a certain way and to act in accordance with that evaluation. It constitutes, then, a social orientation-an underlying inclination to respond to something either favorably or unfavorably".

Brigham (1991: 134) provides the last description. He defines attitudes into several definitions:

"First, attitudes are inferred from the way individuals behave (which could include the behavior or filling out an attitude questionnaire). Second, attitudes are directed toward a psychological object or category. People's schemas determine how they categorize the objects toward which attitudes are directed. Third, attitudes are learned. Because attitudes are learned, it follows that they can be changed. Finally, attitudes influence behavior. Holding an attitude toward an object gives one a reason to behave toward the object in a certain way".

The definitions above show that attitude relates to several factors such as: affection or feeling, society, and behavior. Thus, in summary, attitude is the state of one's mind in response to the society (i.e. their value) surrounding him that makes him do something in a certain way which is reflected in his behavior. Attitude is extremely important in determining one's action in connection with various situations or problems with which he might be confronted.



In this analysis, the attitudes of Chance Wayne and Princess are much influenced by the society. Their attitudes in their youth have great impacts in their future. The materialistic society where Chance lives, forces him to apply "the end justifies the means" to get his wealth. He does everything to fill the society's demand. He does not care whether his attitudes are vicious or virtuous. He becomes disobedient to his mother, leaving her while she is sick. Moreover, he becomes a gigolo who gives pleasures to the rich women. He realizes all his faults when he feels he is not young anymore. He knows that it is too late because he cannot come back to the time when he was young.

Meanwhile, Princess' attitudes are not much mentioned in the play. Nevertheless, it explains that Princess feels depressed because of her old age. She thinks that the society connect one's fame with beauty. Therefore, she becomes addicted to drugs when she feels old. She is afraid of losing her fame. She considers that her career and fame in her youth have been ruined by her physical changes.

*Sweet Bird of Youth* is one of Tennessee Williams' dramas telling about his fright of time. Most of the people in this world are not aware of the value of time. It always moves on while the people's activities to reach their illusion of bliss in their youth leading them to destruction in their later life. There is not any excuse for wasting time in one's life with the useless things. Once a person wastes time in his youth, it will ruin his later life like a slow dynamite exploding in a certain time and shattering everything surrounding it. *Sweet Bird of Youth* describes this illustration in its theme.

The male main character, represented by Chance Wayne, is a plain man who lives in unfortunate condition. He has never cared about his poverty until he falls in love with a beautiful rich girl named Heavenly Finley. The desire to win her love and to fulfil her family's demands change his way of thinking. He becomes a greedy man who applies any means to reach his desires.

Meanwhile, the female main character, represented by Alexandra Del Lago or Princess Kosmonopolis, is a beautiful woman with an acting talent. Her desire to be a great motion-picture star triggers her to do the best. She strives to realize her dreams. The hard endeavors are fruitful; she becomes a well-known artist with a great name of a motion-picture star.

It is true that besides the inner drive of both main characters, the society also have great impacts on their way of life. The society judges that the spiritual satisfaction is attained by taking possession of the material world. Money and power are the two standards of success in one's life. Thus, Chance agrees to judge things by their standards. Therefore, he devotes himself to get the material world no matter whether his ways are right or wrong. He loses his spiritual and moral truth. His aim is just to prove to the people that he can be a great person with great wealth. Therefore, there is not any reason to underestimate and deny him anymore.



The judgments of the society also influence Princess' way of thinking. She becomes an anxious woman who has not any self-confidence by virtue of her old age. She thinks that her physical changes will ruin her career as the great star. This depression leads her to the drugs abuse.

Thus, it is proved that Chance and Princess' attitudes along with the influence of the society bring impacts in the future. Chance is aware of the value of time when his youth is almost gone. Nevertheless, he has to face the consequences of his past attitudes himself. His life has already been destroyed. He cannot realize his desires to win Heavenly's love and to be rich. Moreover, the people do not respect him anymore. The play ends with the emasculation of Chance Wayne. Meanwhile, Princess' confidence is restored because her last film has actually been an enormous success.

The drama tells how a person should be aware of time in his life. He should behave appropriately in his youth to reach his bliss in later life. His attitudes in his youth determine the impacts in his future because he lives in the society who has values to be obeyed. As a consequence, they will give reaction to his attitudes. The reaction can be a reward or a punishment.

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