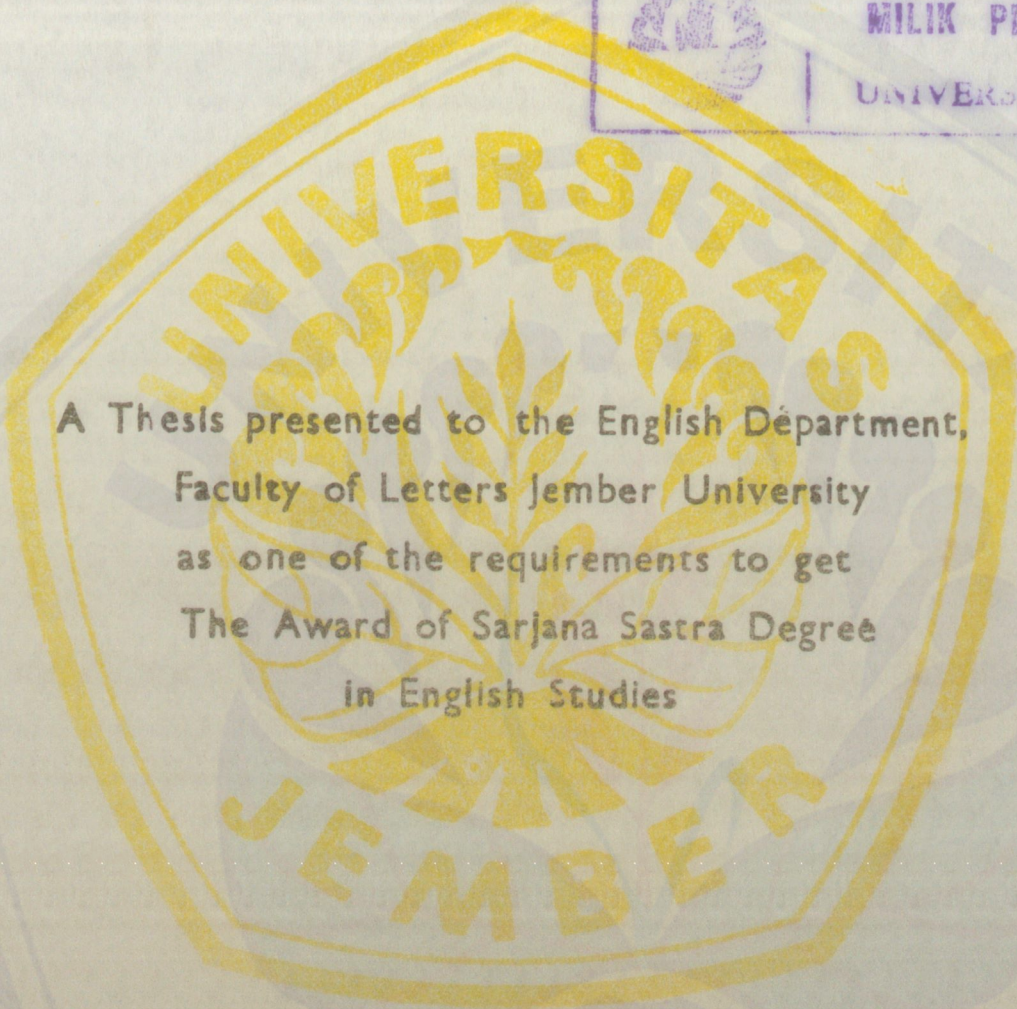


TIDAK DIPINJAMKAN KELUAR

THE SNOBBISH LIFE AS THE THEME
IN WILLIAM INGE'S
TO BOBOLINK, FOR HER SPIRIT

MILIK PERPUSTAKAAN
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A Thesis presented to the English Department,
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The Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies

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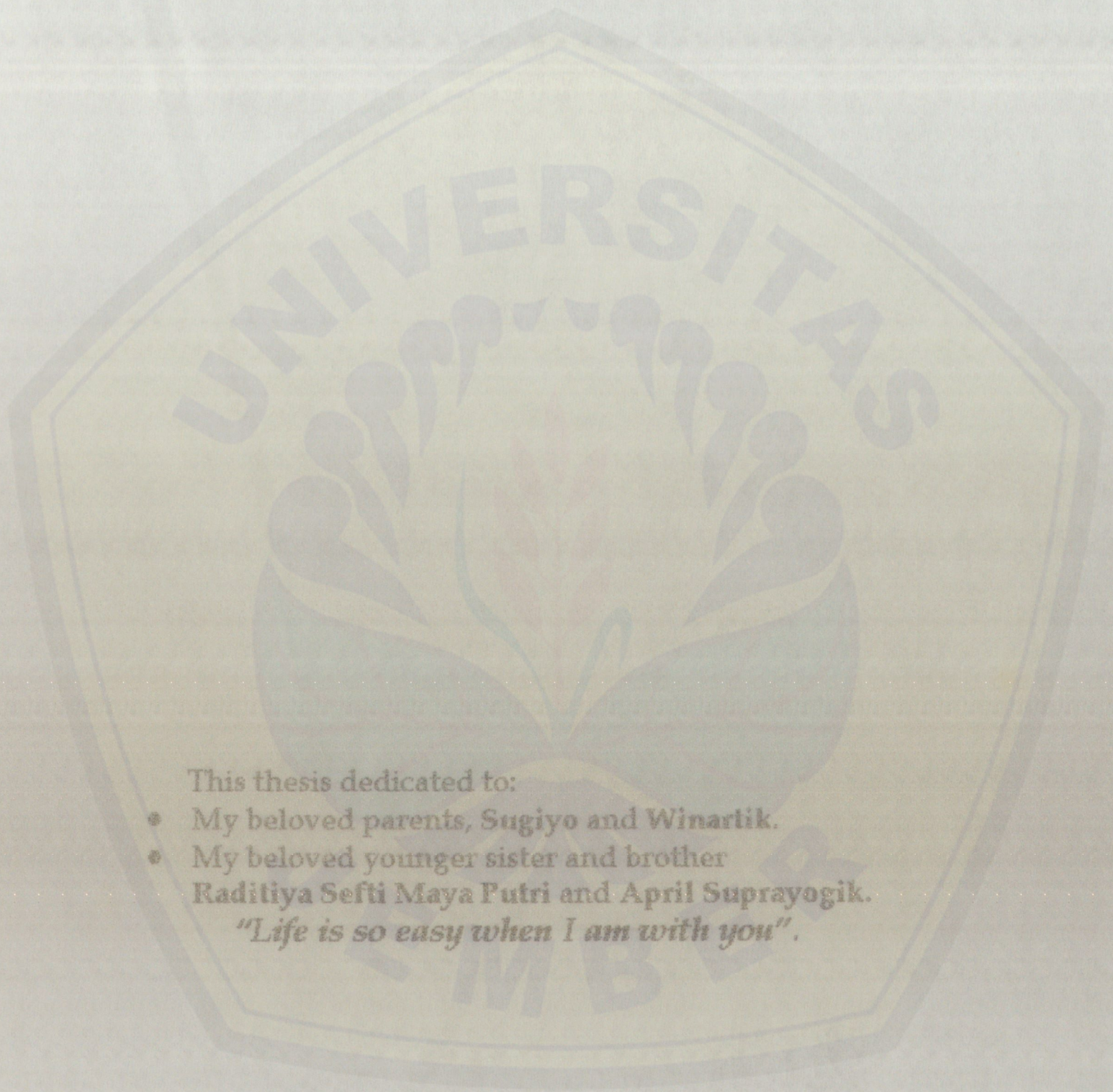


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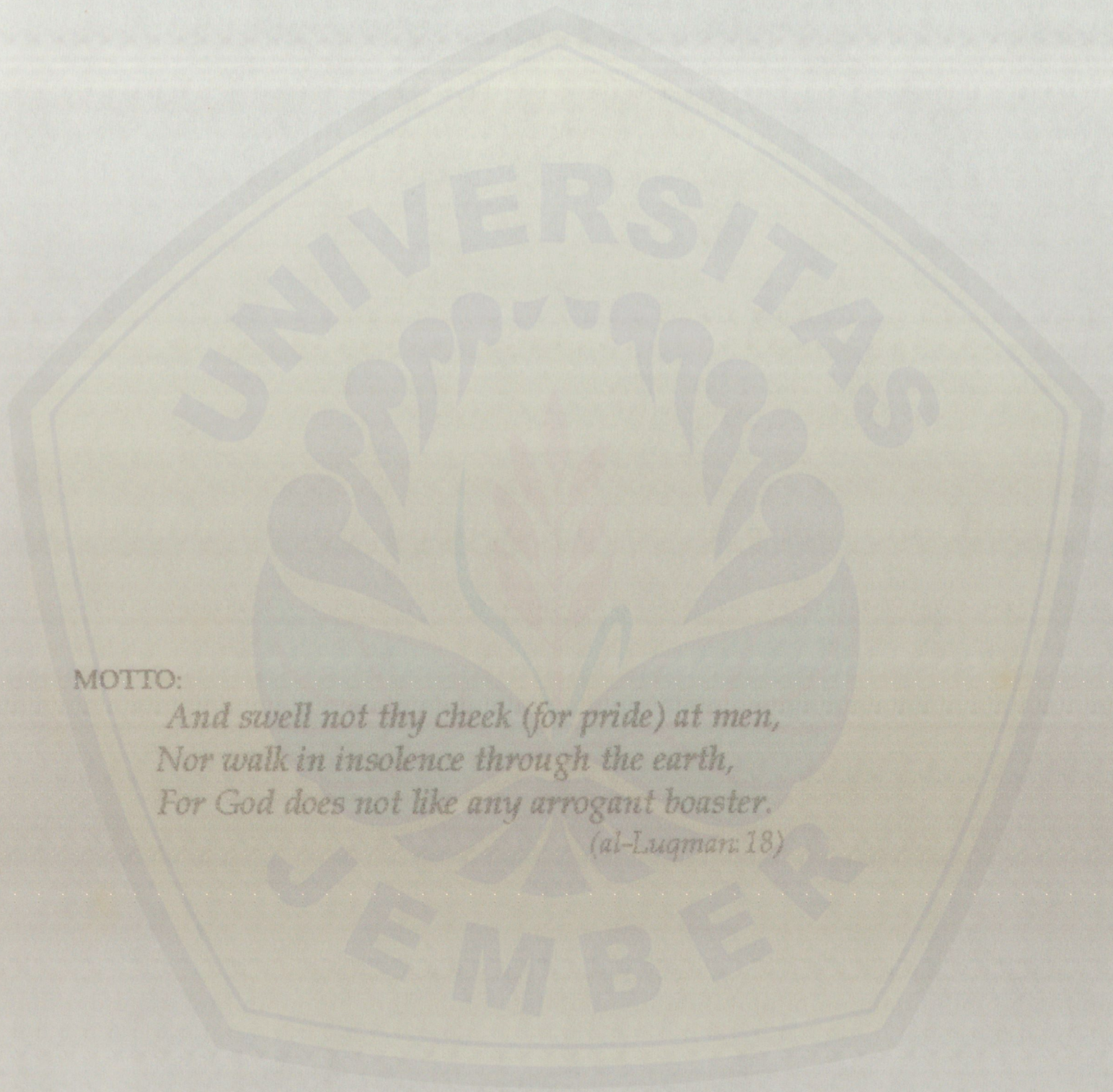
1. Prof. Drs. Gunawan Hupoyo.
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3. Drs. H. Muhammad Busjairi.



This thesis dedicated to:

- My beloved parents, Sugiyo and Winartik.
- My beloved younger sister and brother Raditiya Sefti Maya Putri and April Suprayogik.

"Life is so easy when I am with you".



MOTTO:

*And swell not thy cheek (for pride) at men,
Nor walk in insolence through the earth,
For God does not like any arrogant boaster.*

(al-Luqman: 18)

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

11. Rationale

In daily life, literature is extremely familiar to human beings. It grows and develops in the social life. It becomes a part of human's life. The existence of a literary work has some aims at completing one's pleasure and one's knowledge as well. It means that by reading a literary work one will get pleasure and furthermore increase one's knowledge. The literary work has dimensional functions.

Reading a literary work is sometimes regarded as an important activity. It becomes a part of human's life. One will get a new experience and pleasure while he reads, learns, enjoys, and analyzes a literary work that he has read. The literary work that he reads can be a necessity of his life. Based on the argument, Hudson states:

"Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about these aspects of it which has the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language". (1944:10).

The short quotation above shows us that anyone can express his experience through literature as a medium. It is as a reflection of man's experience, therefore, the existence of a literary work cannot be divided from aspect of life and it may represent them. In short, literature deals with life, it does not only represent the natural world, and individual subjective world but also reflects social reality. The literary work functions as a mirror of society. It means that whoever reads a literary work, he will imagine and understand some phenomena that are rising in the society when the work was written.

On the other side, Jones states that literature is simply another way we experience the world around us through our imagination (1968:1). The statement means that we can devote our new experience through literature, so the literary work is as a medium of our expression. Besides that we can also express our imagination through literature. That's why, in *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism* listed that the importance of literature is not merely in its way saying, but also in what it says (Scott. 1962:23). It means that the most important thing in literature is not only physically, but also the content of literature itself. By using a literary work, the writer wants to criticize the social phenomena in the society.

There are three kinds of literary works. They are drama, prose, and the last one is poetry. They are different in form, but they have the same aims. The aims are the messages that the writer wants to deliver to the readers. The messages can be moral messages, a social criticism, or others.

Drama is as one of the three kinds of literary works. Although its characters, setting, and plot are fictionized, they are as a reflection of the real world. A phenomenon that is often found in a play is a social reality. It expresses the reality of human's life. Drama is one of literary forms dealing with human beings, thoughts, actions, motives and it tells the readers about human experience. Christopher Russel Reaske states that drama is a work of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of and dialogues between a group of characters and it is designed for theatrical presentation (1965:5). So, the content of drama involves life and human activity. The definition is supported by M.H. Abrams that a drama is the literary form designed for the theater, where actors take the role of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the writer is dialogue (1971:43). Furthermore, as a kind of literary works, drama does not only offer the readers an imitation of life but also helps them to understand the

life because the central purpose of fiction is to enable people to imagine and understand human experience.

Every literary work, as Hudson says, is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language (1965:10). It means that a literary work, in this case is drama, must reflect experience of human beings as an individual and the social condition when the work was written. It shows that drama is as a reflection of human life and it deals with life concerning either with happiness or suffering. By studying the content of a play, therefore, people will get a new experience and enlarge their experiences. Beside that, they will understand some phenomena or aspects of life as well.

To Bobolink, for Her Spirit is a play and it is William Inge's work. It is regarded as a modern play. The story of the play is about a snobbish life. All of the characters in the play are in a snobbish life. They represent or reflect the people at that time, when the work was written. Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play, is a middle-aged woman. She is probably in her early thirties who is so fat that her body would form an almost perfect circle. Her life style and her attitude are similar to the young. She is always with them. This can be observed from her attitude and the attributes that she uses. The play shows that she is the ringleader of a group of autograph hunters. Her life, in this play, is just for pleasure, and so are the lives of the other characters. All of them are living in a snobbish life.

1.2 The Problem to Discuss.

One of important aspects of a literary work is the theme. The theme is as an inspiration for the writer to write a work. The theme of the story is an essential meaning of human experience. This statement is stated by Robert Stanton. He argues:

"The theme of the story corresponds to the meaning of a human experience; it may be anything that could make an experience memorable". (1964:19)

Besides the definition above, theme also comments upon aspects of life, and thus has value outside the story.

“Like the meaning of a human experience, a theme illuminates or comments upon some aspects of life and thus has value outside the story”. (1964:19).

While Harry Shaw lists that theme as the central and dominating idea in a literary work; short essay, such a school or college’s composition; the message of moral implicit in any work of art (1972:378).

Analyzing a theme in a literary work, William Kenney states that “The theme is casually an interesting subject for the reader to talk as it tells the meaning of the story as a whole which is the outcome of the author’s experience of life” (1966:91). Theme is an important element in a story because it is the writer’s central idea presented in the story. This thesis discusses the theme of the play which has close relation to the characters’ actions and motives. Therefore, we must be able to understand the actions and dialogues of the characters in the play in order to understand what the author has written about them. In this thesis, the characters and the theme are two components that cannot be separated from each other. Characters in this play influence the establishment of the theme.

To Bobolink, for Her Spirit also takes a social problem as its object. The social condition at that time, when the work was written, in which a snobbish life appeared, enables the playwright to reflect it in his work. He wants to reflect even criticize the social condition at that time, in which, visually the people represented by some characters in the play show much modern style. They just enjoy their life. It is just for pleasure which is as the background of this play.

1.3 Hypothesis.

Bobolink Bowen, the main character of this play, lives in the snobbish life. She spends much time merely for pleasure. Bobolink gives much influence to

the other characters. The characters' interaction is concerning with the people who influence one another.

The hypothesis in this thesis is that the snobbish life of the main character gives much influence to the other characters.

1.4. The Scope of The Study.

By determining the scope of the study, the discussion will not stray out from the main topic. The discussion is focused on the snobbish life of the characters. I just want to prove that there are some phenomena that occur in the society when the work was written, represented by the characters of the play. Based on this argument, I want to limit the scope of the study on the snobbish life among the characters, is as the theme of this play.

Furthermore, it is necessary to avoid a more complicated discussion, it is worth limiting the scope of study to William Inge's technique of using interchapters and narrative chapters for conveying the theme. The data and information supporting the discussion are taken from several kinds of references. The main reference used in the analysis is *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*. To get the clarification of the background of the writer, it is essential to make use of some references such as *The Oxford Companion to American Literature* and some other books about the life of the playwright. The books are also used to clarify the playwright's other works. Besides that, in accordance with the topic of the discussion, it is quite important to use such other books as *The Craft of Prose*, *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism*, *Writing Themes About Literature*, and some others. Clearly, they have given much information in clarifying the topic of the discussion. To get the information on the history, it is quite necessary to consult *Reading in American History*, *American Literature-A Brief History*.

1.5. The Approach to Use.

To get a clear description and detailed understanding in accordance with the problem, it should be used a certain approach that has tight relation to the topic that is analyzed.

The problem in this thesis will be studied by a certain approach. The approach to use is psychological approach. Psychological approach is suitable to make an analysis of the problem of the study dealing with the snobbish life of the main character that influences the other characters. According to Wilbur Scott that there are three applications of psychological approach to a literary work. They are; first, the new field provides a more precise language with which discuss the creative process. Second, the application goes back to literary biography in order to study the life of the author as a means of understanding their art. Third, psychology can be used to explain fictitious characters (1962:71-72). This thesis conveniently uses the third application because the existence of a literary work cannot be separated from the psychological of the characters.

Hardjana also states that psychology can be applied to examine the character in drama and novel by using the theory of psychology (1991:66).

The other approach to use is sociological approach. This approach mainly supports the main approach above. This approach is used because the psychological of the characters can be effected by social condition at that time.

1.6. The Method of Analysis.

The writing of this thesis is entirely done by means of a library research. It concerns with collecting materials as well as data and information taken from the play itself, references and dictionaries. In this analysis, inductive method which begins talking about specific evidence of facts to produce a general statement is used. It is strengthened by Sutrisno Hadi that inductive method is used to draw a conclusion from the particular events and occurrences to the general ones (1989:42). This method is used to prove that

Bobolink as a snobbish person influences the other characters. That's why, all of the characters in the play have the same attitude.

1.7. The Goal of The Study.

There are some aims concerning with the writing of this thesis. First, the thesis is to gain and increase the understanding of a literary work, especially to give a complete and an appropriate understanding about a snobbish life. Second, the aim is not only to give a clear and detailed evidence of the snobbish life presented by the characters in the play but also to give a clear picture of the snobbish life. Finally, I hope this study will be worthwhile for myself and contribute the readers who study on William Motter Inge's works especially *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*.

1.8 The Organization of The Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction while the second chapter deals with biography of the writer, his works and the synopsis of the play. The meaning of the terms is in the third chapter, they involve, first; the meaning of the snobbish life, second; the meaning of the theme, and the last is the meaning of spirit. Then, chapter four comes to the analysis of the play. The study tries to prove that the snobbish life becomes the main theme in William Inge's *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*. Finally, chapter five is the conclusion of the whole study.

CHAPTER II
THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE PLAYWRIGHT, HIS WORKS
AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

2.1. The Short Biography of William Inge.

William Inge, his full name is William Motter Inge (1913-1973). He was born in Independence, Kansas, one of the West North Central states in the United States on May 3rd, 1913. Because of his activity in writing, he was considered as an American playwright. When he was still 22 years old, he graduated from the University of Kansas exactly in the year of 1935.

In his career, William Motter Inge received an M.A. at Georgia Peabody College for teacher in 1938. His thesis was on David Balasco. While he was teaching at student collage (1938-1943), he was influenced by the head of the Drama Department, Mande Adams, but his immediate inspiration to become a playwright came from seeing Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* in 1944. After that Inge sent Williams his first play. The title of the play is *Farther off From Heaven* (1947), and it was produced at Margo Jone's arena theater in Dallas, Texas.

Inge scored notable success with *Come Back, Little Shade*. The last one which opened on Broadway in 1950. In the same year the works won The George Jean Nothan Award and The Theater Time Award. In the year of 1953 his work entitled *Picnic* received The Pulitzer Prize in drama, The Outer Circle Award, and The New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Two years later, exactly in the year of 1955, his works entitled *Bus Stop* (1955) and *The Dark at The Top of The Stairs* (1957) were moderate critical and financial success, but later the plays were received indifferently by both critics and public. Both of them were adapted as films. It was first presented by Saint Ubbert and Eliza Kazan at The Music Box, New York City, on December 5th, 1957. He won an Academy Award for the screenplay *Splendor in The Grass* (1961).

Unfortunately his later Broadway productions - *A Loss of Roses* (1959), *Natural Affection* (1963), and *Where's Daddy ?* (1966) were less successful. It described the urban scene of New York and Chicago. He also wrote a number of one act plays and two novels.

William Motter Inge died, on apparent suicide in Los Angeles, California, on June 10th, 1973. Inge main concern is with the depth of feeling and the complex relations of ordinary people. He sees frustration, fear and longiness of the people. So, *Bobolink* represents another facet of Inge's abiding interest in the alienated young.

2.2. The Synopsis of The Play.

Everyday when the weather permits, a group of autograph hunters assembles in front of the 21 Club in New York. It has become daily activity for some autograph hunters. They assemble over there just for waiting for the movie stars that are reported in the 21 Club. The number of the group varies from day to day and surely the number of the groups depend upon the number and magnitude of the movie stars in it.

The variety of the group consists of teen-agers but sometimes there are also middle-aged women. The ringleader of today's group is Bobolink Bowen. She is considered as the middle-aged woman who is probably in her early thirties. Her body is so fat, in silhouette, would form an almost perfect circle. Bobolink has the fat woman's usual disposition. She is stolidly complacent and happy. Her lips usually are formed in a grin of guzzling contentment. Everything she uses is very exotic.

Bobolink's hair is short and kinky. She wears thick-lensed glasses that reduce her eyes to see something like the size of buttonholes and besides that her clothes by necessity are simple; a man's coat-style sweater, saddle shoes, and bobby socks, and bare legs that swell at the calves like bowling pins.

The other character of this play is Nellie. She is a starved and eager woman in her late twenties. Nellie is Bobolink's dependable standby.

There are two young boys in this play. They are Renaldo and Fritz. They are friends. Both of them are thirteen years. Besides the two young boys, there are Gretcen and Annamarie, they are friends. Both of them are people without any personal attraction. Like others, they could possibly claim to get the attributes, but they lack of them.

The attributes that Annamarie uses have tried to emulate one of her favorite film stars. She wears an exotic sun glasses, a complicated coiffure, and exciting shoes with straps, bows, and platform soles.

Like their usual daily activity, they assemble outside the 21 Club in New York. The group has been standing around for over an hour. They are waiting like some patients in a rest home. They talk idly with one another, move restlessly about in a limited space.

The two young boys, Fritz and Renaldo are with the group also. Fritz is working a crossword puzzle. Behind them stands the Doorman, a man of rigid and calculated dignity, dressed in a colorful uniform. He holds his head high and keeps it turning away from the autograph seekers as though to disclaim any association with them.

A group of autograph hunters are assembling outside 21 Club in New York. They are waiting for some film stars in the club just for gaining their signatures. At that occasion, the group is led by Bobolink Bowen. While they are waiting for the film stars reported to be in the club, they are talking about their earning of some autographs. One of the movie stars that they discuss at that time is Lana Turner. Nellie who is Bobolink's dependable informs to the others that Bobolink has got Lana Turner's autograph. The others are in doubt that Bobolink has gotten Lana Turner's autograph. That's why, Bobolink tries to prove that she has really got it.

In the discussion, the object of their talk is not only one film star. The

other film star that they discuss is Katherine Hupburn. According to them Katherine is stuck up, but Lana Turner is not at all.

While they are discussing the film stars, Fritz addresses the Doorman who stands with rigid dignity. Fritz asks him about Perry Commo. Fritz guesses that Perry Commo is in the club and he wants his signature. Unfortunately, the Doorman does not respond to Fritz's question. He, according to Fritz, does not pay attention to the movie star. So, Fritz cannot get anything from him. Bobolink tries to ensure him, when she was up there on the corner waiting for a bus. Nellie, her dependable standby, nudged her and said that Perry Commo was going into the 21 Club, and she was sure that the man was Perry Commo. Bobolink was sure enough that the guy who was going in, had on the same kind suit Perry Commo on last week over at the paramount. He was exactly like Perry Commo.

They have been waiting over there more than an hour. Bobolink looks so proud. She is standing over there just for signature. She states that every night she waits outside the Stork Club three hours in one night. She does it just for some signatures. When she is standing outside the Club, someone tells her that Elizabeth Taylor is inside and she wants her autograph. Bobolink misunderstands at that time, factually there is not Elizabeth Tylor, just some college girls trying to make out she is Elizabeth Taylor. Bobolink is so disappointed.

The other film star that becomes their object to get the signature is Ronald Colman. They discuss him and devote all of their opinions. According to Renaldo he is famous, on the contrary, Nellie thinks he is not very famous. They have been waiting for Ronald Colman all night and they all are about to give up and go home when a taxi stops at the curb and Van Johnson and Peter Lawford get out. At that time they get them both, right there on the same place.

Bobolink tells about her experience when she got Peter Lawford and Van Johnson. The others are a little awed. Nellie has gotten both.

Bobolink, at that time, looks so proud. She sticks herself, and so does Nellie.

Meanwhile, an elaborately dressed couple appears in the doorway coming out of the restaurant. The woman wears a dress of dramatic cut and an exotic hat. Their manner is ridiculously aloof and they make quite a thing of ignoring the autograph hounds.

They point her. According to Gretchen, she looks like Rosalind Russel. On the other side, Bobolink considers that she is not Rosalind Russel. Bobolink's opinion Russel is real tall. Either Bobolink or Gretchen are interested in her dress. They bet that the dress cost two or three hundred dollars, may be more than that. Bobolink is studying the woman. She tries to decide who she is. The woman and her escort are now standing at the curb, waiting for the Doorman to hail a cab.

Fritz approaches the glamorous woman. He asks a question whether he can have her autograph. The woman looks a little surprised. She looks questioningly at her escort, who gives her an indulgent smile. So, the woman is a little mystified. She signs her name to Fritz's book. Then, she and her escort disappear in a cab. Fritz studies the signature. The other are flock around him to see who she is, but Bobolink is not quickly curious as the others.

The signature shows that it is Irina Nechidikoff. She is a Russian. They don't understand exactly who she is. They don't know whether she is a famous dancer or a movie star. Fritz doesn't care for that. The important thing is that he gets her whoever she is.

As a matter of fact, they are waiting for Perry Commo, especially Bobolink. She is going to stay till she gets Perry Commo. She really wants to get Perry Commo. She looks ambitious to get him. She tells that she got Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Van Johnson, Peter Lawford, Jimmy Steward and Tyron Power. She is just waiting over there for Perry Commo. She wants to get his autograph. In that occasion they discuss about Tyron Power. Tyron Power is Bobolink's real favorite. Bobolink meets him at the train. As president of Tyron Power Fan Club in Irvington, she meets her train at the Pennsylvania

Station when Tyron Power comes in from Hollywood. And at that time Bobolink has to fight the man at the gate to let her pass. So, Bobolink and Nellie meet him at the train. Bobolink introduces herself as the president of Irvington Fan Club, and tells him that she has forty-three members and meet once a week to discuss Tyron's career. Finally, Bobolink gets his autograph.

The young man and the girl smile at each other and sign the books, while the Doorman starts to call a cab but this is small-time stuff for Bobolink. She has the dignity of her past career to think of. She stays back, leaning against the grill fence surrounding the club, with a look of superior calm on the face. Nellie stays by her side.

Nellie does not think that they are anyone famous and neither does Bobolink. Bobolink is optimist that she can tell the famous ones. Then, the couple go off in a cab. The doorman returns to his position by the doorway. The young autograph seekers start studying the names that have been inscribed in their books. They mark the two couple. Bobolink guesses that they might be famous one day. She doesn't have time to waste on people that might be famous. They stand quietly, remove from the others now. Fritz is reading his new acquisitions. He can know that the couple are Frederick Bischoff and Mary Milton. Gretchen bets that she is models. Annamarie also has a consideration that Frederick Bischoff is probably just a model too. Bobolink, personally to Nellie, in appraisal of her colleagues states that those are just kids.

The autograph seekers assemble outside the 21 Club actually is just waiting for Perry Commo. They are discussing whether Perry Commo is inside or not. Because they haven't gotten him yet, they decide to wait a little longer. They resume their positions of patient attendance but Annamarie gets up to go home for supper.

CHAPTER III THE MEANING OF THE TERMS

Before coming to the main topic of this thesis, it is quite necessary to understand the meaning of some terms that are used in this thesis. The meaning of the terms are used to get a clear comprehension between the title of this thesis and the content of the play that is analyzed. Shortly, it is used to get a clear understanding of the main topic.

In this thesis, the title consists of three terms. They include; the snobbish, the theme and the last one is spirit.

3.1 The Meaning of Snobbish.

The word snobbish is an adjective. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* by AS. Hornby states that the word snobbish comes from two words. The original word is snob, it gets an addition ish. The word snob is as a noun, it means a person who pays too much respect to social position or wealth, or one who disposes persons who are of lower social position. Then the word snob gets an addition ish, so it becomes snobbish. It is as an adjective. The meaning of this word according to this dictionary is like a social position or wealth. (1974: 816).

The American Heritage Dictionary of The English Language lists the word snobbish with some meanings. They involve:

- a) characteristic or resembling a snob.
- b) pretentious.

(1971: 1233)

Based on the meanings above, the word snobbish means pretentious. The snobbish life is as one of some kinds of human's life. It grows and exists wherever and whenever people are. It also colors human's life in this world. Man who is living in this life style tends to make everything easy. He does not live suitably for the reality. He is living in a snobbish life.

3.2 The Meaning of Theme.

Theme is a word which has many interpretations. Every work of literature has a theme. Theme is the topic or subject of writing. Theme is an inspiration of a writer before writing a work. There are some definitions about theme.

According to *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, the meaning of the theme involves:

- a) a subject of discourse, discussion, meditation, or composition; topic.
- b) a short, informal essay, esp. a school composition.

(1968: 1361)

While in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, Merriam Webster explains that the meaning of the theme are as follows:

- a) subject or topic which one speak or writing.
- b) a preposition for discussion or argument.
- c) a subject of fictional or artistic representation.

(1982: 2370)

There are some definitions about theme according to *The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language*, theme means;

- a) a topic of discourse or discussion, after expressible as a phrase, preposition, or question.
- b) an idea, point of view, or perception embodied and expanded upon in a work of art, an underlying or essential subject of artistic representation.
- c) a short composition assigned to a student or a writing exercise.

(1971: 1334).

There are other some definitions for the word theme. According to *Oxford*

Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, Hornby lists the theme means topic or subject of talk or a piece of writing. (1974: 895).

Theme is one of the elements of a literary work. Theme in fiction is what the author is able to make of the total meaning of a story discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by the reader in the process of reading.

Another dictionary, *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Harry Shaw lists that the word theme has some meanings, they include;

- a) the central and dominating idea in a literary work
- b) theme means the message or moral implicit in any work of art.

(1972: 278)

Theme functions as an inspiration for the writer before he writes a work. Robert Stanton says that theme is a central idea and central purpose (1973: 19). While Christopher Russel Reaske states that theme is the dominating idea of a play (1966: 18).

The existence of a theme cannot be separated from the study of literature, because theme is an important part in it. Theme makes a story meaningful. Through a theme, the author's messages can be understood by the readers. William Kenney defines that theme is the meaning of the story (1966: 88). Moreover, in the same book, he also denotes that the word theme as some sort of comment on the subject, whether the comment is stated explicitly or remain implicit (1966: 90). The subject means what the work refers to. The quotation below is the definition of the theme according to William Kenney:

Theme is not the moral, not the subject not "hidden meaning" illustrated by the story, what is it?. Theme is the meaning, but it is not "hidden", and is not illustrated. Theme is the meaning of the story discovers. By theme we mean the necessary implication of the whole story, not a separable part of a story.

(1966:91)

By reading the quotation above, the theme is not the meaning that is hidden in the story, and it is not told directly to the readers, but it is told by the authors through the course of the story. For the readers who want to find the theme of a certain novel or drama, they must read the whole story. It is impossible for the readers who want to find the theme but they read the work partly as what the above quotation says.

Jones explains theme as "theme of drama is its underlying idea that the author is presenting". (1968:82).

The short explanation above gives description that basically the theme is a central topic or dominating idea or dominating substance in a literary work. Theme is the most important implication of the story and it cannot be separated from the study of literature. In other words theme can be described as the author's interpretation of his statement of purpose which is reflected in the story. By the theme, a work will have a meaning. Its existence cannot be separated from a work of literature. Theme may give the readers a new experience of life.

3.3 The Meaning of Spirit.

There are some meanings for the word spirit. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, it means:

- a) person considered from the intellectual, moral, emotional point of view.
- b) mental or moral attitude.

(1974: 831)

Another dictionary, *The American Heritage Dictionary of The English*

Language, Morris explains that the meaning of spirit involves;

- a) that which is traditionally believed to be the vital principle or animating force within living beings.
- b) an inclination or tendency of a specified kind.
- c) a particular mood or emotional state characterized by vigor and animation.
- d) strong loyalty or dedication.
- e) the predominant mood of an occasion or period.
- f) the real sense or significance of something, the spirit of the law.

(1971:1245).

Some definitions above have something in common. It is a tendency on something. Spirit is as one of man's characteristics. It cannot be separated from man's life. Moreover, if man can make use of their spirit in a proper place, he will get a good life. On the contrary, if he spends his spirit in useless things, he will never get balance in his life.

Finally, the meaning of some terms above will support us to comprehend the content of the thesis.

CHAPTER IV
THE SNOBBISH LIFE AS THE THEME IN WILLIAM INGE'S
TO BOBOLINK, FOR HER SPIRIT

This chapter comes to the main topic of this thesis. The analysis is focused on the searching for the theme of the play in which Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play, gives much influence to the other characters. The influence is in the way of her life. Because of her influence, all of the characters in the play become snobs as shown in the interaction among the characters.

This chapter consists of three sub-chapters. They involve first, the views toward the snobbish life. It describes what snobbish life is. Then the next sub-chapter deals with the indications of the snobbish life to the life style. They involve the visual indications that consist of the attributes that are used by the characters and their activity in the process of hunting the autographs or signatures of some famous people. The second indication is the spiritual indications. It is what the characters say or their tendency to particular things. The characters give some considerations to them. The last sub-chapter comes to the analysis of the play. It tries to prove that the snobbish life as the theme of the play.

4.1. The Views Toward the Snobbish Life.

Literature functions as an expression of life in society. The author may express his experiences of social life around him. Then, he has an intention to reflect and modify them in his work as William Motter Inge does. Inge writes *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit* and tends to relate the play to social life where he lives. This play was written in the reality of social situation at that time. There is a tight connection between social condition in Inge's play and social condition in the time when it was written. A snobbish life appeared in the

society at that time. The playwright wants to reflect or even criticize the social condition at that time.

There are some kinds of life style in this society. They exist coloring human's life. With some kinds of life style, the society looks various. It is not monotonous, it is dynamic not static. Life styles exist because man as a perfect creation always thinks to defend their life through some ways. Through the ways, eventually appear some phenomena of life in the society. The ways sometimes are positive and sometimes negative. The latter is well-known as machiavelism. It means that showing or having no scruples in gaining what is wanted (*Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, 1974: 510).

As it is stated above the varieties of life in society color man's life and with them the life looks alive. They exist fulfilling man's need. One of the life styles is snobbish life.

There are some meanings for the word snobbish. They include; characteristics of resembling a snob and the word snob that means pretentious. It means a way of life that tends to enjoy the life only. People who are living in this life style make use of life just for pleasure. This life style can also be considered as hedonism. According to the dictionary above, hedonism means a belief that pleasure is the chief good (1974: 399). The other definition for hedonism is the way of life that tends to reach the enjoyment only without thinking of one's feeling (Mudatsir, AM. 1999:1). People who are living in this life style just spend their time to enjoy the life as much as possible. They are the hedonist people.

The existence of this life style cannot be denied in the human life. It grows whenever and wherever the social life. It exists to color human's activity in their daily life. Surely, this kind of life style is found everywhere. There are often some phenomena that indicate the snobbish life. Most people today live in it. They spend much of their time only for glamorous world. It means that everything about them can be considered as the life style that is too extravagant, or all of the characters pretend to be modern in their life.

The presentation of this life style can be influenced by the environment that enables the rising of the life style. Some phenomena can be; first, modernism. The people are influenced by the social condition that becomes modern. With this condition, people are much influenced with the modern situation. Without being realized, they are living in this condition. Even, everything is physical consideration. It means that something can be considered as a good thing, if it can give them much pleasure physically.

Second, the changing of time from one era to the other era or a transformation era from ancient to modern era. This play, for instance, is as a reflection of the modern era. The playwright wants to reflect even criticize the social phenomenon when it was written. The changing of time caused psychological shock of the people who lived by. There were so many new things appeared that could not be found when the people lived in the ancient era. With the modern era, they feel a new situation that has more pleasure than the former era. It involves; social, cultural, custom aspects, and others. They are the impacts of the modern era.

William Inge's *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit* is also as one of the social reflections of that time. Inge takes the social situation as the main background of his play. It is represented by the characters of the play. The play shows that the characters just make use of their life time for pleasure. They are as the reflection of the snobbish people. The statement leads to the consideration that the play describes the social phenomena of that time. Most of the characters are living in a snobbish life. This play is as a criticism to the social situation.

People who are living in a snobbish life are mostly young-aged. However, sometimes it may also occur to the middle-aged persons. As it is presented in William Inge's *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*. Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play, is in her early thirties. Eventhough she is considered as a middle-aged woman, she acts as if she were young. This is known from her attitude that she always assembles with the young group and her accessories she uses.

he has much money. The appearance and actions of the characters in

Her lips usually are formed in a grin of guzzling contentment. Her hair is short and kinky, she wears thick-lensed glasses. Those are similar to the young's attributes.

The life style always appears wherever and whenever one is. Sometimes, one does not realize that he involves in that kind of society. One is often affected by the environment which enables one to live in a snobbish life.

The descriptions above explain that the snobbish life is the life style that only tends to reach something for pleasure. People who are living in the snobbish life just enjoy their life as much as possible. They just waste their time for glamorous things. Something will be good for them if it gives much satisfactory.

4.2 The Indications of The Snobbish Life to The Life Style.

There are some clues to understand the fictional characters as stated by Carpenter and Neumeyer. They will help to search for the snobbish life that becomes the theme of the play, involving; appearance, actions, and words (1974: 79). They have tight relation to the indications of the snobbish life. They are the visual and spiritual indications of the life style. In the analysis of this play also employs these three clues. The characters' appearance and actions are considered as the visual indications. Whereas, their words are as the spiritual indications of the snobbish life. They involve what the characters say or their opinions to something

4.2.1 The Visual Indications.

Visual means can be seen. It means that the appearing of some phenomena are symbolized by some attributes in them. With the attributes, we know a thing in front of us is a car because there are wheels, glasses, doors, steer, and others in it. People can consider that someone is rich because there are so many luxurious things he has, such as; his house is luxurious enough, and of course he has much money. The appearance and actions of the characters in the

play can be categorized as the visual indications. The appearance means everything about the way a character looks, clothes, posture, makeup, and hairstyle that those contribute to our understanding of him. Whereas actions are what the characters do (Carpenter and Neumeyer, 1974: 79).

The actions in the play involve what the characters do and what happen to them. They concern with their daily activity in the autograph hunting. The actions of the characters in the play show the visual indications which is as one of the characteristics of the snobbish life in the play that is analyzed. The play shows that the characters just spend their time for pleasure. They just spend their time to enjoy their life the whole day. Man who is living in the snobbish life, everything that he uses tend to the glamorous ones. He never cares for the ways that he takes. The most important thing for him is good looking and glamorous.

Based on the short explanations above, there is description about one of the indications of the snobbish life. People in the play who are living in a snobbish life can be seen from some accessories that they use. They tend to the glamorous things. Furthermore, they just spend their time to enjoy their life as much as possible. What they do concern with the activity for pleasure. They are as the visual indications of the snobbish life.

4.2.2 The Spiritual Indications.

After describing the visual indications of the snobbish life, this part will discuss the spiritual indications of the life style. These indications are different from the visual indications. The visual indications are concrete or they can be seen, whereas the spiritual indications are quite difficult to analyze, because they are abstract. This means that they cannot be observed directly. We know these indications from what the characters say or their opinion to something and the dialogue among them or their interaction.

Carpenter and Neumeyer state that the real and fictional people express their thoughts, hopes, beliefs, fears, and feelings in conversation or dialogue

(1974:79). The reader cannot simply listen to the words, but he must interpret them, deciding how much to believe as truth, how much to discredit. Man can devote or express his idea by using words. The words can be used to reveal or conceal, and some people simply cannot use words confidently and effectively to make their meanings clear (1974: 79). It means that, by using a word man's idea will have a meaning and can be understood.

The word spiritual means devotion to things (*Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, 1974:831). It means that a wish to a particular thing. Sometimes, a man who has this characteristic is desirous to something. It comes from one's mind.

In daily life, there is interaction with the surrounding people. Even, it is considered as a basic need for man's life. No one in this life can struggle in his life without other men or none can live alone. It is as an extraordinary thing for someone who can live without other persons, but it is impossible. Shortly, men in their daily life need one another, and an interaction with other people is a very important thing, and it is considered as a basic necessity for human's life. Moreover, it is as a means of struggle in their life.

The forms of interaction among people result positive and sometime negative impacts. It means that the process of their interaction can be positive and negative to their own life. With the life style that is positive means a process of interaction to find the way of their life in order to gain a better life. They are aimed to live through man's life. While the negative one is that the ways that man does, damages his own life. He does not get any progress.

The process of interaction uses a language. It is as a means of vital communication. In this world, man in his life cannot be separated from a language. Through the language, man can deliver some messages and also by using it, a thing will have a meaning. By using a language, man can solve his problems and devote their desire. We all admit how important the language is.

Without using it, it is impossible to give an illustration on something or it is meaningless.

One of the indications of the snobbish life is the spiritual indications that involve what the characters' opinions to something and the dialogue among them. Dialogue may reveal not only characters but also the particular emotional tensions experienced by the character in a particular situation (William Kenny; 1966:87).

The word spirit has some meanings. They can be concluded that spirit means a tendency to something. The people who are living in a snobbish life can be known from the words that they say and their opinions to something. They are too pompous and their words are overstate. Strangely, sometimes they do not realize what they say. They just talk some cases pompously. The object of their talk is in a big scale.

One who has those characteristics is always everywhere and at any time. He tends to be proud and prefers to boast himself. For instance, someone is in the middle-age but the object of his talk is something that becomes the young's object. It is not in portion. He is the snobbish person.

From the short explanations above, people in the play who are living in a snobbish life, tend to speak something overstate. The object of their talk is too pompous. They are as the spiritual indications of the life style. So, the spiritual indications involve what the characters say or their opinions to something.

4.3. The Snobbish Life as The Theme in William Inge's *TO BOBOLINK, FOR HER SPIRIT*.

Searching for the theme is an interesting activity for some readers and critics of a fiction. Most short stories have a theme, something we might call "the message" or "the moral" of the story (Edward H. Jones; 1963:31). The theme is as an inspiration of a writer. It is hidden. If one wants to know the theme of a certain work, he must read it again and again carefully. It is impossible for him to be able to find the theme of a work if he reads the work

partly, because the theme, according to William Kenney, is a short comment on a subject, and subject means what the work refers to (1966:89). The theme is as the main idea of the writer. It is as his inspiration.

This sub-chapter comes to the analysis of the play. It is focused on the searching for the theme in it. There are some clues to find the theme in this play. They will help us to comprehend the snobbish life of the characters that becomes the theme of the play. They are as the indications of the snobbish life of the characters. They involve the visual and the spiritual indications. The visual indications consist of the appearance and actions of the characters, whereas the spiritual can be the characters' words or their opinions to something.

The former sub-chapter states that the visual indications mean the indications that can be seen. It means that the appearing of a phenomenon is symbolized by some attributes in it. By the indications, we can give a definition what kind of phenomenon is.

Besides the visual indications, the snobbish life is also indicated by the spiritual indications. The spiritual means devotion to or an inclination or tendency of specified kinds and the dialogue of the characters. They are abstract or cannot be seen. They can be known from the words that are stated by one who is living in this life style, and so in William Inge's *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*.

The analysis of the play is started with the visual indications of the snobbish life. They are as the clues to search for the characters' snobbish life in the play. The actions are what the characters do and what happen to them.

The snobbish life is everywhere. It does not recognize time, place, and even the age, as presented by Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play. She is in her early thirties. Everything about her can be categorized as the snobbish life style. All of her attributes tend to the glamorous things. All of them are the young's. Her appearance is similar to the young's.

The activities can be considered as the visual indications of the

The visual indications of the characters are discussed first. They can be the appearance and actions of the characters. The appearance consists of the characters' attributes that involve cloths, posture, make up, and hair style that are used by the characters and their daily activities. The actions of the characters involve what the characters do, the autograph hunting. Then, the discussing comes to the spiritual indications of the snobbish life. They involve the dialogue among the characters and their opinions or considerations to something, that are too pompous.

Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play, is a woman probably in her early thirties. Although she is considered as the middle-aged woman, everything about her can be categorized as the young. Such as some attributes that she uses, a man's coat style sweater, saddle shoes and the style of her hair is short and kinky. So, all of the attributes that she uses are used by the young. She uses them as if she were in the young-age.

Bobolink is the ringleader of the autograph hunters. She is the middle-aged woman. Her body is so fat, in silhouette, would form an almost perfect circle. Her lips usually are formed in a grin of guzzling contentment. Her hair is short and kinky, and she uses thick-lensed glasses that reduces her eyes to the size of buttonholes, and her clothes by necessity are simple; a man's coat style sweater, and saddle shoes.

In her middle-age Bobolink's appearance is similar to the appearance of the young people. Everything about her attributes can be considered as a modern style and most of them are used by the young. There is not conformity between her age and all the accessories that she wears. She pays too much in glamorous things. She is living in the snobbish life. The life is presented by Bobolink Bowen, that is considered as the middle-aged woman, her life is full of pretentious. In her early thirties, she is too ambitious. The play shows that she never cares for this condition. Clearly, she does anything to fulfill her need.

Furthermore, her pretentious life can be seen from her attitude or her daily activities. The activities can be considered as the visual indications of the

snobbish life. She is always with the young in her daily activity in the process of the autograph hunting outside the club in New York, as shown in the following dialogue;

FRITZ: (*impressed; to BOBOLINK*): No foolin'? You got lana Turner's autograph?

BOBOLINK(*proving it with her autograph book*): Think I was lying to you?

FRITZ (*to RENALDO*): Look, Rony, she's got it.

(Inge; 1965:277)

Bobolink is the type of the snobbish woman. It is showed in the dialogue between the two characters above. She argues that she has gotten Lana Turner's autograph. Then, the dialogue below indicates the snobbish life of the characters.

NELLIE: Not very. Anyway, we was waiting for his autograph and

.....

BOBOLINK (*taking over*): Oh, yeah, and we'd been waiting for Ronald Colman all night and we was just about to give up and go home and then what do you thing happened?

(Inge;1965:278)

The quotation above shows that Bobolink is waiting for someone reported in the 21 Club. He is Ronald Colman. She wants his autograph and in the whole night, she is waiting for him.

The interaction among the characters below shows the snobbish life of the characters in the play;

GRETCHEN: No foolin'! You got van Johnson and Peter Lawford?

BOBOLINK (*she produces her autograph book proudly*): And both at the same time!

(Inge; 1965:279)

The dialogue above indicates the snobbish life. Both of the characters spend their time merely for pleasurable activity, it is the autograph hunting. Moreover, Bobolink makes her time get Van Johnson and Peter Lawford's autograph, and she gets them. The activity gives the indication of the snobbish life. It is the visual indication.

Bobolink's life style sometime can be seen in our environment. In the middle-aged like her, the life style that she takes is the young's. In the play shows that every night when the weather permits, a group of autograph hunters assembles outside the 21 Club in New York. Most of them are the young's. Bobolink is always with them. Even, sometime she is the leader of the group. The play shows that she is the type of the snobbish woman. It can be known from her activities in the process of the autograph hunting, she just wastes her time for her activities, and also from all of the accessories that she wears. They are too glamorous.

The other character that has the visual indications of the snobbish life is Annamarie. On her dress, she tries to emulate one of her favorite film stars. She wears some accessories such as sun glasses, a complicated coiffure, exciting shoes with straps, bows, and platform soles (Inge;1965:277). The description shows that she is the snobbish person.

There are some supporting characters that indicate the snobbish life as is presented in the play. They show this life style visually. Most of them are movie stars reported in the 21 Club. Such as; an elaborately dressed couple who is appearing in the doorway coming out of the restaurant. The woman wears a dress of dramatic cut and an exotic hat (Inge; 1965:279). Their manner is ridiculously aloof and they make quite a thing of ignoring the autograph hounds. Everything that she uses tends to the glamorous things. The other supporting characters that show the snobbish life in the play is a couple who are appearing in the entrance way. The young man is dapper and handsome and the girl is pretty. Her dress is expensive enough (Inge;1965:282).

The phenomena show us that their life style can be categorized as a snobbish life. They can be seen from some attributes they use. All of them are so glamorous. They are as the visual indications of the snobbish life.

Besides the attributes of the characters, the visual indications of the snobbish life can also be known from the characters' daily activity. It is the autograph hunting. From the beginning until the end of the play, these

indications can be seen clearly. The characters in the play, make use of their time only for pleasure. This activity can be considered as one of the visual indications.

The actions of the play start outside the 21 Club in New York. The group of the autograph collectors assembles there everyday. It is as the habitual activity for the young, eventhough sometimes the middle-aged women are included. The play shows that Bobolink Bowen and Nellie are the middle-aged women. What the characters do just hunting some signatures of the famous people reported inside.

The play shows that the characters just spend their time for pleasure. Their days are full of pretentious life, for example Bobolink Bowen and Nellie's way of life. Although, they are considered as the middle-aged women but everything they do is similar to what the young does. Even, she once is as the leader of the autograph hunters. It seems that the activity, as presented by Bobolink and Nellie, is not suitable for the middle-aged women, all of their actions are usually done by the young.

The actions of the play take place in three places. They are in the club, in front of the club or outside the club, and in the train. In those places, what the characters do only looking for some signatures or autograph that concern with some famous people, they can be some movie stars.

There are some movie stars in the club. They much spend their time everyday in it. What they do just for pleasure and waste their time. It can be considered that it is as their daily activity. Every night, the club is full with them.

The visual indications of the snobbish life can be known from the characters' acquisition of some autograph of the famous people. It is also as one of the indications of the snobbish life, as presented by Bobolink Bowen below;

GRETCHEN: No foolin'! You got Van Johnson and Peter Lawford?

BOBOLINK (*she produces her autograph book proudly*): And both at the same time!

NELLIE (*producing her own evidence*): I got 'em, too.

(Inge;1965:279).

The quotation above proves that Bobolink is the type of a snobbish woman. She pays attention too much to the glamorous world. What she does only to fulfill her ambition for pleasure, as if she were a young. She joins the group of the autograph hunting and gets Van Johnson and Peter Lawford's autograph.

The other proof that indicates the snobbish life in the play is someone who is coming out of the restaurant.

The woman wears a dress of dramatic cut and exotic hat. Their manner is ridiculously aloof and they make quite a thing ignoring the autograph hounds.

(Inge;1965:279)

The woman is the supporting character of the play. Her style is so strange or not common. The attributes that she uses tend to the ridiculous ones. The snobbish person prefers use the attributes that are too glamorous. Based on the attributes that she uses, she can be considered as the snobbish woman. Her dress, according to them, is expensive enough visually. It indicates the snobbish life in the play. Well, let us comprehend the following dialogue of the characters in the play.

ANNAMARIA: Isn't she stunning? Don't you love that dress?

GRETCHEN: I bet that dress cost two or three hundred dollars.

ANNAMARIE: 'Course it did. Probably cost more than that.

(Inge; 1965,279)

The interaction among the characters above gives a clue that one of the indications of the snobbish life is the visual indications as shown in the dialogue above. Either Annamaria or Gretchen are interested in the dress that is worn by the woman. They discuss and give some opinions to the dress. According to Gretchen that dress costs two or three hundred dollars, but Annamarie argues that it may be more than that.

It cannot be denied that one who is living in the snobbish life pays attention to the glamorous thing. Something will be interesting for him or her

if it looks luxurious visually, as in the dialogue above. It is about one's attributes.

One of the characteristics of the snobbish man is his tendency to a particular thing. Such as presented by the characters' dialogue above. Either Gretchen or Annamarie devote their opinion to the woman's appearance. Both of them are interested in the dress that the woman wears that must be expensive. The dress has dramatic and exotic hat. Visually, the attributes that she is wearing are too glamorous. The phenomenon is one of the indications of the snobbish life. People who live in this life style tend to the glamorous thing. They consider that something is good if it looks good, even luxurious visually.

The visual indications of the snobbish life in the play can also be known from the description below;

The couple who appear in entrance way. The young man is dapper and handsome and the girl is pretty and expensively dressed.

(Inge;1965:282)

The quotation above shows that both of them are the snobs. Their snobbery can be known from the attributes that they use or wear that are expensive enough.

They are a group of the autograph hunters. What they do is hunting the autograph of some famous people reported in the club and it is as their daily activity. The group are waiting for them who are coming out the club. Let us see the following dialogue of the characters in the play;

RENALDO: I heard Lana Turner was in this joint last week. Man, wouldn't that be something?

FRITZ: Just imagine walking down the street one day and ...plop! all of a sudden there's Lana Turner ...just outa the blue. Man, I'd drop my teeth.

NELLIE (*making a claim that BOBOLINK would be too proud to make for herself*): Bobolink here's got Lana Turner's autograph. Haven't you, Bobby?

(Inge; 1965:277)

The dialogue among the characters above takes place outside the 21 Club. While they are waiting for someone for the signature or autograph, they are

discussing a famous person, she is Lana Turner. They do it everyday when the weather permits. It can be considered as their daily activity. It is as one of the examples of the visual indications of the snobbish life. They always make their time get the signature. All the night, the autograph hunters are waiting for one's signature or autograph outside the club. They always assemble outside it. Such as the following dialogue;

NELLIE: Not very. Anyway, we was waiting for his autograph and

....

BOBOLINK (*taking over*): Oh yeah, and we'd been waiting for Ronald Colman all night and we was just about to give up and go home and then what do you think happen?

(she is going to build up suspense by making them guess)

(Inge; 1965:278)

All of the autograph hunters are waiting for a film star. He is Ronald Colman. They do it all the night to get his signature. Unfortunately, none gets him. At last, Bobolink and Nellie give up and go home.

The visual indications of the snobbish life presented by the characters that involve their activities in the case of the autograph hunting in the play can also be known from the following dialogue;

BOBOLINK: Well, we was just about to give up and go home when a taxi draws up at the curb and Van Johnson and Peter Lawford get out, and we got 'em both, right there on the same spot.

GRETCHEN: No foolin'! You got Van Johnson and Peter Lawford?

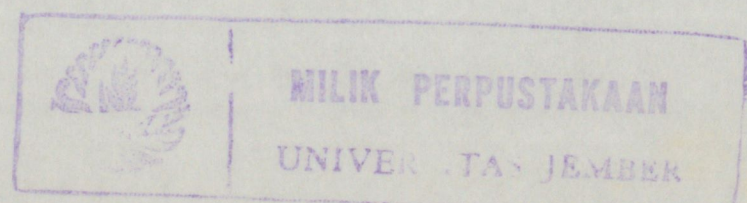
BOBOLINK (*she produces her autograph book proudly*): And both at the same time!

NELLIE (*producing her own evidence*): I got 'em, too.

BOBOLINK: See what Peter Lawford wrote? "All my love to Bobolink." I told him that was my name.

(Inge; 1965:279)

The interaction among the characters above can be considered that they are the type of the snobbish men. Bobolink gets either Van Johnson or Peter Lawford when they get out from the curb. On the other side, Nellie also gets them too. As listed above that what the snobbish person does just concerns with fulfilling his ambition, in this case is his process of the autograph hunting. It is presented by Bobolink and Nellie's dialogue above.



On the other occasion, Bobolink is very ambitious to get Perry Como's autograph. This characteristic can be considered as one of the spiritual indications of the snobbish life. It is shown in the following dialogue;

BOBOLINK: I'm waiting here for Perry Como. I come for Perry Como, and I'm gonna stay 'till I get Perry Como.

NELLIE (*to the others*): Boby always finishes up what she starts out to do.

BOBOLINK: You tell the world I do, and I'm not leaving here without Perry Como's autograph. I been trailing him for two years. I got Bing Crosby; I got Frank Sinatra; I got Van Johnson and Peter Lawford and Jimmy Steward and Tyron Power

(Inge; 1965:280).

Bobolink spends her time and much concerns to get the other famous people's autographs, such as Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Van Johnson, Peter Lawford, Jimmy Steward, and Tyron Power.

The descriptions indicate Bobolink is the type of the snobbish woman. What she does just to fulfill her ambition. It is collecting some autographs. In her middle-aged woman, she is too ambitious to get the famous people's autograph.

The play also shows that she met Tyron Power at the train, as presented in the following dialogue;

BOBOLINK: I met him at the train; don't forget that, Nellie.

NELLIE: As president of Tyron Power Fan Club in Irvington, she met his train at the Pennsylvania Station when he came in from Hollywood.

(Inge;1965:281)

The dialogue between Bobolink and Nellie above takes place outside the club. The object of their talk is about Tyron Power. Bobolink tells Nellie that she ever met him at the train. Bobolink's life style concerns with some famous people wherever she is.

Based on the explanations above, it can be considered that the dominant idea in the play is the snobbish life. It is indicated by the visual indications that the characters have in the play. All of them are the snobs. So, the snobbish life as the theme of the play.

After analyzing the visual indications of the snobbish life that the characters have in the play, now the analysis comes to the spiritual indications of the life style. These indications involve the dialogue among the characters and what they say or their opinions to something. The object of their talk is something that can be considered too pompous.

Most of the actions of the play take place in front of the 21 Club in New York. The group of the autograph hunters assemble there everyday. They are waiting for some famous people reported in the club. They can be some movie stars and singers. While they are waiting for them, they are discussing something related to the people depicted above. It is one of the spiritual indications of the snobbish life. Let us comprehend Bobolink's statement below;

BOBOLINK: Sure, she's not stuck-up. Now Katherine Hepburn's stuck-up, but Lana Turner's not at all. The best ones never are stuck-up.

(Inge;1965:277)

Bobolink Bowen, the middle-aged woman and the main character of the play, gives a consideration to Katherine Hapburn. According to her, she is stuck up on her folks are real wealthy. On the contrary that Lana Turner is not.

The quotation above shows that Bobolink pays attention to the glamorous world. She devotes her opinion to the two film stars. As listed before that one of the characteristics of the snobbish person is his tendency to the particular thing as presented by Bobolink's statement above.

The snobbish person sometimes looks so proud. It can be affected by his ambitions to get something. His vanity can be known from the words that he states as presented in the following dialogue;

FRITZ: Are you sure Perry Como's there?

BOBOLINK (*impatiently*): I told you I see him, didn't I? Well what more do you want? I was up there on the corner waiting for a bus. Nellie here nudges me and says, "Hey, ain't that Perry Como goin' into the 21 Club?". And I look and sure enough. There was a guy goin' in, had on the same kinda suit Perry Como had on last week over at the Paramount. Looked exactly like him.

People who are snobby in the club... (Inge,1965:278)

Fritz asks Bobolink whether Perry Como is in the club or not. Bobolink tries to ensure him that the man is Perry Como. Bobolink looks impatiently. It indicates her vanity. She sticks up herself and looks so proud.

Bobolink is the type of a proud woman. Her vanity can also be known from the following dialogue;

GRETCHEN: No foolin'! You got Van Johnson and Peter Lawford?

BOBOLINK (*she produces her autograph book proudly*): And both at the same time!

NELLIE (*producing her own evidence*): I got 'em, too.

BOBOLINK: See what Peter Lawford wrote? "*All my love to Bobolink.*" I told him that was my name.

NELLIE: And he said the same thing on mine, but my name's Nellie. They're both just as cute in real life as they are in pictures, aren't they, Bobby?

BOBOLINK: Not a bit stuck-up.

(Inge,1965:279)

The quotation above shows that Bobolink is the type of the proud woman. Her statements show that she is rightfully proud. It is showed by her words "*All my love to Bobolink.*" According to her Petter Lawford wrote it. Nellie also states the same thing as Bobolink, that Petter wrote "*all his love to Nellie*". Either Bobolink or Nellie indicate the snobbish persons. It is indicated by their statements that are too pompous and proud.

The snobbish man feels that there is a special value when he gets something that is categorized as the interesting one. Bobolink and Nellie give their opinions to the two men. According to them either Peter Lawford or Van Johnson are not a bit stuck up. Their interaction shows that what the characters discuss just concerns with the autograph they get. The object of their talk relates to some film stars. It can be considered as the snobbish activity. It is indicated by the spiritual indications of the life style that the characters have in the play. What the characters talk only something that is categorized the glamorous thing, it concerns with their meeting with the two film stars.

People who are living in the snobbish life prefer talking about something that is categorized well-known. They have many opinions about it. The object of their talk just concerns with pleasure as shown in the following dialogue of the characters in the play.

FRITZ (*mudging* RENALDO): Hey, who's that?

(*they all look*)

GRETCHEN: Looks like Rosalind Russel, don't it?

BOBOLINK: Naw, that ain't Rosalind Russel. I seen Rosalind Russel. She's real tall.

(Inge;1965:279)

The dialogue above takes place when an elaborately dressed couple appears in the doorway coming out of the restaurant. The characters give their opinions to the woman. They discuss them. Gretchen guesses that the girl looks like Rosalind Russel, whereas Bobolink denies that she is not Rosalind Russel. Rosalind Russel, according to Bobolink, is the tall. They give their opinions one by one. The interactions among the characters indicate the snobbish life. The object of their talk concerns with the glamorous thing.

The snobbish person sometimes looks so proud. It can be caused by his ambitions of something. One of the indications of his vanity can be known from the words that he says as presented in the following dialogue:

ALL: Who is she? Hey, let's see. It's not Rosalind Russel, is it? If I missed Rosalind Russel, I could kill myself. Let's see.

FRITZ: I'm trying to make it out. (*he attempts a pronunciation of the name*) Irina Nechibidikoff.

(Inge;1965:280)

The dialogue of the characters above shows their vanity. To strengthen their opinion, they sometime bet on something. Such as proved by their statement "*If I missed Rosalind Russell, I could kill myself*". It is done to make other person believes his argument. The characters' statement can be considered as the spiritual indications of the snobbish life.

The snobbish persons also never care for what they say. They will have some arguments for the object of their talk. Surely, it concerns with something

that is considered as the glamorous world. Let us comprehend the following dialogue of the characters in the play.

FRITZ: I am trying to make it out. (*he attempts a pronunciation of the name*) Irina Neckhidikoff.

BOBOLINK (*emphatically*): Russian!

FRITZ: Hey, may be someone famous.

(Inge;1965:280)

The characters above discuss Fritz's acquisition of the autograph. It is Irina Nechibidikoff. She (*according to BOBOLINK*) is a Russian. Both of the characters devote their opinion to the woman. Fritz argues that she may be someone famous. The interaction between the characters above shows one of the spiritual indications of the snobbish life.

People who are living in the snobbish life tend to talk about something that is considered as the well-known thing. He sometime stucks up himself. His vanity can be caused by his ambition to get something, and so in William Inge's *To Bobolink, for Her Spirit*. It is much reflected. Let us comprehend one of the characters' statement below.

BOBOLINK: You tell the world I do. And I'm not leaving here without Perry Como's autograph. I been trailin' him for two years. I got Bing Crosby; I got Frank Sinatra; I got Van Johnson and Peter Lawford and Jimmy Steward and Tyron Power...

(Inge;1965:280)

Bobolink's statements indicate her vanity. From the quotation above, we can consider that she is the type of the proud woman. It can be known from what she says. She tells the other that she gets Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Van Johnson, Peter Lawford, Jimmy Stewart, and Tyron Power. She tells about them proudly. Her ambition can be known from her statements that she is not leaving there without Perry Como's autograph. She is too ambitious showing the snobbish life.

The phenomenon as presented by Bobolink above can be seen in our environment. Someone, for instance, wants to get something, but unfortunately he does not have the capability to get it, consequently what he

does only talking as pompous as possible as his compensation to escape from the reality.

As listed in the former argument, the vanity is also as one of the characteristics of the snobbish man as presented by the characters in the play. It is as one of the spiritual indications of the snobbish life. Man who is living in this life style likes sticking up himself. Even, he sometime underestimates another person. The argument can be proved from the following dialogue of the characters:

GRETCHEN: And you got his autograph?

BOBOLINK: "Course I got his autograph, silly. Nellie did, too. And he gave me lots of his autographs to other club members, but he made me promise not to give them to anyone else. *(she displays her proudest acquisition)* Just club members. Then he told me to call him Tyron, and he said he was very indebted to me, see what he wrote?

FRITZ *(reading the inscription aloud)*: "To Bobolink, for her faithful enthusiasm and spirit". Gee!

(Inge;1965:282)

He, the snobbish person, sometime boasts himself and underestimates the others. It can be known from Bobolink's word 'silly'. She states it to Gretchen when she asks her whether she gets Tyron Power's autograph or not. The quotation above also shows that Bobolink exaggerates herself. She tells the others that Tyron Power is very indebted to her. Bobolink's description above can be effected by her ambition.

The snobbish person sometime has some considerations about the well-known things. He has many opinions and devote about them pompously. The snobbish man may urge someone to give what he wants. He will do whatever he wants just to fulfill his ambition. This argument can be known from the following dialogue of the characters in the play;

ANNAMARIE *(to the girl)*: Are you in pictures?

(the girl smiles tolerantly and shakes her head no)

GRETCHEN: Go on and sign anyway, will you please?

ANNAMARIE: I bet you're both in pictures and just don't wanta admit it. C'mon and give us your autograph.

(Inge;1965:283)

Annamarie asks the girl whether she is in pictures or not. The girl smiles and shakes her head. But, either Annamarie or Gretchen urge them to give her autograph, although the girl has said that both of them are not in pictures. The snobbish life can be known from the characters' compulsion to the couple. They urge her to admit that she is in picture. They do it just to fulfill their ambition.

What the object of their talk only concerns with pleasure, in this analysis is the autograph hunting. This argument can be known from the following dialogue;

FRITZ (*reading his new acquisition*): Frederick Bischoff and Mary Milton. Who are they?

ANNAMARIE: Yah, who are they?

GRETCHEN: I bet she models. I think I seen her picture once in an ad for hair remover. Yah, that was her. I know it was. It was a picture showed her with one arm stretches over her head so you could see she didn't have no hair under the arm and smiling real pretty.

ANNAMERIE: He's probably just a model, too. He was kinda cute, though.

(Inge;1965:284)

Fritz gets new autographs. They are Frederick Bischoff and Mary Milton. The characters discuss Fritz's acquisition. Gretchen argues that the girl is a model, and Annamarie has a consideration that the man is too. They discuss about the couple with their opinions.

It cannot be denied that one of the characteristics of the snobbish people is their object of talk only concerns with something for pleasure. This reality is considered as the snobbish life indicated by the words that the characters say that mostly so pompous.

Some proofs above as the indications of the snobbish life in the play. From the beginning until the end of the play, the characters' devotion is only in the particular things and it dominates the idea of the play. So, the snobbish life as the theme of the play.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Bobolink Bowen, the main character of the play, gives much influence to the other characters. The influence is in the way of her life, the snobbish life. Eventhough, she is considered as a middle-aged woman, she pays attention too much to the young world. It is the autograph hunting. Even once she is the leader of the group.

This play presents the society when the work was written as its background. It gives much influence to the content of the play. It is also as the playwright's criticism to the social situation at that time reflected it through his work as a medium.

There are two indications of the snobbish life in the play. They involve; the visual indications that consist of the appearance of the characters and the characters' activity, it is the autograph hunting. The second indication is the spiritual indications. It is what the characters say or the characters' opinions to something.

The visual indications of the snobbish life in the play can be known from some accessories that are used by the characters, such as exotic sun glasses, a complicated coiffure and exciting shoes. Then, the visual indications can also be observed from the characters' daily activity. It just concerns with the autograph hunting. They always assemble outside the 21 Club waiting to get the signature of the movie stars reported to be inside. Either the attributes or the activity of the characters can be considered as the visual indications of the life style.

The snobbish life of the characters in the play is also indicated by the spiritual indications. They give considerations to something pompously. Their object of talk only tend to something that is glamorous. So, all of the characters are the snobs.

Based on some arguments above, the whole play is dominated by the description of the snobbish life of the characters, mainly Bobolink Bowen. It is the main idea of the play. So, it is the theme of the play.**



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