




THE SOCIAL CONDITION AS THE CAUSE OF IVANOV'S IMMORAL
ATTITUDES LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC LIFE
IN ANTON CHEKOV'S *IVANOV*



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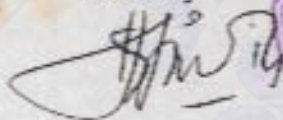
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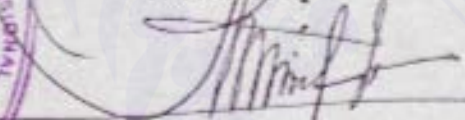
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I would like to dedicate this thesis to:

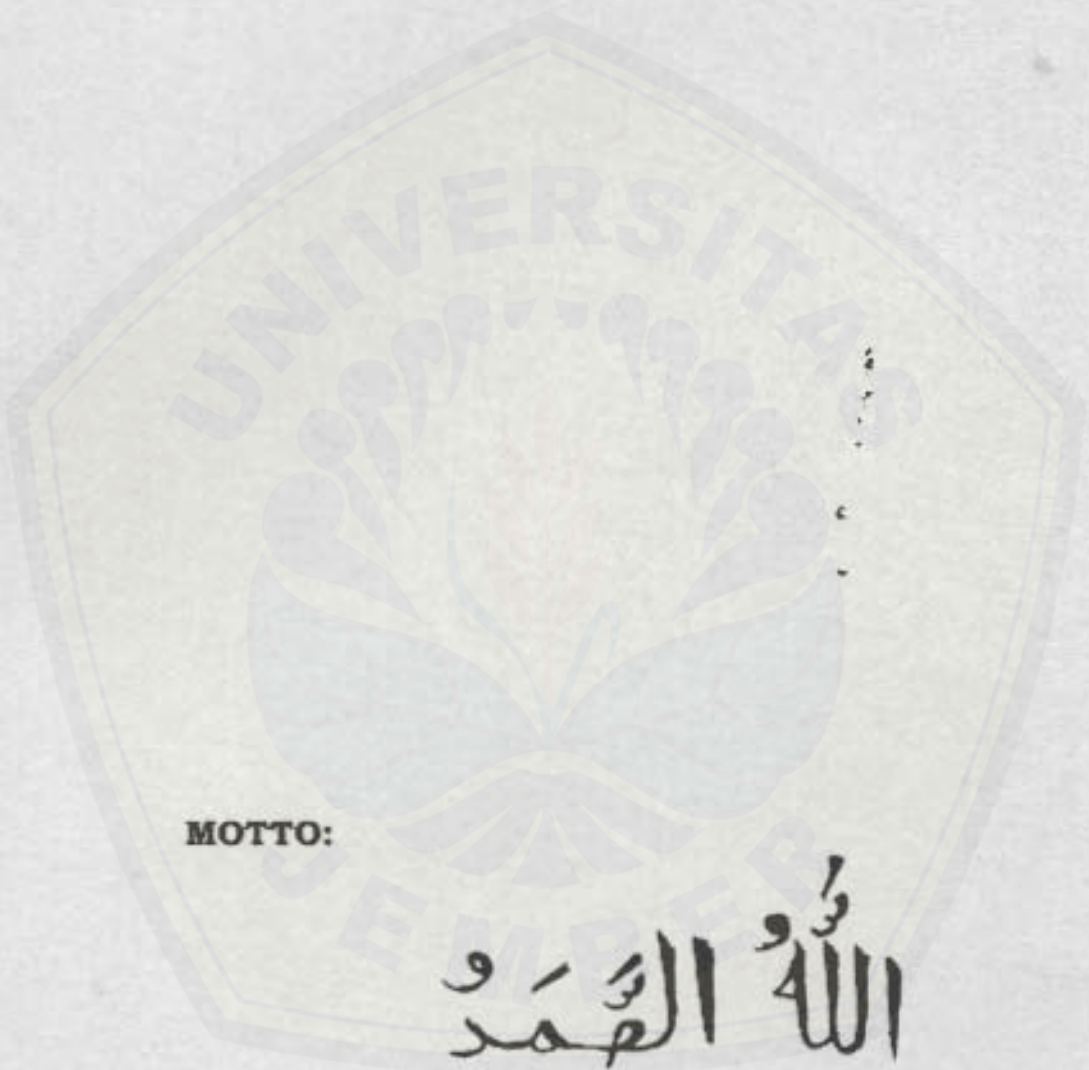
♥ My beloved parents: Maidjan and Yusrini; You have coloured my life with all Your great love, affection, dedication, and patience, I utter my deep thanks to You,

♥ My beloved brothers: Adi Subekti and Sigit Yudhoyoko; You have led me to know how valuable and how harsh this life to have. The true of love and The self confidence I have owned from You. Thanks !!

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♥ My Almamater



MOTTO:

اللَّهُ وَالصَّمَدُ

"Allah is the place of dependence"

(Al - Ikhlah : 2)

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In the name of Allah SWT, The Greatest and The Most Merciful, I wish to extol Him for His great blessing so that I am finally able to finish my thesis and my study. All Praises belong to Allah. Peace be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW, his relatives, good friends and his followers whom we hope to join them in the hereafter.

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①. Alien /'eɪliən/ adj 1. foreign 2. not familiar : strange/strange
Faith /feɪθ/ 2. [U, sing] : strong religious belief

Alien is adjective explain the noun with and
becomes one phrase in which this explains
the noun "wife."



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

Discussing drama means discussing one of literary works that deals with characters, plot, setting, conflicts, theme and actions. It seems less complete then, discussing drama without recognizing, first of all, the meaning of the word "literature" itself. It is important to present the definition of literature as the starting point of this introduction. William Hudson in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states:

"Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of life which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language" (1965:10).

The short statement above leads to the understanding that anyone can express his experience through literature as a medium. This experience deals with feeling and thought. It is human creation that has intimate relation with life personally and socially. It represents the natural word, individual subjective life, and social reality. Moreover, the literary work has function as a representation of social life, it means whoever reads literary work, he will be able to imagine and understand some facts and phenomena occurred in society when the work was written. Therefore, literary works grow directly out of life. On the other side, Eduard H. Jones in *Outlines of Literature* states that literature is simply another way we experience the world around us through our imagination (1968: 1). This statement means we may express our experiences through literature, so literary work can be our experience.

There are three kinds of literary works those are drama, prose, and poetry. Eventhough, they are created differently in forms but the most important part of creative process of literary works are the messages that the writers want to utter to the readers. The messages can be social criticism, moral messages, or others. As

the main source of this thesis, Christopher Russel Reaske in *How to Analyze Drama* gives the definition of drama as follows:

“Drama is a work of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various action of – and dialogues between – a group of characters. Drama is furthermore designed for theatrical presentation; although we speak a drama as a literary work or a composition, we must never forget that drama is designed to be acted on the stage (1965: 5).

Reaske's statement above is clear to understand that drama expresses life and human activity which presents the actions and dialogues among the characters directly. It is created by the author in order to perform on the stage as theatrical presentation.

Through the characters the readers cannot only imagine human physical appearance but human inner life and complexities of motive and passion as well. From the characters' dialogues and actions, the readers can interpret their moral and dispositional qualities. Moreover, characters and event are arranged to occupy their proper class. There are relationships between characters and the events as William Kenney in his *How to Analyze Fiction* says, “Surely, our sense of the meaning of experience is closely tied to our understanding of what cause what, and it is the business of plot to clarify the casual relationship” (1966: 23).

Drama as another kind of literary work not only conveys the readers an imitation of life but helps them to understand about the human life itself as well because the main purpose of fiction is to empower people to imagine and comprehend human experience. Besides we can take a lot of valuable teachings from drama since it deals with human life's problems and his solution, it is also something nice to enjoy either to read or to see in theatrical performance. We can enjoy literary work as something impressive in our mind and feeling which we may gain them in our life as Jones in his *Outlines of Literature* who states:

“Each person has desires to live life as fully as possible to do and see many things or hear about and read of many thing. Such as life is filled with conflicts, with problems, with struggle, with dilemmas. Such a life becomes an exciting life, for life itself is a problem solving business (1968: 30)

From Jones' statement above, it is explained that everyone needs to know a lot of previous experiences by hearing about or reading any references. Perhaps by reading drama, the readers will recognize some solutions of human life's daily problems. Furthermore, they may obtain a certain impression of what they have read in the utterances of drama. Drama is easier to understand than novel and poem because the characters express what they have in mind directly through their dialogues. In this thesis, Anton Chekhov's drama is chosen for its source due to his works have special characteristics and pertain the struggle of human life in overcoming their problems and reaching their goals of life.

Anton Chekhov is one of the Russian greatest dramatists and writers. His works have exerted an immense influence on European and American literature. His realistic plays introduce the new technique of theatrical presentation, that is indirect action, which enriching the world repertoire. Chekhov shows a profound understanding of human nature that transcends compassion. His observation of the follies of man gave basic idea that is expressed on his works. One of his works' characteristics is the marvelous blend of the comic and the tragic (1998:360).

One of Anton Chekhov's dramas is *Ivanov* (1887). This drama is his first successful play and contains four-acts. This play is so interesting to discuss because it talks about the struggle of human beings in solving their problems. In this play, Chekhov presents Ivanov, a man suffering from clinical depression in which there is little or no social support. Moreover, he is in significant financial problems. Running an estate, coping with the peasants, farming scientifically, falling into debt, and having an alien faith wife are too much for Ivanov to keep. Moreover, his dying wife can be more serious problem for him since there is Dr. Lvov, his wife's physician, who always condemns him. He is not like many modern care physicians who minimize the symptoms of depression, instead he makes self-righteous pronouncements toward Ivanov. This thesis discusses about the social condition as the cause of Ivanov's immoral attitudes which lead him to tragic life. Ivanov's efforts in solving his problems face some obstacles because he must confront with himself, his conscience, his guilt, his social norms and his surroundings.

indirect action : a play, that is, in which the dramatic action takes place off stage, and the action of the is concentrated on the reaction of the character to the dramatic events in their lives (Cenay, 2011)

1.2 The Problems to Discuss

Drama is one of literary works which has some elements such as characters, plot, setting, conflict, theme, and actions. All of these elements are the components that build the structure of the fictional work. This thesis discusses about one of the main characters of the play, Ivanov, who experiences internal and external conflicts because of his social condition. This causes his attitudes to become immoral. His immoral attitudes generate some impacts toward himself and his surroundings. Nicholas Ivanov has a Jewish wife, Sarah, who is disinherited by her family for marrying a gentile. She is dying of tuberculosis and Ivanov should have taken the sick woman to a warmer climate, but instead he is busy seducing the daughter of a rich neighbour. His main intention to marry Sasha, the Lebedevs' daughter, after the death of his wife is to loose his debt especially to Zinaida Lebedev. On the other hand, Dr. Lvov as Sarah's physician accuses him of killing his wife since she has discovered Sasha and Ivanov embracing. In the last act, Ivanov feels guilty by having a plan to marry Sasha, then, he wants to break off the marriage plan. However, he cannot do it because the wedding ceremony is prepared well. His decision causes public debate and conflicts. In the end of the play, he runs offstage and shoots himself to death.

Everybody may experience the problem in life and it depends on his ability to solve all of the problems. If someone can solve his problem well, he will be satisfied, or he will be disappointed if he cannot. In this thesis, there are some problems that can be seen inside the play, such as: the great influence of the surroundings upon one's attitude, the marriage of different race will find obstacles especially from the surrounding where they live, the loneliness of life and soul will lead someone to the self-destruction, and the depression of the character. This thesis takes one problem to discuss that is the influence of the surroundings upon Ivanov's attitude in which causing some difficulties in deciding the right way of attitudes and actions.

1.3 The Scope of The Study

Ivanov can be analyzed from different standpoints. This thesis tries to explain how the influence of social condition as the cause of Ivanov's immoral attitudes leading to his tragic life. To clarify the discussion of this thesis, the analysis concerns with the following problems: how the influence of the social condition upon one's attitude, social norms relating with people should have certain attitude, the view of the norms in the world producing moral standard those are applied to analyze *Ivanov*.

1.4 The Hypothesis

In this play, Ivanov experiences clinical depression that causes his attitudes become immoral. He finds some obstacles in overcoming his problems. His surroundings let him go to deep sufferings. He cannot do the right way of attitudes and actions. This condition gives some impacts towards himself and his surroundings which lead to his tragic life. So, the hypothesis appears when it is necessary to prove whether or not Ivanov's immoral attitudes are caused by his social condition

1.5 The Approaches to Use

Psychological Approach is used as the basis of the data cultivation because the study in this thesis is close to psychological matters. According to Wilbur S. Scott, Psychological Approach is an approach to art that generates three kinds of illuminations: (1) provides more precise language with which to discuss the creative process, (2) goes back to the study of the lives of the author as a means of understanding their art, (3) can be used to explain fictitious character (1962: 71-72). The third illumination is used in the discussion of this thesis to describe Ivanov's immoral attitudes. The Psychological Approach studies the mental situation of the characters and emphasizes the analysis on the state of mind of the character.

The study of Sociology is applied in the discussion since there are some interactions of the characters in the play that influence Ivanov's attitudes. His

immoral attitudes occur when there are some conflicts between Ivanov against himself, his conscience, his guilt, his social norms and his surroundings. The study of Sociology analyzing the interaction of people and the environment is applied in this thesis. An interaction is the key of social life because without it there will not be the collective life. If two men meet, an interaction starts when they begin to address, shake hands, talks to each other or even fight (Soekanto, 1982: 54-55). The statement denotes that in society, people always interact with one another and their environment. This interaction can be shown through the dialogues and actions in the real life or even in literary works. Therefore, these Psychological and Sociological Approaches above are important to analyze the social condition as the cause of Ivanov's immoral attitudes which lead to his tragic life.

1.6 The Method of Analysis

The inductive method is used in writing this thesis because the conclusion is taken from specific statement into general cases (Hadi, 1987: 40). This method is used to observe, collect and analyze some particular data from the source, then, draws a conclusion from the analysis. Starting with the Theory of Psychology related to immoral attitude and the Theory of Sociology related to the influence of the surroundings upon ones' attitude occurred in the story. This thesis also uses library research to find out the data and information taken from several books and references in relation to the discussion of the thesis.

1.7 The Goals of The Study

The study has several goals. First of all is to explore the influence of the social condition upon Ivanov's attitudes and the impacts of his immoral attitudes toward himself and his surroundings which lead to his tragic life. Secondly, it is to know about Anton Chekov's works especially *Ivanov*. Thirdly, it is to apply the knowledge of literary works especially drama.

1.8 The Organization of The Thesis

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The introduction is presented in the first chapter. Chapter II informs the biography of the author and the synopsis of the play. Chapter III informs about the meaning of the terms used in this thesis. Chapter IV discusses the social condition as the cause of Ivanov's immoral attitudes leading to his tragic life. Chapter V takes the conclusion of the discussion of this thesis.





CHAPTER II

THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

2.1 THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Anton Chekhov was considered as one of Russian greatest dramatists and short story writers. He was born as Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, on January 29, 1860 in Taganrog Russia, on the Sea of Azov. His paternal grandfather was a serf who had bought his freedom from his master, a rich landowner in 1841. His father, Pavel Yegorovich, worked in their family small grocery shop and Chekhov was one of his six children who spent a wretched boyhood. Chekhov with his two elder brothers got their education at Greek preparatory school and then at the Taganrog secondary school. Chekhov worked long hours after school in their grocery shop and sang in the church choir. He did all activities under the direction of a fanatic and religious father who always supported his sons (1973: 371).

His father's interest in local politics and the church choir has led his business get bankruptcy because he did not keep his own shop well. This condition forced his father and the rest of the family escape from the creditors to Moscow. Chekhov was left to fend for himself during his last three years at school. These harsh experiences developed Chekhov's independence and responsibility. Therefore these also enabled him to become the sole provider of his family in Moscow. This occurred when he came to live with his family in August 1897 to enter the Medical Faculty of the Moscow University. He studied medicine on a scholarship from the Taganrog municipality. As he was a medical student, he took over the responsibilities of the head of the family since his father at that time got inferior post as a salesman at a Moscow store. His father had got to spend his night in the store and seldom went home. However, Chekhov could survive in supporting himself and his family by writing brief tales, anecdotes, jokes and articles. He sent those writing to the St. Petersburg and Moscow popular magazines under the pseudonym *Antosha Chekhonte*. He worked hard during four

years of his studentship that was marked by a large increase of his literary production amounted 120 short stories (1998: 360).

Chekov received his M.D. degree in 1884, then, as a doctor, he worked in a hospital at Voskresensk, a small town near Moscow. While he practiced his medical work, he continued his talent in writing stories. The years 1883 to 1885 were very productive for Chekhov, who was in desperate need in money; but some of his stories was published: *The death of A Government Official* (1883), *Fat and Thin* (1883), *The Daughter of Albion* (1883), *A Chameleon* (1884), *Oyster* (1884), *A Dreadful Night* (1884), *The Huntsman* (1885), *The Malefactors* (1885), *The Misfortune* (1885), and *Sergeant Prishibeyev* (1885).

By the end of 1885, Chekhov had published over 300 short stories and some of his stories in the best-known humor magazines, *Fragments*, had begun to attract favourable attention. The well-known novelist, Dmitri Grigorovich, gave encouragement to Chekhov. He wrote about Chekhov in 1886 that his talent placed him in the front rank among the writers of the new generation. Through Grigorovich, in the same year, Chekhov met Aleksei Suvorin, the owner of the national newspaper *New Times*. Suvorin invited him to contribute longer tales for higher rates. Chekhov's reputation grew further with a published collection, *Motley Stories* (1886). His artistic career began by his very next volume of stories, *In the twilight* (1887), in which he was awarded the Pushkin Prize from the Division of Russian language and Letter of the Academy of Science. With the publication of his long story *The Steppe* in quality magazine, Chekhov was established as a new force in Russian Literature (1993: 27).

Chekhov's fame as a playwright began with the production of his full-length play *Ivanov* performed on 19 November 1887 at the Korsh Theater in Moscow and even with greater success on 31 January 1889 performed in St. Petersburg. This play was begun on Korsh's suggestion that expected Chekhov to write on uproarious comedy. Chekhov wrote *Ivanov* in ten days which was hoping to make a thousand roubles (about £ 100) out of it. Elisaveta Fen in *Plays by Anton Chekhov* says that at the time *Ivanov* was written, Chekhov had very definite notion of what dramatic art ought to be (1954: 10). This shows that even

Chekhov in desperate need in money, he still held the basic principle of his writing style.

Then Chekhov continued to write for the theatre several light one-act comedies: *The Swan Song* (1888), *The Bear* (1888), *The Proposal* (1889), *The Wedding* (1890), and *The Night before The Trial* (1891). His statues as a dramatist rested on his four late plays: *The Seagull* (1896), *Uncle Vanya* (1889), *Three Sisters* (1897), and *The Cherry Orchard* (1903) which are concentrated on the reaction of the characters to the dramatic event of their lives (1993: 27).

In 1892, Chekhov made his first journey abroad, visiting Venice, Florence, Rome, Paris, and Nice. On his return, he bought a small farm near the village of Melikhovo in the Serpukhov, a district of Moscow Province. There he spent the next six years with his family. He also engaged in various philanthropic activities such as treating without charge hundreds of peasant who sought medical aid, combating the famine and cholera epidemic, and building local school. Chekhov was contracted pulmonary tuberculosis in the winter of 1883. After suffering a violent hemorrhage in March 1897, he spent the winter in Nice. In 1889, his health forced him to sell his estate and settled in the Crimea seaside, a resort of Yalta.

In 1901, Chekhov met Olga Knipper, one of the actresses of the Moscow Art Theatre that produced some of his plays. His old cheerfulness returned and with it, a hope for improvement in health. He proposed Olga Knipper and it was accepted. They married in May 1901. They passed their honeymoon at health Spa. The Chekhov's married life was happy and a unique despite the strain of frequent separations and disappointment of not having children. Olga Knipper spent her time working in Moscow, while Chekhov, for reasons of health, spent his staying alive in Yalta. She became pregnant in the second year of marriage, but miscarried and was very ill for some months. Chekhov's concern for her health and many sleepless nights at her bedside made serious inroads on his own failing health. However, he still continued the writing of plays a more protacted business, and tried to finish his last play, *The Cherry Orchard*. Despite the mild climate and for those days as the expert medical care, the progress of his illness could not be

arrested, and in 1903, when he was working on *The Cherry Orchard*, Chekhov was a very sick man. The first performance of *The Cherry Orchard* was planned for 17 January 1904 on Chekhov's birthday and the twenty-fifth anniversary of his literary career. Then, his health deteriorated gravely during his three years in Yalta. On June 15, 1904, he left with his wife for the German health resort of Badenweiler, where he died on July 14, 1904. He was buried in the cemetery of the Novodechy Monastery in Moscow (1998: 361).

2.2 THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

Nicholas Ivanov is a young estate-owner. He is at thirties-old age. Ivanov used to be energetic, creative and unconventional as the star of the local gentry. He has a Jewish wife, Sarah, who has been disinherited by her rich parents for marrying a gentile. She is dying of tuberculosis and under treatment of her physician, Dr. Lvov. Running an estate, coping with the peasant, farming scientifically and having an alien faith wife are too much for Ivanov to keep. Like other landowners, Ivanov is always in debt especially to Zinaida Lebedev, the wife of the Head of the County Council. These conditions make Ivanov feel depressed.

His bailiff, Michael Borkin, has been robbing him for years by exploiting his weaknesses. One day, Borkin invites him to gain some benefits by swindling. He suggests, for example, that Ivanov should buy the opposite bank of the river, beyond the boundary of his state. This will give him the right to dam and build a mill that will bankrupt the factories below the dam. If Ivanov buys this dam, he will get the additional salary of the dam from the tax of using the water from the factories. Among the dialogues about the dam, Dr. Lvov asks Ivanov to take his dying wife to milder and warmer climate, Guinea. Ivanov replies that he will think it over. As a matter of fact, Ivanov cannot decide to the most important step of helping his dying wife of tuberculosis. Moreover, Borkin reminds Ivanov to attend Sasha's birthday in that evening. By knowing Borkin's invitation, Sarah wants to follow her husband attending Sasha's birthday party. But, Ivanov refuses it and says that the night weather is too bad for her health. He explains further that

he needs to go out every evening especially socializing to the Lebedev's house in order to talk about his debt. Sarah objects his reason because it occurs almost one year. Then, she suggests that Ivanov should stay at home as usual, but Ivanov tells that he needs to go every evening just for losing his burden. He does not want to show his depressed feelings in front of her. Because of his depressed feelings, he begins not to love her. She suggests if Ivanov has problems, she will accompany him to solve the problems together. He cannot share his burden and still looks depressed. Even he forces to attend Sasha's birthday party. He goes out with his uncle on his mother side, Shabelsky. Ivanov left Sarah with his physician, Dr Lvov.

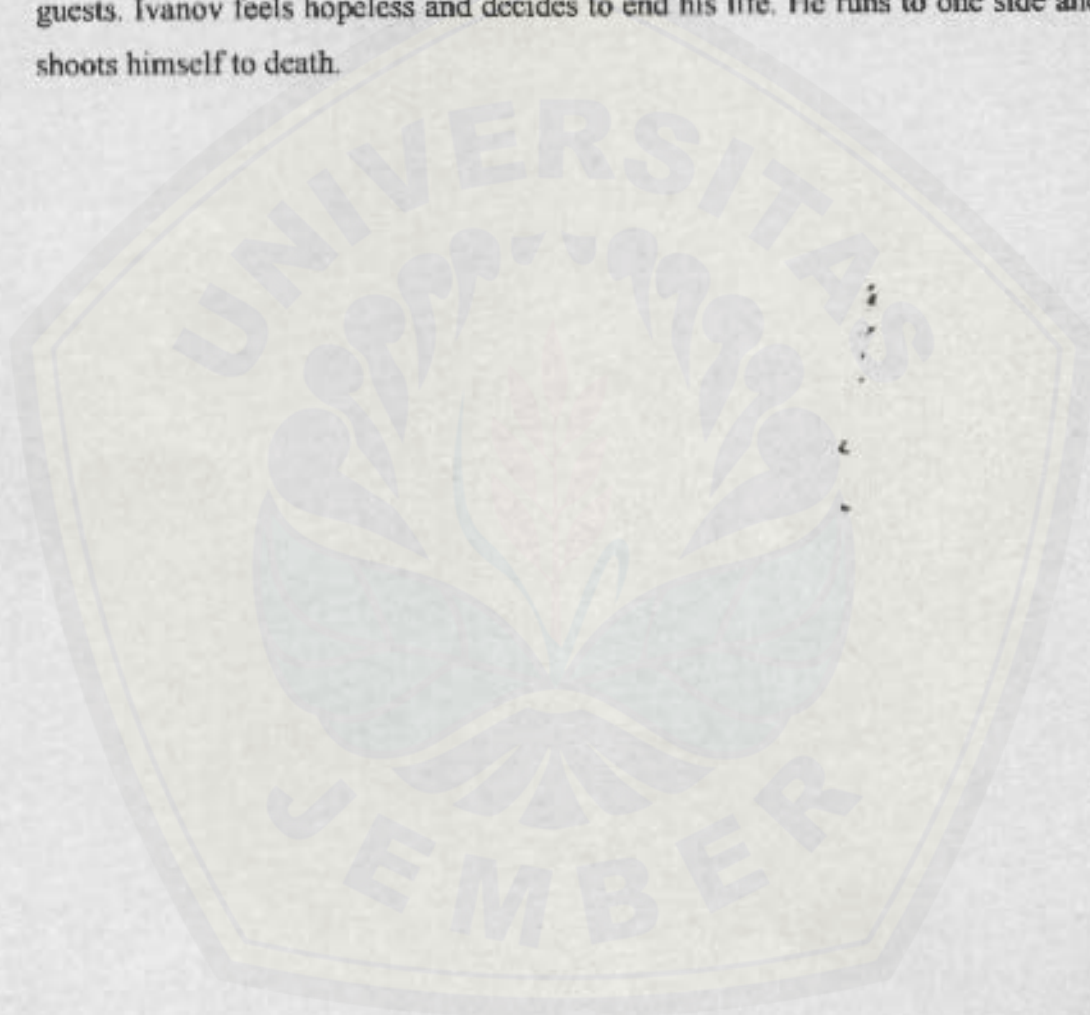
Before Ivanov's coming in the Lebedev's house, there are dialogues among the guests including talking about his bad habits, his family and his farming. Sasha disagrees with the guests' opinion about Ivanov. Sasha tells that Ivanov is not like that. Mr. Lebedev talks about the figure of Sasha's ideal husband that is Ivanov, but he feels sorry because Ivanov has married with a Jewess. In contrast, Mrs. Lebedev says that Ivanov has a certain intention by marrying a Jewess that is a great dowry of Jewess family, but, Sasha denies that her mother's opinion about Ivanov is not true. Mrs. lebedev still jabbars away of Ivanov's debt. Then, Ivanov arrives in Sasha's birthday party and welcome by Mr. Lebedev and all guests. But he keeps quiet for a moment. When all the guests go out to the garden for having fireworks, Sasha and Ivanov still stay at home. Sasha asks Ivanov why he looks so depressed. Ivanov tells about his real problems to Sasha. He regards her as an old friend but instead, Sasha feels having a duty of rescuing Ivanov from his depression and putting him on his own feet and making him happy. She offers him the love. Later, Mrs. Zinaida fetches them and Ivanov asks her for a favour. He needs her help to postpone the payment of his loan. He will add the amount of the interests into the loan if she would. Otherwise, she refuses it angrily and goes back to the garden. Then, Ivanov continues his dialogues with Sasha. Without being known by anyone, Sarah and Dr. Lvov follow her husband to Lebedev's house. She tries to find where her husband is. Unluckily, she discovers Ivanov kissing the Lebedevs' daughter, Sasha, who is

hopeless in love with Ivanov, who doesn't reciprocate Sasha's affection. Ivanov is surprised when he knows his wife being around. This unpredicted surprise makes Sarah's illness become worse.

Some men arrive in Ivanov's house because it is a long time that they do not meet Ivanov anywhere. One of them is Mr. Lebedev who comes to Ivanov's study besides he wants to see him, he also needs to recover Ivanov's debts. Ivanov says that he cannot pay at once and promises he will pay all debts by selling the crops by this autumn. On the other side, Lebedev persuades Ivanov to marry his daughter, but Ivanov doesn't give positiveness about that offering. Seeing there is no good respon from Ivanov, he settles to wait Ivanov's promises and leaves Ivanov alone. Then, Lvov comes and accuses Ivanov of killing his wife by his attitudes, with his blatant, adulterous behaviour. Suddenly, Sasha arrives in Ivanov's house and her coming makes Dr. Lvov go out. It has been two weeks since Sarah found Sasha and Ivanov embracing. Since he has not responded to her letter, Sasha decides to seek him out. In the course of the scene, she tries to relieve his guilt of his dying wife as well as convince him of the possibilities of happier future. He calls himself a failure and wonders why she loves him. Sasha ensures him that any girls prefer to love a man who is a failure than one who is successful because, then, the love is active. Sasha persuades Ivanov by saying she is in love with him. Ivanov changes his idea of an advance young girl whom he plans to marry. She tells him that she will be patient to wait Ivanov till the death of his wife. Borkin comes in and feels sorry for not knowing Sasha's presence. Sasha warns Ivanov to be careful of Dr. Lvov and she goes out in a hurry. Unfortunately, Sarah has observed Sasha's coming and blames Ivanov for not being honest. She says that Ivanov has deceived her for five years for being his wife. For weeks later, her illness sentences to her death.

A year later, Ivanov and Sasha are set to be married. In the morning of the wedding day, Ivanov comes to the bride and says that he must break off the marriage plan. Ivanov explains to Sasha that he feels guilty by having a plan to marry her. However, Sasha thinks his decision to break off the wedding is such as madness because the wedding ceremony is prepared well. Mr. Lebedev asks

Ivanov not to break off the marriage plan. He offers Ivanov thousand roubles if he wants them but as the condition, Ivanov must continue his marriage plan. Ivanov in his consciousness still keeps his decision, he tries to convince them that the marriage is not a good way to overcome all problems as well as to reach a happier future. All family hopes and supports his marriage with Sasha but Dr. Lvov comes and utters his strong objection toward Ivanov's marriage plan. Ivanov's decision of breaking off the marriage plan causes public debate and conflict among the guests. Ivanov feels hopeless and decides to end his life. He runs to one side and shoots himself to death.





CHAPTER III THE MEANING OF THE TERMS

In this chapter, it is necessary to know the words relating to the most important subject matter before discussing the main problem in this thesis. These sub-chapters explain the meanings of terms used in this thesis including the social condition, immoral attitude and the tragic life.

3.1 The Meaning of Social Condition

A.S Hornby in the *Oxford Advanced Dictionary of Current English* defines the word social as :

1. living in groups, not separately; man is a social animal.
2. of people living in communities; of relations between persons and communities: social costum.
3. of or society.
4. for companionship : a social club

(1995: 818)

While Fairchild in *Dictionary of Sociology* defines social as follows: "Having to do with the reciprocal relation of interacting human being, either as individual or groups" (1962: 275).

Based on the previous definitions, social always pertains to the life of the people in society. Therefore it talks about the people's activities, problems and interactions with others as a part of society in a place where one lives. So, the social condition is the circumstances of living together in society that pertain reciprocal relation of people's interaction with all aspects of life.

3.2 The Meaning of Immoral Attitude

This sub chapter discusses the phrase "immoral attitude" which consists of two words that have different meanings. The word "immoral" has close relation with moral study, so it is urgent to give further explanation about this phrase. Generally, immoral is defined as ignoring the moral standard like stated by A.S.

Hornby as follows:

1. (adj) not following accepted standard of morality; bad or wicked.
2. (adj) not following accepted standard of sexual behaviour.
(1995: 593)

A. Budiarmo in *Kamus Psikologi* defines immoral: "Concerns with the decadence of moral values. A decadence of moral values is not identical with amoral" (1987: 196). As the word "immoral" is the opposite of the word "moral", so it is necessary to define the word moral itself.

The term "moral" has several definitions which is defined as to teach goodness or corrections of behaviour of what as good and bad. William Morris in *The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language* defines moral as:

1. have concerned with the judgement of the goodness and badness of human action and character; pertaining to the discernment of good and evil.
2. designed to teach goodness and correctness of character and behaviour, instructive of what is good and bad;
3. being or acting in accordness with standards and principles of goodness or established codes of behaviour, especially with regard to several conduct.
(1971: 852).

While William Kenney in *How to Analyze Fiction* states "moral is a piece of practical moral advice that can be derived from the story; and it has a direct values as advice to the readers" (1966: 89).

While the term "attitude" has some meanings like defined by Russel Veitch and Daniel Arkkelin in *Environmental Psychology: An Interdisciplinary Perspective* as: "That is, an attitude involves the way we think about, feel about, and behave toward an object" (1995: 102). Further, Cemille B. Wortman and Elizabeth F. Loftus in *Psychology* who define the word "attitude" as follows:

"A disposition to respond favorably or unfavorably toward some persons, thing, event, place, idea, or situation. Attitudes, in other words, are thought and feelings that encourage us to act as if we like or dislike something." (1992: 558).

So, the word "immoral" as an adjective and the word "attitude" as a noun are combined, they become a phrase "immoral attitude". It means that the way of thinking of somebody toward somebody else or something else, as the reaction, which its moral quality being lowered because the result of the reaction process in the mind of the reacted person. The reaction is not following accepted standard of moral either bad or wicked.

3.3 The Meaning of Tragic Life

There are often unexpected problems that happen mostly in human life, which are sometimes profoundly difficult to overcome. In many respects, it depends on the way how the people face their lives. It is undoubtedly true that life is full of conflicts, dilemmas, suffering, and disasters. Such a condition is very likely to lead people to fall into misery, depression, or destruction. This sub chapter discusses the phrase tragic life because one focus of the discussion is Ivanov's tragic life.

The word tragic is the adjective form of the word tragedy. Laurence Urdang in *Random House Dictionary of English Language* defines the word tragic as follows:

1. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of tragedy, or pathetic.
2. extremely mournful, melancholy.
3. dreadful calamitous or fatal.

(1968: 1393).

While in *The New Grolier Webster International Dictionary of The English Language*, Mario Pei clarifies that meaning of tragic life is 'pertaining tragedy, or the nature or character of tragedy, lamentable, dreadful' (1971: 1045).

Based on the above explanation, it is said that the word tragic is the characteristic of tragedy. It is marked by disaster, dread, calamity, and fatality. In the play, Ivanov has failed to reach what he dreams of all of his life. This condition makes his life full of sad events, such as suffering, frustration, conflicts, and depression.

The word "life" according to Laurence Urdang in the *Random House Dictionary of English Language* means 'life (noun):

1. the animate existence of an individual
2. a living being.
3. animation, liveness.

(1968: 781)

If the word "tragic" as an adjective and the word "life" as a noun are combined, it becomes a phrase "tragic life". It means a living being or people who get a bad condition in their lives. They probably live in misery, suffering, and despair. In the play, *Nicholas Ivanov* is presented as the discussed character who experiences an unhappy life caused by his own fault. He does not realize that he fails in achieving what he wants. This condition makes him get terrible conflicts which lead to his tragic life. He even ends his life tragically by committing suicide.





CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

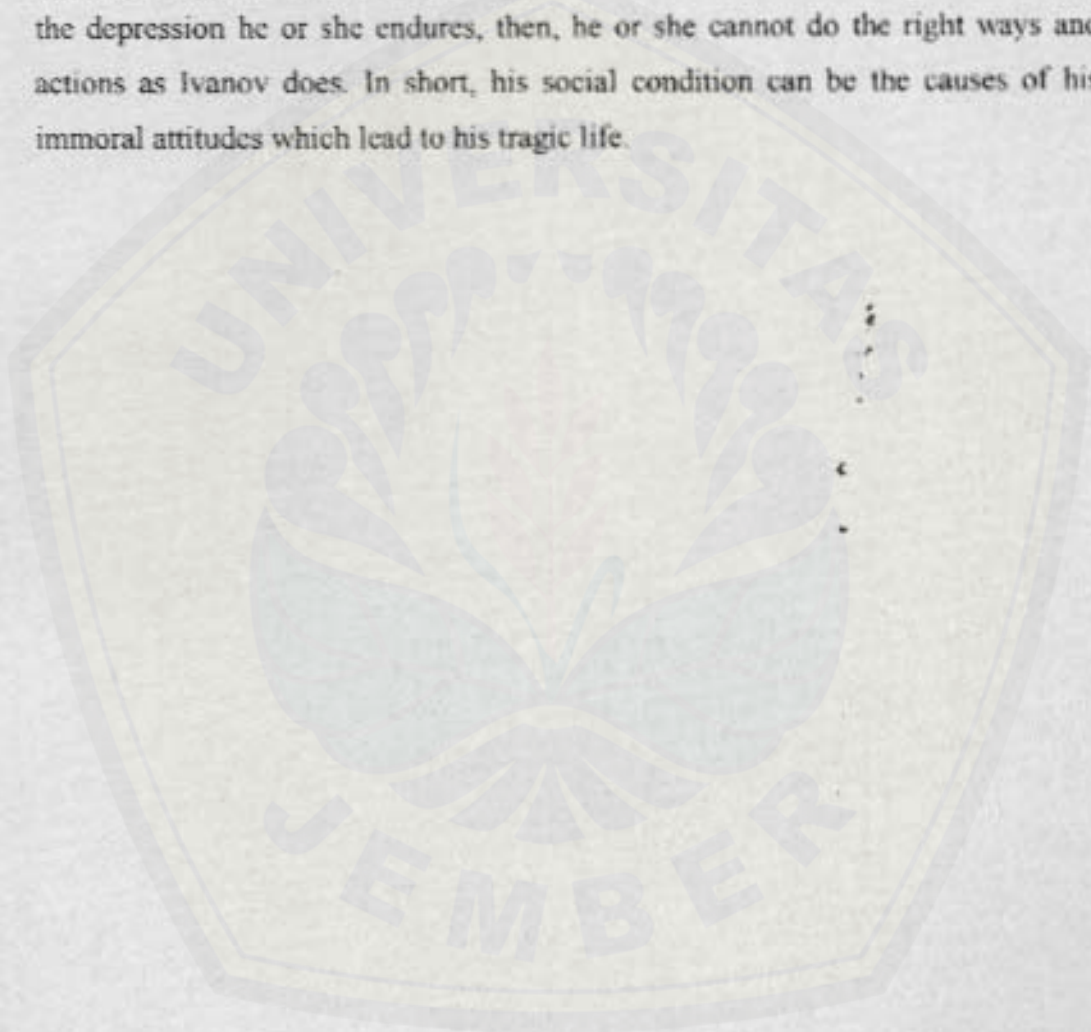
Ivanov is one of Anton Chekhov's five greatest plays besides *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. This play contains four acts in which Chekhov succeeds to establish human life problems in written material and performs it on the stage. *Ivanov* is a play entitled by the name of the depressed character which is discussed in this thesis. His idea to present *Ivanov* as the depressed character of his play has attracted to discuss further. This play describes psychological and sociological conflicts experienced by *Ivanov*.

Everybody may endure some conflicts in daily life, whether those are internal or external conflicts. Internal conflicts concern with the state of mind of someone. In this play, *Ivanov* experiences these internal conflicts because he finds some difficulties in deciding the right way of attitudes and actions. Therefore, his attitudes and his actions are dominated by his depressed feelings. He does everything by his unconsciousness through the changing of his morality. *Ivanov* also experiences external conflicts. External conflicts concern with the conflicts between someone toward the others. *Ivanov* feels terrible conflicts with his family and his surroundings. He gets failures in overcoming all the problems without support from his surroundings. His problems can be more serious since he does immoral things toward his wife and the daughter of a rich neighbour, to whom he plans to marry.

This thesis also proves how the influence of society toward *Ivanov*'s personality especially the changing of his attitudes toward others. *Ivanov* experiences the difficulties in deciding the right way of attitudes and actions which are caused by the pressures of his surroundings. These hindrances lead him to violate the social norms about the marriage. He takes adultery with Sasha while his wife is being sick. Further, *Ivanov* is regarded having depressed feelings since he shows the symptoms of the depression as stated by Wayne Waiten. He cannot reach his dreams or his ideas. Because of that, he endures longer sad events such

as inmost sufferings and terrible conflicts. His depressed feelings exceed longer than the normal depression so, he gets clinical depression.

The depression, Ivanov endures, is stated clearly in the drama although there is no solution at the end of the play. Anton Chekhov gives a message, that is, the people should care about other's condition especially when someone does the wrong-way. Eventhough, someone can be supposed having a lot of sins and mistakes, the people cannot blame and damn him or her. These may be caused by the depression he or she endures, then, he or she cannot do the right ways and actions as Ivanov does. In short, his social condition can be the causes of his immoral attitudes which lead to his tragic life.



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