

THE EFFECT OF JOE'S FAULTS ON THE CHANGES OF THE
FOUR MAIN CHARACTERS' PERSONALITIES LEADING TO
THEIR TRAGIC LIVES IN ARTHUR MILLER'S *ALL MY SONS*



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APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the Examination Committee of the English
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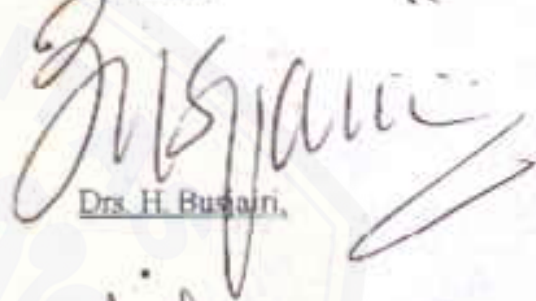
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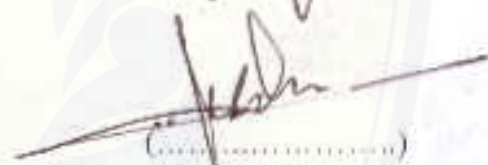
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MOTTO:

No legacy is so rich as honesty

(William Shakespeare)

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of Wisdom

(Thomas Jefferson)



Dedicated to:

My beloved and respected parents

My dearest brother

My dearest husband-to-be

My dearest friends

My beloved Alma Mater

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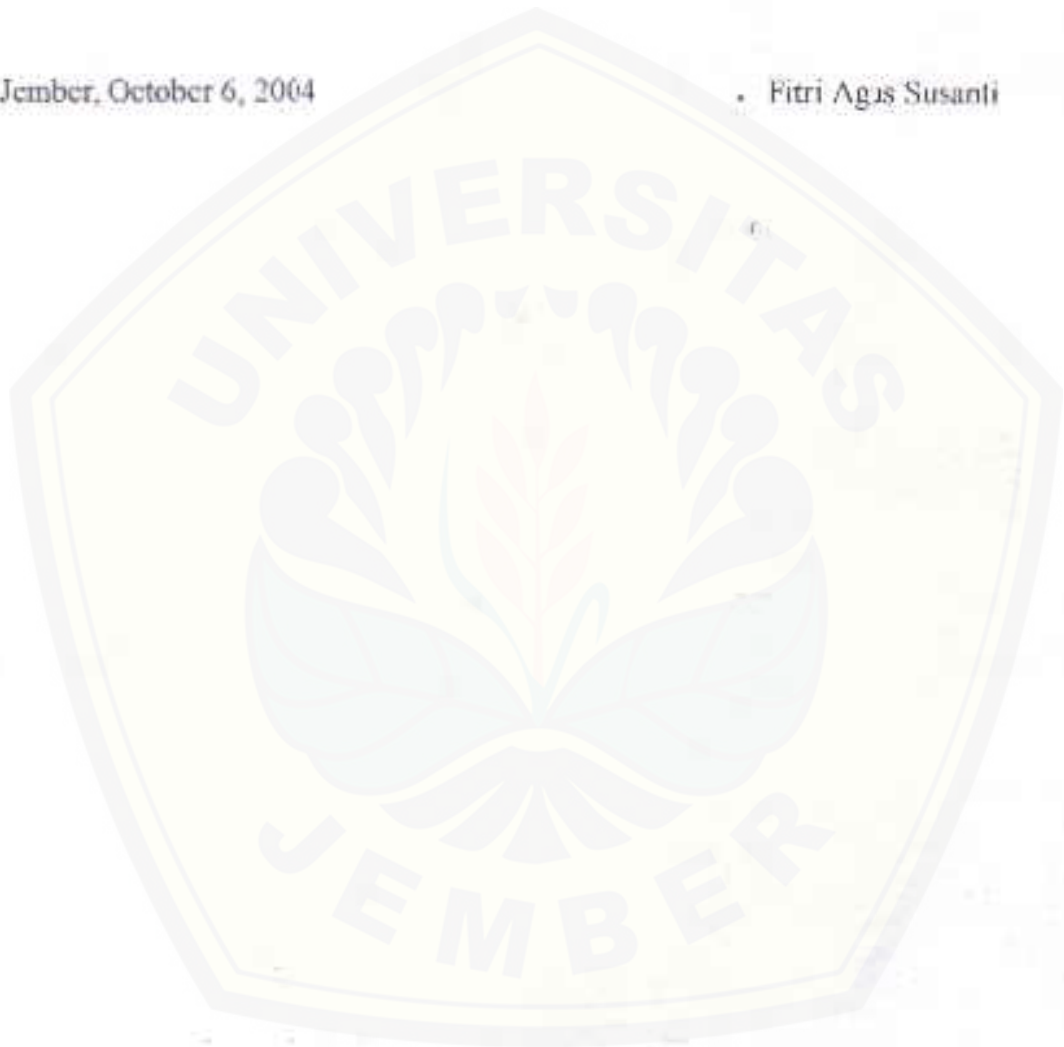
I am profoundly grateful to Allah, God the Supreme Being of the Universe, for His guidance, blessing and love, so that I am able to finish this thesis. I am really grateful and my sincere thanks are due to some people who have helped me in process of composing this thesis, to wit:

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• Fitri Agus Susanti





CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

The material of literary work is often taken from what happens in human's life. Human definitely becomes an object of the literary work. Consequently, literature in daily life is not something peculiar anymore. It is really a reflection of human life whether it concerns with happiness or human anguish. There is no way to determine what is important and what is unimportant, what is essential and what is unessential between human as an observable fact on literary work and human as a society. According to Lowenthal, literature in particular shows not only the socialized behaviour of man, but the process of his socialization, it speaks not only of individual experience, but of the meaning of that experience (Lowenthal, 1961:xiii). It means that a work of literature deals with the experience of real life and also its meaning, whether it is the author's own experience or the experiences of others in the society. For the reason, the author recreates what he has experienced by means of literature. Laurenson and Swingewood based their opinion on Lowenthal's statement also argue that literature delineates man's anxieties, hopes, and aspiration. It is perhaps one of the most effective the sociological barometer of the human response to the social forces (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1971:17).

Wellek and Warren state that Literature seems to claim "Truth" through the view of life (1956:34). The material of literary work is often as the moral teaching that is taken from the experience of life for the author considers that life is indispensable to the existence of literature. The work of literary often entertains and also conveys of some messages and teaching about life for the reader. Therefore, life can be learnt from literature through its message. By reading literary work the reader will not only come to know how people behave, feel, take step, and think but also as if they were involved in it. Similar with Wellek and Warren's statement above, Eagleton states that literary work is neither a vehicle for ideas, a reflection of social reality nor the incarnation of some transcendental

truth, it is a material fact whose functioning can be analysed rather as one can examine a machine (1983:3).

As an object of the literary work, human being is something interesting to be analyzed, either his physical and psychological development or everything in connection with him. Human is a unique individual, possessing personal characteristics that differentiate him from others. Fundamentally, however human beings are more like one another than they are different. But actually there is one significant part that differentiate them from others namely personality. Moskowitz and Orgel confirm that every person has a personality and the social appeal of a person is just one aspect of personality (1969:341). It means that personality is the complexity of an individual distinguishing him from others.

Charles de Bonald says that literature embraces two powerful cultural complexes, art on the one hand and the market oriented commodity on the other (Lowenthal, 1961:xi). Literature as art is the creation of individual and it is experienced by individual, qua individual. Therefore, literature presents one of the essential sources for studying the relation between man and society. While literature as the market oriented commodity means that the author's work can be regarded as the successful work if people are enraptured of the author's work.

There is an enormous difference between drama and any other forms of literature. A drama is not really a piece of literature for reading. Drama as one of literary forms is written through the dialogues and it inclines to be presented on the stage, through the actors and before an audience (Boulton, 1960:3). Therefore, to see a drama is more exciting and memorable experience than to read a novel, short story and a poem as well. The actions and conversations take place before our very eyes, or, if there are actions in the drama so violent or distressing that they cannot be represented on the stage, they can be described by characters who are present on the stage and show all the appropriate signs of horror and revulsion (Boulton, 1960:4).

All my sons (1947) brought Miller to his first success. It won The New York Drama Critic Circle Award. It was a hard time of the inflation when he wrote *All My Sons*. He was impressed by the power of economic crisis and

political imperatives which twisted, torn and eroded (Leonard Moss, 1980). In *All My Sons*, Miller tries to show us how we can be better. In this play the tragic hero or the protagonist commits suicide. He is forced to accept responsibility, learns his faults, suffers and finally dies. His suicide is necessary to restore the moral order of the universe. Although this drama is unrecognised as the masterpiece of Miller's works, but it is very interesting to dig out the series of personality of each main character. Miller found the idea for Joe Keller's deceit in a true story, which occurred during the World War II. There was a manufacturer who shipped out the defective parts for tanks. The defective parts had killed of many soldiers because of the mechanical failures. The manufacturer's fault was discovered and he convicted. In *All My Sons*, Miller observed the morality of the man who has no responsibility and the cowardice sometimes leads someone to his tragic end.

1.2 The Problems To Discuss

All My Sons is a drama that is full of internal and social conflicts. Joe Keller as the major character experiences either internal or social conflicts. It is the effect of his great ambition to be the richer businessman in the town that causes him to act wrongly. Joe is very an ordinary man, decent, hardworking and charitable. But in contrast, he has some moral flaw or weakness. He denies that he orders his deputy manager, Steve, to cover up the cracks on the phone and sends them to the army. Finally, he does not confess that he has done a deceit and lets the court bring Steve to prison.

The discussion deals with Joe's faults in the play that affect on the change of the main characters' personalities and then the change of personality lead Joe, Kate, Larry and Chris to their tragic lives. Joe changes his personalities when he is successful on his betrayal to Steve and since Larry is reported missing in the world war. Otherwise, Kate, Chris and Larry change their personalities after they knew that Joe is absolutely suspected of the crime, but he tries to get away from his crime. Finally, Joe commits suicide after reading Larry's letter. He cannot restore life to the death but he can give life and free from a sense of moral surrender back to his beloved son, Chris. Kate loses her husband and has to realize

about Larry's death. Chris chooses his way by leaving home and loses his trust to Joe after he finds out the truth of what happened in Joe's factory in the late autumn of 1943. Larry commits suicide after reading in newspaper about his father's crime. He cannot bear Joe's crime anymore so he commits suicide.

1.3 The Goals of The Study

The first aim of writing this thesis is to get deep understanding about the appropriate meaning of the change of personality that can happen to anybody whoever he is. The second is to get detailed account on the change of the main characters' personalities and the effect on their lives' continuation. In this play the change of the main characters' personalities has led them to their tragic lives. The third aim is to get moral teaching by studying this drama through the actions of the main characters. The fourth one is to apply the given theory in The Faculty of Letters. The writer hopes that the thesis to be a useful contribution to give deeper information of literary works especially about Arthur Miller's works.

1.4 The Scope of The Study

There are so many interesting events in *Ali My Sons*. Therefore, in order to avoid an excessive discussion and to get a better understanding of this thesis, the limitation is needed. This thesis will be mainly focussed on the series of faults is done by Joe Keller and the great influence of Joe's faults on the change of his and three other main characters' personalities. Joe Keller is an ambitious character who places his narrow responsibility to his immediate family above his wider responsibility to the men who rely on the integrity of his work. The change of personality is the effect of different circumstance that suddenly occurs. Winnick confirms that shock crisis is characterized by an event which occurs over a relatively short period of time and results in a sudden shock the family, rendering it temporarily unable to cope (Corsini, 1994:8). In this drama, the change of the four main characters' personalities has led to their tragic lives.

1.5 The Hypothesis

Philiber states a hypothesis is a statement of expected outcome of research that is made temporarily and it is temporarily acceptable as a truth. Hypothesis is used as the basic thought and gives a direction on verification process (1980:28). It is hypothesized that sometimes strong ambition will force someone to act wrongly. Error is common, but sometimes human does a mistake on purpose. Error is not common anymore, but it becomes a crime. This fact will lead someone to his or her tragic life. It is also hypothesized that there is a correlation between the change of the individual's personality and his life's continuation.

1.6 The Approaches To Use

This drama is full of internal and social conflicts that are faced by the characters. Analyzing the change of the four main characters' personalities leading to their tragic lives in the drama is inseparable from their psychological problems. Therefore, it is convenient to know the change of personality that leads to tragic life by using psychological approach. Psychological approach is appropriate to use in this thesis. It can be used as a means of analyzing the mental situation and the state of mind of the character that motives their action. Scott states that psychological approach can be used to explain the fictitious characters (1962:72). Psychological approach will help the writer in analyzing such personality which may observe by other people through one's thought, feelings, motives, wishes, hopes, self-concept, as well as the fears and anxieties. These aspects are used to describe an individual's personality.

This thesis also uses sociological approach for the analysis. According to Scott, sociological approach is an approach which is used to place the work of art in the social atmosphere and also define their relationship (1962:123). Sociological approach is used to analyze such personality on the social relationship among the characters which is revealed by their actions, speeches, physical appearance, environments, and others' social judgement. Basically personality is expressed in human relationship, because personality refers primarily to the typical ways in which a person reacts to other persons or in other

word personality refers to the way of behaving. Sociological approach is also used to analyze social phenomena happened in the society. According to Atai semi, Sociological approach concerns on the background of the writer, the function of literary works toward the society, the reader's condition at that time, the sociological environment around the literary works which includes various kinds of human's activities in the society, such as on cultural, political phenomena that people may undergo (1993:73). *All My Sons* reflects the social problem of the era. The war much influences the drama and the setting is around the years after the Second World War. The sociological approach aims to analyze the influence of the social condition at that time toward Keller's family. Joe Keller blames the war as the cause of his crime. He describes that in the wartime nothing is harmful, every one will get money through whatever way he does because the situation compels him to do so.

1.7 The Method to Analyze

This thesis is written through a library research. The prime data is taken from the play itself, and the supporting data is taken from some reference books, dictionaries and internet. While the method of composing this thesis is inductive method. Hadi states that inductive method can be used to explain idea from particular to general decision (1994: 42). This method begins by observing Joe's faults and clarifying Joe's faults that affect on the change of the main characters' personalities, whether or not these faults affect on the change of the main characters' personality that lead them to their tragic lives.

1.8 The Organization of The Thesis

This thesis is organized in five chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction. Chapter II concerns with the biography of Arthur Miller and the synopsis of *All My Sons*. Chapter III discusses the important terms that are applied in this thesis. Chapter IV discusses the main discussion of the effect of Joe Keller's faults on the change of the main characters' personalities that lead to their tragic lives. The whole discussion of the thesis is concluded in Chapter V.



CHAPTER II

THE WRITER AND THE SYNOPSIS OF *All My Sons*

2.1 The Biography of Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller is one of the famous twentieth-century American playwrights who is believed as the "Social Dramatist" playwright. Arthur Miller was born in New York, on October 17, 1915 and grew up in Harlem. His appearance on his childhood generally was as a nonintellectual boy. He spent a lot of time on football, baseball and read adventure stories too.

Since 1913, there were American movement on economic aspect which was each worker doing one simple task in the production of automobiles. His father was only a ladies-wear manufacturer and shopkeeper who had been ruined in the depression. The sudden movement on economic had a strong influence on his father's business. After the movement, the family settled in new place, Brooklyn. The model of his Brooklyn home was poured out on one of his success in *Death Of A Salesman* and became one of the major achievements of Modern American Theatre.

He was graduated from high school in 1932 and his desire to take up lecture on college compelled him to earn money by working in automobile parts warehouse. Then he entered The University of Michigan in 1934 to study journalism. Dostoevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov* had inspired him became a writer. In New York, after graduated from Michigan in 1938, he started writing scripts for radio program like *Cavalcade of America* (NBC) and *Columbia Workshop* (CBC) and he also joined with The Federal Theatre Project.

Mary Slaterry was his first wife. In 1940 Miller married her and they were granted two children. In 1944, *The Man Who Had All The Luck* won a prize from New York City's Theatre Guild. In the same year, he collected some background material for the screenplay *The Story Of GI Joe* (1945) in Army camps. *Focus* (1945) is Miller's first novel. It is about Anti-Semitism. Miller's plays often tell how families are destroyed by false values as can be seen in *All My Sons* (1947).

All My Sons won The Drama Critics Circle Award as the best play of the season. This play is about a war profiteer, named Joe Keller, who has caused the death of a number of aviators by supplying The USAAF the defective airplane parts called cylinder heads.

Death Of Salesman (1949) brought Miller International Fame and became one of the major achievements of modern American theatre. It won of both The Drama Critics Circle Award and The Pulitzer Prize. It was regarded as one of the important American plays after World War II. It is supposed to his masterpiece.

Miller is well known as an "Outstanding Father Of The Year". It was his successful era as a famous writer in 1949. Not long afterwards he released *The Crucible* (1953). *The Crucible* is an allegory for the McCarthy era and mass hysteria. It became one of Miller's most-produced plays, although Broadway production flopped. In the play he expressed his faith in the ability of an individual to resist conformist pressures. *The Crucible* received Antoinette Perry Award. *A View From The Bridge* was successfully produced in 1955. The drama is about incestuous love, jealousy and betrayal.

In 1956 Miller married the motion-picture actress Marilyn Monroe. His overpowering love inspired him in his screenplay *Mefisto*. The film was directed by John Huston, starring Montgomery Clift, Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe. At last his marriage was not everlasting, they divorced in 1961. John Huston wrote in his book of memoir, *An Open Book* 1980. Miller's marriage was already breaking, because Monroe didn't show her figure as a good wife for Miller. She was always late getting to the location and used heavily drugs. It made Miller felt so lonely.

After nine years absence with the play, Miller returned with *After The Fall* as the portrayal of Miller's unhappy marriage to Monroe. A year after his divorce, Miller married the Austrian photographer Inge Morath. Miller co-operated with Morath on two books. The first *In Russia* (1969) was a travel piece with illustrations by Inge Morath while *Chinese Encounters* (1979) is another traveler's tale.

His two one-act plays, *Incident at Vichy* (1964) and *The Price* (1968) deal with the universality of human responsibility and the guilt that often accompanies

survival and success. His later dramatic works are *The Creation Of The World and Other Business* (1977). This play seemed giving the audience important information. And then in 1991, he released *The Ride Down Mount Morgan*, it is full of didactic. Such as morality, responsible as the absolute need and love each other. While *The Last Yankee* was produced in 1993. In 2002, Miller received his last honorable award as The First U.S recipient of the award from Spain's Prestigious Principle de Asturias for literature.

2.1 The Synopsis of *All My Sons*

The play is set in August 1947, in the mid-west of the U.S.A. The events occur between Sunday morning and a little after two o'clock the following morning. *All My Sons* is a drama in three acts illustrating the events in the outskirts of an American Town. Joe Keller loses one son in the war and is keen to see his remaining son, Chris. Three and a half years before, Larry Keller was reported missing in action, while flying a mission off the coast of China. It is early Sunday morning, Frank gets a mess and predicts that according to Larry's star, November twenty-fifth is Larry's favourable day, for a person is a fortune day according to his stars. So it will be practically impossible for him to die on his favourable day. Joe is doubtful whether Larry is still alive or not, because there is no sign whether corpse or grave are found.

During the World War II, Joe is the head of his business which makes aero engine parts. On his business, Joe has a partner business, named Steve Deever. He lives in the next door of Keller's apartment, with his two nice children, George and Ann Deever. When one night, the production line begins to turn out cracked cylinder heads, the night foreman alerts Steve as Joe's deputy manager when he arrives at work. Steve calls Joe by phone to ask what to do. Worries by the lost production and not seeing the consequences of his decision, Joe orders Steve to weld over the cracks. He says that he will take responsibility for this, but he cannot come to work, as he has influenza. Unfortunately, several weeks later twenty-one aeroplanes crash and kill the pilots on the same day. Investigation reveals the fault in the cylinder heads, Steve and Joe are arrested and convicted. In

the court Joe denies Steve's version of the events and blames Steve upon the deceit. Joe rejects to take the responsibility for his crime, moreover the court cannot prove a phone call. Steve is punished by the court and Joe is exonerated.

After the trial, Ann and George Deever move to New York. Ann is twenty-six, she is Larry's girl. She is gentle but despite her self-capable of holding fast to what she knows. The play opens the following Sunday morning. Today Ann visits Keller in order to make her relation with Keller more intense after the trial several years ago and besides Chris asks her to come.

Chris loves Ann a great deal, so he begs his father to convince mother that as a matter of fact nobody believes Larry is still alive, if not, he treats to leave the business because it does not inspire him. Joe is completely convinced. Kate will object giving permission of Chris's intention for marrying Ann, his brother's girl. Kate believes Larry is still alive and expects him to return home yet. On the Saturday night there is a storm, a tree, planted as a memorial to Larry is snapped by the wind. Kate wakes from a dream of Larry and at the same time enters the garden to find the broken tree. The broken tree causes Kate is seemingly apprehensive. She worries Larry will not come.

In the second act, George arrives in Keller's house. His coming is only for taking Ann home, not to seek revenge of Joe's crime. There is blood in his eyes. George is a soulmate of Chris. When younger, George greatly admired Chris. He has been decorated for bravery like Chris too while he was in the war. He followed Chris in accepting that Steve is guilty, but now he has found out the truth. Now he reproaches Chris for deceiving him. George feels greatly unhappy after visiting Steve in prison. Steve is dislike knowing Ann is at his enemy in disguise's place at that time. During the unhappy situation, George opens the true course of events.

Not long afterwards, Kate chases Ann away because she thinks Ann as a trouble maker does not belong here, she is Larry's girl. With the bitterness dominant Chris tells Kate of his intention of marrying Ann. Kate is angry, Kate sees this matter as a betrayal and it forces her to tell Chris the truth. To believe Larry is dead will be to believe his death is a punishment of Joe's crime, so she

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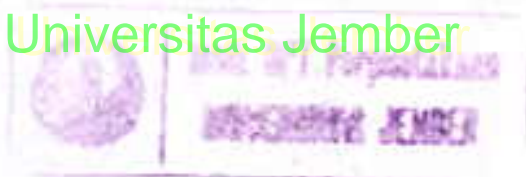
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must persuade herself that Larry is still alive. After hearing that Chris does not move and asks Joe telling the truth of what happened in his factory in the autumn of 1943. Joe tells him, he did it for the sake of his business which has been managed for forty years and it will be dedicated to him. Chris conversely becomes shocked and furious hearing Joe's confession. He says Joe is not even an animal but he is worse than an animal.

In the last act, since the quarrel between Chris and Joe, Kate greatly suffers. While Chris decides to go out and he does not come until the following day. When waiting for Chris, Kate tries to persuade Joe to finish and makes clear the rot by realizing his deceit and willing to punish. By doing that so perhaps Chris will be able to forgive him, but Joe refuses it and he will rather die than goes to prison. He does not want to take a buck of this rot. He reminisces about Larry by saying that Larry will not despise him as Chris once did to him. Larry fully understands his business. Joe will not forgive Chris because he is his son and has to obey him.

In the middle of their talk, Ann enters the room. They say nothing and waiting for her speak. She exposes the true fact to Kate and Joe. For three and a half years, Ann has told noone of Larry's letter. Before his last flight, Larry wrote to his fiancée, Ann Deever, he had read of his father's and Steve's arrest. His engine did not fail him but he committed suicide. To prove it, she then shows Larry's letter. After reading the letter, Kate gets shock. Chris comes into the room and tells Joe that he does not care about the business anymore. Joe extremely worries of Chris's refusal. Suddenly Ann goes quickly to take letter from Kate and starts for Chris. Mother instantly rushes to intercept her and finally Chris reads it for Joe. While reading, Joe grabs it from Chris's hand and starts reading by himself. After a long pause, he turns and starts slowly for the house. Not long afterwards a shot is heard in the house. They stand frozen for a brief second. Joe commits suicide by shooting himself. The Larry's letter also answers Joe's repeated question about what he must do, to atone for his crime. He cannot restore life to the dead, but he can give life free from a state of moral surrender back to Chris.



CHAPTER III

THE MEANINGS OF THE TERMS

It is indispensable to give clear description about the important terms that are applied before coming to further analysis of this thesis. The recognition of the meaning of the terms is very useful to comprehend the discussion easily. They are five significant terms which are going to be explained. Those are Effect, Fault, Personality, Main Character, and Tragic Life.

To give some definitions of the above words, it will be necessary to use several dictionaries and also some experts' arguments related to the title of the thesis. All of the statements of the experts, moreover, are combined as accurately as possible in order to find out a unity and completeness of the obvious meaning of each word.

3.1 The Meaning of Effect

The term Effect has more than one meaning. **The American Heritage Dictionary of The English Language** states that the word Effect (noun) means:

1. something brought about by a cause or agent; result... 2. the way in which something acts upon or influences an object... 3. the final or comprehensive result, an outcome at the condition of being in full force or execution; being; realization...

(William Morris, 1970:415)

Furthermore, **The New Grolier Webster's International Dictionary of The English Language** defines Effect (noun) as follows:

That which is produced by some agency or cause; a result or a consequence; power to produce result; force validity; the result intended; purport; the intent tenor or significance; the states of being operative; the result upon the mind of what is apprehended by the faculties.

(Mario Pei, Vol.1, 1974:314)

Considering the above definitions, it can be said that the term effect is something that is produced by the action of an agent or cause and follows it in time, either immediately or shortly. An effect also can be called as an outcome on the last series of an event, decision and also an act that follows a cause. An Effect is regarded as the last product of a cause or as the consequence of a cause. If there is an effect so there must be a cause. A cause produces an effect, while an effect is produced by some causes or agencies.

In *All My Sons*, the effect of Joe's faults is the change of his and other main characters' personalities. Then, the change of their personalities lead to their tragic lives. Or in other words, the change of personality that lead to their tragic lives are the consequence or the outcome of Joe's faults.

3.2 The Meaning of Fault

This section explains the meaning of the word Fault. The term Fault has some meanings according to some dictionaries.

The Webster's Third New International Dictionary of English Language states that Fault (noun) means:

1b: neglect, default... 2: a defect in quality or constitution... a: an imperfection in character or disposition: failing, weakness; esp: a blameworthy moral weakness less serious than a vice 3: a failure to do what is right... b: a wrong doing of an excusable kind... e: mistake, error... d: a failure to do something required by law or the doing of something forbidden by law... 4a: responsibility for wrong doing or failure...

(Babcock, vol.1, 1981:829)

From the above definitions, it shows that fault is a defect in person's quality or an imperfection in a character, or in other word fault is an act by doing something that is required by law or is forbidden by law. Fault refers to person's moral weakness and less serious than a vice that leads someone to failure of doing what is right. Fault also stresses on a harmless weakness deriving from a character.

The Grolier International Dictionary defines Fault (noun) as follows:

1. something that prevents perfection, as: a flaw, blemish, or defect b. a mistake; error c. an offense, transgression, or minor vice... 2. responsibility for such a mistake or offence; culpability...

(William Morris, 1969: 479)

Based on above definitions, the term fault usually refers to a specific quality of vice behavior or trait. It is closely related to a mistake or error. Therefore, fault always causes such a conflict.

According to all explanations above, it can be said that the term fault relates to the defect and imperfection on quality of someone because it relates to an aspect of wrong or untruth act. Fault is an act of doing something that is forbidden according to the law. Shortly, the exact meaning of the term fault is indeed quite difficult to be defined since the term includes an abstract concept. However, the term can theoretically be discussed as it has an intention to prove that Joe's faults in *All My Sons* are showed, First, his ambition to be the richer businessman in the town and his belief that money as the symbol of everything by compelling someone to do his desire. Second, his deceiving action to his business partner by telling the court that he knows nothing of what happened. Third, his irresponsibility to realize his deceit and not willing to punish.

3.3 The Meaning of Main Character

It is firstly important to find out the definition of the term Character, before arriving at the definition of the term Main Character because it will support the obvious meaning of the term main character.

The term Character has more than one meaning. **The Grolier International Dictionary** defines Character (noun) as follows:

1. the combination of qualities or features that distinguishes one person, group, or thing from another 2. one such distinguishing feature or attribute; a characteristic 3. the combined moral or ethical structure of a person or group 9. a person portrayed in a drama, novel, or other artistic piece 10. a description of a person's attributes, traits, or abilities.

(William Morris, vol.1, 1969: 226)

Based on above definitions, the meaning of the term character is a person that is portrayed in a drama, novel, or other literary works. Character is also the combined of moral and ethical structure of a person that distinguishing a person's traits.

Another meaning of the term character is explained by Schwiebert. He defines " Characters are the imaginary persons who appear in fictional narratives or dramatic works and characterization is achieved through the depiction of action, description, and/or dialogue" (2001:134). Schwiebert's above passage gives an explanation that a character is a person is described in literary work by the author. In many cases the character stands in his own existence with regard to show the characterization which is planned by the author through the depiction of action, description, and dialogue.

The other definition about the term Character is given by Stanton. He defines Character as follows:

The term "Character" is commonly used in two ways: it designates the individuals who appear in the story, as in "How many characters are there?" and it refers to the mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles that make up each of these individuals, as in "How would you describe his character?" (1964:17)

From Stanton's statement above, it can be said that characters indicate to the individuals who appear in the story and each of them has its own characterization that is made by the mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles. The characters are created and interpreted by the author through their actions, because basically every author wants the reader to understand and also able to describe his characters which are presented on his works.

Furthermore, Chatman (1993:58) illuminates that " Character is a narrative agent may be merely instrumental to the plot. Character possesses traits, distinguishing qualities that give them some kind of identity and personality". From his impression it can be said that each character possesses traits, therefore, from various traits seem appropriate to explain their various thoughts and actions too. The actions of a character here serve to characterize them.

Summarizing all of the statements above, main character can be said as a person or people who are presented in every event in a drama, novel, prose

through the dialogue, action, expression and attitude. The main character has an essential role in the literary works because as a chief person all of his actions, thoughts, and attitudes influence the story.

Stanton defines Main Character as follows:

"Most stories contain a central character, who is relevant to every event in the story; usually the events cause some changes either in his life or attitude toward him" (1964:17).

The main or central characters are the most important persons in the most part of the whole story in which they do anything and appear many times in a series of events and their appearances are absolutely important toward the development of the plot. The main characters also become the centre among the other characters either their actions and dialogues are very important to every event.

According to the above explanations, an obvious understanding about main character can be drawn as the important or principal person on literary works such as a novel, prose, play and other literary works, and his presence is more dominant than the other characters. In *All My Sons*, Joe, Kate, Chris, and Larry Keller dominate the actions of the play and the story is also focussed on them. Therefore, they are shown as the main characters in *All My Sons*.

3.4 The Meaning of Personality

To analyze the main characters' personalities in *All My Sons* and also about the change of personality among them, firstly, we must define a more essential word of personality and clarify it in order to provide the limitation of the discussion. This section describes several meanings of the word personality.

The term personality is something complex and there is not any precise definition for the word. There have been a lot of various interpretations about personality. One of them is explained by Gage and Berliner. They state "Personality is the integration of all of a person's traits, abilities, and motives as well as his or her temperament, attitudes, opinions, beliefs, emotional responses, cognitive styles, character, and morals. Obviously, then, the term personality encompasses all aspects of human behavior" (1984:165). Ruse also has the same

idea with Gage and Berliner in defining personalities. He defines personality as "The totality of mental traits characterizing an individual personality or self"(1963:230).

It is similar with Symonds, he explains that personality not only refers to behavior, but also refers to thoughts and feelings, motives, fantasies, defenses and self-concept of an individual (Hamachek, 1970: 580). According to this explanation, it can be said that personality may be seen from a number of points of view which defines the individual. Or in other word personality may observe by other people through one's thought, feeling, motives, fantasies, defences and self-concept of an individual.

Another meaning of the terra Personality is explained In **The Grolier International Dictionary** (1969:978) defines Personality as follows:

1. The state or quality of being a person.
2. a. The dynamic character, self, or psycho that constitutes and animates the individual person and makes his experience of life unique b. A person as the embodiment of distinctive traits of mind and behavior.
3. The pattern of collective character, behavioral, temperamental, emotional and mental traits of an individual.
4. Distinctive qualities of an individual; especially, those distinguishing personal characteristics that make one socially appealing: "It's not what you say, It's how you say it - because personality always wins the day" (Arthur Miller)

From several meaning of personality above, it can be said that personality is the quality of being a person that constitutes and animates the individual person and makes his experience of life unique. It also can be said that personality consists of distinctive traits of mind, behavior, temperamental and emotional. In short, personality is someone's qualities that can distinguish him or her to others because everyone has different ways to act or behave in responcing his or her environment.

The other defirition about the term personal ty is given by Rogers. Rogers defines " Personality as a process, as fluid state rather than a set of fixed characteristics, and discusses the conditions of change which would be necessary in orde: for self - perception to change"(Hamachek, 1970:598). Based on the

quotation, we can point out that the personality is the dynamic process that possible to change over time.

Futhermore, Klopper (1994:49) defines The Changes Personality as follows:

Behavior often changes across time and across situations. The criteria for deciding whether behavior change reflects actual personality change or merely the joint effects of personality and the current situation or of two conflicting personality tendencies, the circumstances across which personality changes may be expected, the extent to which personality can change (The Encyclopedia of Psychology, 1994:49).

The definition gives us a clear explanation that personality may change over a long period of time and the different circumstances. So we can conclude that the personality may change and the enviromenta change is one of the factors which can influence the change of personality. And the last the changes may take a variety of forms.

Symonds (Di Vesta and Thompson, 1970:595) explains the term Personality as follows:

The roots of personality are constitutional, the structure of personality, particularly as it is expressed in human relationships, is the result of learning - learning which begins shortly after birth and continues trough infancy and early childhood. The basic patterns of personality are formed in the first five or six years of life. These facts place a great responsibility on parents, for personality is formed largely through parent - child relationship. Personality is unique flavor for each individual are cetermined by environment and experiences of an individual.

The quotation gives us an explanation that personality is formed by the action of learning process. The main responsibility for the development of personality falls on parents. A mother's behaviors and responses toward her child are primarily a matter of attitude and feeling of her. A mother's attitude here is a function of her personality, which was formed in her infancy and childhood and she tries to apply it toward her child. The learning process here is considered the major role in the development of personality. Personality is acquired as a result of membership in the society. Individuals growing up in Eastern culture share experiences that are

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different from those of individuals growing up in Western culture. So we can conclude that the different environment will form the different personality too.

Crow also have the same idea with Symonds in defining the term personality. He explains that personality usually is associated with the individual's learning experiences. Human's behavior and attitude at first develop at home (1956:20). In the same way, Di Vesta and Thompson define that "The majority of social scientists will agree that the home is still the most important socializing and character-building. The home thus remain clearly primary as the nurturant, socializing agency during the early years of childhood" (1970:397).

Meanwhile, there are two essential factors forming the personality. Those are inherited and environmental factors. This impression means that the aspect of personality are inherited through genes that are passed on from parents to children. While the environment is important in personality because it provides different individual with different opportunities for learning specific ways of thinking, feeling and behaving. The learning process here is considered as the major role in the development of such personality because personality is learned as a result of membership in the society. So that, it is possible that the environmental changes is one of the causes of the changes personality (The Encyclopedia Americana, 1998: 758).

From all of the explanations above, it can be concluded that personality is the identity of a person that can be seen from his or her habitual pattern and the quality of behavior. From the impression, other people will know the habitual pattern and the quality of behavior of a person and finally they will know his or her personal identity.

All My Sons is a drama that talks about the complexity of personalities. The change of personalities among them are influenced by a sudden movement of different circumstances. Joe's faults here cause the changing of his and other main characters' personalities. Joe changes his personality when he is successful on his betrayal to Steve, his personality changes from warm to arbitrary. Otherwise, Kate and Chris change their personalities after they know that Joe's faults cause Larry's death, Kate's personality changes from imprudent to sensible, while Chris

changes his personality from obedient to disobedient. Larry also changes his personality from optimistic to pessimistic after knowing Joe's crime. So, their changes of personalities are as the consequence of Joe's faults.

3.5 The Meaning of Tragic life

It is the true fact that human and conflict cannot be separated. Human relates to conflict and on the contrary, life is undoubtedly full of conflicts, sufferings, and destructions. There are often unexpected conflicts happen mostly in human life, which are sometimes profoundly difficult to overcome. In many respects, it depends on the way "How the people solve the conflict of their lives". When people cannot face the problems perfectly, it is very possible to lead people falls into misery, calamity, sorrow, frustration and destruction.

Before beginning with the meaning of tragic life, firstly it will be necessary to know the meaning of tragedy. Tragedy in literary works has some meanings. The detailed explanation of the implied terms in the title is very essential to get a good understanding of the play.

In **Dictionary of Literary Terms** Shaw (1972:381) defines Tragedy as follows:

A calamity, disaster, or fatal event. In literature, tragedy refers to any composition with a somber theme carried to a disastrous conclusion. From a Greek term meaning "goat song," tragedy involves death just as the sacrifice of goats, totems of primitive peoples, did in ancient rituals...

Furthermore, **The Webster Third New International** defines tragedy as a drama in verse or prose and of serious and dignified character that typically describes the development of the conflict between the protagonist and a superior forces such as: destiny, circumstances, society and reaches a sorrowful ending and disastrous conclusion that excite pity or errors, concerning an unfortunate, sad or discouraging occurrence or situation, bad luck, unhappy fate and misfortune (Babcock, 1916:2423). From this point of view, tragedy however, is an imitation not only of a complete action, but also of incidents arousing pity or fear. *All My Sons* deals with the downfall of the main characters. It has significantly sad events, tragic actions and sorrowful endings.

Similarly, Abrams explains that tragedy is most often applied to literature especially drama. It represents serious and important actions, which turn out disastrously for the chief character (1941:201).

From several definitions above, it can be said that tragedy is a play with gloomy theme and ending in disaster for protagonist. It implies a change from happiness to unhappiness, usually with the main character's death. Such incidents have a great effect on the mind when they occur unexpectedly, or in other word they occur as the consequence of some extreme quality. In *All My Sons*, the main characters face serious problems which are virtually profound and hard to solve.

According to **The Webster's Third New International Dictionary** tragic has meaning of marked or expressive of tragedy such as disastrous, fearful in which life will necessarily contain a tragic element, or marked by a sense of tragedy such as: her account of life is deeply tragic (Babcock, 1916:2423).

The meaning of life is also important to know in order to get the obvious meaning of the term tragic life. The word "Life" according to **The Grolier International Dictionary** defines life as follows:

2. the characteristics state or condition of a living organism...
4. a living being, especially a person, contrasted with one no longer alive...
5. the interval between the birth or inception of an organism and its death...
7. a spiritual state regarded as a transcending of death
8. an account of a person's life...
9. human activities, relationships, and interests collectively...

(William Morris, vol 2, 1969:754)

Summarizing from several meanings above, tragic life means individuals who get a bad condition in their lives. They probably live in the misery, suffering, and calamity. Or in other word, tragic life is the qualities of the events and experiences of the main character as a human being that causes great sadness. This means that the protagonist or the main character of the story has many conflicts in his life ended by sad ending. Sometimes the conflicts are indicated by ending with unhappiness, disaster, misfortune and the downfall of the main character, but usually the conflict are indicated by the death.

In *All My Sons* all of the main characters are experienced unhappiness and misfortune ending. In this case, the main characters' tragic lives are caused by

their change of personalities. The tragic concepts of this play are presented by the committed of Joe to suicide, Kate's disaster is shown when she has to realize about Larry's death, and Joe's suicide, Chris chooses his own way by leaving home and Larry's downfall is indicated by his suicide. We can conclude that their tragic lives are the consequence of their change of personalities.



CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

All My Sons is one of Arthur Miller's works which consists of the complexity of personality among the characters. Personality refers to the personal characteristics which defines the individual. It may be observed by another person or to the ways in which a person experiences himself. From the discussion, it appears that the main characters' personalities in this play are revealed by their actions, their speeches, their physical appearance, their environments, and another characters' judgements. Personality apparently changes across time and across situation. The changes may take a variety of forms. Personality changes can be said to occur only if there is some alteration of fundamental perceptual, motivational, ideational, or response tendencies.

There are four main characters experience the change of personality. These changes are an outcome of Joe Keller's faults. Joe is an ambitious businessman. He is a man who loves his family above all else and has sacrificed everything including his honour in his struggle to make his family prosperous. He also wants to be the richer businessman in the town. His ambition has covered his inner self. During the war, he finds a chance to raise his success by committing a treason to Steve. Joe does not plead guilty of his dishonest practises, while Steve is punished. Furthermore, his great ambition, his treachery action and his irresponsibility to confess his crime have caused some troubles for his family. It is true that sometimes strong ambition will force someone to act wrongly.

One of the effects of Joe's faults is the changes of personality of his and three other main characters. Joe is frightened after he is successful in his treachery to Steve. He always suspects everyone around him. He is afraid that someone will expose his secret. Finally his personality changes from warm to arbitrary. He forces Kate to support him and not to betray his guilt too. While Kate is failed to have a good husband in her marriage. Before realizing Joe's manner, she has bad personality in which she is an imprudent. She has mental weakness that causes her uncontrolled emotion explodes sometimes. She also compels people around her to

act like she wants to, especially about her conviction that Larry is alive. She often does something out of common mind. Besides, she is also capable of supporting Joe in his deceitfulness. These prove her imprudent personality. At last, she realizes that all this time Joe has caused her family is destroyed. This fact makes her bad personality gradually changes to be good ones. She becomes a sensible woman by disclosing the true event. She wants to restore his family to be a peace-loving family. On the other hand, Chris also changes his personality. At the beginning, he loves his father very much by obeying his father's wishes, but Joe's manner has also changed his personality from obedient to disobedient. His profound love changes to his hatred after he exposes Joe's guilt. Larry is one of victims of Joe's crime. He is an optimistic person as his father. But it changes after he knows Joe's crime. He cannot bear to live anymore because he cannot bring himself in. His pessimistic is revealed in his committed suicide.

The main characters' changes of personalities have lead them to their tragic lives. It proves that there is a correlation between the change of an individual's personality and his or her life's continuation. Sometimes the change will give a good influence on someone's personality; as a consequence they will not get a bad condition in their lives. Joe's arbitrariness has forced Kate to disclose the true event. Joe is forced to finish his trickery in front of Chris, but he always defends himself by telling Chris that he did it in the name of the family. Joe is trapped by his own faults, above all after he reads Larry's letter. He realizes he is the one who should be blame of Larry's death. He decides to pay his guilt by shooting himself. Kate has to accept the reality of losing two important persons in her life, her husband and her son. Whether or not, she has to accept the God's fate, even though she feels so distressed. Chris cannot do anything to punish Joe. He has no pleasure of being the successor of Joe's company anymore. He decides to leave home and finds other job in Cleveland. While Larry is hurt by Joe's manner. He can bear to face the world anymore. He is very ashamed of what his father did. Finally, he commits suicide. The four main characters in this play face many conflicts in their lives that end by sad ending.

It is proven that Joe's manner has caused the change of his, Kate's, Chris's, and Larry's personality. It is true that Joe's faults have affected on his and three other main characters' change of personality. And then, the changes of personality apparently lead them to their misfortune endings. From the discussion it also appears that the play conveys some moral teachings. From the actions of the characters, it can be taken that the falsehood will not relieve the problem, but instead the falsehood will bear a new lie. This condition will keep people away from a wise measure. In this play, Joe Keller makes unreasonable behaviour on his life in order to overcome his fearful of confessing his crime. In fact, the only thing he himself has to fear is the fearful itself. As a matter of fact, his fearful can damaged his ability of thinking a reasonable thing later. Joe's treachery to Steve is also the proof of how important honesty in friendship is. Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain, it is not something people learn in school. But if people have not learned the meaning of friendship, they really have not learned anything.



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