



**LOVE AS THE CAUSE OF THE SOCIAL CONFLICTS FACED BY  
SERAFINA IN FULFILLING HER INTERPERSONAL NEEDS  
IN TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' "THE ROSE TATTOO"**

**Thesis**

Presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters,  
Jember University as one of the requirements  
to get the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
In English Studies



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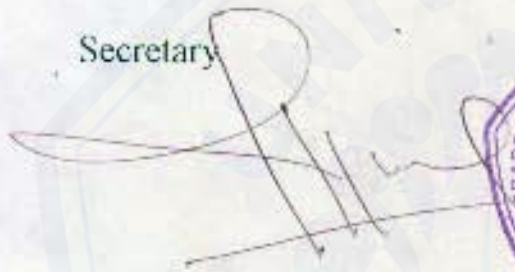
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APPROVAL SHEET

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

Jember, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001

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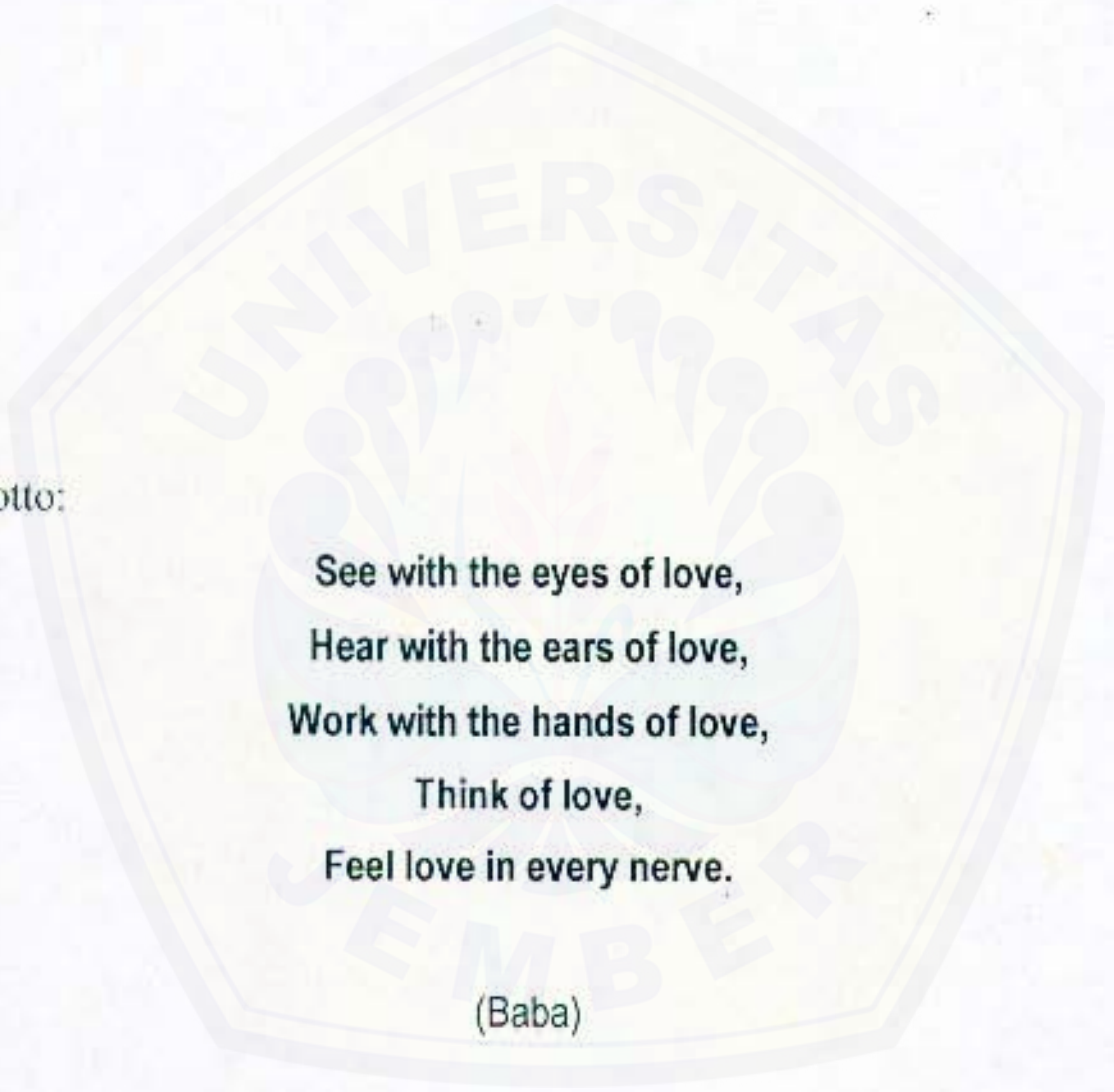
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I would like to dedicate this thesis to:

- ✦ Holy Father who always answers every pray with His love, for His faithfulness in accompanying me during the writing of the thesis.
- ✦ My beloved papa Ignatius Clemens Sudjarwadi and my beloved mama Theresia Justina Sumi Rahayu for the great and endless love in the patient pray.
- ✦ My beloved brothers and sisters : Ota, Ana, Dcik, Kasan, and Tina. We are a family.
- ✦ My beloved niece: Tasha.
- ✦ My Alma Mater.

Motto:

The background features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the Universitas Jember logo. The logo is a shield-shaped emblem with a yellow center and a grey border. Inside the shield, the word "UNIVERSITAS" is written in an arc at the top, and "JEMBER" is written in an arc at the bottom. In the center of the shield is a stylized tree with a pink and purple flower-like shape at its base.

**See with the eyes of love,  
Hear with the ears of love,  
Work with the hands of love,  
Think of love,  
Feel love in every nerve.**

(Baba)

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**TABLE OF CONTENT**

<b>FRONTSPIECE.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION PAGE.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>MOTTO.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Rationale.....	1
1.2 Problems to Discuss.....	2
1.3 The Scope of the Study.....	3
1.4 The Approaches to Use.....	3
1.5 The Goals of the Study.....	4
1.6 The Organization of the Thesis.....	5
 <b>CHAPTER II THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY</b>	
2.1 The Biography of Tennessee Williams.....	6
2.2 The Synopsis of <i>The Rose Tattoo</i> .....	9
 <b>CHAPTER III THE MEANING OF THE TERMS</b> .....	
	14

**CHAPTER IV LOVE AS THE CAUSE OF THE SOCIAL CONFLICTS FACED  
BY SERAFINA IN FULFILLING HER INTERPERSONAL  
NEEDS IN “ THE ROSE TATTOO”**

4.1 The Reflection of the Social Conflicts Faced by Serafina in  
Fulfilling Her Interpersonal Needs in “The Rose Tattoo”

4.1.1 The Theory of Interpersonal Behaviour..... 16

4.1.2 The Reflection of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Inclusion Need ..... 18

4.1.3 The Reflection of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Control Need..... 23

4.1.4 The Reflection of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Affection Need..... 30

4.2 Love as the Cause of the Social Conflicts Faced by Serafina  
in Fulfilling Her Interpersonal Needs

4.2.1 Love as the Cause of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Inclusion Need..... 36

4.2.2 Love as the Cause of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Control Need..... 43

4.2.3 Love as the Cause of the Social Conflicts in Fulfilling  
Serafina’s Affection Need..... 47

**CHAPTER V CONCLUSION..... 53**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 56**

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale

Literature, generally, is all written materials. Literary work is divided into two groups. The first is literary work that presents information. It is called as the informative literature that deals with facts, explanations, real peoples, lives, and history. Its main purpose is to offer knowledge to the readers. The second one is literary work that entertains the readers. This aim is to arouse thoughts and feelings. It is called as the imaginative literature. Reading literary work is advantageous because we can add our knowledge without experiencing everything happens in the literary work. By reading literary work, we can experience the world around us through our imagination (Jones,1968:1).

Literary work represents life. It takes the problem of human being as its topic. Jones states in *Outlines of Literature* that:

The writer of literature does not stray from facts. He will select from the facts of the world or make up certain facts so that he can present a truth of human nature. (1968:3)

Not only adding our knowledge, the literary work also offers the alternative of the ways out of human being's problem (Teeuw,1984:220).

In this thesis, the writer discusses a drama, a kind of literary work besides poetry and prose. Drama is a kind of literary work that describes life by showing conflict and emotion through actions and dialogues. It is created to be performed on the stage (Sudjiman,1986:20).

*The Rose Tattoo*, Tennessee Williams' drama describes the life of Serafina with other characters in a society. Serafina, the main character in *The Rose Tattoo* faces several conflicts in making relation with other characters that are reflected in dialogues



and actions. We can also find the emotion of the characters in facing the conflicts when they utter dialogue and action.

The problems that are expressed in this drama are the problems that we can find in our lives, such as a woman who is so stressed after her husband's death because she loves him very much. She can only fall in love with a man who looks like her husband who already died. The other problem in this drama that we can find in our lives is a girl who goes steady with her boy friend without her mother's blessing. We also often find a mother who is so strict to her daughter in our lives like in this drama. The conflicts that we can find in this drama prove that the literary work represents life. By reading *The Rose Tattoo*, we can add our knowledge about everything happens in this drama without experiencing the conflicts by our own selves. This drama teaches us how we have to love someone.

## 1.2 Problems to Discuss

Tennessee Williams in *The Rose Tattoo* tells about a woman that loves her husband so much, although he has died.

Dakir states in *Dasar-Dasar Psikologi* that the social need is one of the needs of human being's life (1993:139-140). Whereas Verhaar states in *Identitas Manusia* that according to William C. Schutz, everybody has three needs that are related with his communication with others. The needs are called the interpersonal needs. The interpersonal needs consist of the need of getting prominency, prestige, being accepted and being well known by others called as the inclusion need; the need of controlling others called as the control need, and the last is the need of love and friendship called as the affection need.

As a human being, Serafina, the main character in *The Rose Tattoo*, has also the interpersonal needs, the needs of making relation with others. In fulfilling her inter-

personal needs, she faces several conflicts that are called as the social conflicts. It is interesting to discuss the social conflicts Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs. The discussion is based on the theory of William C. Schutz, the theory of interpersonal behaviour. The next problem to discuss is what the cause of the social conflicts are.

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

To avoid the complicated discussion, the writer limits the scope of the study. The discussion uses the theory of interpersonal behaviour of William C. Schutz. The discussion will be focused on the social conflicts Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs and the cause of the social conflicts.

The events can be seen in the dialogues that describe her personality, her reaction to the social conflicts, and her way of thinking in facing the social conflicts.

### **1.4 The Approaches to Use**

To pursue into the topic of discussion, sociological approach is used in writing this thesis. Scott states in *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism* that:

Sociological criticism starts with a conviction that art's relation to society are vitally important, and the investigation of these relationship may organize and deepen one's aesthetic response to a work of art. Art is not created in a vacuum; it is the work not simply of a person, but of an author fixed in time and space, answering to a community of which he is an important, because articulate part. (1962:123)

This thesis discusses what the social conflicts Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs in the drama are. This thesis also discusses what the cause of the social conflicts are. The sociological approach is used to pursue the discussion into the social need, social intercourse, and the social conflicts in the drama.

This thesis also uses the psychological approach. Scott states in *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism* that:

These works were of special interest to writers, seeming to offer a key- Perhaps the key- to the process of art, the unconscious intentions of artist and the motives of fictitious characters. (1962:69)

This thesis begins the discussion with applying the theory of psychology of William C. Schutz that states everybody has the interpersonal needs, the needs of making relation with others (Verhaar, 1989:41). This theory is used to analyse the interpersonal needs of Serafina that are related with the social conflicts she faces in the society.

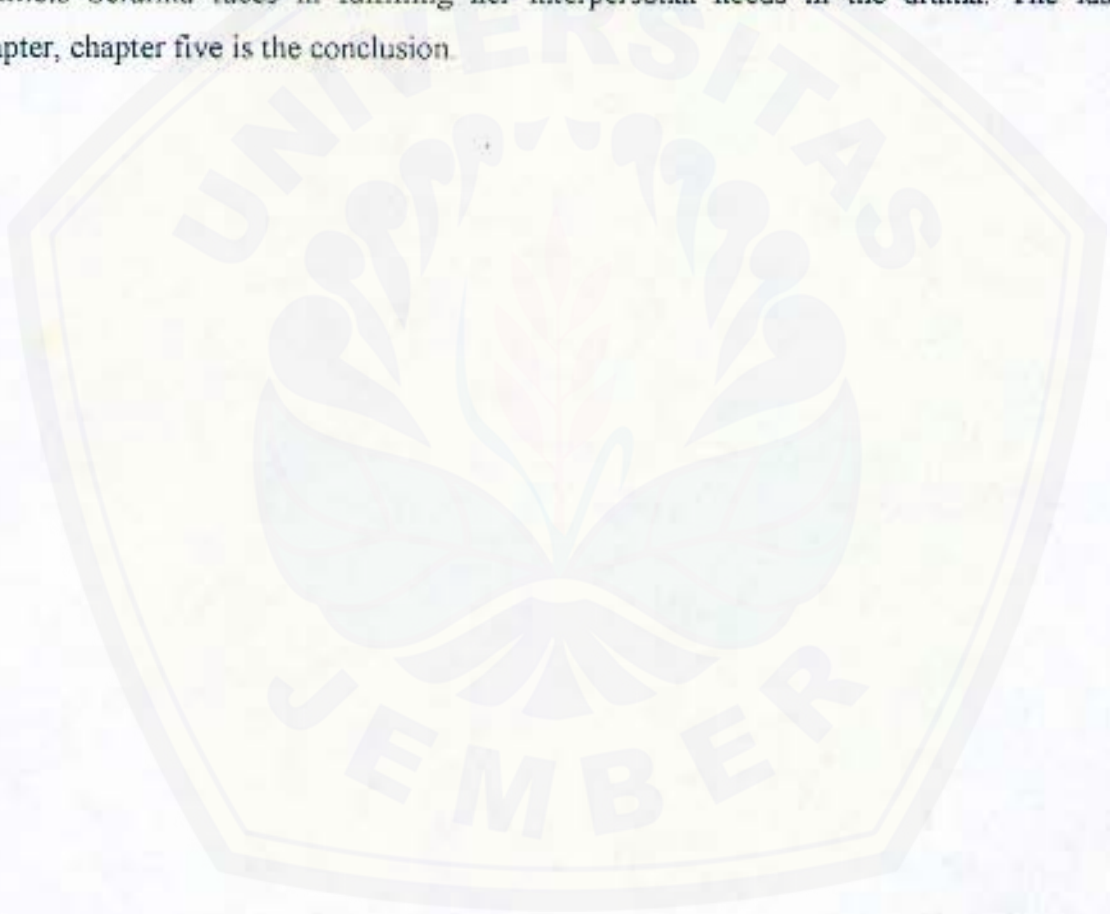
This thesis uses the sociological approach and also psychological approach to analyse the cause of the social conflicts that Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs in *The Rose Tattoo*. Basically, we will practise social psychology because according to Sears, Freedman, and Peplau in *Psikologi Sosial*, interpersonal relation is the topic of discussion of social psychology (1988:3).

### **1.5 The Goals of the Study**

The goals of writing this thesis are: first, to appreciate the idea of Tennessee Williams in writing *The Rose Tattoo*. As a literary work, it teaches us that too much love can make several conflicts in our lives; second, to appreciate and to apply some theories, especially that are related with interpersonal relation; the third, to provide a contribution of studying literary works that are related with social psychology, the science that discusses about interpersonal relation in the society; and the fourth, to increase the writer's ability in writing scientific reports and those who are interested in Tennessee Williams' works.

### 1.5 The Organization of the Thesis

The thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction that includes rationale, problems to discuss, the scope of the study, the approaches to use, the goals of the study and the last is the organization of the thesis. The second chapter includes the author's biography and the synopsis of the drama. The third chapter is the meaning of the terms. Chapter four is the discussion of love as the cause of the social conflicts Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs in the drama. The last chapter, chapter five is the conclusion.





## CHAPTER II

### THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR AND THE SYNOPSIS OF THE DRAMA

In order to know the author and his work that is analysed in this thesis certainly, we need to know the biography of the author, Tennessee Williams and the synopsis of his work, *The Rose Tattoo*.

#### 2.1 The Biography of Tennessee Williams

Weales in *The New Book of Knowledge* states that Tennessee Williams was born Thomas Lanier Williams on March 26, 1911, at the home of his mother's parents in Columbus, Mississippi. He was one of the outstanding American playwrights of the mid-1900's (1985:172).

Barnett states in *Interpreting Literature* that he adopted the name "Tennessee" from the name of his ancestors who had fought the Indians in that state. He took that name for his early writing. Williams, his elder sister, and his younger brother were nursed by a Negro nurse. One day, he called the nurse "Nigger". After that day, the family never saw the nurse again. It made him sympathize with antidiscrimination. His contract for *A Streetcar Named Desire* contains his request that the play will not be performed in any theatre where race segregation is the rule. In his childhood, he was attacked by diphtheria that injured his heart and made him stay in his room for a year. In his immobility, he became a bookish boy. He used to imagine he was the hero of the story that he read before as vivid as he watched it in colour on a motion-picture screen with his eyes closed in bed at night. When his father was transferred to a desk job in St. Louis, Williams and his sister were so sad because they loved the fresh air of Mississippi. They also had never been aware of economic differences in their circumstances in Mississippi. Meanwhile in St. Louis, people were divided into the rich and the poor, and the family belonged more

to the latter. The condition produced a shock and rebellion that had grown into an inherent part of his work. When he was the student of the University of Missouri, he won several prizes from prose and poetry.

He became an alcoholic because of his broken heart and it made his father remove him from his third grade of college to be a shoe factory's worker. He wrote short stories in his spare times to kill his tiresomeness of the monotonous job. One day, he had a heart condition. Several nights later, his fingers suddenly went rigid and a paralytic spasm immobilized his leg. The doctor warned him to stop worrying about his heart, to give up his job and to go away for protracted rest (means long rest). After his health improved, he studied in the State University of Iowa. He majored in the drama and received his B.A. in 1938. His father still opposed his literary ambitions and hoped that he would work in the shoe factory again. Nevertheless he chose to work as a waiter in the French Quarter of New Orleans. In the meantime he wrote a number of one-act plays which won him a one-hundred-dollar prize in a competition for young playwrights. Audrey Wood, a New York agent became his loyal friend and counselor. She phoned him that he won the competition for his *Battle of Angels*. Miriam Hopkins from the theatre Guild was flying from Hollywood to play the lead. The play was opened in Boston on December 30, 1940. The response of the first night audience was one of displeasure. It made him stop his career. He got a cataract in his left eye at that time. He had no money and without hope he saved for a promise that the theatre Guild might consider *Battle of Angels* again if he rewrote it. The next two years, he came up with the play was rewrote as *Orpheus Descending*. The Guild's interest had cooled rapidly and they indicated the project was dead. Then the head of a New York drama school wired him with the planing to revive *Battle of Angels*. When he reached the city, the production was called off.

He became a waiter in a Greenwich Village night club. He doubled as an entertainer by reciting his own composition. When he lost his job as a waiter, he was kept

from starvation by a group of alcoholics who liked his recitations. When he stayed with them long enough, one of the alcoholics would telephone for chicken sandwiches. He got the new job as night elevator operator in a New York hotel and as a usher in the Strand theatre on Broadway. Miss Wood, his loyal friend and counselor, had sold his talents to Hollywood with a six months' contract and a salary of two hundreds and fifty dollars.

He spent his waking hours writing *The Glass Menagerie*, a play that tells about the difficulty of being different in a world that expects everyone to be the same. He rented an apartment in the Vieux Carre of New Orleans. He used to notice the world outside from the windows and his creative imagination produced *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire* was more successful than *The Glass Menagerie*. The producer and the director of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Irene Selznick and Elia Kazan, sought his opinion on each detail from music and lighting to the casting of bit parts, not like the most playwrights that was unconsulted and unheard. On the night of the performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire* opened, he wandered accepting guests' congratulations with felicity and pleasure. (Barnett,1969:757-759). Weales (1985:173) states when *A Streetcar Named Desire* produced in 1947, he was recognized as a major playwright. The other plays that he wrote were *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955) that won a Pulitzer prize, *Summer and Smoke* (1948), *The Rose Tattoo* (1951), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961). Some people find his subject matter offensive, but most audiences love his works that tell about the fears and loneliness of the characters. The audience went to his play to reflect their fears and loneliness. He died in New York City on February 24, 1983 (1985:173).

## CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

*The Rose Tattoo* is a drama that was written in 1951 by Tennessee Williams, the outstanding American playwright of the mid-1900's. It tells about a woman named Serafina who loves her husband so much. Serafina is so much proud because she got married with Rosario, a nephew of a Baron in Sicily, while she was a peasant. She is so stressed when Father De Leo, the priest, tells her about Rosario's death. It makes her miscarriage. The drama tells that Serafina faces many conflicts with people surrounding her such as her daughter named Rosa and also her neighbours.

In his theory of interpersonal behaviour, William C. Schutz states that everybody has the interpersonal needs that consist of the inclusion need, the control need, and the affection need. As a character that is created by the playwright in *The Rose Tattoo*, Serafina has also the interpersonal needs. The play shows us the keenness of Tennessee Williams in creating a main character, Serafina, who has great effort to fulfill her interpersonal needs. Along the play readers can find Serafina's way to fulfill those three elements of the interpersonal needs.

Based on her inclusion behaviour, Serafina belongs to the hyposocial type because she does not like to communicate with others, that is her neighbours. In fulfilling her inclusion behaviour, Serafina faces the conflict against her neighbours. The neighbours cannot accept her as a person who has the higher position than themselves because Serafina got married with a nephew of a Baron in Sicily. The conflicts that Serafina faces in fulfilling her inclusion need, are caused by her love toward Rosario. Serafina does not like to communicate with her neighbours because she thinks that the neighbours just want to tell her a lie, about the steady affair between Rosario and Estelle. Moreover, Serafina thinks that 'the Strega', one of her neighbours, is a witch who has

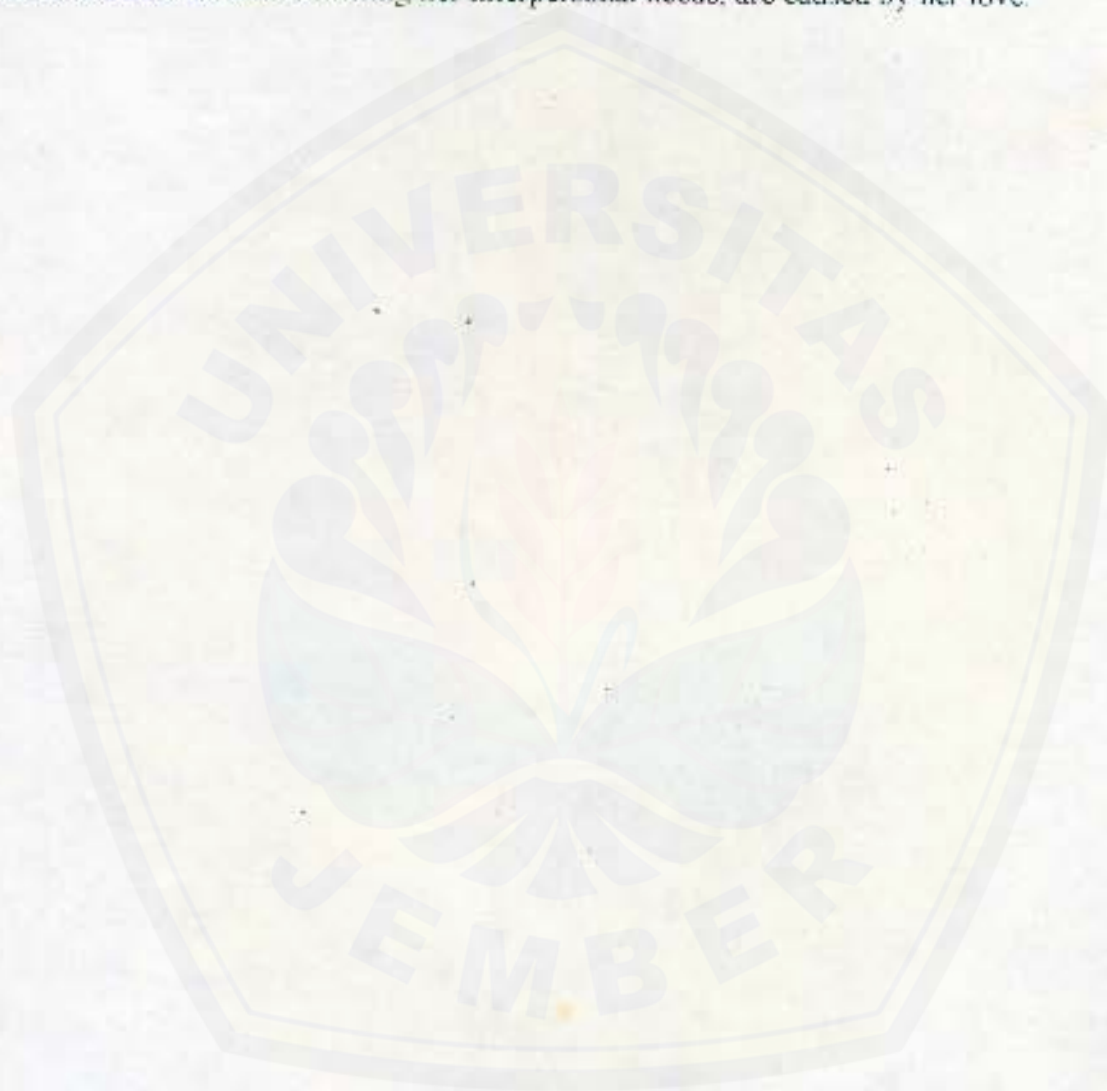


made her lost Rosario and her baby. Serafina experiences *the passionate love* toward Rosario.

Based on her control behaviour toward Rosa, Serafina belongs to the autocrat type because she controls and regulates Rosa's life. In fulfilling her control need to Rosa, Serafina faces the conflict against Rosa who cannot accept her mother's control behaviour toward her, which is so strict by locking her clothes and asking her boy friend named Jack to promise to keep her virginity. The conflict reaches its climax when Rosa knows that her mother who forbids her to make love with Jack, has made love with Alvaro, a man whom Serafina has just acquainted with. The conflict between Serafina and Rosa is caused by Serafina's love as a mother toward her daughter, who wants her daughter gets the best thing.

Serafina belongs to the hypopersonal type based on her affection behaviour. She is cool when Alvaro approaches her affectively. Her grudge toward Rosario who had the steady affair with Estelle, makes her brave to approach Alvaro affectively. In fulfilling her affection need, she faces the conflicts against Rosa and her neighbours. Rosa cannot accept her mother's attitude of asking Jack to promise to keep her virginity whereas Serafina herself makes love with Alvaro, a man who is not her husband. The neighbours who know that Serafina is a strict mother toward Rosa, also mock her when they see Alvaro does not wear the shirt goes from Serafina's house. The conflicts are caused by Serafina's love toward Rosario. Her disappointment of knowing her husband had the steady affair with the other woman, makes her want to prove that she can also do what Rosario has done toward her love. It has made her approach Alvaro affectively and makes love with him. After Rosa and the neighbours know that Serafina has made love with Alvaro and then mock her, Serafina realizes that she is falling in love with Alvaro. Serafina experiences what is called as *liking* and *eros* toward Alvaro before she falls in love with him. Serafina experiences *the companionate love* toward Alvaro.

The problems discussed in this thesis are provable. Serafina as the main character in the play, has strong interpersonal needs. In fulfilling her interpersonal needs, she faces the social conflicts. From the whole discussion, this thesis can prove that the social conflicts Serafina faces in fulfilling her interpersonal needs, are caused by her love.



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