

PLAY A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE

WILLIAMS:

"A REFLECTION OF SOCIETY'S CONDITION"



A THESIS

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MOTTO

"MAKA NIKMAT TUHAN KAMU YANG MANAKAH
YANG KAMU DUSTAKAN ?"

(QS. AR-RAHMAAN (55) : 47)

BARANGSIAPA YANG MEMPELAJARI SUATU ILMU, YANG
DENGAN ILMU ITU SEMESTINYA DIA Mencari Wajah
ALLAH, DIA TIDAK MEMPELAJARINYA MELAINKAN UNTUK
MENDAPATKAN KEKAYAAN DUNIA, MAKA DIA TIDAK AKAN
MENCIUM BAU SURGA PADA HARI KIAMAT.
(HR. ABU DAUD, IBNU MAJAH, AHMAD DAN IBNU HIBBAN)

*Kendati sabar pertama kali rasanya pahit
Sungguh pada akhirnya aku menuai buahnya*

UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN

FAKULTAS SASTRA

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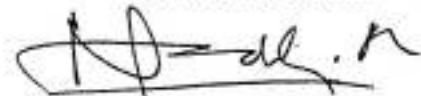
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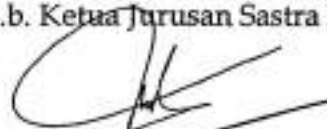
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FAKULTAS SASTRA

Pada hari ini, Selasa tanggal 16 Desember 2003 panitia ujian skripsi menerima dengan baik skripsi yang berjudul:

PLAY A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: "A REFLECTION OF SOCIETY'S CONDITION"

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The Writer

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul: *Play A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams : A Reflection of Society's Condition* (Drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* karya Tennessee Williams: Sebuah Refleksi Keadaan Masyarakat). Sehubungan dengan judul tersebut, ada dua masalah yang akan dianalisis, yaitu bagaimana keadaan masyarakat yang digambarkan dalam drama tersebut dan sejauhmana pandangan sosial pengarang mempengaruhi penggambaran keadaan masyarakat dalam drama tersebut.

Dalam membahas masalah-masalah yang ada dalam skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan (*library research*). Pada metode ini data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan sejumlah buku, surat kabar, majalah, artikel, internet dan berbagai tulisan lain yang mempunyai hubungan dengan objek penelitian. Sedangkan analisis data dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme genetik dan untuk mendukung pendekatan tersebut maka penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis. Dan berdasarkan analisis yang dilakukan penulis, dapat dibuktikan akan adanya hubungan antara karya sastra yang ditulis oleh pengarang dengan keadaan masyarakat pada saat itu yang penuh dengan kemiskinan, kekerasan dan kebobrokan moral.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Literature is a part of art which uses language as the medium. Literature is also an oral or written work with some characteristics such as original, artistic, and beautiful either in the form or the content (Kamus Istilah Sastra, 1990). Moreover the beauty of a literary work have to fulfil two conditions, that are truth and fineness.

An author is a member of society. Hence the literary work that is created by the author will have various aspects of movement and human life, it is influenced by the author's subjectivity such as the place where the author live, the condition of society, and the time when the work is created.

With the delimitation of author's imagination by his living space and especially because of the author's big attention to the people in his society, their problems, to the society's condition and character in the author area will make the literary work fulls of information about the society for the certain scopes. This means that literature is not something independent, but it is closely related to the situation and condition of the society where the work is created.

According to the explanation above, we can say that literary work is not come from the social vacuum but it can be regarded as a social institution which uses language as the medium. Literature performs the picture of life, and the life itself is a

social reality (Damono, 1978). In this term, the life concerns with the relation between society, society and people (including the author), between human and event that happened in human: self. However, these events always become the subject matter of literary work, that is the reflection of one's relation with others or with society. Therefore, the task of literary work is not merely to record the daily life, but it tries to interpret the life itself, to give sense for the life, so it will keep valuable and more treat man like a real human.

One kind of literature is a drama. Drama is the work of literature or composition which delineates life and human activities by means of presenting various actions and dialogues between a group of characters. Drama is more than the representation of life and character through action and dialogue, for drama is also entertainment (Russel, 1966:5). The impression and the consciousness toward drama are more focussed on the form of work which reacted directly to the audience.

Jumping from that statement, some of literary work like American drama depicts the reality of society's life as objective as possible. Therefore it needs an observation toward society.

One of the dramas that the writer thinks can represent the life of American South society in the 20th century is a play titled *A Streetcar Named Desire*, written by one of famous American playwright, Tennessee Williams, who lived in 1911-1983. The drama won the Pullitzer prize as well as Drama Critic's Award.

Tennessee Williams was influenced by realism that analysis social life through literary work without concealing unworthy matters. Thus he created his work

as if he photographed life or the events that happened in the society, so clear and transparent. The society's problems of social imbalance like poverty of poor people, farmers and workers were the actual problems in life. Furthermore, social problems like arbitrary, wiliness, greedy, criminal and moral decline were not also released from his attention.

The authors succeed in describing society's life at that time was not released by their existence as a member of the society where the work is created. They knew and involved in the problems that faced by their figures. As well as Tennessee Williams, he was born in Columbus, Missisipi, a town in South America. He and his family often changed their living place. In 1939, one year after he graduated from University of Iowa, he went for the first time and remained for a while in New Orleans. Henceforth, this place became the setting for *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

A Streetcar Named Desire was published in 1947. In America, during the last part of nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, the new development in industry and technology were so increased that they were frequently designated as the second industrial revolution. Rae and Mahoney (1955:367) explains as follows:

"New industries such as protelem, rubber, chemicals and alumunium appeared, electricity and the internal combustion engine arose as source of power to challenge the century long domination of steam, and the automobile and the airplane, the telephone, and the radio introduced new factors into transportation and communications"

This play is a picture of downtown American's society in southern in an industrial era, New Orleans. New Orleans is one of the largest cities in the southern United States and one of the most picturesque and interesting in the nation. It is also

one of the world's great ports with its natural resources such as petroleum, natural gas, salt, sulfur, and timber. New Orleans is a focal point for the output of petroleum and natural gas, and there are huge facilities for aluminum production. The most important industry in terms of value added by manufacture, however, is the processing of food and kindred products.

Although New Orleans is in the heart of the deep south, it is not a typical Southern city. It is rather a cosmopolitan community, for there are immigrants from German, Italy, Latin America, and other immigrants. They had arrived after the earliest settlers, French and Spanish. New Orleans was also settled by people from other parts of North America. Beside that, about one third of the population of the metropolitan area is black. Many blacks were brought here in large numbers before the Civil War, when New Orleans was a thriving slave market.

It is told that the life in this city is so hard, its people is used to struggle with poverty and hardness. This was not surprised considering the town existence as industrial town. So it formed an industrial society which is identical with all of forms emulation live.

Hence, the condition of society in certain period is influenced by the social change and the society's culture. These two important things support the writer to conclude some problems as an objective of study and as a criteria in analyzing the drama.

Starting from the point above, the writer tries to find something interesting to be analyzed through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches more specific to describe the

society's condition. And the interesting term that chosen by the writer is the society's condition which is depicted in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In this case, the writer will analyze the society's condition by its economic, social, and cultural aspects.

1.2. Identification of Problem

In this play the writer has found and analyzed some problems, they are :

1. The life's contrast of factory worker in slum of urban area and rural residence of landlord of plantation generate the difference of the way of thinking, attitude, and in problems they have.
2. New Orleans is a town which is not exclusive. Life in that town is very hard, its people accustomed to struggling with the poorness and hardness. It's also told that the town full of passion.
3. Industrialisation has brought the social effects. The most visible one is urbanisation which generates the society's condition fulfilled by problems in the case of economics, social and culture.
4. Most of people in urban area experience moral crisis. It is caused by some factors such as environmental, family factor and the lack of religious comprehension.

1.3. The Scope of Problem

In analyzing *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the writer tries to limit the description of society's condition in the play by its social, economic, and cultural aspects.

1.4. The Statement of Problem

1. How is the society's condition in *A Streetcar Named Desire* ?
2. How far does the author's social view influence the description of society's condition in *A Streetcar Named Desire* ?

1.5. The Objective of Study

1. To describe the society's condition depicts in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
2. To find out the author's social view through the play.

1.6. Methodology

The writer uses the method that consist of library research and method of analyzing data. They can be explained as follows :

1.6.1. Library Research

In analyzing the problem in this drama, the writer uses library research in collecting the data as a reference to support the process of writing this thesis. This data can be taken from books, magazines, newspapers, internet or even just an article. The important thing that these data are related to the topic especially as sociological factors.

1.6.2. Method of Analyzing Data

In writing this thesis, the writer uses genetic structuralism analysis and uses sociological approach to explain the society's condition in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, with seeing the elements which build the drama itself and also the elements outside of the drama that are related to the topic.

1.7. Sequence of Presentation

Chapter I presents the background of the writing, identification of problem, the scope of problem, the statement of problem, the objective of study, methodology and sequence of presentation.

Chapter II presents the literature review. Some review of the sociological approach, the theory of structuralism and genetic structuralism. There is also the biography of Tennessee Williams which tells about author's relation with his family and his society.

Chapter III presents the Frame of Analysis

Chapter IV presents the analysis of the reflection of the society's condition in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by showing the reflection of poverty, the reflection of violence acts, the reflection of moral decline and the influence of the author's social view to the play.

Chapter V presents conclusion of the thesis with some suggestions from the writer to the readers in order to give input to the same study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

21. Sociological Approach

Sociology of literature is a branch of study of literary works, which looks at literary work as its relation to the social reality, author, literary creating process and the reader of the work. Thus literary work is related to the historical background of certain society, what the writer has seen and felt in his surrounding that he expressed in his work.

Sociology, in the 'Sociology of literature' (Swingedwood, 1972) is essentially scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institution and social processes; it seeks an answer to the questions of how society is possible, how it works and why it persists (Pali, 2001:9). Moreover, literature is an attempt to make sense in our life. In this case, literature and sociology can be classified as two fields that support each other.

It could not be denied that authors, artist generally, live in certain place and time. In other words, this certain place and time are society and social condition from which various institutions of value interact in it. It implies that an author is a member of society. Therefore he is tied to certain social status. That is the reason why literature is seen as social institution which uses language as its medium. Wellek (1955:109), as translated by Melani Budianta in 'Teori Sastra'says:

“Sastra adalah institusi sosial yang memakai medium bahasa...lagipula sastra ‘menyajikan kehidupan’ dan kehidupan sebagian besar terdiri dari kenyataan sosial walaupun karya sastra meniru dunia subyektif manusia. Penyair adalah warga masyarakat yang memiliki status khusus...sastra sering memiliki kaitan dengan institusi sosial tertentu”

Literature performs a picture of life. Life itself is social reality. It means that social reality also includes the relation of intersociety, intersociety and individual (include author), interindividual and interevent that occurred in author's mind. In addition, literature contains an idea which might be used to develop certain social addition.

Moreover, sociology deals with literature. It is used to study literature and social institution for literary work derives from social phenomenon, which is expressed by author as his world vision and reaction of the phenomenon mentioned above. As with sociology, literature concerned with man's social world, as Burns (1973:28) says:

“Sociology is truly the study of institutionalization and not merely of institution, then some grasp of this process within literature, and perhaps in art generally...”

According to Wellek and Warren as translated by Melani Budianta, the approaches in sociology is classified into three kinds, they are :

1. The sociology of the author which is discussed about author's social status, social ideology and the other things about author as the producer of literary work.
2. The sociology of literature which is discussed the content of literary work, its aim, and the other things that implied in literary work itself as well as its relation with social problems.

3. The sociology of literature which is discussed about the reader and the social effect of literary work itself.

According to Jabrohim (in Staf Pengajar UGM, 1994:225) as translated by the writer, the aim of the sociology of literature could be detailed as follows:

1. The author's social context

The author's social context is related with the position of author in society and with the reader. In this case, some social factors can influence the author as individual and also his work. Therefore, the most things to be analyzed are (1) How author getting living; whether he accepts aid from a protector, directly from society, or he has another job; (2) the author's professionalism, how far the author assumes his job as a profession; (3) society which is selected by the author. In this case, the relation between the author and society are very important because the society which is selected by the author will determine the form and the content of their works.

2. Literature as the society's mirror

How far that literature considered to be the mirror of society's condition. Here, the word "mirror" is unclear. So, it often to be misinterpreted and misused. In this context, the most things to be observed are (1) literature might not be told as the reflection of society at that time, (2) the nature "differ from other" an author often influenced the election and the appearance of social facts in his works, (3) the Genre of literature often represented the social attitude from all certain groups, and not the social attitude of all society; (4) literature which is tried to present society's condition

accurately might not be believed or accepted as society's mirror. And so on the contrary, the literary work which is not intended to depict the society's condition. The author's social view has to be considered if literature will be assessed as society's mirror.

3. The social function of literature

Here, the sociological approach tries to answer the questions like "How far does the literature's value relate to social view?" and "How far does social value influences social value?". There are three things which must be observed: (1) the point of view assuming that literature is equal to the work of priest or prophet. Including in this, the view that literature has to function as society's inovator and reorganizer, (2) another point of view assuming that the function of literature is merely as the consoler. In this case, the idea "art for art", for example, is not different from the effort to throw merchandise in order to make it as the best seller, (3) compromising point of view as depicted in slogan :literature has to teach by amusing way".

From the statements above, it can be said that one possibly can show the causes and the background of literary work as well as to know the sociological condition of literary work at the certain time by using the sociological approach. Of course, we can not certainly recognize the social order at that time, but at least we can recognize what is the dominant themes. It can be happened that an author with certain motives suggests something that possibly out of the common thought.

Finally, the conception emphasis on the work of literature and the writer position in a mass society are extremely important. The author's social involvement, attitude and his ideology can be learnt not only through his work but his biography document also. The author is a member of society. He certainly has his own opinion of the political and social issues, and the development in that period. The links between historical background and the development of literature constitute a key area in any sociology of literature.

2.2. Structuralism

Basically, the structural theory is a theory that starts from assumption that the literary work is composed from several elements, which are tied together, structured, until not even an element is unused. So, the literary work represents an autonomous structure, which can be comprehended as a whole unit with each of its constructor element is interrelated.

Therefore, to understand its meaning, the literary work has to be studied by its own structure without seeing the outside aspects of the literary work like ideology, moral, sociocultural, psychology and religion, because the beauty of literature lays in its special language.

Briefly, the analysis which uses the structural theory is an analysis of the elements, which creates the literary work. In other words, the analysis is on the intrinsic elements of the literary work. The intrinsic elements are the elements that built the literary work; those elements are theme, plot, setting, characters and others.



Occasionally, the structural analysis is regarded as the most objective analysis. This statement is supported by the fact that literary work is a composition of systematic elements. The elements are not just the collect of thing that stand alone, but they are tied and interrelated system. So, it can be said that the structural analysis is an analysis which does not examine separately, but treats them as a systematic unit.

Mode of structural analysis has expanded at full speed in the world of literature criticism but it is confessed also that analysis which is only based on the structure contains various weaknesses, they are: the literary work is detached from its context and function so that literary work is lost its sociocultural relevance, uprooted from history, and separated from human being problems.

Eventhough structuralism contains various weakness, presumably it requires to be agreed also that, however, structural analysis becomes the principle tak for a literature research before he goes to other tasks. This statement based on the ascription that literary work, basically, represents the *world in word* (Dresden in Teeuw, 1983:61; 1984:135) which has intrinsic meaning that only can be dug from the work itself (Staff Pengajar UGM, dkk, 1994:73).

2.3. Genetic Structuralism

Literary work borns in the middle of society as a result of author's imagination and also as the reflection of social phenomenon around him. So, its present becomes the part of society's life. Author as individual subject tries to create his worldview to his collective subject. It indicates that a literary work is rooted in

certain society and culture. Such circumstances have made literary work as the document of social culture.

According to this comprehension, genetic structuralism emerges as reaction to 'structuralism' which disregarding the historical element of literature text so that it becomes ahistorical theory. Genetic structuralism considers literature text as social institution which can change and full of class conflicts.

The pioneer of this theory is Lucian Goldman, a French literature expert. He tries to unite structuralism approach and sociological approach to understand literary works. The factors are the author and social reality which have relection to the history of literary work.

Genetic Structuralism theory can be formulated as follows, first the research of literary work itself. The structure of literary work is analyzed to prove the unity of its parts so that it will unite as a whole. Second, its correlation with social culture which is related to the mental structure that has relation with author's worldview.

In line with this, in analyzing this play (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), it also involves some element such as the history and society's condition when the author creates it.

2.4. Review of Relevant Research

The author's idea in his literary works is not separated from social problems faced by him as social being. Beside that, he certainly involves with various social

activities, social processes and social systems in their environment. All of these have made the author able to depict their society condition.

The play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams shows something very important in society. This play is not only an entertainment for readers, but it is also loaded with society's social condition like poverty, violence, and moral decline. The things represent a problem in society that is important to know.

The literary research that deals with the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams has been studied by others, that is by Rezky Indah Hari DJ with the title *Social Reality of America in Drama A Streetcar Named Desire* by using genetic structuralism approach. The object of her research is social reality of American society in general like problems of ethnic, women and career, social class and race. These things are different from the research that done by the writer. In doing her research, the writer use sociological approach that focused on the condition of society in South America (as the setting of the play) which is fulfilled with poverty, violence and moral decline. Moreover, the writer tries to relate the author's (Tennessee Williams) social view with society's condition at that time.

Based on this perception, the writer tries to discuss about society's condition in the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* as the object of study. Furthermore, the aim of this research is to see how far the relation between literary works with the society's condition when the play is created.

2.5. Social Condition in Industrial Era

During the eighteenth century industrialism emerged as a conspicuous feature of British economic life, and by the end of Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain had become a highly industrialized state. The movement then began to spread to the rest of the Western world, until in the first half of the nineteenth century it penetrated into Belgium, France, Germany, and the United States and by the end of the century it extended to the entire world.

The primary characteristic of industrialism was the substitution of mechanical for human power. For America itself, the new development in industry and technology happened during the last part of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. They were so far reaching that they are frequently designated as the second industrial revolution.

As we can see, industrial civilization has developed a market economy and an industrial society. The industrial mode of production has given rise to an economic organization that influences all parts of society, but it can be denied also that the great expansion of industrialism has brought an intensification of social problems that introduced into modern civilization by industrial revolution.

Rural society that mostly consists of small farmers who lost their livelihood which was caused by the use of machine then went to the new industrial places where they offered themselves as cheap labour to fabric owner. Beside that, the increase of population in big cities also resulted by the existence of immigrants that came from

out of United States. They worked as low paying labors in industrial area where for that they do not claimed to have special skill.

The correlation of industrial life with urban life has expressed precisely by Paul Meadows (Miller and Form, 1951:831) as follows :

“Urbanization is the indispensable partner of industrialization, the measure of its growth, the mirror of its complexities, the interpreter of its values and the matrix of its expansion”

Moreover, these industrial cities were unpleasant places to live in. Most of them are small villages or simply empty fields until they were selected as factory sites strictly on grounds of economic utility, and they expanded without form or plan. Consequently, slum areas in the big cities could not be avoided again.

During the Great Depression the effects of industrialization increased hostility between the major economic classes in the American society. Employers and employees were increased. By the mid-twentieth century, inequality in the American society revealed the existence of a complex social-class system.

The upper class takes up less that 3 percent of United States population (Thesis, Hari, 1999:15). This class is devided into the wealthiest and most prestigious families. Among them are the fabric owner, capital owner, and bourgeois.

The upper middle class takes up about 10 to 15 percent of the American society and the middle class comprises about 30 to 35 percent (Thesis, Hari, 1999:15). The upper middle class is at very top of the occupational structure, with jobs bringing high rewards and requiring higher levels of education (such as a postgraduate college degree). Whereas the middle class is located within a range of

occupations ranked (in terms of complexity and skill) from the highest (such as the traditional professions of doctors and lawyers, accountants, architects, higher level scientists and engineers) to mid-level (such as public school teachers, insurance agents, sales clerks and office workers).

Working class people occupy mid-level to low position within the occupational structure. Working class occupations are characterized by relatively low skill level, lower education and a lower degree of complexity, as well as manual instead of nonmanual labor. Working class people are factory workers, truck drivers, plumbers, gas station attendants, welders, and so on. Their jobs are for the most lower paying, less secure and more physically demanding and dangerous.

Because of the industrialist's aim in the early of Industrial Revolution is solely looked for the properties so their attention is only focused to the things which are more profitably. The victims of this kind of attitude are labors because employers fear to loose some of their profit if they managed their workers prosperity.

Labors accept low wages with long work hours. Their family have to live in grievous housing environment which does not fulfill the health qualifications. It occurs a conflict between labors and all fabric owners where labors claim to get good working condition, good housing and facilities.

Further, these problem of wealth and poverty can generate new problems in society. Among them are social differences, criminality, or violence act and society's moral decline.



2.6. The Biography of Tennessee Williams

Thomas Lanier Williams was born in Columbus, Mississippi, on March 26, 1911 and lived in Nashville, Tennessee, and in various towns in Mississippi. His mother, repressed and gentle, was the daughter of an Episcopalian clergyman; his father, a travelling salesman, was aggressive and violent at home. When Tom was seven, the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where his father became sales manager of a shoe company.

Tom was sickly and overprotected by his mother, so, in retaliation, his father called him "Miss Nancy". At fourteen he won a prize in a national writing contest, and at seventeen published a gothic story in the pulp magazine *Weird Tales*. He began studying at the University of Missouri, but left after two years. His father then found him a job in the warehouse of a shoe factory, where he worked for three years, writing at night. Then he went on to study at Washington University in St. Louis, finally graduating from the University of Iowa at the age of twenty-seven. Meanwhile, his beloved sister Rose, who had been suffering from increasing mental imbalance, had spent most of her life in sanatorium.

The next year Williams left for New Orleans, the first of many temporary homes; it would provide the setting for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. There he changed his name to 'Tennessee'. There also he actively entered the homosexual world.

Williams plays produced at college and community theatre, and in 1939 he won a prize for a collection of one act plays, *American Blues*. The next year, *Battle of Angels* was produced in Boston but failed (it would later be written as *Orpheus*

Descending, 1957). And then the arrival of *The Glass Menagerie* in New York (1945) became his first success. The play won the Drama Critic's Circle Award.

The financial success of *Menagerie* was a first exhilarating to Williams then debilitating, and he fled to Mexico, where he resumed work in earlier play. *The Poker Night* gradually turned into *A Streetcar Named Desire*. When it opened in 1947, it was an even greater success than *Glass Menagerie*, winning another Drama Critic's Circle Award as well as The Pullitzer Prize. Williams was able to travel and to buy a home in Key West, Florida, where he did much of his ensuing work. At about this time his "transitory heart" found "a home at last" in a young man named Frank Merlo.

For more than a decade thereafter, a new Williams play appeared almost every two years. Among the most successful were *The Rose Tattto* (1950); the Pullitzer winning *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955); and *The Night of the Iguana* (1961). A number of his plays were produced widely abroad, and also became equally successful films. Yet some of the dramas now regarded as the best of this period were commercial failures; *Summer and Smoke* (1948); the surrealistic and visionary *Camino Real* (1953); and *Garden District* (1957), later *Suddenly last Summer* (1964).

During the sixties, the Broadway failures became more frequent. Critics accused his plays of too much violence and the playwright of repeating of himself. William was facing another breakdown: the "ritualistic combination" of stimulants he relied on began to turn against him; Frank Merlo died; and he was committed to a St. Louis mental home. On recovery, he plunged back into the anodyne of work. Among

the many plays of his last years are *Small Craft Warnings* (1972); *The Two Characters Play*; and *Clothes for a Summer Hotel* (1980).

Williams who always reluctant to talk about his work (likening it to a "bird that will be shtartled away, as by hawk's shadow) did not see himself as part of a tradition in American dramaturgy. He acknowledged the influence of Anton Chekhov, the nineteenth-century writer of dramas of lonely, searching characters; of D.H. Lawrence, the British novelist who emphasized the theme of sexual life force; and above all of the American Hart Crane, homosexual poet maudit, who, he said, "touched fire that burned (himself) alive", adding that "perhaps it is only through self-immolation of such a nature that we as human beings can offer to you the entire truth of ourselves". Such a statement indicates the deeply confessional quality of Williams's writing, even in plays not directly based on autobiography.

Streetcar, like other Williams plays, was criticized not only for violence but for an obsession with sexuality, which in some of the later work was regarded by some critics as an almost morbid preoccupation with "perversion", murder, rape, drugs, incest, nymphomania. These topics figure, however, as instances of his deeper subject, the themes of desire and loneliness. As he said in an interview, "desire is rooted in longing for companionship, a release from the loneliness that haunts every individual". Loneliness and desire propel his characters into extreme behavior, no doubt, but such behavior literally dramatizes the plight that Williams saw as universal.

2.6.1. The Author and His Family

Tennessee Williams spent much of his childhood with his parents in his grandfather's home. He was born in a depressed family. His mother, a southern woman from an Episcopalian clergyman, obsessed by her past life in the southern region where she had a nice life and was well respected. She was depressed over her poor living in a small town with her husband and two children. Like other southern women; she still held the old traditions of southern 'ladies'. She was a genteel and religious woman. She overprotected Williams and this made him as a sissy and his father called him Ms. Nancy.

Beside that, William's father was violent and drunk at home; he frequently abused his wife (Edwina) when drunk. Later his mother became a neurotic woman. William's sister (Rose) was also a victim of his father's alcoholic rages and spent most of her life in the sanatorium.

The situation of his unhappy family affected his life and his works such as *The Glass Menagerie*. In the stage directions, Williams calls it "a memory play", seen through the recollections of the writer Tom, who talk to the audience about himself and about the scenes depicting his mother Amanda, poverty-stricken but genteely living in memories of her southern youth and her "gentleman callers", his crippled sister Laura, who finds refuge in her "menagerie" of little glass animals; and the traumatic affect of a modern "gentleman caller" on them. The similarities to Williams family are clear in Amanda and Laura; moreover, Tom leaves home at the play's end, while the father is conspicuous by his absence.

The other play *A Streetcar Named Desire* also presented the character of Blanche, as his young mother.

2.6.2. The Author and His Society

Tennessee Williams was born in Mississippi and build his career in New Orleans. He tried to describe the society's condition of these cities through his characters behavior in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Mississippi was discovered in 1541 by the European. The Chippewa or Ojibway Indians called the river beside which they lived Mee-zee-see-bee, father of waters, and from this Indian word comes the modern name. In 1680 the Louis Hennepin expedition reached the falls of St. Anthony. Robert Cavelier de La Salle in 1682 claimed the whole Mississippi region for France and named it Louisiana, as consequently most of its people were Chatolics.

This state a major cotton-growing region, with noted for production of long-staple cotton.

Like other southerners, Mississippians were also obsessed by their ancestor. They see legend rather than history. The strong following of Christianity in the society also affected its social life. It changed the outlook of its people, their attitudes, and the norms of the society. The new towards women was still influenced by Christian ideologies of the inferior women.

In other hand, New Orleans, Louisiana, is the US city that is so different from all others. Perhaps only San Fransisco can match it for being so removed from the American norm.

Just like Mississipi, New Orleans was founded in 1718 by Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, sieur de Bienville, on asite selected because of the need for an inland water route to Biloxi on the Gulf Crast. It was named La Nouvelle Orleans in honour of Philippe II, duke of Orleans. Most early settlers became large landowners. The city remained French until 1762, and then, although rhis was not known to the inhabitants until 1764, it became Spanish until 1803. In that year the French again took control under the treaty of Ildefonso (1800), but soon thereafter the city passed to the United States as part of the Louisiana purchase.

New Orleans is rather a cosmopolitan community. It roots-with French, Spanish, Cajun, Creole, Carribbean and African influences. It also dwelt by immigrants from German, Italy, Latin America, England, Irlandia, and other immigrants. All these different societies made a unique contribution to the area's cuture, history and to the racial melange that is such a major factor in the area's character.

Moreover the city possesses a kind of ambivalence one has to have to live in. The people have great tolerance for many things good and bad. The languid, almost Carribbean ambience, the humid climate and the laid back lifestyle and culture all contribute to the city's worthiness of the nickname 'The Big Easy'.

CHAPTER III

THE FRAME OF ANALYSIS

In the analysis of *A Streetcar Named Desire* written by Tennessee Williams, the writer attempts to depict the society's condition in the South America where the author grew up. It is about the society's condition fulfilled with problems in the case of economics, social and culture. It tells how social problems like economic difficulty (poverty), violence act and moral decline interpreted in downtown American's society in southern, New Orleans, at that period of time.

To begin with, the writer would like to show the picture of poverty which can be known by seeing the environmental circumstances where figures live, their social status as well as their jobs which show their income. From the data obtained, it can be known how the poverty considered as a social problem; that is, where the difference of economic position of all member society is determined clearly. Furthermore, this economic imbalance will spread to the other areas, for example to the family's life which is stricken by poverty, This last one will be discussed in the next analysis.

Secondly, the writer would like to portray how the characters behavior also their relation with their society and family in order to see the existence of violence act that done by the characters. Then, the writer will trace their life style and their condition as immigrants who come from different races; whether their violence

act represents a culture that exist at that time or a culture which they bring from their original area.

In the third section the writer would like to show how moral decline, such as prostitution, gambling, alcoholism, and sex violation occur in the society. In this part, the writer takes a few of characters in which each of them has been the victim of moral decline itself.

Finally, in the fourth section the writer would like to show how the author's social view influences the play.

The fourth analysis above, certainly can not be separated from social background of the author and the work itself, considering the writer uses genetic structuralism analysis and uses sociological approach.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

Drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*, written by Tennessee Williams (1947) contains various portrait of reality of the urban society's life in New Orleans at that time. This life portrait is full of social friction, economic difficulty and moral decline. These occur for some factors, they are social change that happened in society, cultural current durability that come from outside and society's lack of education. Those factors give the interesting picture about society's condition in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

This play takes place in South America, precisely in Elysian Fields, New Orleans city. The widely varied street names in New Orleans reflect the different cultures that have influenced the city. In Webster New World Large Print Dictionary (1988:323) Elysian Fields or Elysum is a Greek Mythology. It is the dwelling place of virtuous people after death or an state of ideal bliss. While Homer in *The American Peoples Encyclopedia* (a.7, 1968:190) says that Elysium was a region at the earth's western most boundaries, a favored land where *life is easiest to man...No snow is there, nor any rain, nor yet any great storm*. So, it is not surprised that New Orleans's nickname 'The Big Easy'.

Tennessee Williams focused the events that centered around the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Most of the characters were immigrants. There were Frenchs, Polish, Mexican, and Africans. They lived in a flat that has no privacy between

rooms. The rooms were relatively dim with light that seeped through the window from the street. Their economic condition could not meet their families need. The characters portrayed are those of deterioration. Gambling, drunkennes, prostitution, and violence acts to woman displayed these characters traits clearly.

This comprehension to the society's condition is done by using sociological approach which draws attention to the relation between human, groups and the relation between human and groups in the process of social life. The interaction process involves some good and right elements as well as bad and wrong elements which influencing each other.

Which kind of elements that very influential usually depend on the society's mentality. It involves social role, including family's environment, genetic relationship and even the athmosphere of education. In the end, the behavioral forming in human interaction in their society has been influenced by various factor in society (Soekanto, 1998:494).

4.1. The Reflection of Economic Difficulty (Poverty)

Economic problems have never got out of human life's track. Problem of economic difficulty (poverty) frequently brought the very wide negative impacts. Social difference, criminalities, or violence acts and the others various form of society diseases was much originated from the economic difficulty.

In The New Encyclopedia Britannica (vol.14, 1973:935), poverty is the condition that is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs.

In this context, the identification of poor people, then, first requires a determination of what constitutes basic needs. These may be defined as narrowly as "those necessary for survival" or as broadly as "those reflecting the prevailing standard of living in the community". The first criterion would cover only those people near the borderline of starvation or death from exposure; the second would extend to people whose nutrition, housing, and clothing, though adequate to preserve life, do not measure up to those of the population as a whole.

Based on the definitions above, poverty which is described in this drama can be defined as the second criterion. We can say like this because in an industrial societies, poverty is associated with poor health, low levels of education or skills, an inability or an unwillingness to participate in society, high rates of disruptive or disorderly behavior, and improvidence. In these societies the labels "poor" and "poverty" covered by the terms of "lower class" and "low-income group".

Poverty is a striking feature in some of countries, even in America. America is an affluent nation in the world but millions of its people are poor and millions more that do not live in poverty are poor relative to others.

Furthermore, the poverty problem in the United States is essentially an income distribution problem. If there is enough income to go around, no one would have to live in poverty. But the enough income does not go to everyone, and some people do live in poverty. (Sharp, 1988:266).

Income inequality happened in all states, neither in capitalist, socialist nor in mixed states. While for America itself, income is not distributed equally among

members of the American population. In fact, the unequal distribution of income grew worse in the 1980s. Harold R. Kerbo in his book 'Social Stratification and Inequality' describes family income inequality (Gini index) in United States from 1947-1980 as follows :

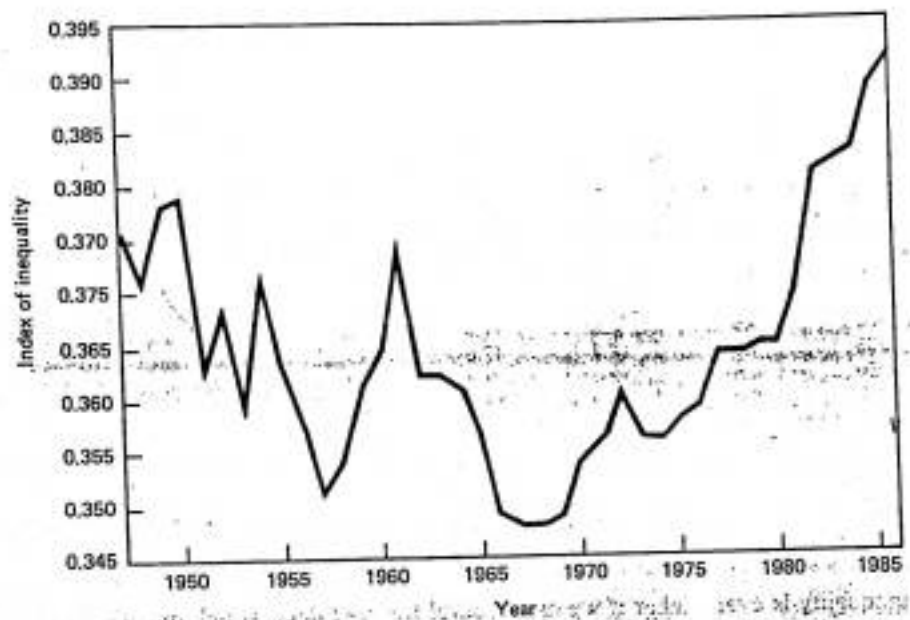


FIGURE 2-1
Family income inequality (Gini index), 1947-1986. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1986; Harrison and Bluestone (1988:7).

In this diagram we can see that, since World War II, income inequality in the United hit its lowest level between 1965 and 1970, but then rose dramatically in the 1980s to its highest point in 1985. While in 1947-1950 the income inequality at the second highest. This income inequality makes the poor literally have grown poorer. Indeed, the highest income families or the having people were far better off. For more

detailed explanation, the writer takes an example of income inequality's diagram which show income inequality in 1988.

All families	Percentage of aggregate income
lowest fifth	4,6
Second fifth	10,7
Middle fifth	16,7
Fourth fifth	24,0
Highest fifth	44,0
Highest 5 percent	17,2

Table 1. Source : U.S Bureau of the Census. 1989. *Current Population Reports*, "Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States : 1988" table 5, p. 31

In this table, the total number of American families is divided into five equally sized groups, ranked from high to low in order of annual family income. The lowest fifth of families in the United States received 4,6 percent, the next lowest fifth received 10,7 percent, and the highest fifth received 44,0 percent of all income. In other words, the lowest 20 percent of families received only 4,6 percent of the total income, while the highest 20 percent of families received 44,0 percent of the total. This table also shows that the highest 5 percent of families received 17,2 percent of aggregate income, or over three times the share they would have received under conditions of income inequality. (Kerbo, 1991:30-31). If income were equally distributed among families, each group would receive 20 percent of the total - no more and no less.

Eventhough the United States continues to be the world's most powerful economy in terms of the overall size of GNP, it also has much poverty. For example, the percentage of population living in poverty reaching a high point of 22 percent in

1959, before slowly moving down during 1960s and then went up again into 15,2 percent in 1983 (Kerbo, 1991 : 304).

From the explanation above, we can concluded that there are a close relation between income inequality and poverty itself. If there is a higher of income inequality, poverty will more increase, as happened in 1980s.

The cause of economic difficulty itself supported by various factors. Beside of the condition of nature potentation and its processing, there was also the monopoly practice by several people that could impact to the economic imbalanced. These things became worsed by the lack of society's professionalism as economic perpetrator.

Furthermore, the technological change is also contributing in poverty. Decisions by executives in business and industry to automate or increase mechanization of their operations in order to increase efficiency and profits have resulted in the displacement of many workers and have closed opportunities for new entrants into the labor force. The most affected by technological change are unskilled and semiskilled workers.

The picture of economic difficulty was portrayed in *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. The drama depicted how the life pattern of urban society which is completely unadequated.

They lived in a small flat in a slum area where the sound of passing train can be heard. The flat has no privacy between rooms; the rooms are relatively dim with light that seeps through the window from the street. This condition has been



portrayed by Stanley's and his friend's family, such as expressed in the drama as follows :

(She gets up and opens the downstairs door. A light goes on behind the blind, turning it light blue. Blanche slowly follows her into the downstairs flat. The surrounding areas dim out as the inferior is lighted. Two rooms can be seen....)

(p.16, scene 1)

Blanche : "Wonderful, honey. I don't like a bed that gives much. But there's no door between the two rooms, and Stanley – will it be decent?"

(p.22, scene 1)

(Outside, a train approaches. They are silent till the noise subsides. They are both in the bedroom)

(p. 71. scene 4)

The phenomena of the increase of population in big cities which resulted by the existence of immigrants has made a rapid growth of new cities. Most of this new cities have a grievous housing environment which does not fulfilled the health qualification as well as unpleasant to settle. Kross in his book 'American Economic Development' (1966:42) said that the 58 dwelling units in which Americans lived in the middle of the twentieth century represented a collection of heterogeneous structures accumulated in a century of home development. Among of these houses are built in suburbia and exurbia after World War II. Then, about one-tenth of all dwelling units were is slum or blighted areas.



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During the war time, Stanley worked in the Engineer's Corps and it made him a competent mechanic. After the war is over, he became a working class people. He works on a plant with Mitch, his friend.

Stella : "He's on the precision bench in the spare parts department. At the plant Stanley travels for"

(p. 58. scene 3)

He repaired the automobile and all the modern household equipments.

Stella : "Stan? Yes."

Blanche : "Will he be back?"

Stella : "He's gone to get the car greased. Why?"

(p. 63. scene. 4)

Stanley : "That darn mechanics at Fritz's don't know their ass fr'm"

(p. 73. scene. 4)

They (Stanley and friends) do not required education beyond high school and they received minimal prestige, because the members of this class executed much of physical works of economic system. This lack of education depicted in the language that they use in everyday conversations. Eventhough language is not an absolute measure in determining someone's lack of education but generally the language that used between educated and less educated people are very different. The language that used by people who have low education is full of quaint and impolite words, as we can see by Steve's utterance:

Steve : "That rutting hunk!" (*He looks around the...*)

Blanche : "I must jot that down in my notebook. Ha-ha! I'm compiling

a notebook of quaint little words and phrases I've picked up here"

(p. 76. scene 5)

Their economic condition is also uncertainty because they do not have permanent work. The growth of machine technology makes a reduction in working-class people or popularly known as the blue-collar (manual labor) jobs and an increase in white-collar (jobs in health care, legal aid, tax consulting, etc). So, the jobs in these capitalist societies, like United States, are requiring more and more skills and education.

On the other hand, the people in the middle-class occupations (or white-collar laborers) have higher income than working-class occupation (or blue-collar laborers). So, it is not wondered if the working class people becomes the poor (which is primarily those with limited job skills, inadequate food, substandard housing, low education, inadequate medical care, and others) in this country (United States). This phenomena was portrayed in Stanley's salary. His salary was only enough to buy a small narrow house without house keeper. Indeed, he can not give a regular allowance to his wife. He prefer to manage his family's finance by himself.

Stella : "Stanley doesn't give me a regular allowance, he likes to pay bills himself, but-this morning he gave me ten dollars to smooth things over.....

(p. 68. scene 4)

It seems that this dwelling condition was contradictory with the meaning of Elysian fields (the place where the drama takes place) as a Greek Mythology, that is

the dwelling place of virtuous people after death or a state of ideal bliss. So, the houses in this area should be beautiful just like heaven considering that virtuous people are the resident of heaven. Moreover, this area should give happiness for its people not misery. But the fact is most of Elysian's people at this time (when the drama is created) were stricken by poverty.

From the description above, it can be concluded that poverty strikes most of working class people who have low skilled. Those people do not have enough education so that they are only used to execute much of physical work. Moreover, these people are dominated by immigrants who work as low paying labor in industrial area where for that they do not claimed to have special skill.

This condition is happened because of the growth of machine technology in an industrial state which has made a big reduction in manual labor. These labors force is replaced by machine. Following this change is usually an increase in white collar sector (service jobs), This job (white collar worker) requiring more skill and education rather than less. As the consequently, income distribution is not equally distributed among families. The middle class people (white collar workers) will have a higher income than working class people (blue collar labors).

4.2. The Reflection of Violence Acts to Woman

Behavioral phenomenon of violence act in social reality is very related to the individual moral problem in society. In drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the picture of violence act is expressed in stereotypical male behavior within society which

represented through the characters of Stanley and Steve. Tennessee Williams foregrounds society's attitudes to masculinity within the text by using techniques such as dialogue, stage directions, foreshadow, and character. Through these techniques also that the role of women as sidelined sufferers is foregrounded in the text.

Stanley Kowalsky, Stella's husband, was a Polishman. He represented a concrete picture of New Orleans resident at that moment. He was a former army who became factory worker. He fondled of to get drunk and play poker. If he got angry, he liked to throw the goods before him or solve the bulb with shoe.

(Stanley stalks fiercely through the portieres into the bedroom. He crosses to the small white radio and snatches it off the table. With a shouted oath, he tosses the instrument out the window).

(p. 57. scene. 3)

At that time, Stanley and his friends were playing poker. He got angry when Blanche did not grant his request to turn off the radio. With a shouted oath, he threw the radio out of the window. In another scene, he also did the same thing in front of his wife :

Stella : "...Stanley's always smashed things. Why, on our wedding — night soon as we came in here - he snatched off one of my slippers and rushed about the place smashing the light-bulbs with it.

(p. 64. scene. 4)

This absolute control became one particular feature related to Stanley position. This almost animalistic notion of dominant male is hinted as soon as the

play begins. His overall presidency and power are made clear from beginning in the stage directions.

(...She cries out in protest...Her husband and his companion have already started back around the corner).

(p.14. scene 1)

Stanley did not take notice of his wife's concern, but instead continued on his original course, asserting his own destiny, without any thought to the effect it may have on those around him. It is through actions such as these that Stanley asserts power, symbolic of the male dominance throughout patriarchal society. He also gained a sense of self-importance from this position. It is said that he accepted his wife's affections with "...lordly composure..." . This is again portrayed in Stanley's dialogue. His statement "Be comfortable is my motto" (*A Streetcar Named Desire, p. 30. scene 1*) is almost contradictory, considering that he treats the other characters out of their way, throughout the play. It is through dialogue such as this that audiences are alerted to the fact that Stanley intrinsically fails to consider the implications his own needs and wants have on other people. Instead he is the one in control, the only person invested with power and subsequent command, therefore the only one taken into consideration. His over powering presented when he played poker with his friends. Here he made powerful statements, passed judgements on the symbolic game, and asserted dominance.

Pablo : "Why don't somebody go to the Chinaman's and bring back a load of chop suey?"

Stanley : "When I'm losing you want to eat! Ante up! Openers? Openers! Get y'r ass off the table, Mitch. Nothing belongs on a poker table but cards, chips, and whisky".

(p. 45-46. scene 3)

It is he who set such rules, allowing no other comment or opinion.

Stanley frequently conducts his violence act to others especially to his wife, Stella Dubois. His deeds to Stella were not separated from the understanding that man has an absolute control on woman. For him, women were degraded to mere tags, and never allowed their own personage. Woman has no business to take the decision for all problems without the knowledge of her husband, even in domestic cases. Everything that told by husband have to be obeyed and executed by a wife.

Stanley : "...What do you two think you are? A pair of queen? Remember what Huey Long said – "Every Man is a King!" And I am the king around here, so don't forget it!..."

(p. 107. scene 8)

While Stella as a woman and wife fulfils society's preconceptions of femininity perfectly, though from today's perspective they may be considered as misconceptions. Her character is absolutely passive and has largely domestic role. From her first appearance in the play, she was found in door, and remained in the setting for a good deal of the play. She is also disempowered through the language of other characters. She was rarely called by her name, and instead referred to as "...honey...", "...baby...", or "...sweetie...".

Blanche : "Baby, my baby sister!"

(p. 62. scene 4)

This lack of individual identity is one of the hallmarks of feminine power play within contemporary society.

Stella loves her husband very much. Her dream is to have a happy family. She wants to be a good wife to her husband and a good mother for her children. She dedicates all of her life for the sake of her family. She do all of the household chores and never cared with her appearance.

Blanche : "You hear me? I said stand up! (*Stella complies reluctantly*) You messy child, you, you've spilt something on the pretty white lace collar! About your hair – you ought to have it cut in a feather bob with your dainty features. Stella, you have a maid, don't you?"

(p.22. scene 1)

The problems above emerged sharply in the mid-twentieth century; a time when the great social upheaval happened. The world wars had invested marginalised groups with sudden power, and for a short time the balance of power between the genders had shifted and men had once again taken the upper hand. (Literature Classic. Com).

This shaping of gender relation in advanced industrial society is an combination between capitalism and patriarchy. The males are like capitalist who control most of the society's wealth, prestige, and power. Females are like the workers, they can acquire valuable resources only by following the command of their 'bosses'. A patriarchy itself is a form of social organisation in which men hold near-absolute control over proverty, lineage, and family members, including women and children.

Stella was often marginalised physically through various incarnations of male violence. In scene eight, Stanley responded to Stella's request to clear the table in the following way :

(He hurls a plate to the floor.)

Stanley : "That's how I'll clear the table! (He seizes her arm) Don't ever talk that way to me!"...

(p. 107. scene 8)

Stanley once hit Stella when she was pregnant. It was the most wicked deed that Stanley's done to his wife.

Stella : "*Drunk drunk animal thing, you!* (She rushes through to the poker table) All of you please go home! If any of you have one spark of decency in you"

Blanche : "Stella, watch out, he's"
(Stanley charges after Stella)

Men (feebly) : "Take it easy, Stanley. Easy, fellow. - Let's all -"

Stella : "You lay your hands on me and I'll"
(She backs out of sight. He advances and disappears. There is the sound of a blow. Stella cries out. Blanche screams and runs into the kitchen. The men rush forward and there is grappling and cursing. Something is overturned with a crash.)

Blanche : "My sister is going to have a baby!"

(p. 57. scene 3)

When Stanley was playing poker with his friends, Blanche came and turned on the radio. Her deed made him fed up. As the consequently, he snatched the radio off the table and tossed the instrument out of the window. Stella got angry with her husband's deed. She knew that her husband was getting drunk, lost his control and being a crude man by nature. He usually took it out on his wife. Stanley who felt insult by Stella's words, returned to pursue his wife and brought her into the kitchen.

There, he began to hit her. Seeing this, Blanche became hysterical. She was abusing Stanley who beated his pregnant wife.

Stanley's deeds to his wife was also influenced by his army behavior. Being an ex-army officer, was used to being in charged. He wanted to be the decision maker in his family. He wanted Stella to obey him as a husband and the head of family, he considered his status as a king. No one can order him. He wants to be respected just liked when he was an army officer.

Stella : "... You come out with me while Blanche is getting dressed"
Stanley : "Since when do you give me orders?"

(p. 37. scene 2)

These various incarnations of male violence was also done by Steve, Stanley's friend. He hit his wife, Eunice, just because she was accusing her husband of having another woman.

Eunice : "I seen you chasing her 'round the balcony I'm gonna call the vice squad!"
Steve : " Don't you throw that at me!"
Eunice : "You hit me! I'm gonna call the police!"
(A clatter of alumunium striking a wall is heard, followed by a man's angry roar, shouts and overtuned furniture. There is a crash; then a relative huṣh)

(p. 75. scene 5)

The violence act that done by Stanley was not only felt by his wife. Blanche Dubois, Stella's sister, also got the same treatment from Stanley. Blanche thought that Stanley was an superficial man, slipshod and did not have manner. This kinds of behavior were reflected in his daily lifestyle :

Blanche : "...He stalks through the rooms in his underwear at night. And I have to ask him to close the bathroom door..."

(p. 93. scene. 9)

Blanche : "He acts like an animal, has an animal's habits! Eats like one, moves like one, talks like one! There's even something - sub-human - something not quite to the stage of humanity yet! Yes, something - ape-like about him, like one of those pictures I've seen in - anthropological studies!..."

(p. 72. scene 4)

While in Stanley's view, Blanche was a swell woman who lived in the past fantasy, a time when she felt the glory and the affluence of Dubois family. In which at the same time, she also felt the collapse of her family dynasty. At a time her family was dead. The family's property was gone. Her luxurious house in Belle Reve had to be sold and in a state of going broke she leaved belle Reve.

Stella : "Belle Reve? Lost, is it? No!"
Blanche : " Yes Stella"

(p. 26. scene 1)

Blanche : "I, I, I took the blows in my face and my body! All of those deaths! The long parade to the graveyard! Father, mother! Margaret, that dreadful way!.....How in hell do you think all that sickness and dying was paid for? Deain is expensive, Miss Stella! And old Cousin Jessie's right after Margaret's hers! Why, the Grim Reaper had put up his tent on our doorstep!...Stella. Belle Reve was his head quarters! Honey - that's how it slipped through my fingers! Which of them left a cent of insurance even?"

(p. 26-27. scene 1)

There is such a thing in this state of Louisiana as the Napoleonic code, according to which whatever belonged to the wife was belonged to the husband and

vice versa. Using this understanding, Stanley insisted Blanche to give him the revenue of the house sales. Blanche said that she did not have the money, but Stanley did not believe it. With a rough way, he opened all of Blanche's wardrobe in order to find any papers or documents which showed that the house had been sold.

Stanley's effort has no effect. He could not find any evidences showing that the house had been sold. Blanche completely removed his dream to dominate her. It made Stanley more hated Blanche. He assumed that Blanche has affronted his position as a man.

Later on, to show his power, Stanley raped Blanche just when Stella was bearing a child. With his cruel deed, Stanley tried to assure people around him that Blanche has a mental breakdown and has to be brought to mental institution. By this action, he could cover his deed to Blanche. More than that, he would feel very happy because his privacy would not be intruded again by the presence of Blanche.

Stanley : "Stella, it's gonna be all right after she goes and after yo've had the baby. It's gonna be all right again between you and me the way that it was...."

(p. 109. scene 8)

Matron : "...*(The doctor comes into the room and she looks at him)* Jacket, Doctor?"

Doctor : "Not unless necessary". *(He takes off his hat and now he becomes personalized. The unhuman quality goes. His voice is gentle and reassuring as he crosses to Blanche and crouches in front of her. As he speaks her name, her terror subsides a little. The lurid*

reflections fade from the walls, the inhuman cries and noises die out and her own hoarse crying is calmed.)

(p. 141. scene. 11)

As explaining before that all of men's absolute control on woman appeared when the great social upheaval happened. This social upheaval was not only had made the devices of social structure or class structure but also had shifted the balance of power between the genders in which men had once again taken the upper hand. Consequently, women were not allowed to execute a defense toward themselves before the men.

This condition was getting worsed with the existence of the opinions regarding of men's position over the woman at that time. One of these opinion is displayed by Stanley's words when he did the emotional abuse to Stella :

Stanley : "...Remember what Huey Long said - Every Man is a King!" And I am the king aroud here..."

(p. 107. scene 8)

Every Man is a King is a thinking which was released by a U.S political figure, Huey P. Long. He was elected as the governor of Louisiana in 1928. Through dictatorial methods he succeeded in obtaining needed states roads, schools, and hospitals. An attempt to impeach him in 1929 failed. He was elected to the U.S senate in 1930. Huey P. Long was assasinated in 1935 by Dr. Carl A. Weiss, the son-in-law of his political opponent. Long wrote (or had written for him) *Every man a king* (1933) and *My first days in the White House* (1935). (The Americana Peoples Encyclopedia, a.12. 1962:580)

Such thinking had become entrenched in New Orleans society at that moment. The chance to practice such pattern of thinking was more widely opened when hardness have become a special characteristic of the life in that city. In the end, a strong fanaticism to this culture, occasionally, had an effect on the pattern of character establishment and also his life.

Yet Stella was not affronted by her husband's actions, and instead remained true to the stereotyped submissive female. But not with Blanche. She tried to oppose man dominance on woman with all of her ability that rare possessed by the other woman.

Stanley's interference in his wife affairs, with regard to the Napoleonic code, was again accepted, and it was very rare to find Stella making a decision for herself. Indeed the only time she did it when she sent Blanche to the mental institute at the play's conclusion, and even then she failed to do so without the support of others characters, such as Eunice.

Stella : "What have I done to my sister? Oh, God, what I have done to my sister?"

Eunice : "You done the right thing, the only thing you could do. She couldn't stay here; there wasn't no other place for her to go."

(p. 141. scene 11)

Throughout the play, the women were who must simply accepted the violence and the injustice in order for life to continue. As Eunice said at the play's conclusion : "Life has got to go on. No matter what happens, you've got to keep on going" (*p. 133, scene. 11*)

From the description above, it can be concluded that these uncalled for violence are not merely the consequence of the physical inequality between the genders but it is an example of male abuse of power and position in order to further their own dominance. Moreover, all of men's absolute control on woman are influenced by the existence of some thinkings which is supported men position over the woman.

4.3. The Reflection of Moral decline

Moral word derives from latin language that is "mores" which is an ordinary shape from "mos" means tradition. The other term sounded ethics origins of Greek "Ethos" by means as character or custom while Indonesian language defines it as morality (Katu, 2000:17).

While Soekanto (1987) in his dictionary says that moral conduct is a form of behavior includes the judgements of right and wrong.

In this case, moral concerning good and bad aspects of man as human being . Moral field is an area of human life seen from his goodness facet as human being. So, moral is an interesting thing to be discussed because it bring many influences for our conducts development.

If every people aware of their existance as a human being, they must apply on themselves norms or ethics. Ethics in this case has a meaning about human conduct covers the actual life as sexual behavior and solidarity in familys. So, we can say that a moral norm maybe is either a rule of conduct or a standard of evaluation. So, it is

maybe a requirement that anyone in certain circumstances should do, or the norm maybe a standard of evaluation which we implicitly refer to whether something is good or bad, desirable or undesirable, worthy or worthless. Finally, we can use moral norms as a starting point to determine right or wrong of human's conduct and action.

It is also important to know that moral is resulted from culture and the core of culture in each of society is value system that embraced by pertinent society of the culture concerned. That value system covers the abstract concepts about something that assumed bad and good. Thereby, it brings out the difference between positive and negative values. Those values are concretized into norms.

Each society has their own culture and interpretation toward the norms that appear in their daily life, for example, free sex in the west countries is a common thing but if it happens in Indonesia hence the society in this country looks it as a forbidden deed that opposes ethics. As well as with gambling and beverage, if in the west, they are not considered as prohibited thing so in Indonesia they are prohibited.

But some of the deeds (in west countries) above will assumed as a bad or negative value if they have exceeded the bounds of decency. It is happen because the deeds have brought negative impacts to its perpetrator or people around the perpetrator itself. So, it also can be said that free sex, gambling, and beverage are likely to be treated as moral decline.

Furthermore, morality in literary work is assessed based on the consideration of how far the content of the work fulfils or against society's generally conception about live obedience which known as ethics.

In the drama *A streetcar Named desire* the author depicts a lot of friction in moral value and ethics in society. It can be seen by the life portrait of some figures who experience moral decline. The author assesses that moral decline can caused social imbalances in society's life.

The biggest moral crisis itself happens in the urban community. The effect of modernization and globalization have brought society into a behaviour pattern which deviates from values or norms that existed in society itself, among such values is moral value.

From the explanation above, it can be said that moral decline in society constitutes a special phenomena which is very disturbing for society because the attitude and behavior that presented have break the orders and the norms. Moral decline occurs in society caused by some factors such as environmental factor, family factor and the lack of religious comprehension.

From the reading and observation in play *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the writer found some types of moral decline which was experienced by some figures. Among these forms of moral decline are prostitution, rape, gambling, and drunkennes.

4.3.1. Prostitution

Prostitution word derives from latin language "prostituere" means thrust oneself toward in bad things or disgraceful or openly give oneself up to public (Dirdjosisworo, 1985:179). In Indonesia this term is recognized with the

"prostitution" what is generally interpreted as the act of engaging in promiscuous sexual relations for a fee. Prostitution has existed in all civilization from the earliest times, especially in urban areas. George Reley Scott (Soedjono, 1985:179) formulates prostitution as follows :

"A prostitution is an individual male or female, who for some kind or reward, monetary or other wise or for some from or personal satisfaction, and as a part of whole time profession, engages in normal or abnormal sexual intercourse with various persons, who may be the same sex as, or the opposite sex to the prostitute"

From the statement above, we can conclude that the acceptance of oneself fate in order to get fee and others to the public according to Reley Scott can be done by female or male. Commonly, a prostitute is female, but lately there are also many men who give themselves up to lonely women in order to satisfy their sexual passion. This male prostitute is ordinary called as "gigolo". But for this time, we will only discuss the female prostitute.

They, the prostitutes, with easily give themselves to the philanderer men without any thought to the effect it may have on the man's household and his life. Moreover, there are prostitutes who entered the prostitution world because they were forced by their husband. Usually, it happens in a family which is stricken by poverty. Apart from the things above, unconsciously, that prostitutes have debased their self regard before the public. They did not have sense of embarrassment anymore because their heart is fulfilled by passions.

Prostitution destroys the sides of moral education, because it contradicts the religion norm, ethics and law norm. If in a certain area, sometimes the children and

the youth have gone to bordir places, hence for them the principal factor in marriage that is religion, custom and law have been destroyed by contemptible enjoyment. because obviously, among the men who come to red-light district just for fun are men who fear to get married because they do not have permanent earnings, the husbands who get no bliss at home and others. As the consequently, marriage institution shall no more be considered as a holy thing which must be taken care of its honour. From these phenomenon, we certainly believe that prostitution problem has a big effect to the moral of society itself.

Prostitution happens because of some factors where the factors is devided into two parts, they are internal and external factors. Among the internal factors are the big of sexual desire (sexual disorder), the nature of lazy to work and the desire to live in affluence. While for the external factor the most important cause are economic factor, unorganized urbanization, unqualified housing condition, etc.

Tennessee Williams shows this form of prostitution in his drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* by depicting the character of Blanche Dubois.

Blanche Dubois is a woman which come from a French descent family and a daughter of plantation owner in Bellereve, Mississipi; a place represents the important ports with its cotton plantation. Her name derives from French language 'Dubois' means 'forest' and 'Blanche' which means 'white'. So, 'Blanche Dubois' means 'white forest'. It can be seen from the conversation between Blanche and Mitch :

Mitch : "Miss Dubois?"

Blanche : "It's a French name. It means woods and Blanche means white, so the two together mean white woods. Like an orchard in spring! You can remember it by that."

(p. 54-55, scene.3)

Her status as a middle class woman is reflected in her appearance and her life style. She likes affluence. She always looks glamour and used nice clothes complete with her expensive pearl jewelries. She always wants to be different than others so the man will be attracted to her. Even her appearance often contradicts with the situation where she belongs; She remains to wear sexy clothes, even lives in a slum area (Elysian Field, her sister place). For her, the enchant beauty and appearance are the prime thing for a woman.

Blanche dubois is one of woman figure which can be made as the representation of southern woman. She comes from middle class family who has also been supplied with good education. It differs her from another women in this drama. Beside that, Blanche also represents the portrait of modern woman who has accepted new values through her education without leaving the traditional values of southern women which is full of elegance.

Blanche is a woman which has the stand and the different view of life than most of woman at that moment. She does not want if woman is only considered to be man's object; In her opinion, there is should be a parallelism between man and woman and they should esteeming each other. Through her education background, Blanche tries to assure her opinion especially to her sister, Stella.

But inside her luxurious appearance and strong personality, actually Blanche is a brittle woman and can not live alone. She needs an accompany in her life.

In fact, Blanche's (which means "white") life was not as white as her name. Before she arrived at New Orleans, she had a time to live in a small town called Laurell. In that town, she worked in a highschool as an English teacher.

Blanche : "Gracious, what lung-power. . . I teach high school. In Laurell".

(p.56. scene 3)

Besides of being a teacher, Blanche had profession as a high class prostitute. Blanche executed this contemptible deed (prostitution) because of her economic pressure. Her rich family had been bankrupt. One by one of her family is dead. Although bankrupt, Blanche tried to maintain her luxurious life style. For that, she required a lot of expense to finance her daily necessity and to fulfill her need in clothes and expensive accessory. Therefore, she had to sell her plantation and her family house in Bellereve so she could fulfill all of her need. For her money is anything. With money, one could buy and did anything he wanted.

Blanche : "Y"know how indifferent I am to money. I think of money in terms of what it does for you ..."

(p. 67. scene 4)

Blanche realizes that her salary as a teacher is not enough for her living expenses and to fulfill her need in order to become a perfect woman.

Blanche : “.... Well, I'll tell you frankly. A teacher's salary is barely sufficient for her living expenses. I didn't save a penny last year and so I had to come here for the summer”

(p. 93. scene 6)

Property had pursued people to do everything which is out of norm. The presence of teacher who became a prostitute among society constitute a picture of moral value friction and ethic in society. A teacher should become good model for the pupils. In other hand, teacher as an educator in the society had functioned to assemble the pupil to be useful people who revered moral values in society. But, how it could be happened if the teacher's deed had diverged from moral values. Unhappily, these teachers used economic reason to excuse their unmoral deeds.

Blanche concealed her existence as a prostitute to others. But Stanley, who hated her verymuch, knew her secret and later he told it to others.

Stanley : “This is after the home-place had slipped through her lily-white fingers! She moved to the Flamingo! A second-class hotel which has the advantage of not interfering in the private social life of the personalities there! The Flamingo is used to all kinds of going-on. But even the management of the Flamingo was impressed by Dame Blanche! In fact they was so impressed by Dame Blanche that they requested her to turn in her room-key – for permanently! This happened a couple of weeks before she showed here”.

Stanley : “Honey, I told you I thoroughly checked on these stories! Now wait till I finished. The trouble with Dame Blanche was that she couldn't put on her act anymore in Laurel! They got wised up after two or three dates with her and then they quit, and she goes on to another, the same old line, same old fact, same old hooley! But the town was too small for this to go on forever! And as time went by she became a town character. Regarded as not just different but downright loco – nut”

(p. 99-100. scene 7)

From the citation above, we could say that Blanche run her profession as prostitute in a hotel called Flamingo; a hotel which had never involved in private affair of its dweller. Even the Hotel management was so impressed by her. But after they knew Blanche's deed, they chased Blanche of the hotel. And from the citation above, we could also conclude that Blanche was a high-class prostitute. This kind of prostitute usually secured her clients through individual referrals by customers or trusted friends. They conducted the sexual transaction in their own apartment or in the office, home, or hotel room of her client. They worked independently and exercise considerable discretion in the choice of clients. They were generally from middle-class backgrounds, some have a college education. The succesful of this prostitute was caused by her physically attractive, well groomed, and articulate, and could make a pleasant date for those men who could give high payment.

Moreover, Blanche also run her profession as prostitute in an army camp near Laurel.

Stanley :

(Stella draws back)

"And for the last year or two she has been washed up like poison. That's why she's here this summer, visiting royalty, putting on all this act - because she's practically told by the mayor to get out of town! Yes, did you know there was an army camp near Laurel and your sister's was one of the places called "Out-of-Bounds?"

(p. 100. scene 7)

Prostitution phenomenon in military camp is not an unusual thing. The army existence in camp which is far from their couple make their sex activity become

impeded. Therefore they call the prostitutes to come to their camp so those army can satisfy their sex requirement without have to break the camp's rule, that is go out of the camp.

Indeed, in the United States, prostitution around military's dormitory has been arranged and controled in such a manner. Soedjono (1982:107), a sosiolog, explains it as follows:

"Ciri-ciri tindakan yang lebih dinamis ini adalah dari US Army yang selama Perang Dunia II, seluruh prostitusi dalam lingkungan asrama tentara diawasi dan diatur, serta mengambil tindakan tegas dalam cara-cara pencegahan penyakit terutama pada para prajurit yang pernah melacur"

Moreover, the phenomena of prostitution in military camp is also supported by the existence of a thinking which is mushrooming among the army itself. Such thinking considers that death is certainly blocking the soldiers who go to battlefield. Therefore, before the death comes, they have to enjoy this live as well as they want. These soldier will do anything to enjoy this live without care whether their deeds are out of norms.

Pola pikir yang diakibatkan oleh perang telah menciptakan suatu generasi yang secara keseluruhan terkena infeksi makan-minum dan bersenang-senanglah sepuas hatimu karena esok hari kamu sudah akan mati; semboyan ini mengantarkan para prajurit berangkat ke lapangan latihan dan memasuki medan perang dan menimbulkan penyakit perkawinan mendadak dan hubungan seksual di luar nikah akibat kecamuk perang. Pelacuran mengiringi bendera mereka dan wanita-wanita penghibur yang berasal dari Armentieres tidak pernah absen;(Hargosewoyo, 1991:400).

From the descriptions above, it can be seen that moral friction is not only happened around common society but it has infectious among officials administration, one of them is a military field. The existence of army among society

has job to protect the citizen from outside attacks and to stabilize the conditions around the society from the unwilling things, for example straightening some form of prostitution. But in fact, there is a lot of army who come to bordir places; not to straighten this place but on the contrary, they make a date with those prostitutes. It shows how those army have lack their moral value. They do things which is contradictory with their role in society by break norms and ethics in society itself.

When Blanche was 16 years old, she married with a young man named Allan. She loved and praised him very much. Later, she knew that her husband was a homosexual. So when Allan died, she was shocked and lost her live direction.

Blanche felt that her life was full of loneliness. The people whom she loves have leaved her. Hence to dissipate her loneliness, she spent her days with a few of her rich male friends. She once made a trip to Miami during the Christmas holidays with her male friend, ShepHuntleigh; a man who has oil-wells, all over Texas.

When she became a teacher in Laurel, Blanche was making a date with her seventeens years old pupil. The boy's father knew it and report it to the high school superintendent. Later, because of her embarassing deed, she dismissed from the job.

Stanley : "...They kicked her out of that high school before the spring term ended – and I hate to tell you the reason that step was taken! A seventeen-year-old boy – she'd gotten mixed up with!

(p. 101. scene 7)

Moreover, in scene 5, Blanche tried to tempt a young fellow of newspaper seller who came to Stella's house. With her coquettish style, she attempted to



persuade that young fellow to kiss her. But, before he said anything, Blanche crossed quickly to him and kissed him.

Blanche
(stopping him) : "Young man! *(He turns. She takes a large, gossamer scarf from the trunk and drapes it about her shoulders)*
(...The young man clears his throat and looks yearningly at the door)
Young man! Young, young, young man! Has anyone ever told you that you look like a young Prince out of the Arabian night? *(The Young Man laughs uncomfortably and stands like a bashful kid. Blanche speaks softly to him.)*
Well, you do, honey lamb! Come here. I want to kiss you, just once, softly and sweetly on your mouth! *(Without waiting for him to accept, she crosses quickly to him and presses her lip to his.)*

(p. 84. scene 5)

From the statements and the citations above, it seems that Blanche has sexual disorder. She has an uncontrolled desire of sex especially when she met an attractive young man. She would do anything to draw attention those young men without any thought to the effect it may have on those around her. The important is that she could release her sexual desire to these young men. This phenomena showed how a woman's moral had been declined slowly.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that prostitution had declined individual's moral. People turned into prostitution area in order to escape from their life problems without care that the deed were both morally and ethically wrong. Moreover, it seemed that environment and religious factors became the cause of prostitution around society.

4.3.2. Rape

Legally, rape is defined as sexual intercourse by a male with a woman other than his wife, by forces and without consent. Rape can be categorized as sexual offense because there is violent behavior directed toward a sexual object. By contrast, the offense is not rape if the female consents, even though some force is used to obtain her consent and the consent is reluctantly given. The female will not be presumed to have consented to the act if she is drugged, intoxicated, insane, or insensible, or if she is intimidated by sufficient threats of force or bodily harm; otherwise she must resist to the utmost.

The author shows this form of rape in his play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by depicting the behavior of the character Stanley Kowalski.

It was described in the play that Stanley hated the existence of his sister-in-law, Blanche, in his house. In his opinion, his privacy was being intruded by the presence of Blanche. He disliked Blanche's comparison of her male friends at Belle Reve and him. He viewed Blanche's taste for luxuries as a bad influence on Stella. Moreover, he felt that Blanche's presence in their home was just to influence Stella to leave him.

With various ways, Stanley tried to chase Blanche away from his house. He conducted the things that make Blanche feel uncomfortable. Even Stanley bought Blanche a bus ticket to Laurel. But these ways had no effect. Instead, his dislike for Blanche progressively increased and more culminated when Stella was not at home. With pleasure, Stanley poured out his hatred to Blanche by affronting and

abusing her. Even, Stanley also tried to rape Blanche. In that time, both Stanley and Blanche was under the effect of alcohol.

Blanche : "Stay back! Don't you come toward me another step or I'll –"
Stanley : "What?"
Blanche : "Some awful thing will happen! It will!"
Stanley : "What are you putting on now?"
(They are both inside the bedroom)
Blanche : "I warn you, don't, I'm in danger!"
(He takes another step. She smashes a bottle on the table and faces him, clutching the broken top)
Stanley : "What did you do that for?"
Blanche : "So I could twist the broken end in your face!"
Stanley : "I bet you would do that!"
Blanche : "I would! I will if you –"
Stanley : "Oh! So you want some rough-house! All right, let's have some rough-house!"
(He springs toward her, overtuning the table, She cries out and strikes at him with the bottle top but he catches her wrist)
Tiger – tiger! Drop the bottle-top! Drop it! We've had this date with each other from the beginning!"
(She moans. The bottle-top falls. She sinks to her knees. He picks up her inert figure and carries her to the bed. The hot trumpet and drums from the Four Deuces sound loudly)

(p. 130. scene 10)

Blanche tried to defend herself from Stanley's attack. She recruited all of her strength to fight Stanley by smashing a bottle on the table and clutching the bottle top to his face. But her effort had no effect. Because all of her efforts could not equal man's power.

Worstly, this raping event happened when Stella was bearing her child in the hospital. Here, it clearly seen how Stanley was lack of moral and ethics. Desire and his criminal intention had dominated him. He did not care if at the same time his wife

was risking her life to bear his child. Besides that, he did not care anymore that he had done a very culpable deed, that was raping his own sister-in-law.

It is true that a woman who has had premarital or extramarital sex relations, or one who is or has been a prostitute, does not fit the image of the rape victim as a chaste, morally upstanding female who reserves her body for the "rightful owner". It happens if the woman consents. But if the woman is not consent and there is force and violence toward the woman, we could call it as a rape, and its happened to Blanche.

In addition, Stanley beared a grudge to Blanche because she always humiliated him as a man. As we had been discussed in previous topic (The Reflection of Violence Act to Woman), males have traditionally fund themselves in positions of power, domination, independence, and self-determination. Woman, on the other hand, were expected to take subordinate positions and to acquiesce to the decisions and demands made by men. The world of sexuality was no different. The prevailing cultural image of maleness supported the idea of men as dominating, powerful, and active, and as the instigators of sexual interaction; the female was weak, passive, and submissive. The so-called missionary position in sexual intercourse accentuated this asymmetrical relationship.

Furthermore, some form of violences usually involving lower class urban males and rape as an intraracial offenses of violence has become a behavioral manifestation of a lower-class subculture of violence. They learn to adopt violence as legitimate means to settle disputes, acquire status and recognition, and bolster self-

esteem. Indeed, the use of force is seen as an acceptable alternative to which one can turn when his goals can not be reached by other means. If it so happens that the goal he seeks is identified as a challenge to his very identity as a male to achieve it is to be a 'real man'; pressures to secure that goal are considerable, and the likelihood greater that force will be employed when obstacles are met. Women are perceived as a challenge to manliness not only because to "have" a woman is to be a real man, but also because it is expected that sexual advances will be met by at least some resistance, and this must be overcome. A man who can not overcome that resistance is open to the derision of his peers, especially since prevailing definitions of womanhood include the idea that females are weak and vulnerable and should be submissive to the demands of men.

However, the important element in lower-class male-female relationship is not much the sexual aspect, it seems, but rather the demonstration that the male is indeed dominant and superior. A man gets what he wants from a woman precisely because he is a man.

From the statements above, we can conclude that a lot of men who have low moral standard executed sex offense like forcible rape to their opposite sex without heart. This crude treatment and unhumane to woman have become a very frightened symptom which felt by women. Furthermore, rape itself represented norm infraction in society. Rape was a form of despising act toward human dignity.

4.3.3. Gambling

Gambling is the betting or staking of something of value, with consciousness of risk and hope of gain, on the outcome of a game, a contest, or an uncertain event the result of which may be determined by chance or accident or have an unexpected result by reason of the bettor's miscalculation. (American People Encyclopedia, v.7, 1968:866). Bloch and Geis in 'Man, Crime, and society' (1967:228) states that gambling, sociologically, represents an invocation of the ethos of luck, which pervades our society and serves as an essential ingredient in providing continued motivation for the putative failure.

Since ancient times, gambling was prohibited by most of religions. Koran, as the holy book of muslim, has prohibited it. Gambling is also denounced by the old Hindu code. Besides that, more than 2000 years ago the rabbis considered gambling as a form of robbery and barred gamblers from the witness stand. These sects of puritanical religions reject gambling because, they thought, of an aversion to the emotional involvement that comes with playing for stakes of money or property.

Presumably, the gambling forms among society was very influenced by the materialism and capitalism which emerged since 19th century. The concepts measured success with material. So that, material riches, such as money, property and other material riches became the standard of pride for Americans. People do compete to rise their properties as much as possible. They will be proud if others admire all of their property. Even, one's social status can rise just because of material riches they

have. That is why, American people's spirit to seek the money is never extinguished. For that purpose, they do everything like risked their property on gambling tables.

For them (gamblers), if luck combined with work represents the mainspring of success, then luck alone represents the major shortcut to success. This is the promise offered by gambling.

Unhappily, gambling breaks the norm which is prevailed in society. The appear of various norm infractions which is done by individual in society is caused by moral decrease of the individu itself. We can see this in gambling, some players may be able to manipulate the game to serve their own interests or profits; cheating is possible and reasonably easy in most gambling games.

Gambling games may vary in complexity from betting an the outcome of the toss of a coin, in which the winner claims the coins, the side of which he correctly guesses to betting on cards dealt in a game such as Poker. The game of poker, like most other card games, is a mixture of chance and strategy. In United States itself, there are common forms of gambling such as Horce-race betting, Bookmaking, lotteries, etc. The outcomes of gambling games depend on skill and chance, so that some players may be able to manipulate the game to serve their own interests. Thus, knowledge of the game is useful to the poker player or the horse-race gambler but is very little use to purchaser of a lottery ticket or to a slot-machine player.

From the kinds of gambling mentioned above, poker is one kind of gambling which is displayed by Tennessee Williams in his play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In the play, the poker game was played by male characters at their free times. This

working class men tend to go places and do things, such as play poker and go bowling with male friends. While female go places and do things with female friends too.

Steve : "Hey, are we playin' poker tomorrow?"
Stanley : "Sure - at Mitch's"

(p. 28. scene 1)

Stanley : "Where you been?"
Stella : "Blanche and I took in a show..."

(p. 47. scene 3)

Poker is a card game or, more properly, a family of card games. Although it played throughout the world, it had been a greatest popularity in North America and at one time was known as the national card game of the United States.

The game was carried to America by the French colonists of Louisiana territory and spread up the Mississippi to the rest of the country. Poker itself was first mentioned in 1829 in the memoirs of Joe Cowell, a touring English actor. Poker undoubtedly received its first great impetus during the Civil War, when the game was much played among soldiers in both sides. So its not wondering if poker became a familiar card game in South of America, include of New Orleans city as the setting of the play.

This game (poker) is dull or nearly meaningless without the accompanying betting activity and is rarely played unless wagering occurs. So that poker is essentially a game of money management and is practically never played except for purposes of gambling. Each deal is a separate game in which there are one or more

betting intervals. In each interval one player, as designated by the rules of the variant being played, has the privilege or obligation of opening, or making the first bet. This player and each player in turn after him must place in the pot (which is the aggregate of all bets and antes made on the deal) a number of chips (representing money, for which Poker is almost invariably played). Players try either to win the pot or to get out as cheaply as possible if they can not win it. There are one or more rounds of betting. At the conclusion of the last round, the players who have remained show their hands. All money in the pot, including the bets made by players who dropped out after an earlier round, is taken by the player with the best hand or, in some forms of the game, divided among several hands. In scene three of the play, we can see the chronological of Poker game which is played by Stanley, Pablo, Steve and Mitch.

Steve : "Anything wild this deal?"
Pablo : "One-eyed jacks are wild"
Steve : "Give me two cards"
Pablo : "You, Mitch?"
Mitch : "I'm out"
Pablo : "One"
Mitch : "Anyone want a shot"
Stanley : "Yeah, me"
Pablo : "Why don't somebody go to the Chinaman's and bring back a load of chop suey?"
Stanley : "When I'm losing you want to eat! Ante up! Openers? Openers! Get y'r ass off the table, Mitch. Nothing belongs on a poker table but cards, chips and whiskey"
Mitch : "Kind of on your high horse, ain't you?"
Stanley : "How many?"
Steve : "Give me three"
Stanley : "One"
Mitch : "I'm out again. I oughta go home pretty soon"

Pablo : "What've you got?"
Steve : "Spade flush".

.....
Steve : "Seven card stud..."
(dealing a hand)

(p. 46-47. scene 3)

Poker has two main branches: closed (Straight or Draw) poker, in which each player's full hand remains concealed until the showdown, and open (Stud) poker, in which some but not all of a player's cards are dealt or turned face up. From Steve utterance, we can see that they play seven card stud poker. Seven card stud was popular variant of stud poker, each player is dealt two hole cards and a face up card, followed by a betting interval; then three more face up cards and one final face – down card, each followed by a betting interval.

For many years poker was considered to be a game for men only, but by the mid 20-th century it was often played by women although draw and stud poker remain classic men's games. So, it was not wondering if Blanche who seen the poker game wanted to join the game. However, her request was refused by Stanley.

Blanche : "Poker is so fascinating. Could I kibitz?"
Stanley : "You could not. Why don't you women go up and sit with Eunice?"
(p.48. scene 3)

This phenomena depicted how moral friction had happened in society. Gambling was not considered to be a game for a men anymore. A lot of women joined to risk their property in the gambling tables. The gleaming of material had made them forget their nature as a woman; they did not feel ashamed to use tricky ways, such as cheating, which became the characteristic of gambling itself.

4.3.4. Drunkenness

Drunkenness is considered as a public health and not a criminal matter. Intoxicated persons are not arrested unless they behave in a disorderly or dangerous manner. So, drunkard is usually assumed by society as a sick people. In several countries, drink liquor is a common thing. Alcohol is even made as a compensation for workers. People are drunk in the expectation of reducing feelings or tension, relieving feelings of anxiety and conversely, obtaining feelings of gaiety and exhilaration. A sufficient amount of alcohol usually will serve the desired purpose.

In the United States, where nearly one-third of adults are abstainers, the better educated and the economically advantaged are more likely to be drinkers than the poor, though, among the poor who do drink, the proportions of heavy drinkers are higher. There is also a variety of patterns, customs, and attitudes in United States drinking attitude. The New Encyclopedia Britannica (vol.1, 1973:44) explains that United States drinking patterns are a conglomerate of customs brought over by repeated waves of immigrants from different places and of diverse ethnic stocks, modified over time by intermixture, economic circumstances, political developments, and the emergence of some indigeneous ways. Kenneth J. Neubeck in his book 'Social Problems' (1979:499) says that persons whose father were born outside the United States are more likely to be drinkers than those with native-born fathers. Among the various American ethnic groups, the Irish, Italians, Poles, and Russians have a high proportion of drinkers. Persons of English and Scottish origins, on the other hand, are much likely to be abstainers.

People do not usually drink pure alcohol but a beverage containing alcohol, specifically ethyl alcohol. Alcoholic beverages include wines, beers and spirits. Wines are fermented from the sugars in fruits or berries (most commonly grapes), from various plants or their saps, from honey, and even from milk. Beers are fermented from grains after the starch in them is first converted to sugar. Spirits are distilled from wines or beers. Among drinkers, beer tends to be the preferred drink of men and to a lesser extent, of unskilled and blue-collar workers. Spirit are preferred by middle and upper class drinkers and by women especially in the form of mixed drinks such as cocktails.

Alcohol is often used for medicinal and therapeutic purposes. Whiskey is popular for treating colds and snake-bites, brandy for treating faintness, wine for blood building, beer for lactation, and any alcoholic beverage for treating sleeplessness or overexcitement. But alcohol can be said as a safe drug if it is used in a proper amount. On the contrary, over-drinking of alcohol would make one becomes tipsy, manifestly be in appropriate and disapproved. Drunkenness then becomes a culturally negative, an alien and rejected behavior. It causes repeated or continued harm to drinker and other people. The harm may be physical or mental. If it so happens, alcohol or drinking is viewed more harmful than beneficent, more wrong than right.

Tennessee Williams portrays drunkenness problem in his play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He depicts drunkenness as a chronic behavioral disorder which is manifested by undue preoccupation with alcohol to the detriment of physical and

mental health, by lose of control when drinking has begun (although it may not be carried to the point of intoxication) and by self-destructive attitude in dealing with personal relationship and life situations. Through this drama we could see how the drunkard done a physical harm to other people.

Stella : "Drunk - drunk - animal thing you! (She rushes through to the poker table) All of you - please go home! If any of you have one spark of decency in you -"

Blanche (wildly) : "Stella, watch out, he's -" (Stanley charges after Stella)

Men (feebly) : "Take it easy stanley, easy, fellow. - Let's all -"

Stella : "You lay your hands on me and I'll -"

(She backs out of sight. He advances and disappears. There is a sound of the blow. Stella cries out. Blanche screams and runs into the kitchen. The men rush forward and there is grappling and cursing. Something is overturned with a crash.)

(p. 57, scene 3)

In the scene above, Stanley was playing poker and drinking beer with his friends. Stella knew that her husband was getting drunk so she reprimanded Stanley in front of his friends. But the consumption of huge quantities of beer apparently had evoked different states of feeling and even an increased of anxiety or tension in Stanley self. He loss control. With unconsciously, he hit Stella when they were in the kitchen. When aware, Stanley asked his friend about what he had conducted to Stella. His friend explained that he had beated his wife so that she gone. Stanley regreted his deed. He went to look for Stella and asked her forgiveness. He promised to Stella that he would quit his poker parties.

In other chance, still in drunk condition, Stanley conducted a forcible rape to his sister in-law, Blanche.

From some explanations above, it can be said that drunkenness was likely to be treated as moral decline. It is told like that because the impact of drunkenness itself often dramatically affects the drunkard's relationships with other people, especially their family members. The drunkard do bad things which is not appropriate with moral norms in society, such as beating, raping, stealing, or even killing. This is proved in American People Encyclopedia: By a study of 102 sex offenders at Sing Sing prison in New York State, it was found, in more than half the cases studied, that alcohol was associated with or was a precipitating factor in the crimes committed. (The Americana People and Encyclopedia, a.1, 1968:311).

Moreover, in the post-Prohibition and post World War II era, several changes in United States drinking practices and attitudes have been observed and confirmed by formal systematic studies. The proportion of abstainers have declined, especially among women. In recent years, approximately 77 percent of adult men and 60 percent of adult women are drinkers. (The New Encyclopedia Britannica, vol.1, 1973:44). It shows that more women than ever are drinking. Now, drinking is not considered a predominantly as male activity anymore.

However, men are more likely than woman to be moderate or heavy users of alcoholic. According to federally sponsored surveys, 14 percent of adult men drink heavily, while only 3 percent of adult women do so. But in particular, observers have pointed to the increasing numbers of women who are coming into contact with alcoholism treatment agencies as an indication that more women are drinking heavily.

(Neubeck, 1979:498). The highest percentage of drinkers among males is found in the thirty to thirty-nine age group, and among females is those aged eighteen to twenty-nine. Heavy drinking is also correlated with age. Males aged eighteen to twenty-nine drink most heavily. Among woman, the ages are thirty to thirty-nine. These phenomenon describe through the female and male drinkers characters in this play. For example, the character of Blanche whose age was thirty years as a heavy drinker female. While a heavy drinker male portrayed by the character Stanley whose age was about twenty-eight or thirty years.

It is few hours later that night.

Blanche has been drinking fairly steadily since Mitch left...As the drinking and packing went on, a mood of hysterical exhilaration come into her and she has decked herself out in a somewhat soiled and crumpled white satin evening gown and a pair of scuffed silver slippers with brilliants set in their heels.

(p. 122, scene 10)

A woman should display many feminine qualities, such as caring and understanding. But though Blanche has these qualities, she also has masculine features. One such attribute is her reliance on alcohol. She is found drinking from the first moment she set foot inside her sister's house, and yet she said, "Now don't get worried, your sister hasn't turned into a drunkard, she's just all shaken up and has tired and dirty!" (p. 19, scene 1)

In addition, the existence of moral decline in society can be clearly seen when most of today's junior and senior highschool students have tried alcohol. About 57 percent of boys and 43 percent of girls are drinkers. In this case, drinking appears to

be associated with separation from home and with courtship behaviour. (The New Encyclopedia Britannica, vol.1, 1973:44)

The thing above depicts how moral values have declined. Alcoholism in a woman is a thing to be ashamed of, and for which excuses need to be made. But in the reality, it is not happened in society. If yesterday bars is only fulfilled by men, this time it is crowded by men and women. Furthermore, the phenomenon of drunkennes are caused by some factors such as environment, family factor and the lack of religious comprehension. A child has a big chance to be a drinker just because he comes from drunkard family. Moreover, much of families do not suply their children with enough course of religion so that the children easily have deviated behavior.

Finally, it can be conclude that all forms of moral decline which are described in the play, often occur in urban society. It is happened as the effects of modernization. Modernization in cities has brought many changes in society's life. Sometimes the changes are good and sometimes are not. Moral decline which is displayed in this play is one example from the bad effects of modernization. The government effort to suppress gambling, prostitution and drunkennes would not make the condition becomes better. On the contrary, it may increased the total volume of gambling, prostitution and drunkennes, encourage some citizens to do that things and display the state's indifference to certain tradition and styles of its people. Because of that, the best way to suppress moral decline in society is how to improve the moral of individu in society by using the religion approach.

4.4. The Influence of the Author's social view to the Play 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

It was on december, 1947 that Tennessee Williams *A Streetcar Named Desire* premiered in New York city. Williams spent months for writing and revising the play and he had three different working titles for it: *The Moth*, *Blanche's chair on the Moon* and *The Poker Night* which is worked in Chapala, Mexico. Then he moved to an apartment in French Quarter of New Orleans on St. Peter Street where he could hear two streetcars rattling by, one named Desire and one named Cemeteries. Then he changed the setting of his play to New Orleans and he changed the tilte to *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Through this play, Williams gave his incredible vision of life in the South America and a series of powerful portraits of the human condition in the society by using everyday objects. He commented on the violence which to him seemed as part of the human condition. For him, there were always violence forms which were expressed in all of societies, particularly for American setting.

Furthermore, *A Streetcar Named Desire* represented Williams critics of the South America society at that time. His criticims seemed overt, implied and often harsh. He thought that the condition of urban asociety in New Orleans had produced man like Stanley who has gruff behavior, rough and did not appraise woman. Blanche was also represented the characteristic of southern rural women; affluent, order and ethics coloured their daily life. Those women treated as puppet. The wives and the

daughters of plantation owner spoiled with luxurious clothes and respected with gentleman attitude.

The conditions above is a symptom which is caused by the existence of social stratification in society. This stratification occurs because of the differentiation in the level of economic, education and occupation in the society.

This stratification had made a big gap toward the society's relationship. It made the interaction between the members of society would not running well as portrayed through the conflict happened between the characters of Blanche and Stanley. Stanley who come from poor people, thought that Blanche was a swindler and swell woman who always proud of her position as a noble descent woman. In other hand, Blanche thought that Stanley was 'a common people' who did not suit to be her sister husband. It looked like each of them felt better than other. Moreover, this encounter defined Stanley and Blanche's relationship.

Here, Tennessee Williams tried to show his opinion that the conflict between two different social class was never end. He thought that luxury having by upper class people has made them indifferent to other people. For him, luxury is the wolf at the door and that the fangs of this wolf are all the little vanities and conceits and laxities germinated by success (A Streetcar Named Desire, introduction). People who have this knowledge would face their position more wise because they knew where the danger is.

In most of his plays, Williams brought out the themes that never presented at the stages of America theatres before because it was considered as a taboo thing.

Such themes were sex problems, drugs, hardness, alcoholism, rape, homosexuality, insects, etc. For *A Streetcar Named Desire* itself, Williams had surprised the audience by pointing them to a series of moral declines by using these unique and queer themes so that he could depict realities that happened in society.

In this play, the themes explained above imbued with symbolic meaning of a streetcar named desire. As had been explained before, Tennessee Williams lived in an apartment in the French quarter of New Orleans where he could hear two streetcars rattling by, one named Desire and one named Cemeteries. He apparently wrote the play sitting in his balcony, seeing the condition around him and listening to the rattle of the streetcars. The name of streetcar 'Desire' helped Williams bring out the time and the conditions in the part of the town. In his opinion, New Orleans was a town fulfilled by desire. This 'desire' was reflected through the characters in the play. Stanley was quite the example of desire both controllable as he ruled Stella and lustful as he desired Blanche, more than that he has desire of material. Blanche was the example of desire both controlled over men and lived in affluence. While Stella had desire to live peaceably with her beloved family. Concerning this, Williams had spoke in an interview: "desire is rooted in a longing for companionship, a release from the loneliness that haunts every individual". So loneliness and desire propelled his characters into extreme behavior, just like what had experienced by Stanley and Blanche.

Streetcar also reflected Williams' deep vision of life. Each stop on the streetcar is predictable and routine. The path did not change. So do with the life; one could



never get back what he/she continued to lose, their youth, their reputation and others. On an Essay in The New York Times, November 30, 1947, he says : "In the time of your life – live!". That time is short and it does not return again. It is slipping away while I write this and while you read it, the monosyllable of the clock is loss, loss, loss, unless you devote your heart to its opposition". (A Streetcar Named Desire, introduction).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the previous chapters, it can be concluded as follows:

1. Play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams depicts the condition of urban society in South America. Such conditions are poverty, violence act to woman and moral decline.
2. The problems, which are described by the author, represent the picture of society's life. Those problems are frequently happened amid all of societies.
3. Modernization as the produce of social and cultural changes have occurred some alterations in society's economic condition, ideology, and in society's behavior pattern.
4. The author's social view gives a great influence to the play. Through the play, Tennessee Williams gives his incredible vision of social life in the South America and a series of powerful portraits of human condition. He shows that the resistances between two different classes will be existed throughout the centuries and will never end.

4.1. Suggestion

It is interesting to observe the society's condition in a literary work because the literary work and the social product can not be separated from social realities. For that, the writer hopes that there will be another writers who observe this object more deeply by seeing another aspects in the play itself.

The writer considers that the writing has not been perfect yet. Furthermore, the writer hopes that this simple work gives benefit to other writers who observe the same object.

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Appendix

SYNOPSIS

The story revolves in the building at Elysian Fields in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The play takes place right after World War II.

The Kowalski apartment is in a poor but charming neighborhood. Stella, twenty-five years old and pregnant, lives with her blue collar husband, Stanley Kowalski. Blanche Dubois, Stella's older sister, arrives unexpectedly, carrying all that she owns. Blanche and Stella have a warm reunion. Blanche then explains that she has taken a leave of absence from the high school she teaches at so that she could come for a visit. Blanche also informs Stella that they have lost BelleReve, the family mansion that they grew up. Stella expresses her astonishment, and Blanche accuses her of having abandoned the family home, having left her (Blanche) to struggle alone. Then Blanche meets Stanley for the first time and immediately she feels uncomfortable. Stanley's rough demeanor immediately frightens her.

In the following evening, Stella explains to Stanley that Belle Reve has been lost. Stanley points out to Stella that "under Louisiana's Napoleonic Code what belongs to the wife belongs to the husband and vice versa". For that, he wants to see the paperwork which shows the bill of sale. He suspects that Blanche might be trying to swindle them out of their share of the estate. He tries to convince Stella that Blanche has sold it to meet her wishes in property. Then he tells Blanche that he does not like to be swindled. This encounter defines Stanley and Blanche relationship.

The situation grows more and more tense. Stanley initially distrusts Blanche, thinking that she's swindled them; the idea is ludicrous, and eventually Stanley realizes that Blanche is hardly the swindling type. But the animosity between the two never stops. Blanche takes a long baths, criticizes the squalor of the apartment, and irritates Stanley. Stanley's roughness bothers Blanche; he makes no effort to be gentle with her. One night, the night when Stanley hosts a poker game, he gets too drunk and beats Stella. The women go up to their upstairs neighbors apartment, but soon Stella returns to Stanley. Blanche is shocked by these events. That night, she also meets Mitch, and there is an immediate mutual attraction between the two.

The next day, Stanley overhears Blanche saying terrible things about him. From the time on, he devoted himself to destruct her.

Blanche has a traumatic experience of her unhappy marriage to a young man when she was quite young. She is disappointed when she finds that her husband she really loves apparently a deprived man, he is a homosexual man ever since. She keeps on adventuring for men to release her loneliness.

Stanley looks into Blanche's past. Stanley informs Stella that he meet a man named Shaw who claims to have met Blanche at a hotel called the flamingo. Stanley says this fellow goes in and out of Laurel all the time, so he will have check up on it and clear up any mistake. He is also informed that Blanche excludes from the school in which she teaches since she makes affair with a seventeen-year old boy. Stanley also passes the information to Mitch.

Previously it seems that Mitch might marry Blanche but after he learns the truth he loses all interest. On Blanche's birthday, Mitch stands her up. Stanley gives Blanche a bus ticket to Laurel. Stella fights with Stanley over the cruelty of his act. Mid-fight, she tells him to take her to the hospital; the baby is coming.

That night, Blanche packs and drinks. Mitch arrives. He confronts her with the stories of her past, and she tells him, in lurid detail, the truth about her escapades in Laurel. She asks him to marry her, and when he does not, she kicks him out of the apartment.

Hours later, Stanley comes home. He too, has had a few drinks. He has dropped Stella off at the hospital to have a baby, but it won't come until the morning so he has come for a few hours. Blanche is frightened at the prospect of spending the evening alone with Stanley. Then Stanley begins to undress in front of her. He puts on the silk pajamas he wore on his wedding night then rapes her, saying "We have had this date with each other from the beginning!"

Weeks later, another poker game is being held at the Kowalski apartment. Blanche has suffered a mental breakdown. A doctor and nurse come and take Blanche away to the mental institution. Stella weeps, and Stanley comforts her. The other men continue their poker game as if nothing has happened.