



**ILLUSION AND REALITY FIGURED BY EMILY WEBB IN
WILDER'S DRAMA "OUR TOWN"**



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ABSTRACT

Drama "Our Town" adalah sebuah kisah tentang dua keluarga yang harmonis. Mereka adalah keluarga Webb dan keluarga Gibbs dimana mereka masing-masing mempunyai anak yang cerdas dan pandai. Emily Webb dan George Gibbs adalah anak-anak mereka yang bersahabat dan ramah.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan struktural murni dalam menganalisa tokoh Emily Webb yang merupakan tokoh sentral dan tokoh utama dalam drama ini. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan ini, penulis berharap dapat mengetahui isi dan pesan drama yang dikarang oleh Thornton Wilder ini. Penulis melihat bahwa kisah menarik ini dimulai dari masa kanak-kanak Emily dan George, kemudian dilanjutkan dengan kisah pernikahan mereka, dan terakhir adalah kisah yang menceritakan tentang Emily yang meninggal pada saat melahirkan anak keduanya. Ia menyusul keluarganya yang lain yang telah lama meninggal pula. Penulis mengambil tokoh Emily Webb untuk dianalisa karena tokoh ini berperan aktif dalam drama sejak ia hidup hingga ia kemudian meninggal.

Penulis melihat bahwa tokoh Emily merupakan tokoh yang keras kepala namun ia seorang yang cerdas. Ia sanggup menjalani hidup dengan suaminya, George ketika ia masih sangat muda. Iapun masih peduli terhadap tanah kelahirannya meskipun ia telah mati. Hal ini terbukti dengan kembalinya ia ke alam dunia meski pada akhirnya ia harus menyadari bahwa ia tak mungkin lagi bersatu dengan orang yang dicintainya karena ia telah mati.



CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

I.I. BACKGROUND

A good literary represents the soul reflection of the author. Through this literary, they can give some messages to the reader about all things that can happen in our daily life, realized or not.

In our life, there are two kinds of living, that is real life and illusion. This illusion comes to people's life and make a new world which is similar to the real activity. The literary is one way to analyze things that have relation to our activities in the world. Because through the literary, people can realize more about their life, as Joseph V Landy S.J said:

" A Short story has an added value because we can learn so much from it about ourselves and others as well as about the world we live in". (1972:1)

The writer can analyze anything by studying the literature in this case the drama "Our Town ". The writer is interested in the figure of Emily Webb in act three (3) in relation to the living when she is dead. Therefore, through this literary, the writer tries to analyze the link of life and death and find the moral aspect by studying the drama, because there are some

misunderstanding about the difference of illusion and reality.



So, at this time, the writer tries to analyze and explain about it by seeing the figure of Emily Webb in drama Our Town.

Lord David Cecil in said :

"To train our taste is to increase our capacity for pleasure: for it enables us to enter into such a variety of experince. This indeed is the special precious power of literature. In actual life our experience is inevitably restricted both by the limitations imposed by circumstances and by our own character. No one person can ever know in practise what it is like to be both a man and a woman, a mystic and a materialist, a criminal and a pillar of society, an ancient roman and a modern Russian. But books can teach us all to be all these things in imagination". (1972: 1)

Thornton wilder as the author of the drama "Our Town" took the event that happened after the world war as the theme of this drama, where Emily wanted to come back to her life but she could not. She could see her family but her family could not see her. Emily was sad and back to her cemetery again and talked to her neighbour about what she had seen.



- The household of George Gibbs and Emily Webb did not survive because Emily died.
- The death of Emily when she bears her second child.
- George Gibbs wants to marry Emily, but he later feels afraid to do that.
- George Gibbs is busy and ignore Emily for several times which causes Emily angry.
- Emily scare to marry with George.
- Emily, one of the dead, wants to come back to her life again but she can not.
- Emily tries to talk to her mother but she can not.
- The dead does not want Emily go back to her life but Emily wants.
- Emily become unhappy bacause she can see nad understand so much more than the living.



I.6 DATA COLLECTING METHODE

Primary data is taken from the reseach which is done deeply to the structure of the drama. That is:

- By reading the drama carefully.
- By collecting the parts of the drama which is related to the objective of writing.

The secondary data taken by learning and comprehending the social culture condition at the time.

I.7. COMPOSITION

To make this writing more sistematic, the analysis compiled with the following composition:

First chapter is the opening, which consists of background, identification of problem, scope of problem, formulation of problem, objective of writing, data collecting methode, and chapter composition.

The second chapter consists of literary review.

The third chapter consists of methodology of writing.

The fourth chapter consists of the analyzing of the drama.

The fifth chapter consists of conclusion, and suggestion.

The next pages consists of bibliography and some enclosures, that is biography of the author.

regulation. The wholeness means that all of the parts of elements determines the whole aspects of the work. The transformation means that continuation of the transformation procedure can probably make the new form. While self regulation means that this approach has autonomy quality and it does need the other aspects out the work itself as long as the meaning of it can be understood. When somebody talk about structural approach, they have to define between content and form. The contents include such as; the problems, thinking, philosophy, and the central story. The structural approach sees the unity or totally of the meaning of the literary work. And for the result of the totally meaning, one aspect must be related with another aspects and the other must be supported each other. (Warren and Wellek, 1978).

Structural analysis is not an analysis which counts the aspects that built up the literary work. But it focuses on the contribution on the while aspect, so the total meaning of the work can be grasped. Structural approach tries to see the literary work as one system on the objective way, and the values that gives to the system depends on the component or element



So that, drama is a soul reflection of the author. He makes a story or drama or novel to be shown in front of the audience by using dialogue and movements. There are so many kinds of activity that the author can do to reflect their masterpiece. It can be written in drama, poetry, novel, etc.

Kamus Istilah Sastra said about literature, that is:

" Karya sastra bertujuan menggambarkan kehidupan dan mengemukakan tikaian dan emosi lewat lakuan dan dialog-dialog; lazimnya dirancang untuk pementasan dipanggung.

(Sudjiman, 1999:22)

Actually, all of activities that people do in real life can be make into one story, it can be reflected into drama. Generally, the authors prefers to make a drama than the others, because through the drama, the audience can be more understand what the author wants to say, because it is reflected by dialogues and movements. So the audience can see and understand it by seeing the dialogues and the movements.

According to Reaske:

" A drama is a work of literature composition which delineate life and human activity by means of presenting various action of-and dialogues between-a group characters".

(Reaske, 1966:5)



Each character has a moral quality to reflect in drama. What they express in saying words is what they express in act. So drama is one way to do all of that.

At drama "Our Town", the audience is the resurrected hero," said Winfield Townley Scott. Wilder was effectively trying to change the audience with his story of Grover's Corners. The character weren't real people, but more a long the lines of stereotypical symbols used to present his message.

According to Reaske, he said that:

"Character, to begin with, are fictitious creation and thus the dramatist or the novelist may both judged with regard to their ability in the art of characterization."

(Reaske, 1966:40)

Characters in drama, or the other masterpiece, the author should have an ability in the art of characterization, it means that in choosing character, the author must know what kind of character they need to support their masterpiece. Although character is the author's creation, but it can influences what they want to write (in drama, novel, etc).

In drama, character can be classified into two main groups(Herman J. Waluyo, 2002:9). They are:

A. according to the story.

- Protagonist character, is the character that supports the story. Usually there are two main protagonists, which are being helped by the other story supporters.
- Antagonist character, is the character that opposed the story. Usually there is one main character that is opposite the protagonists.
- Tritagonist character, that is a supporting character, either to protagonist or to antagonist.

B. according to its use in drama.

- Central character, is the character that decides the story.
- Main character, is the supporting character or opposite character of the central character.
- Supporting character, is the character that holds the complement actor.



There are some ways to know or to recognize the character in short story. According to Aminuddin (1987: 80):

1. Tuturan pengarang terhadap karakteristik pelakunya.
2. Gambaran yang diberikan pengarang lewat gambaran kehidupannya walaupun cara berpakaian.
3. Menunjukkan bagaimana perilakunya.
4. Melihat bagaimana tokoh itu berbicara tentang dirinya sendiri.
5. Memahami bagaimana jalan pikirannya.
6. Melihat bagaimana tokoh lain berbicara tentangnya.
7. Melihat bagaimana tokoh lain memberikan reaksi kepadanya.
8. Melihat bagaimana tokoh tersebut mereaksi tokoh yang lainnya.

That simple ways shows about how to know the character in a drama or short story or novel, because all of that are totallity of unity.

If the writer sees the character of Emily, almost in the three parts of the play show that Emily was a



good character. When she was child, she was a pretty and clever girl. When she was grown up, she was a good wife for her husband George. And in the act three, although Emily wants to be back again to her life and Mrs. Gibbs did not want it, she realizes later that all she did was wrong and she did not want to be back again after seeing the reality after death.

2.3. Setting.

Setting is the place where the story the story happens or the local and period in which a story occurs. Setting usually consists of three dimension, that is place, space, and time.

"Our Town", written by Thornton Wilder in 1938 is a simple play that revolves around the small New Hampshire town of Grover's Corners. Later in act III, Wilder shows his drama in a cemetery in Grover's Corners too.

According to Reaske, setting is:

" the setting in drama might be revealed by a narrator, character, of by action and other elements of stage equipments and plot arrangement. The dialogue between character will show the atmosphere of anger, sadness, joy or cool, the weather of other incident can be told through dialogues if characters, of course, still in the unity of the whole story."

(Reaske, 1966:13)



And according to Sumardjo, setting is:

" segala hal dan petunjuk yang berkaitan dengan waktu dan ruang dan suasana terjadinya peristiwa dalam sebuah karya sastra. Latar juga merupakan bagian dimana suatu peristiwa terjadi.tercakup pula tempat, waktu serta unsur sejarah yang melatarbelakangi".

(Sumardjo, 1981:88)

In choosing a setting, the author usually takes place where they live. Because it can make easily to themselves in making a drama or a novel. A setting should have a historical background to support the story. It is impossible to make a drama, short story, novel, or the others without setting because the setting is the unity of the whole the story, just like character, plot, and the other elements.

According to Sudjiman, there are two kinds of settings. As he said:

"latar terdiri atas dua yakni latar fisik dan latar sosial. Latar fisik mencakup gambaran tentang alam dan benda-benda disekitar manusia, sedangkan latar sosial mencakup penggambaran keadaan masyarakat kelompok sosial dan sikapnya, adat kebiasaan, cara hidup, dan lain sebagainya" (Sudjiman, 1991: 44)

2.4. Illusion.

Illusion or illusory is one event in our life where all things that people do is just unreal. In



drama "Our Town" the writer tries to analyze one character in this drama, Emily Webb, and other characters, who act as the dead and they can speak to each other. Emily, wants to go back to real life. She thinks that if she is back again, she will find all the things, family, and other like before she die. This things may be called reincarnation because the stage manager brought Emily to her birthday on February 11th, 1899, Tuesday.

There are some people believes about reincarnation. They feel that after they are a dead man, they will come back to the world by being other people, that have the same behavior, character, and many others. In this drama, Emily Webb, who acts as a dead people, brought by the stage manager into the living because Emily wants to see her family. She wants to know what she did when she was living. But it can not happen, because it just an illusory. She can not do what she wants to do. It means that there are "God" that arrange all of our activities in living.

CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY OF WRITING

3.1 Technique of analyzing data.

Structural analyzing has a purpose to describe the drama and its function and the relation of all literature aspects that results a whole unity, and then the writer concludes it. In this chapter, the writer describes the method applied to analyze drama "Our Town". They can be explained as follows:

3.1.1. Library Research.

This method is the writer's primary source of information. The writer finds the book, which related to the topic, and read some sources that supported the study.

3.1.2. Method of data analysis.

In analyzing Wilder's drama "Our Town", the writer carries out the steps below:

1. Reading the text of the drama several times in order to have a comprehension of it.



2. Using descriptive method in which the writer makes observation to the event that is occurred in the text.
3. Involving the use of some particular theories of the literature. Those theories are:
 - a. The writer's observation of the data was done the general case to the specific conclusion. To prove the accurateness of this method, the writer provided the study with data in the form of quotation.
 - b. The writer observes the data from the specific to the general conclusion as an inductive method. For accurateness, the writer also provides the study with quotation.
 - c. The intrinsic method involves what is implicit in the text, which only present the limitation of elements in the work of literature itself without any other theories. Of course, no text can be made use of in any way until it has been read and assimilated, and the intrinsic approach consists of all the processes, which carried out more or less consciously, in their

various sequences and at their various levels in the course of the complete reading.



3.2. Procedures of Research.

This study can be written as:

- a. Reading and observing Wilder's drama "Our Town" as the main sources of the study.
- b. Determining the focus of this study.
- c. Identifying the problem discussed on the study.
- d. Observing all of the information, which was related to the topic of the study.
- e. Classifying and selecting all of the information.
- f. Analyzing all of the data by using the appropriate theories and collected data.
- g. Presenting the analysis of the data.
- h. Concluding the results of the analysis and making draft of the results of research.



CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS


Emily Webb asks the stage manager to bring her back to her life again, when she was a child. This is very interesting because the writer sees how the author, Thornton Wilder, related two kinds of "life", that is reality and illusion. And in this writing, the writer wants to analyze it through these two terms.

There are some characters of this drama, whether they are major characters or minor characters. They are:

A. Major characters.

Stage Manager: The Stage Manager has no name, and he seems to exist both in the world of the audience and the world of the play. He controls over the action of the play, moving the other characters around, and informing the audience of events that they do not see.

George Gibbs: The son of Dr. Gibbs and Mrs. Gibbs. Upstanding young man, a high school baseball star who plans to become a farmer after high school.



Emily Webb: The daughter of Mr. Webb and Mrs. Webb. She is George's fiancée, and later his wife. She later dies in childbirth, and joins the dead souls in the local cemetery.

B.Minor characters.

Dr. Gibbs: George's father, and the town doctor for Grover's Corners.

Mrs. Gibbs: George's mother and Dr. Gibbs' wife.

Mr. Webb: Emily's father, and the editor of the local newspaper.

Mrs. Webb: Emily's mother, and Mr. Webb's wife. (The Gibbs and The Webbs are next door neighbors).

Mrs. Soames: A gossipy woman who sings in the choir with Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs.

Mr. Stimson: The choirmaster. His alcoholism is a subject of gossip in Grover's Corners.



stage, with the actors pantomiming their interactions with invincible buildings, doors, and so on. The town exists for us not in wood or stone but in the rhythms of daily life, which go on independently of the houses, stores and streets of Grover's Corners.

1. Reality (real life).

In this drama, Thornton Wilder begins his story by telling about the real life of Emily in the small town called Grover's Corners. According to the following which is recognized by the stage manager:

The name of the town is Grover's Corners, New Hampshire-just across the Massachusettsline: latitude 42 degress 40 minutes; longitude 70 degrees 37 minutes. The day is May 7, 1901. The time is just before the dawn. (Wilder, 1985, act I, 5)

When the dialogue begins, Wilder tells about Emily and her family first. Where the relation of Emily and her mother and brother is very familiar. Mrs.Webb asks her children to have breakfast. as the following:

MRS..WEBB:

Children! Now I Won't have it. Breakfast is just as good as any other meal and I Won't have you gobbling like wolves. It'll stunt



MR. WEBB:

Emily, walk simply. Who do you think you are today?

EMILY

Papa, you're terrible. One minute you tell me to stand up straight and the next minute you call my names. I just don't listen to you.

She gives him an abrupt kiss

MR. WEBB:

Golly, I never got a kiss from such a great lady before.

He goes out of sight. Emily leans over and picks some flowers by the gate of her house.

(Wilder, 1985, act I: 26-27)

Emily's father is very happy because his children, Emily, is very attractive girl. Emily loves her father as well as she loves her mother too.

" She gives him an abrupt kiss"

When Emily are in school, she meets George, her neighbour and they talk each other. George says that Emily is very nice that day.

GEORGE:

You made a fine speech in class.

EMILY:

Well...I was really ready to make a speech about the Monroe Doctrine, but at the last minute Miss Corcoran made me talk about the



EMILY:

Mama, am I good looking?

MRS. WEBB:

Yes, of course you are. All my children have got good features; I'd be ashamed if they hadn't.

EMILY:

Oh, Mama, that's not what I mean. What I mean is: am I pretty?

MRS. WEBB:

I've already told you, yes. Now that's enough of that. You have a nice young pretty face. I never heard of such foolishness.

Emily's mother tells that Emily is so beautiful and have a nice pretty face. Emily is disappointed about her mother's answer. Emily thinks that her mother does not understand what Emily wants to talk. Without stopping to ask her mother, she tries to get an answer from her mother, as the following dialogues:

EMILY:

Oh, Mama, you never tell us the truth about anything.

MRS. WEBB:

I am telling you the truth.



EMILY:

Mama, were you pretty?

MRS. WEBB:

Yes, I was, if I do say it. I was the prettiest girl in town next to Mamie Cartwright.

EMILY:

But, Mama, you've got to say something about me. Am I pretty enough...to get anybody...to get people interested in me?

MRS. WEBB:

Emily, you make me tired. Now stop it. You're pretty enough for all normal purposes.-Come along now and bring that bowl with you.

EMILY:

Oh, Mama, you're no help at all.

(Wilder, 1985, act I: 30-31)

If the writer sees this dialogues, the writer thinks that Emily is disappointed about her mother's answer because the answer is not satisfying Emily. Frankly, she wants her mother to know that Emily falls in love with someone but her mother does not realize that.

Emily is interested in George. When George has a homework, Emily always helps George do his homework. Although George can do his homework himself, Emily

tries to help him by giving an answer that is needed by George, so that it can make George feels better than before and do his homework again. George needs an answer as dialogues can be seen as follows.

EMILY:

I'll tell you one thing: the answer's in yards.

GEORGE:

!!! In yards? How do you mean?

EMILY:

In square yards.

GEORGE:

Oh...square tards.

EMILY:

Yes, George, don't you see?

GEORGE:

Yeah.

EMILY:

In square yards of wallpaper.

GEORGE:

Wallpaper, -oh, I see. Thank's a lot, Emily.

(Wilder, 1985: 33-34)

not realize it. Emily wants to help George and makes him realize that all he does is wrong.

EMILY:

Not scoldingly; finding it difficult to say I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year. I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings, but I've got to tell the truth and shame the devil.

GEORGE:

A change?—Wha—what do you mean?

EMILY:

Well, up to year ago I used to like you a lot. And I used to watch you as you did everything...because we'd been friends so long...and then you began spending all your time at baseball...and you never stopped to speak to anybody anymore. Not even to your own family you didn't...and, George, it's a fact, you've got awful conceited and stuck up, and all the girls say so. They may not say so to your face, but that's what they say about you behind your back., and it hurts me to hear they say it, but I've got to agree with them a little. I'm sorry if it hurts your feelings...but I can't be sorry I said it.

GEORGE:

I... I'm glad you said it, Emily. I never thought that such a thing was happening to me. I guess it's hard for a fella not to have faults creep into his character.

They take a step or two in silence,
then stand still in misery.

(Wilder, 1985, act II: 62-63)



At the dialogues, George says sorry to Emily and says thanks to her attention. After Emily and George forgiving each other, they go to school again together and working at home again if they had a homework. And George begins to fall in love with Emily too. They are very nice couple. And one day, at one time, George tells his feelings to Emily.

GEORGE:

Emily.

EMILY:

Y-yes, George.

GEORGE:

Emily, if I do improve and make a big change...would you be...I mean: could you be...

EMILY:

I... I am now; I always have been.

GEORGE:

Pause.
So I guess this an important talk we've been having.

(Wilder, 1985, act II: 68-69)

it he's put warm things on. -Frank! They're too young. Emily won't think of such things. He'll catch his death of old within a week.
(Wilder, 1985: 51)



If the writer sees the dialogues, Mrs. Gibbs does not believe Emily can keep her son, George. She thinks that Emily is still too young to become a housewife, but her husband, Dr. Gibbs, tells her that she does not have to worry about that.

A marriage comes over and people come to the church. Emily's mother seems like a worried woman.

MRS. WEBB:

I don't know why on earth I should be crying. I suppose there's nothing to cry about. It came over me breakfast this morning; there was Emily eating her breakfast as she's done for seventeen years and now she's going off to eat it in someone else's house. I suppose that's it.
(Wilder, 1985, act II: 72)

Here the writer sees that Mrs Webb does not want to be left by Emily. But she has to. And not only Mrs Webb worries about the marriage, but Mrs Gibbs and George do, too. Mrs. Gibbs feels that she would be left by her son, but Mrs. Gibbs always gives a support to George and tells that George is a man. He does not have to worry about the marriage. He must not feel afraid to



If the writer sees this drama, act I and act II, the writer can see at the time Wilder tells about the real life or reality. Wilder tells about Emily's life, began from Emily was a little girl, until she was getting merried with her little friend, a good boy, Goerge.

In real life or (reality), all things are natural. People found it and relize it. People are not dreaming something, but what someone feels at the time is what they see. Thornton Wilder writes in this drama two kinds of "life" and later the third act or in this drama tells about the death, unreal life, or the writer can say that is illusory. It tells about the death of Emily and meets with the other dead people, who died before Emily.

2. Illusory (unreal life)

In this act III, is taking place in a burial or cemetery, as the stage manager said in the opening of act III. " **These are graves in the cemetery**"

This time nine years have gone by, friends summer 1913. (Wilder, act III, 79)

Emily is dead. All her family specially her mother are sad. In the cemetery, after Emily has been buried,



She sees Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Soames. She walks again and sits besides Mrs. Gibbs.

Pause. Suddenly Emily appears from among the umbrellas. She is wearing a white dress. Her hair is down her back and tied by a white ribbon like a little girl. She comes slowly, gazing wonderingly at the dead, a little dazed. She stops halfway and smiles faintly. After looking at the mourners for a moment, she walks slowly to the vacant chair beside Mrs Gibbs and sits down.

(Wilder, 1985, act III: 87)

After Emily joins the dead soul, she meets with Mrs. Gibbs and Emily then says hello to her. They talk about their life and what they have done when they live. Why she is die and many others. They talk likes they never meet for along time.

EMILY:

To them all, quietly, smiling.

Hello.

MRS. SOAMES:

Hello, Emily.

A MAN AMONG THE DEAD:

Hello, M's Gibbs.

EMILY:

Warmly.

Hello, Mother Gibbs.

MRS. GIBBS:

Emily.

(Wilder, 1985: 87-88)

Emily then speaks to Mrs Gibbs about what she has done with George when she was living. She tells about her plans with George to be a farmer and tries to find their life's earn by them selves. Emily talks about her happiness with Mrs. Gibbs' son, George, when she was living.

EMILY:

Mother Gibbs, George and I have made that farm into just the best place you ever saw. We thought of you all the time. We wanted to show you the new barn and a great long cement drinking fountain for the stock. We bought that out of the money you left us.

MRS. GIBBS:

I did?

EMILY:

Don't you remember, Mother Gibbs- the legacy you left us? Why, it was over three hundred and fifty dollars.

MRS. GIBBS:

Yes, yes, Emily.

(Wilder, 1985, act III: 88-89)

After talking to Mrs Gibbs, Emily said that she wanted to go back to the living. Emily misses her life and she wants to see it again. She wants to repeat what she has done when she lives with her husband, George. She wants to see the stores in her town, the street where she used to walk to school with George, and her own home. Although Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Soames did not want her to do that.

EMILY:

But, Mother Gibbs, one can go back; one can go back there again... into living. I feel it. Why just then for a moment I was thinking about... about the farm... and for a minute I was there, and my baby was on my laps as plain as day.

MRS. GIBBS:

Yes, of course you can.

EMILY:

I can go back there and live all those days over again... why not?

MRS. GIBBS:

All I can say is, Emily, don't.

EMILY:

*She appeals urgently to the stage manager
But it's true, isn't it? I can go and
live...back there...again.*

STAGE MANAGER:

*Yes, some have tried-but they soon come back
here.*

EMILY:

With a cry; rising.

*There's Main Street...why, that's Mr.
Morgan's drugstore before he changed it!...
And there's the livery stable.*

.....

STAGE MANAGER:

Yes, it's 1899. this is fourteen years ago.

(Wilder, 1985: 93)

After walking down the Main Street, Emily enters the house and sees her mother make a breakfast. Then Emily tries to speak to her mother, but her mother does not hear her voices. Her mother only speak to the children besides her, and it makes Emily feels sad. She asks the Stage Manager to bring her back to the cemetery and joins with the dead.

EMILY:

*Mama, I'm here. I'm grown up. I love you all,
everything.-I can't look at everything hard
enough.*

(Wilder, 1985, act III: 99)

Emily tries to hold her mother but she can not. Her mother can not see Emily. Emily is dissappointed and cries. What she hopes before going back to the living not the same with the reality. Emily then wants The Stage Manager broughther back to the cemetery and joins the dead again. Then she talks to Mrs Gibbs.



That is the end of act III, where the story tells about the illusory which figured by Emily Webb. The writer can see the difference between act I and act II that tells about reality or real life and in the act III, The story takes place at the cemetery in Grover's Corners. Where in this play tells about Emily's dead, why Emily wants to go back again to the living, why she was unhappy, and dissappointing Emily because she can not speak to her mother. Illusion or illusory is just almost similar with the reality. But some people do not realize the difference between them. Some people said that it was the same. So the writer wants to clarify it by analyzing Wilder's drama "Our Town".

Structurally, this drama has a simple play. Act I opens with a birth; Act II moves to courtship and marriage; and Act III closes the play with death and funeral. At the same time, the structure of the play, in which the setting jumps several years between acts reflects a larger theme of the play, the relationship between ordinary life and eternity.

According to this explanation, the writer can learn that the living only sees a little, but beyond the grave, the whole of human life become understandable.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1. Conclusion.

Drama "Our Town" created by Thornton Wilder is one of the best and most performed American plays of the century. This drama tells about one character, that is Emily Webb, who wants to come back again in her life after she was dead.

In this drama "Our Town" the writer hopes the reader can see that human beings do not realize what they do in their life. It can be seen when Emily goes to the living and sees her mother. She tries to talk to her mother until she flings her arms around her mother's neck, but her mother does not see her. In this case the writer knows that all human beings do not realize what they are doing when they watched by the "other" people.

In the drama "Our Town" the writer hopes the reader can see also the depression of Emily, less confidence (George and Emily feared to do marriage), and many others. The character of Emily is one of the special character because she was pretty and clever than the other people in her school. According to this,

Stylistically, the language of the play is simple. The action, centers around the Webb and the Gibbs families, who are neighbors in Grover's Corners.

In this drama, the play focuses on Emily Webb and George Gibbs, whose courtship and marriage provides the play with its only real plot.

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In the drama "Our Town" the writer hopes the reader can see also the depression of Emily, less confidence (George and Emily feared to do marriage), and many others. The character of Emily is one of the special character because she was pretty and clever than the other people in her school. According to this,

the writer can see that the characters are very real eventhough the original disposition sometimes confusing.

The character of this drama "Our Town" clearly pictured almost all of them are good characters. The writer can see the character of Emily Webb, George Gibbs, Mr and Mrs. Webb, Mr and Mrs. Gibbs, Mrs. Soames, Wally, Rebecca, Joe Stoddard, and many other good characters.

'Based on the explanation above, it is wisely enough to say that the drama "Our Town" is a literary work which has a high quality to be read and enjoyed. And hopefully desired in order to this analysis could show the importance of the time and add the knowledge of the writer.



BIOGRAPHY

Thornton Wilder was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1897. He was a second child of Amos Parker Wilder and Isabella Niven Wilder. He attended Oberlin College and then Yale, graduating in 1920. After a year in Rome, he took a job teaching French at a prep school. He published his first novel, *The Cabala*, in 1926, and achieved his first taste of fame with *The Bridge of San Luis rey*(1927), for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. With that success, he quit teaching and began to write full-time. He quickly became a literary celebrity, and moved in circles that included the likes of Ernest Hemmingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein. *The Woman of Andros* (1930) and *The Ides of March* (1948) was his novel which full of imagination.

In the ideologically charge climate of the 1930s, however, Wilder's non-ideological fiction came under attack from critics(many of them Marxists)who branded his work escapist fare that refuse to grapple with the realities of economic injustice. It was amid these criticism, and in the wake of the failure of his 1934 novel *Heaven's my destination*, that Wilder turned to playwiting. *Our Town*, by far his most famous dramatic effort, opened in 1938 to rave reviews and eventually

won him his second pulitzer. It has since become one of the most performed American plays of the century.

The first drama written by Thornton Wilder was *The Trumpet Shall Sound*(1926), *The Angel That Troubled The Water*(1928), and *The Long Christmas Dinner*(1931). The second drama which was shown in Broadway is *The Skin of Our Teeth*(1942) and *The Matchmaker*.

The '20s and '30s were the peak of Wilder's career. He wrote little in the '40s and '50s, and his lengthy novelistic effort, *The Eight Day*,(1967), was met with negative reviews and, in a echo of his critics from the '30s, dismissed as irrelevant to the issues of the day. The last novel of Wilder is *Theophilus North* in 1973. Wilder died in december 1975, at his home in Connecticut.

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APPENDIX



Synopsis.

Our Town is introduced by stage manager, who was ducked out, now reappears the ladies (Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs offstage, clearing room for Professor Willard, an academic from the state university, who lays out the basic facts about Grover's Corners—the population, the geological data, the ethnic makes up of the inhabitants, and so on. He is dismissed, and the stage manager calls on Mr. Webb, the editor of the local paper, who talks about the political and economic makeup of the town, and then takes question from the others.

In act I, Emily Webb makes her way to school. She encounters George Gibbs, who compliments her on a speech she gave in class. They talk about mathematics, and Emily promises to help George with his homework. George is discussing his plans to take over his uncle Luke's farm when Mrs. Webb comes out, he says hello to her, and hastily retreats into his own house. Left alone with her mother, Emily asks Mrs. Webb if she is good-looking, and her mother assures her that she is.

The Stage Manager interrupts again, taking over the stage to talk about the time capsule that is being placed in the foundation of the new bank being built in town. As he speaks, the stage goes dark, and he announces that it is now evening. George and Emily reappears on stage, sitting in their respective bedrooms and talking to each other through the open windows. While they talk, Dr. gibbs calls to his son, asking him to come downstairs for a moment. When George comes down, his father tells him to be more responsible around the house, and to help his mother with chores more often.

Meanwhile, the ladies are coming home from the choir practice. Mrs. Soames, a local gossip, tries to strike up a conversation about the drunkenness of Mr. Stimpson, the choirmaster, but Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb put her off and say goodnight. Mrs. Gibbs goes inside and talks to her husband, while upstairs Rebecca has joined George at the window. Going inside, Mr. Webb says goodnight to Emily, while across the way Rebecca and George keep looking at the sky and talking. The stage manager reappears and announces the end of the First Act.

Act II. The stage manager comes out first, to announce that three years have passed—it's now July 7, 1904, just after High School Commencement. It is George and Emily's wedding day. The morning is rainy, and George goes over to see his fiancée, only to be shooed away by Mr and Mrs. Webb, insist that seeing the bride to be is bad luck. Then the stage manager introduces a flashback to the previous year, when George and Emily went to get an ice cream soda together, and their courtship began. After the flashback, it is return to 1904, and their wedding day. Both bride and groom are jittery, but their parents calm them, and they go through with the marriage, with the stage manager officiating as minister. They go out together, and the second acts ends.

As act III begins, nine years have passed, and the scene have shifted to the cemetery, where Emily is going to be buried (she has just died id childbirth). As the funeral goes ahead, we hear the voices of the dead, including Mrs. Gibbs. They are detached witnesses to the goings on, having reached as point of understanding where they are no longer concerned with early events. The newly-buried Emily joins them, and quickly decides to go back and relive part of her life.

She chooses her twelfth birthday, and it can be watched as she steps into the past and begins to live the day again. However, she quickly becomes unhappy because she can see and understand so much more than the living, and demands to be taken back to the cemetery. As she settles into the peaceful wisdom of the dead souls, George comes and weeps by her tomb. "They don't understand, do they?" she says of the living, while the stars come out over Grover's Corners, and the play ends.