

**THE MORAL ASPECT OF OSCAR WILDE'S
"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"**



Thesis

**Presented to the Faculty of Letters Hasanuddin
University Ujungpandang In partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Degree**

BY

ABDUL SAMAD
Student No. : 8707112

UJUNG PANDANG

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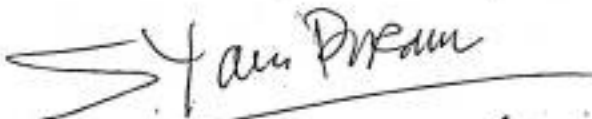
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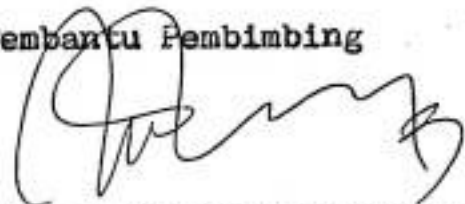
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CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Literature is an art work which is very interesting to discuss, because besides it can function as an entertainment, it can also give us much information about life, which we are not able to pass it through because of the limited time and movement we have.

Literature can not be separated with the human life, it is a very humanistic process of searching man and mankind. Every critics say that literature is an imitation and the others say that it is a social creation.

Literature is created by using language as its media, so language has an important role in literature being. So that a man of letters must master language before he creates a literary work.

Literary works consist of poetry, drama, and also prose. And in this thesis, the writer tries to analyze a drama which can be read and can also be shown. According to Christopher in his book 'How To Analyze Drama' :

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

(Christopher, 1966 : 5).

After reading the above statement, we can say that drama-

is human reflections or people activities that are presented through his or her actions or dialogues between one and the others. And through the dialogues and actions, we can find some aspects including morals in it.

Morals are interesting to discuss in one society. Morals hold within themselves several values and whenever we discuss morals, we should take such values into account in our discussion. Discussing morals means discussing the values attached to them, including the values of life which are of the highest rank among these attached values.

The way to measure the values of life is to see its application in the way one lives his or her life. Therefore, we should discuss man and his way of life. In discussing morals, it is not only discussed as he is an individual-living creature, but also as he is a social-living creature. The best measurement to be used in evaluating these values of life is religion which is concepted as morality.

This shows that it is the basic concept to discuss or even to study morals in connection with morality as the basic object. However, one should be aware that actually morals are closely related to ethics since ethics treats morality.

The best short description of ethics is to say that it is one of the mental and social sciences, and that its specific field is the studying of moral ideas.

(Lemont, 1946 : 1).

Based on the above explanation, one can hold that one has his basis in studying morality. Despite such explanation as mentioned basis, several specific interests link together with morals since ethics does not concern only human conduct as commented by W.D. Lamont.

It is not however sufficient to say that ethics is concerned with human and conduct. This only marks out to board field in which ethics operates; and it is necessary to indicate more precisely the specific interest which this study has in conduct; for there are other studies to which the same general description might apply. Psychology, economics, jurisprudence, political theory, and one might even add psychology are all concerned in some sense with human conduct or behaviour. We may therefore, give greater definiteness to the conception of ethics by saying. That is principal concern is with human conduct in respect of its relation to the conception of what is good and what is right. (Lamont, 1946 ; 2).

Then one can say or ask what relationship there exists among literature, theology, and morals. One may think that there is not any relationship at all, however, relationship exists among them and that is way, in order to know and appreciate literature or literary works, one can examine literary works from many points of view including from their moral aspect.

Ethical and theological basis are angles of view that can be used in evaluating and criticizing literary works, provided that we should have one common agreement that the mentioned literary evaluation and criticism we perform -

should be substantive, as Elliot remarks :

Literary criticism should be completed by criticism from a definite ethical and theological standpoints. In so far as in any age there is common agreement on ethical and theological matter, so far can literary criticism be substantive.

(Elliot, 1976 : 44).

with respect to this point, the relationship between ethics and theology on one side and literary works on the other is the relationship which is intended to reveal the ethical and theological aspects existing in the literary works. The writer will not deal with religious literary works, but it is the applicable religious teachings attached to some literary criticism in criticizing several literary works.

In this piece of writing, the writer studies thoroughly and evaluates Oscar Wilde's drama. The result of the study and evaluation leads the writer to select and to separate Wilde's drama which deal with morals (ethics, theology, politic etc) in order to confirm with title of this thesis the moral aspect in Oscar Wilde's drama.

The writer goes further deeply into this drama by trying to know what kind of moral aspect which is in it. What are morals ? . Some opinion of the definition of moral seem similar of all. And generally, they aim to the trait and behaviour of man.

The word "Moral" came from Latin. "mos" (single) and "mores" (plural), which means the way of life, tradition and then, appeared "morale" and "moral" which means spirits or motivations. In Greek, it is known "ethos" which means habit and characters. (Kumorotomo, 1992 : 5).

In the terminology manner, some scientists gave their perceptions about the definition of moral. Such as William Morris in his 'The American Heritage Dictionary'; where one of the definitions read :

"Moral is concerned with judgement of goodness and badness of human actions and characters, pertaining to the discernment of good and evil. Designed to teach goodness or currentness of character and behaviour; instructive of what is good and bad.

(Morris, 1981 : 853).

It means that moral can not be separated with the judgement of the goodness and badness. Where is the moral, there is goodness and badness.

Besides that A. Gunawan Setiardja in his book 'Dialektika Hukum dan Moral' marked :

" - Hakekat moral pertama-tama terletak dalam kegiatan batin kehendak, sekunder dalam perbuatan-perbuatan lahir. Dan menghargai serta menilai kenikmatan dan kesenangan itu positif."

(The essence of moral is located in the internal will actions, secondary in the real actions, -And appraised the comfort and the pleasurement is a positive thing).

(Setiardja, 1991 : 97.).

When we talk about the moral of a man or a group of men, it means that we are talking about the habits and behaviours of a man or a group of men and consequently discussing about the thinking and erection of them.

Besides that, Wahyudi Kumorotomo in his book "Etika Administrasi Negara" states :

"Moral menaruh penekanan kepada karakter dan sifat-sifat individu yang khusus. - Dan merujuk kepada tingkah laku yang bersifat spontan, seperti rasa kasih, kemurahan hati, kebesaran jiwa individu!"
(The emphasis of morals are the characters and the special trait of individual. And it aims to the spontaneous behaviour, such as : the affection, generosity, and undesperateness of individual).

(Kumorotomo, 1992 : 6-7).

Therefore, the moral is not just for individual, but it is the problem of the society. In the society A. Gunawan - Setiandja divides the moral into :

1. Moral Individu yaitu mengatur perbuatan-perbuatan manusia sebagai pribadi dalam kehidupan pribadi.
(The individual morality regulates the human actions forming a personal trait in the personal life.)
2. Moral Sosial (Public morality) yaitu mengatur perbuatan-perbuatan manusia sebagai anggota masyarakat atau sebagai makhluk sosial dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat. (Public morality regulates the human actions as the members of society or a social creatures in the life of mankind).

(Setiandja, 1991 : 143).

Although, there are some perception about the defenition of moral, but essentially they have the similarity, so we can conclude that the moral aims to every human actions.

And characterizations which are praising the corrected thing and needs the describing of bad actions for determining what is good and bad.

After knowing some definitions of moral, the writer will be using in measuring whether Wilde's drama contains the value of such teaching. It is widely known that a good literary work is the one which possesses much valuable message for the reader. The reader will find, consider and evaluate the writer's message. If it is confirmed with the reader's appear then it will be adopted and applicable to the life of the reader. A literary work which possesses attractive and applicable message will, to some extent, meet the function of literature, among which is educational as well as scientific.

I.1. The Motivation of Title Chosen.

In Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", there are some aspects that can be analyzed such as: the characterization, the setting, love and lie, the moral, etc. And in this thesis, the writer tries to study about the moral value. It is very interesting to be analyzed because the moral in a part of world is different with the other part of world.

Generally, the eastern young people especially for Indonesian young people are easily influenced by foreign cultures.

Because of that, we have to study much the moral in the other part of world, so that we can find the best moral for us.

Since literature can function as an entertainment, and it can also give much information about life, which we are not able to pass it through because of the limited time and movement we have.

In this facts, man is a social creature who can not live without other being. Drs. Abu Ahmadi has stated :

"Manusia adalah makhluk sosial dan merupakan anggota masyarakat. Ia tak dapat hidup tanpa orang lain, karena tiap-tiap orang saling membutuhkan, karena itu dalam berfikir, bertindak laku, berbicara dan sebagainya, manusia terikat oleh masyarakat. wajarlah apabila tingkah laku dan perbuatannya harus dipertanggungjawabkan kepada masyarakat.

(Man is a social creature and a member of society. Man can not live without other people, everyone needs the others. So that the man thinks, does, speaks etc, is limited by society. It is a natural thing if man's behaviour and actions must be responsible to society.

(Ahmadi, 1986 : 23).

Furthermore Maftuh Ahnan in his book "Pilsafat Manusia" has stated :

"... sebagai makhluk sosial, kita tak dapat berbuat seenaknya saja, bebas leluasa mengerjakan sesuatu tanpa memperhatikan peraturan yang ada dalam masyarakat. "

(... As a social creature, we can not do something as our wishes, moreover to do something freely without look society's norms.

(Ahnan, 1988 : 61).

From the above statement, it seems that man cannot live without other beings. One must relate to other and helps each other, so that this can create a society that is very peaceful, orderly and savely.

For acheaving all of these, the moral has an important role, in that moral becomes as a measure in human life. If one has a good moral, he will be respected and be praised by other people. On the contrary, one who has a bad moral, he will be squeezed and be evacuated by people.

Because of that, we must study actively, especially the young people who are easy oscillated by modern ages, because they do not know who really himself are. Generally the young people, especially the Indonesian young people imitate a man who is admired by him, so that, his talent and capability are not develoved, since he is provoked to this man's environment.

So the writer tries to offer this analysis especially to young man and woman and that may become as a measurement in his future life.

I.2 The Scope of The Problem.

Drama "The Importance of Being Earnest" is a masterpiece of Oscar Wilde, where it has some aspects that can be analyzed. But in this writing, the writer just analyzes such as follows :

1. The moral of some characters in the drama,

2. The relationship between main characters and flat characters,
3. After studying and finding the moral of some characters, the writer tries to express the main theme of this Wilde's drama.

I.3 The Objective of the Study.

Man lives in the world because he has a certain purpose and everyone has a task for strengthening their capability. It is the same with our everyday lives where each activity has to have a certain direction. So in this writing the writer has some expectations such as follows :

1. To know the moral of some characters in the drama, so that we can compare it with the moral today.
2. The writer wants to prove that a falsehood will be disclosed in time, the wickedness will be destroyed and the truth will appear.
3. To show that honesty, faithfulness, self confidence have a very important role in determining the life of man in one society.

I.4 Methodology.

For achieving the purpose which wants to be achieved in one writing, we must use a certain method. So that the writing is more aimed to our purpose. And in this study, the writer uses some methods such as follows :



1. Library Research.

- a. The data and materials are obtained partly by reading literature. Anything in books and periodicals that deal with Wilde and his literary works are also used.
- b. Some opinions of critics as well as Wilde's own view are also used to substantiate this thesis.

2. Intrinsic and Extrinsic Approaches.

- a. Intrinsic (Structural) approach means the writer studies the drama based on the structure or material that is in it, likes ; characterization, plot, setting, etc.
- b. Extrinsic approach means the writer used the literary critics which have based its theory.

I.5. Composition of Chapters.

The composition of chapters are as follows :

Chapter I : Introduction

In this part, the writer expresses about the motivation of the tittle chosen, the scope of the problem, the objective of the study, the methodology of writing, and the composition of chapters.

Chapter II : The literature review and the summary of the play.

Chapter III : The moral analysis in the round characters

in the drama "The Importance of Being -
Earnest", the relationship among the
other characters, and the main theme.

Chapter IV : Conclusions and Suggestion.

Appendix

Bibliography

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE PLAY

A. LITERATURE REVIEW

This drama was presented in the Victorian age. This period of Victorian literature came after to the Romantic period. Some in facts and ideas of the latter had been coming into the Victorian age the on-going linking process of English literature and culture in general. The country was prosperous and in good condition.

The expansion of literature became more fertile, and it had an important role in human life. Man raced to discover thing that was not discovered by other people before. These were caused by the development of education. Beside scientists, writers were free to set up research themselves in their own ways.

One of the writers is Oscar Wilde who is very famous person in the time. He begun to study at Trinity College in Dublin City, and then continued his education at Magdalen college, Oxford. He is a disciple of Pater, he found an esthetic cult there for advocating which he was parodied by W.S. Gilbert as Reginal Bunthorne in *Patience*. He won the Newdigate prize in 1878, and then in 1881, he had already published a volume of poems, which in spite of affectations, attracted attention by their Irish and the music of verse.

In 1882, he went to America and there lectured on esthetic philosophy. Seven years later, he issued "The Happy Prince" (a fantasy) and "Other Tales", "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime" and other stories. Besides that he had also written a good novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" that appeared in 1891. "Dorian Gray" shows Wilde's estheticism in all its aspects. The search for intense or rare sensations, the ban put on every feeling and belief which sets a limit to the faculty of enjoyment, or captures the soul needed the superiority of the true artist over the rules of society or morality. Wilde will ultimately be remembered chiefly as a dramatist unexceptionally of "Salome" (1893). His successes were made in the realm of light comedy, where he could give full play to his fantastic wit. "Lady Windermere's Fan" (1892), "A Woman of No Importance" (1893), and "The Ideal Husband" (1895), were each and all successful.

One of his masterpieces was "The Importance of Being Earnest" that was written in 1895, which places him in the same rank with Goldsmith and Sheridan. His regard for literary style, gift Epigram, and rapier like play of dialogue, product a drama of brilliant extravagance, however the insincerity of his sentiments suggest an incurable cynicism.

In 1895, following Wilde's libel action against the Marquess of Queensberry who had accused him of perversion, he was convicted of immoral conduct and sentenced to two years imprisonment from 1897 until his death in obscurity and poverty in 1900. Oscar Wilde lived on the continent, mainly Paris. Now, he was gone but his name is always a reminiscence until today.

B. SUMMARY OF THE PLAY.

Drama "The Importance of Being Earnest" consists of three acts, where the act I happened at Algernon's Flat in Half Moon Street. Two men live there. They are Algernon and Lane. Algernon is a bachelor who prefers to be called Algy in his daily life by his friends in the town. And so Lane is a childless widow who always serves at Algernon's flat.

The dialogue between Algy and his man-servant Lane is the beginning of this story. Algernon is playing the piano and Lane is arranging food and a drink for their guests. Both are waiting for two women who have promised to visit them. They are Lady Bracknell and Miss Fairfax. Lady Bracknell who is better called Augusta is Algy's aunt. And Miss Fairfax that is also called Gwendolen is the oldest child of Lady Bracknell or Algy's first cousin.

Before Augusta and Gwendolen arrive, Algy's friend comes. He is Jack who comes from the country. He visits..

He visits in the town to entertain himself and other people in the town. He introduces himself with the name Ernest and says that he uses Ernest in the town and Jack in the country.

While having tea, they chat seriously. Ernest or Jack tells that he loves Gwendolen or Miss Fairfax very much, even he wants to marry her if everyone agree them. But Algy disallows him, because there is something mysterious in his personal life. It is the name of Cecily that is written in his cigarette case. Ernest left his cigarette case when he has dined there and Algy read the name Cecily in it, the name that always haunts him.

For getting his ideal, Jack is ready to explain his really personal data and the name Cecily. He tells Algy that he is really Ernest, the name when he was a little boy. He lived in the country, namely Shropshire with Thomas Cardew. And Ernest is called Jack there by his friends and his neighbours.

Although, Jack is twenty-eight years old, he does not know who are his parents, and he does not make any efforts for looking for his true parents, so he lives without his parents' affections.

Then, Ernest goes on talking to clear up the mystery. He explains that the name Cecily is not his darling, but Cecily is Thomas Cardew's granddaughter who lives with him. And in her daily life, Cecily is guarded by Jack or Ernest. He comes to the town because he feel boring to live in the country.

Jack confesses to have a young brother, whose name is Ernest who lives in Albany, He tells to Mr. Thomas - Gardew and Cécily, so that he has a chance to go to the town. But when he arrives in the town, he introduces himself that he is Ernest.

Besides that, Jack or Ernest is considered the same existence as Bunburyist by Algy, although Jack himself is unknown this name. According to Algy, Bunbury is his friend who lives in the country. Actually, this name is just a reason for having a change to go to the country, so Bunbury is only Algy's invalid friend. Algy and Jack or Ernest have the same secret.

While both are chatting seriously, Lady Bracknell and Miss Fairfax come. For their coming, the situation is more warm, moreover Jack or Ernest is falling in love to Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen. Lady Bracknell tells that they came late to Algernon's house because they had called Mary - Harbury. After that Lady Bracknell or Augusta invites Algy to have dinner with Miss Fairfax and Mary Harbury is too, but Algy says "No, thanks" because he wants to go to the country to see his friend. His friend's name is Bunbury who is very ill.

At the other part, Jack or Ernest and Gwendolen sit down in the corner. They express their love to each other, Ernest loves Gwendolen very much and Gwendolen answers that she loves Ernest too, but not the name Jack.

When Lady Bracknell and Algy move to the next room, Ernest and Gwendolen are talking their love more seriously and sitting so closely. They open their feeling to each other. Jack promises to marry her and Gwendolen does too, although Lady Bracknell or Gwendolen's mother does not know the problem yet.

After Lady Bracknell comes into the room to join again, she looks like angry to see her daughter who sits so closely beside Ernest or Jack. And more angry when her daughter tells her that she is already engaged to Ernest. Lady Bracknell disagrees their planning before Ernest or Jack can explain about his personal life, his background of family, his knowledge, and especially his income.

Since Ernest or Jack can not explain about the background of his family, he doesn't know who is his parents, and says that he was found in a handbag by Mr. Thomas Cardew in the cloak room at the Victoria railway station, so Lady Bracknell leaves the room.

Although Lady Bracknell disallows Ernest to marry her daughter, Gwendolen come into the room again and says that she loves Ernest and ready to marry him, but she is afraid that her mother will never bless the marriage. Then she leaves him for a while.

At the Manor House is happened the second part of the play. There is two women who are in the house. They are ..

They are Cecily and Miss Prism. Cecily is guided by Miss Prism to study German language. Actually she really dislikes this lesson, but Jack or her cousin tells Miss Prism to teach her.

The dialogue between Cecily and Miss Prism is very serious, when Dr. Chasuble arrives. He comes alone to teach her political economy. He always comes to Cecily and Jack's house to give some instructions, especially how to hit the future which has a heavy challenges. He cannot marry anyone because he is a clergyman where the regulation of church does not approve it.

After Dr. Chasuble teaches Cecily, he and Miss Prism leave Cecily alone. Suddenly someone comes into the room to meet Cecily. He is Merriman who takes the dog-car. He tells that Jack's brother whose named Ernest is coming. When Algernon meets Cecily, he intraduces himself and uses the name Ernest. Cecily who is a young and beautiful girl makes him falling in love. And so Cecily loves the name - Ernest very much. They are having a very warm talk.

At the other place, Jack who went to the town a few days ago comes back to his country. He meets Dr. Chasuble and Miss Prism directly and informs that his brother or Ernest was gone in Paris. He tries to lie to Dr. Chasuble and Miss Prism. But suddenly, Cecily comes to inform that Jack's brother namely Ernest is inside. In the time,

In the time, Jack doesn't have a word and the situation is uncertain. He seems confused, although he has known the real fact. After knowing a person who is mentioned Ernest or Jack's brother is Algernon, Jack is very angry and commands Algy to go back to the town directly. Because of the dog-car is still waiting outside, Jack calls him to take Algy back to the town.

When the dialogue between Algy and Jack is more warm, Cecily comes to reconcile them. She wants to finish their misunderstanding and makes the two brothers shake hands. But in fact, this does not help much, because Jack does not want to understand him and even, he tells the audience that Algernon is telling a lie.

Actually, before Jack arrives, Algy has promised Cecily that he will stay in the country for a week, but Jack disagrees him. Algy looks for the other way, and says that he has fallen in love with his cousin, Cecily. And then, Cecily herself corrects him. She tells that she loves Ernest or Jack since three months ago, moreover she shows Ernest's letters that is just written by Cecily herself.

Cecily loves the name Ernest 'Algy', and she does never imagine that will love a man whose name is not Ernest. For her lover, she brave to lie and makes some letters on Ernest name. She just thinks how Ernest 'Algy' can stay in the country for a week.

Because of both Cecily and Gwendolen are very fond of the name Ernest, so the two men Algernon and Jack wants to be christened or baptized once again on the name Ernest. Both of the men don't imagine their age, they are too old to be baptized.

Before Algy comes again in the room, Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen enters to see the other Ernest. But she just meets Cecily there. They discuss the name Ernest directly, the name that make them in doubtness. They ask to each other, do they love the same man ?

For coming Jack into the room, makes the warm situation. He glances to Gwendolen and wants to kiss her, but Gwendolen refuses and asks him to explain his relationship to Cecily. Although Jack feels ashamed and disappointed, he can answer her question with a laugh. He loves Cecily because she is his cousin, but is not his beloved girl. Of course, Gwendolen is very glad to hear the fact and it makes to lose misunderstanding among them.

The three persons in the room are talking about their relation, then Algy enters and goes to Cecily to offer her a kiss, otherwise Cecily draws back. She wants to know whether he will marry Gwendolen. He laughs and proclaims that Gwendolen is his first cousin.

At last, the secret of the two men is known by the girl who loves him. Both Algy and Jack are not Ernest...

Both Algy and Jack are not Ernest, they use the name Ernest because it is the favourite name of two young ladies Gwendolen and Cecily. While the two sweetgirls dissappoint to love a man who is not named Ernest, Algy and Jack come in a warm talk. Jack disallows Algy is engaged and married cecily, if Jack himself is refused to marry Gwendolen.

The act three of this play still happened at Manor house. Two young and beautiful ladies are inside. They are in one destiny. When Algy and Jack come to meet them and say that they have changed their name into the bther name Ernest, Cecily and Gwendolen seem glad and happy. They go on talking about their love, and come into a warm situation. They are very startled when Merriman who works as a guardian at Manor House enters and tellsthem that Lady Bracknell or Gwendolen's Mother is outside.

In the time, Miss Fairfax meets her mother immediately and she explains that Jack has proposed her, otherwise Lady Bracknell who can be also called Augusta disallows it directly and even, commands her to go straight to the dog-car. Algy also supports her.

Then, Algy tries to lie to Lady Bracknell when she asks about his invalid friend whose name is Bunbury. He informs that his friend was gone. After that, he tells his aunt that he will marry Cecily Cardew. Cecily herself corrects these words. Lady Bracknell understands

Lady Bracknell understands indirectly, but she wants to know the background of Cecily's family. So, Jack explains that Cecily has no mother anymore. She was born in a noble family and lives under Mr. Cardew's guardianship.

After knowing the fact, Lady Bracknell agrees of course to marry off them. The two young persons, Algy and Cecily, are very glad to hear Augusta's agreement. But it is sorry so much, Jack who is refused to marry Gwendolen by Lady Bracknell. He will give his agreement to the marriage of Algy and Cecily if he is permitted to marry Gwendolen or Miss Fairfax.

They are still in a warm talk, when Dr. Chasuble comes. He is ready to baptize Jack in the other name Ernest. Although Lady Bracknell protects him, he will do it and says that Miss Prism has prepared everything for the ceremony of the baptism. To hear the name Miss Prism, Lady Bracknell seems to remember something, and asks who is Miss Prism. Dr. Chasuble explains the existence of Miss Prism.

After Miss Prism comes into the room, Lady Bracknell knows directly. She tells that Miss Prism is the woman who used to be worked by Lord Bracknell. At twenty-eight years, she left Lord Bracknell's house and took a handbag that contained a male baby. Lady Bracknell asks her about the baby.

While they are busy to talk about the baby, Jack efforts to find the handbag and shows to Miss Prism. Miss Prism confess that it is hers. So, the baby in the handbag is Jack of course.

Augusta knows the fact, she understands that Jack is Algy's elder brother who has name Ernest since he was a baby. Everyone seems very glad to know the truth and embrace to each other.



CHAPTER III

THE MORAL ANALYSIS IN THE ROUND CHARACTERS
IN THE DRAMA "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"

The drama "The Importance of Being Earnest" is a big work in the last period of Victorian age, where the author presented various names who play various roles and functions.

The characters are represented by the following names :

John Worthing,
Algernon Moncrieff,
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.,
Merriman,
Lane,
Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax,
Lady Bracknell,
Cecily Cardew, and
Miss Prism.

These characters play and support each others, so that it seems as a good story. There are five major characters and four minor characters. The five round characters play the most important part of this drama, while the others show less activities.

- Major characters are :

John Worthing,
Algernon Moncrieff,

Lady Bracknell,
Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen, and
Cecily Cardew.

- Minor Characters are :

Lane,
Merriman,
Dr. Chasuble, and
Miss Prism.

3.1. The Moral of the Major or Round Characters.

3.1.1. Mr. John Worthing.

He is called John or Jack Worthing in the country, and Ernest Worthing in the town. He lives in the country namely Shropshire. There, he can amuse the other people, although the man in the town is individualistic, as his dialogues with Algernon :

Jack, When one in town one amuses oneself.
When one in the country one amuses
other people. It is excessively boring.

Algernon, And who are the people you amuse ?

Jack, Oh, neighbours, neighbours.

(Wilde, 1951 : 3).

From the above dialogues, it shows that Jack still pay attention to his neighbours.

But Jack is considered a man who isn't romantic, as Alger-
non states :

I really don't see anything romantic in proposing.
It is very romantic to be in love, but
there is nothing romantic about a definite proposal.
Why, one may be accepted. One usually is, I believe.
Then the excitement is all over. The very essence
of romance is uncertainty. If ever I get married,
I'll certainly try to forget the fact. (1951 : 3).

Then he loves Gwendolen very much, he even said that
he has never loved anyone in the world except Gwendolen.
In his bravery, he states if he married a charming girl
like Gwendolen, she is the only girl he ever saw in his
life.

In the other part, he introduces himself Jack in the
country and Ernest in the town. While Gwendolen just lo-
ves the name Ernest, so he tries to lie to his sweetheart
and he produces words and efforts to close his lie, as it
is seen in the following dialogue :

Gwendolen, My own Ernest !,

Jack, But you don't really mean to
say that you couldn't love me if my
name wasn't Ernest.

Gwendolen, But your name is Ernest.

Jack, Yes, I know it is. But supposing
it was something else ? Do you
mean to say you couldn't love me
then ?.

(Wilde, 1951 : 10).

From the above lines, it can be understood that he 'Jack' knows that he is not Ernest but since his love just for a nice and sweet girl namely Gwendolen, so that he lies which sacrifices his feeling as it hurts him.

Then, Jack himself has not known his parents yet. He lives with his cousin and does not make any efforts for looking for his true parents which is described in the following dialogues :

Jack, I have lost both my parents.

Lady Bracknell,

Both ? That seems like carelessness. Who was your father? He was evidently a man of some wealth. Was he born in what the Radical papers call the purple of commerce, or did he rise from the ranks of the aristocracy?.

Jack, I am afraid I really don't know, the fact is, Lady Bracknell, I said I had lost my parents. It would be nearer the truth to say that my parents seems to have lost me.... I don't actually know who I am by birth. I was well, I was found. (Wilde, 1951 : 13).

In this case, Jack appeared as a man who lives without his parents' affections. But since he is so patient, he can hit his future happily.

But in the other part, he tries to lie again and states his brother 'Ernest' died in Paris and pretended looking like very sad for assuring Dr. Chasuble.

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He 'Jack' pretended looking like very sad for assuring everyone. But in fact he just puts on a lie.

Besides that, Although he is twenty-nine years old, he still wants to be baptized or christened once more, whereas he is very old for being baptized. So, He does not bother to care about the public traditions and habits.

In the other part, he wants to be baptized or christened by Dr. Chasuble with the name Ernest, and if Dr. Chasuble does not want to do it, he 'Jack' will baptize Himself recklessly. As it is explained :

Jack,
But it is not for any child,
dear Doctor. I am very fond of
children. No! the fact is, I would
like to be christened myself, this
afternoon, if you have nothing better
to do.

Chasuble,
But surely, Mr. Worthing,
you have been christened
already?

Jack,
I don't remember anything
about it. (Wilde, 1951 : 23).

From the above statements, it seems that Jack is a reckless man, and walks on the way by himself without his competence. He wants to enjoy the freedom and does not want to be limited by the church regulations which always give some pressures his wandering heart.

Jack is showing a great responsibility to his beloved one. He is ensured that he has the right of love to Gwendolen or Miss Fairfax as the latter replies him. He wants to prove his love as he says :

Jack, Gwendolen, will you marry me ?
(Goes on his knees).

Gwendolen,
Of course I will, darling.
How long you have been about it !
I am afraid you have had very little
experience in how to propose.

Jack, My own one, I have never loved
anyone in the world but you. (Wilde, 1951 : 10).

In this case, we can see that Jack just loves the only one girl namely Gwendolen and promises himself and his sweetheart that he will never love anyone in the world but Gwendolen. He is ready to answered each challenges for getting his idol of heart, including to fill all of the terms that are said by Gwendolen's mother.

In fact, He 'Jack' is to be sorry for all of the happenings that happened before. After Miss Prism explained that she had ever put a baby in a handbag, then she forgot it in Victorian railway station twenty-eight years ago. Then, it is known exactly that Jack is Algy's elder brother. He was a baby. Jack is actually the son of Lady Bracknell's poor sister and consequently Algernon's elder brother.

3.1.2. Mr. Algernon Moncrieff.

Mr. Algernon Moncrieff is a bachelor who lives with his man-servant Lane in Half-Moon Street. In his life as a young man, he prefers to be called Algy in the town by his friends.

Algy is twenty-five years old. He is a scientific person and also dislikes everything which is unlogic. For him, something which had been stated, it must be proved in the livelihood. As he says to Jack :

" ... There is no objection, I admit, to an aunt being a small aunt, but why an aunt, no matter what her size may be, should call her own nephew her uncle. I can't quite make out ..."

(Wilde, 1951 : 3).

Therefore, he is a capable man in criticism. Besides that as a member of the family, Algy is to be obliged to protect his cousin, especially his first cousin, Gwendolen. He is afraid that Gwendolen loves someone who is hypocrite and lecherous. As he requests Jack :

My dear fellow, Gwendolen is my first cousin. And before I allow you to marry her, you will have to clear up the whole question of Cecily.

(Wilde, 1951 : 3).

He knows that a man is a hypocrite, moreover he is lecherous will never make a girl happy.

According to Algernon, hypocrisy and a lie just takes us to the suffering and doubtedness, whereas we know that no one in the world who wants to feel the suffering. People need a peace, pleasure, and happiness.

Algy's perception about the truth is different from Jack, where Jack says that the whole truth is pure and simple. Otherwise, Algernon states that the truth is rarely pure and is never simple. The truth is something that can not be doubted in its legality, as the truth is absolute. It appears in its truth.

In the other part, Algernon wants to go to the country for enjoying the beauty of the country. But he can not go there without the real reason, and he says :

"... I have just had a telegram to say that my poor friend, Bunbury, is very ill again. They seem to think I should be with him."

(Wilde, 1951 : 8).

From the above lines, it seems that Algy allows each way to find his freedom even if he is lying to his aunt Augusta and his first cousin Gwendolen. He wants to go everywhere without emphasizing it to his aunt. Freedom is one of the way for finding happiness. But someone's freedom is limited by the liberty of the other person else.

After Algy arrived in the country, he introduces himself that he is Jack's brother. His name is Ernest. He speaks about Jack's way of life to Cecily who is called as a little cousin to him. In their dialogues, they state :

Algernon,

"... You are the prettiest girl I ever saw.

Cecily,

Miss Prism says that all good looks are a snare.

Algernon,

They are a snare that every sensible man would like to be caught in.

Cecily,

Oh! I don't think I would care to catch a sensible man shouldn't know what to talk to him about. (Wilde, 1951 : 22)

Based on the above dialogues, we can see how Algy tries to flatter Cecily and efforts to assure her. Ernest "Algy" is a man who knows how to take the sweetheart. In fact, he is able to defeat Cecily who has been coveted by him.

Algernon is a firm man to his ideal, once he has stated some way of life, so he will do it. Therefore Cecily begins to put her attention to Algy. On the other hand, Algy loves Cecily very much. As he says :

Algernon,

Cecily, ever since I first looked upon your wonderful and incomparable beauty, I have dared to love you wildly, passionately, devotedly, hopelessly.

(Wilde, 1951 ; 28).

Algy chooses the words correctly, so that Cecily is spellbound to what is stated by him. He 'Algy' wants to stay till next week without paying attention to Jack's remembrance. He wants to prove his love by marrying her, as he expresses in the following lines :

Algernon,

Oh, I don't care about Jack. I don't care for anybody in the whole world but you. I love you, Cecily. Will you marry me, won't you ?

(Wilde, 1951 : 28).

Marriage is the end of love of a man to a girl and marriage changes it to becoming love of husband to his wife and wife to her husband. Marriage is not easy. It must be supported by love and love itself is the present of God which is not possessed by any normal man.

In the other part, Algy tries to open his secret, as he wants to say the fact and states the truth step by step and also hopes Cecily still loves him although she knows his name is not Ernest but Algernon.

Algy offers to Cecily a name for himself as he explains :

Algernon,
 "...Do you mean to say you could not love me if I have some other name ?

Cecily,
 But what name ?

Algernon,
 Oh, any name you like Algernon, for instance.....

Cecily,
 But.....

Algernon,
 Well, my own dear, sweet, loving little darling, I really can't see why you should object to the name of Algernon. It is not at all a bad name.But seriously, Cecily..... If my name was Algy, couldn't you love me ? (1951 : 30)..

From the above dialogues, it seems that Algy is a man who is patient and gentle. He flatter Cecily with his patience and his softness. He knows that generally, a girl likes patience and softness and they want to be spoiled and beloved.

Since his love to Cecily, he wants to be baptized once again with the name Ernest. But at the end, his real name is known by Cecily when she asks him "Are you called Algernon ?" He 'Algy' answers honestly "I cannot deny it" (Wilde, 1951 : 35).

At last, because of Algy's honesty, all of the characters know the pure name of Ernest 'Algernon'. And by the coming of Miss Prism, all of the problems become so clear. And Algernon is really Jack's young brother.

3.1.3. Lady Bracknell.

Lady Bracknell is Gwendolen's mother. She is always called Aunt Augusta by Algernon. She is a widow who lives with her daughter namely Miss Fairfax.

Then, Lady Bracknell seems to be a materialistic woman, as we can see it from her question :

"...What is your income ? (Act. I. P. 12)."

In this case, she prefers loving the wealth to Jack himself, whereas it is commonly held that wealth is not the only one way to find happiness.

In the other part, Lady Bracknell also seems to be that she is a politician, as she asks Jack "What are your politics ?" (Act I P.12), it means that although Lady Bracknell is just a woman, she can become the chief of a household.

She paid attention to her daughter very much, and as a mother and a chief of her household, she doesn't want her child to fall in love to someone who is unreal in his birth.

She "Lady Bracknell" wishes her daughter to be married to a man who is known in the background of his family. As she states :

Lady Bracknell,

"... Who was your father ?

He was evidently a man of some wealth.

Was he born in what the Radical papers call the purple of commerce, or did he rise from the rank of the aristocracy." (Wilde, 1951 : 13)

Based on the above lines, "Lady Bracknell wants Jack's father is a wealthy man or to be born as in the Radical papers or he 'Jack's father' rises "from the rank of the Aristocracy". It proves that she has a high desire.

However, Wealth, the high rank or a good position do not guarantee one for enjoying happiness. Happiness is a relative thing, sometimes one looks like very happy but in fact, one is troubled or unhappy. Since happiness and pleasure are the problem of feeling, so we cannot appraise any happy family from their wealth, rank, and their position in one society. Happiness and suffering come substitutingly.

At the other part, Lady Bracknell is a good teacher, especially as it is seen that she teaches her daughter herself. She has a lot of wisdoms. Such as she says to "Lily" "...Hesitation of any kind is a sign of mental decay in the young, of physical weakness in the old .." (Act III. P. 41).

Lady Bracknell is a fanatic woman. She does not agree, and even forbid Jack and Algernon to be baptized twice. As she states :

"At their age ?

The idea is grotesque and irreligious !

Algernon. I forbid you to be baptized.

Lady Bracknell would be highly displeased

if he learned that was the way in which

you wasted your time and money." (Act. I, P. 47).

From the above statement, religion has become the step stone of activity. By her, one activity cannot be done if it contradicts with religion. It means that she always obeys his religion.

Besides that, Lady Bracknell also has a strong remembrance. Although the happening happened twenty-eight years ago, she still remembers it.

Now, she knows that the baby who was put in a perambulator is Ernest or Ernest Worthing. He 'Ernest' is the son of Lady Bracknell's sister and consequently is Algernon's elder brother.

3.1.4. Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen.

Miss Fairfax is the only one Lady Bracknell's daughter who has been left by Lord Bracknell since she was still a baby. Gwendolen who can also be called Miss Fairfax is of an Aristocratic family.

Although she is a noble girl, in fact she appears as a conceited woman. It can be seen from her statements as follows :

Gwendolen,
I am always smart. I
Aren't I, Mr. Worthing ?

Then.....
I thought so. In fact,
I am never wrong.

(Wilde, 1951 : 7).

It means that Gwendolen is a very conceited girl and so she is very proud of her existence. She wishes everyone says that she is the cleverest woman.

Besides that, she is also including a girl who is easy to love someone although she has never known the real man. Gwendolen loves Jack just because his name is Ernest. We can see this point in the following lines :

Jack,
... you couldn't love me if
my name wasn't Ernest ?

Gwendolen,
But your name is Ernest.

Then,
... The only really safe
safe name is Ernest. (Wilde, 1951 : 9).

The above lines shows that Gwendolen loves the name of Ernest very much without considering what ever personality the bearer of the name.

Since she falls in love with Ernest 'Jack', she forgets everything, and even she kisses Ernest in front of her mother. She doesn't appraise her mother although her mother always reminds her that if she has to love someone, she has to be becareful. Even so, she says "I am engaged to Mr.Worthing, mamma".

Therefore, Algernon appraises that his cousin 'Gwendolen' is a flirtous woman, as he says to Jack :

"... the way you flirt with Gwendolen is perfectly disgraceful. It is almost as bad as the way Gwendolen flirts with you." (Wilde, 1951 : 2).

From the above statement, it seems that Gwendolen is liked less by Algernon because her trait is not good.

Otherwise, Gwendolen also reminds her cousin 'Algy' in order to show her disagreement to a strictly immoral attitude. As she states :

"Algy, you always adopt a strictly immoral attitude towards life. You are not quite old enough to do that". (Wilde, 1951 : 14).

Although, she is a very young woman, she can also warn her cousin who is older than her. She wishes Algy to do something correctly. She adopts that before someone does something, someone must think before hand if it is agreeable to him or not.

Gwendolen is different with the other girls in her environment, where she always expresses her own characteristic. She is honest, self-confident, and always speaks as the truthfully.

About her love, she wants to prove what she has said. She is ready to marry her idol heart. We can see it from her dialogue with Ernest 'Jack' :

Jack,
Gwendolen, will you marry me ?

Gwendolen,
Of course I will, darling.
How long you have been about
It !

(Wilde, 1951 : 10.)

She loves Ernest 'Jack' so much, so that she wishes her wedding with Ernest being done immediately as she wants to enjoy her honeymoon quickly with her idol man.

At the other part, Gwendolen is a diligent and clever girl. As she is appraised by Jack when he speaks to Algy :

"... There is sensible,
intellectual girl ! the only girl
I ever cared in my life."

(Wilde, 1951 : 19.)

Jack himself during his life never sees a girl who is as clever as Gwendolen.

At last, Gwendolen is very happy when she knows that Jack's true name is Ernest and her mother 'Lady Bracknell' says that Gwendolen can marry with Ernest 'Jack'.

From the above statement, it means that she regards her teacher very much, so as he is her king or leader. Teacher opens the way for one who wants to study. She believes that what is taught a leader to be a good thing.

Besides that, Cecily loves peace very much. She efforts to flatter Jack in order to confess and accept his younger brother. It is seen in the following lines:

Jack,
... I haven't got a brother.

Cecily,
Oh, don't say that. However
badly he may have behaved to
you in the past he is still
your brother. You couldn't be
so heartless as to disown him.
I'll tell to come out. And
you will shake hands with him,
won't you, Uncle Jack? (Wilde, 1951 : 25).

She assumes that however Jack refuses, Algernon is truly his brother. For bad or for good, pretty or ugly, and right or wrong, the brother is the brother. Even, she threatens Jack and says "If Jack doesn't shake hands with Ernest she will never forgive him".

Although Cecily meets Ernest 'Algy' at first, she states that she has been engaged for the last three months since on thursday.

Then, she loves Ernest 'Algy' so much, the name of Ernest is very delightful to her. She can not think that

she will love someone whose name isn't Ernest. This is described in her dialogue with Algernon :

Cecily,

.... But it had always been a girlish dream of mine to love someone whose name was Ernest. There is something in that name that seems to inspire absolute confidence. I pity any poor married woman whose husband is not called Ernest.

Algernon,

...., do you mean to say you could not love me if I had some other name ?.

Cecily,

But what name ?

Algernon,

..... Algernon, for instance...

Cecily,

But I don't like the name of Algernon. (Wilde, 1951 : 50).

From the above dialogues, it is seen that Cecily expresses her love shyly. Actually, Cecily is a new lover. During her life, she falls in love at this first time. so that she has not had any experience about that.

Nevertheless, Cecily does something carefully. She hesitates at her competence and less self-confidence as she says to Algernon "I might respect you, Ernest, I might admire your character, but I fear that I should not be able to give you my undivided attention".(Act II.P. 30).

Actually, she wishes Ernest 'Algernon' receives her own existence.

After she knows that the man who loves her is not Ernest but Algernon whose full name is Mr. Algernon Moncrieff. And he is always called Algy in his daily life, Cecily feels deceived by Algy. Therefore, She says to Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen :

"A gross deception has been practiced on both of us".

(Wilde, 1951.: 30)

In fact, Cecily is not easily influenced by the situation, although she has felt deceived, she still stands in her standing and defends her position in the society. However, she knows the fact so clearly, she still loves Algernon, and even, in her patience she says :

"Algy, could you wait me till I was thirty-five?" .

(Wilde, 1951.: 47)

Cecily is not a grudger, she always forgives someone who makes some mistakes. For her, vengeance is not a good trait, as it just takes a destruction.

At last, Cecily is very happy when Lady Bracknell says that she can marry Algernon and Ernest 'Jack' Worthing can marry Gwendolen.

3.2. The Relationship among Characters.

The nine characters in the drama "The Importance of Being Earnest" play various roles and functions. And of course, they have relations among them. Therefore the writer will express their relationship each others, as follows :

3.2.1. The Relationship among the Round Characters.

There are five round characters who play a very important roles in the drama. They are Algernon Moncrieff, John Worthing, Lady Bracknell, Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen, and Cecily Cardew.

Algernon Moncrieff lives in the Half-Moon Street. He is often visited by Lady Bracknell and her daughter whose name is Gwendolen. Algy always calls Lady Bracknell as aunt Augusta because he is the son of Lady Bracknell's poor sister and consequently Gwendolen is Jack's cousin. Algernon is twenty-five years old. He always makes some relations with his first cousin namely Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen, especially to give advices each other.

Algernon loves girl namely Cecily or Miss Cecily Cardew, and Cecily loves Algy back. Cecily is the only one child of Mr. Thomas Cardew who has left his child since a baby, so that she has become an orphan girl. Now, Cecily is eighteen years old.

Cecily loves Algy very much, and even says that she has been engaged since three months ago.

Although she just meets him for the first time, Cecily states that she will not marry anyone but Algy. The different age doesn't become a problem for them and Algy is ready to guide Cecily as his wife.

Then, Jack Worthing who has a pure name as Mr. Ernest Worthing who lives in the country namely Shropshire. Ernest is twenty-nine years old. Accually he is Algy's elder brother but they don't know each other in the beginning.

Jack lives and blooms at Cardew's house. He is considered as Cardew's brother, so Cecily calls him uncle Jack. Jack himself is an orphan man because he has lost both of her parents, but it doesn't make him lost hope.

Ernest 'Jack' falls in love to a girl namely Gwendolen. Gwendolen is Lady Bracknell's daughter and her father's name is Lord Bracknell who died a few years before. Ernest loves Gwendolen very much and Gwendolen loves him too, and even, Gwendolen says to her mother that she has been engaged to Ernest 'Jack'.

Sometimes they forget everything, as they kiss each other in front of her mother. Therefore, at the first time Lady Bracknell disagrees if Gwendolen is engaged with Ernest 'Jack'. Jack is accused as unromantic by Algy.

Jack and Algernon don't know that they are brothers. Although Jack often assures everybody that his brother has died.



Jack and Algy use the same name and address. It is Mr. Ernest Worthing, B.4, The Albany. Gwendolen writes this address and so does Cecily. But in fact, they have different address. Jack lives at the Manor House whereas Algy lives in Half-Moon Street.

Otherwise, Algy says also that actually he has a brother but he doesn't know where he is. Gwendolen pushes Ernest 'Algy' whereas Cecily urges Ernest 'Jack' to opens his secret.

Cecily has been told a lie by her uncle 'Jack' that her lover 'Algernon' is a wicked and unhealthy man and even, Jack also states that Ernest 'Algernon' is a dead man already.

At the end, in one meeting, they meet for discussing some problems, especially both of the men's secrets. Cecily hugs Ernest 'Algy' and Gwendolen kisses her own lover Ernest 'Jack' afterward, Then they intimate themselves each others.

Finally, everything becomes so clear after the two of the men confess that they are not Ernest but John and Algernon. Moreover, it is so after Lady Bracknell says that her daughter 'Gwendolen' can marry Mr. Ernest Worthing and Cecily can marry Algernon Moncrieff.

3.2.2. The Relationship between the Round and the Flat Characters.

There are four minor or flat characters that show less activities. They play a role as the flat characters to support the round characters. They are :

3.2.2.1 . Lane

Lane is a childless widow who works at Algernon's flat in Half-Moon Street. He lives there peacefully with his master, Algernon Moncrieff. He serves each necessity in his household like :

- works in the kitchen,
- cleans the floor and furniture,
- prepares food and a drink, and
- guards the house when his master is going out.

Lane knows that his master is falling in love with a girl, so he speaks and does everything carefully. He remembers that he had also married a very pretty woman once, but that was in consequence of misunderstanding between himself and his wife. Lane is a poor and weak person.

In his marriage to the girl, Lane hadn't had the moral responsibility. It is known by Algernon and this motivates Algernon to love Cecily seriously. Without any other motivates, he is determined to marry Cecily.

Lane also opens the door when his master, Algernon comes. He serves some drinks and foods for Algernon and his guests. Lane knows much about Algernon's secret. He 'Lane' hears the dialogues between Algernon and Jack, so he knows how Algernon lies in order to find Cecily's love.

3.2.2.2. Merriman

Merriman is a man who works as a guardian at Manor House. Jack and Cecily live there since fifteen years ago, so that Merriman is related to them intimately.

Merriman calls for the dog-cart that will take back Algernon and he 'Merriman' also gives order to the dog-cart man in order to come to pick Algy up next week at the same hour. For certain, these are commanded by the passenger, Algernon beforehand.

He also reports to Cecily that Mr. Ernest Worthing goes over in the direction of the Rectory a few minutes ago when Cecily asks him. Besides that Merriman also lays cloth when Cecily and Gwendolen glare at each other.

When Algernon and Cecily were kissing each other, Merriman says that the dog-cart has come, and Cecily states that the dog-cart must wait for five minutes. At the other part, Merriman also reports about Gwendolen's message to Cecily that she wants to meet her.

3.2.2.3. Dr. Chasuble.

Dr. Chasuble whose full name is Rev. Canon Chasuble, D. lives at the Manor House. He always comes to Cecily and Jack's house to give some instructions, especially, how to hit the future which has the heavy challenges. He cannot marry anyone because he is a clergyman where the regulation of church doesn't approve it.

When Jack speaks about his brother 'Ernest' and says that his own Ernest died in Paris, Dr. Chasuble offers him his sincere condolence. He instructs Algy in order to forgive all of his brother's faults.

Dr. Chasuble baptizes or christenes Mr. Jack Worthing and gives him an other name Mr. Ernest John Worthing which is Jack's real name since he was a baby. And all at once it proves that Jack is Ernest.

Dr. Chasuble also finds the print rumplet which in fact, belongs to Algernon. But Jack disagrees. Cecily cries in hearing it because his sweetheart 'Algy' was coming for two hours beforehand.

Dr. Chasuble discloses Jack's secrets, so everyone knows that Jack is the son of Lady Bracknell's poor sister and consequently Algernon's elder brother.

3.2.2.4. Miss Prism.

Miss Prism is a spinster who works as a servant-woman at Manor House. She lives there with Cecily and Jack.

Besides as a servant-woman, Miss Prism also educates and rears Cecily.

Therefore it is known that Cecily is an orphan since she was three years old, so that Miss Prism is considered her mother since she was still a little girl. Likewise Jack who regards her as his own mother.

Twenty-eight years ago, Miss Prism was a woman who worked at Lord Bracknell's house. She is clever enough and educated. She teaches Cecily some subjects such as political economy, religion, and literature.

Miss Prism is also considered as a teacher in her life. She 'Miss Prism' always reminds Cecily in order to be careful in love, so that Cecily is not easily influenced by any situations including by her sweetheart 'Algernon'. Anyhow, Cecily doesn't hesitate to worship Algernon. When Lady Bracknell chats with Dr. Chasuble about the new name for Augusta, Miss Prism is coming and approaching them.

For the coming of Miss Prism, Lady Bracknell is surprised and directly remembers that Miss Prism was her servant-woman twenty years ago.

After that, Augusta asks her about the baby who was put in the Perambulator. Miss Prism dazes because she thinks that she must have put the baby in the Perambulator but in fact, she has put it in a handbag.

Jack comes back with the handbag. And Miss Prism knows the handbag directly. She explains that she lost the handbag at Victoria railway station, the Brighton line. The baby in the handbag was Jack of course.

Everything gives proof to the truth that the baby is really Jack or Mr. John Worthing. Jack thinks that he is Miss Prism's son, but she is celibate and is still celibate or unmarried till now.

At last, for attending Miss Prism, they became very happy, and then one by one of them apologizes to her.

3.3. The Theme.

After analysing the moral aspect in this drama, the writer finds the theme or the general motivation of this literary work, where Oscar Wilde emphasizes how importance of being earnest for sailing the life in the world. Without being earnest, we can not invent our ideal.

The life in the world is not only to eat, drink, and sleep, but we have the essential purpose. Our life in the world is limited by our death itself. Because of that the life has to be filled with the positive activities, and being earnest, honesty, self-confident and especially religion become a guide in our action.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1. Conclusions

Drama is a work of literature which delineates life and human activity. Ideals, sufferings, experiences, and aspirations can be poured in a literary work including a drama. Besides that, a dramatist can also describe the situation and condition of the society in a certain period.

As a famous dramatist, Oscar Wilde in his drama "The Importance of Being Earnest" describes the situation and condition of the people in his period which was much influenced by French Revolution.

In this drama, we can see some problems. But all of them can be overcome with wisdom. They are much influenced by their own lust, although the situation of man is also influential.

After the writer studies Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", the writer finds some morals of the round characters as the following :

The first one is Mr. John Worthing. As a member of his society, Jack still regards his neighbours. He loves a girl namely Gwendolen so much, since he promises to marry her he is willing to defend his words. He doesn't want to disappoint his sweetheart.

Jack lays bravely for defending his self-esteem.

The second one is Algernon Moncrieff. He is a scientific person and dislikes unlogic thought. He always pays attention to his cousin, and gives advices and teaches his cousin. He also wants to feel the freedom, but it is the resposable freedom that he wants. He also loves Cecily very much, then, he wants to prove his love by disliking to see Cecily suffered. At the correct time, Algy opens his falsehood as he wants to be known as the real Algernon.

The third round character is Lady Bracknell. As Gwendolen's mother, she gives a full attention to her daughter. When Gwendolen says that she is engaged to Ernest, Lady Bracknell asks Ernest about his age, income, parents, and some others else. She worries that her daughter marries an irresposable man.

The fourth round character is Miss Fairfax or Gwendolen. She is a girl who is self-confidence. Freedom is her ideal. She believes someone easily. She is also a woman who likes to pardon everyone, although she is told a lie by her sweetheart but Ernest is apologized by her. As Algy's cousin, Gwendolen often warns him whenever Algy has a mistake. She is also honest, faithfull, and self-confidence. She loves Ernest "Jack" very much and wants to marry him.

The next round character is Cecily Cardew. She is to be forgetful, so when she promises, she always writes her promise in her diary and in order to make it easy to remember.

She always regards her teacher very much. Since Jack refuses Algy as his brother, and Cecily knows that he is really her uncle Jack's brother, so she tries to flatter in order that he receives him as his brother. Although she has been told a lie by Ernest 'Algy', She forgives him and even, she is ready to be married by Algy.

After knowing the moral of the round characters in this drama, we can see the important role of honesty, self-confidence and faithfulness for finding the successful life.

In fact, honesty, self-confidence, and faithfulness will take us to enjoy the happiness. Otherwise, the falsehood, and conceitness won't give the pleasure and happiness.

4.2. Suggestions.

After reading this writing, the writer hopes the reader is able to compare between the moral of the round characters in this drama and the reader's moral, so he can found the excellent moral.

Besides that, the writer also suggests to the young man and woman in order to hold to honesty, self-confidence, and faithfulness in her or her activities. For certain, falsehood won't ever give the happiness.

INDONESIAN ABSTRACT

Skripsi ini berjudul *The Moral Aspect of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest"*. Moral merupakan salah satu bahagian terpenting dalam kehidupan sebagai seorang anak manusia. Secara kodrati, moral jugalah yang membedakan manusia dengan makhluk lainnya. Olehnya itu tidaklah pantas dianggap dan diperlakukan sebagai manusia bagi orang yang tidak bermoral (amoral).

Drama *"The Importance of Being Earnest"* karya Oscar Wilde dapat dialih bahasakan secara bebas menjadi *"Pentingnya Bersungguh-sungguh"*. Kata bersungguh-sungguh dalam bahasa Inggris kedengarannya hampir sama dengan nama orang yaitu Ernest (Earnest).

Bersungguh-sungguh (Being Earnest) merupakan satu hal yang wajib ditanamkan dalam diri kita, oleh karena kita tidak akan hidup kekal di alam dunia ini, akan tetapi kita akan menghadapi siklus kehidupan yang tak mungkin dihindari.

Keterbukaan, kebesaran jiwa dan kepercayaan diri yang dimiliki oleh kedua pemuda 'Algernon dan John Worthing' mengantarkannya dalam menggapai apa yang diinginkannya. Mereka tahu benar bahwa kebohongan, keputus-asaan dan semacamnya yang pernah dilakukannya akan menimbulkan keresahan bagi orang lain dan selanjutnya terpulang kepada dirinya sendiri; dia akan selalu ragu-ragu dan digelimuti oleh perasaan takut akan terbongkar rahasia dan kebohongannya itu.

Disamping itu kedua dara manis 'Cecily Cardew dan Miss Fairfax atau Gwendolen' yang tidak pernah membayangkan akan mencintai pemuda yang bukan bernama Ernest termasuk gadis yang pemaaf dan berjiwa besar serta bertanggungjawab dengan apa yang pernah dikatakannya. Keduanya masih tetap bersedia dipersunting oleh pemuda yang pernah mendustainya. Dengan demikian mereka tidak ingin memutuskan pengharapan pemuda yang sangat mencintainya.

Pada akhirnya kebahagiaan dan kegembiraan yang dirasakan oleh kedua pasangan muda-mudi ini juga dikarenakan oleh kehadiran Miss Prism yang menceritakan kejadian yang sebenarnya. Lady Bracknell setelah mengetahui fakta yang sebenarnya juga ikut berbahagia dan langsung merestui - perkawinan kedua pasangan muda-mudi tersebut. Hal ini sekaligus membuktikan bahwasanya kebenaran akan selalu berada di atas segala-galanya dan mengantarkan manusia dalam meraih kebahagiaan.

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