

**SOCIAL CRITIQUES TOWARD LIFESTYLE OF LONDON**

**SOCIETY AS REFLECTED IN OSCAR WILDE'S**

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND**

**A Thesis**

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements*

*for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

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**PADANG**

**2010**

## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang gambaran keadaan sosial masyarakat Inggris di akhir abad ke 19 atau disebut juga *Victorian age* yang tercermin dalam drama An Ideal Husband yang ditulis oleh Oscar Wilde pada tahun 1895. Analisis ini menggambarkan tentang gaya hidup kelas atas atau aristokrat, dan kritik-kritik sosial yang disampaikan oleh si pengarang terhadap masyarakat London pada masa itu. Melalui karyanya Wilde mengkritik tentang kehidupan masyarakat London terhadap konsep pernikahan dan gaya hidup yang cenderung bersifat materialisme dan hedonis.

Dalam menganalisis karya ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra oleh Alan Swingewood yang berpendapat bahwa suatu karya sastra adalah cerminan suatu masyarakat pada zaman tertentu. Data-data dianalisis dengan metode kualitatif dan dijabarkan secara deskriptif. Adapun data yang diperoleh berasal dari unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik karya sastra tersebut.

Setelah menganalisa drama An Ideal Husband, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa karya sastra tersebut merupakan cerminan kehidupan sosial masyarakat London pada akhir abad ke-19. Pada masa ini masyarakat terbagi menjadi tiga struktur kelas sosial yaitu: kelas atas/ aristokrat, kelas menengah, dan kelas bawah. Merujuk pada gaya hidup masyarakat London yang ditinjau dari pemahaman mereka terhadap konsep pernikahan, materialisme dan hedonisme, dapat disimpulkan kalau masyarakat tersebut berasal dari strata kelas yang paling tinggi yaitu, kelas atas/ aristokrat. Melalui karyanya, Wilde mengkritik kehidupan sosial masyarakat London melalui sindiran-sindiran dan olokan yang terdapat di dalam karya An Ideal Husband.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

Literary is a reflection of life through the medium of language. In literature, an author can illustrate various aspects of life in his work freely. As Abrams states in his book The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and Critical Tradition stated that:

Literature is a vital record of what man have seen in his life, what they have experiences of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is, thus, fundamentally on expression of life through the medium of language. (10)

A literary work has been approved as a manifestation of human thought. The authors are being free to publish his/her idea about anything. Nowadays, the function of literary work has grown together with the growing of the aspects in human life. Literary work itself has been known as the social critiques toward all problems which are faced by human as a social creature.

As the process of imitation, literary work almost talking about the social condition in certain time and place where the event happens. The social condition in Britain in nineteenth century was victorious. Queen Victoria comes to the throne as a woman from 1837 until her reign stopped by her death at 1901. She leads Britain to be a powerful empire. In her early reign, she had done a wonderful step to the greatness of her country. As stated by McDowall in his book An Illustrated History of

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

After analyzed the lifestyle and social critiques toward the London society in the late of 19<sup>th</sup> century as found in An Ideal Husband, and comparing the similarities between the factual data or the history of the Britain in the late of 19<sup>th</sup> century with the play, the writer concludes that An Ideal Husband reflects the social condition of London society in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The writer also found that society is divided into three groups; upper class, middle class and lower class. The play An Ideal Husband represents the upper class exclusively. It can be seen from the habit and the visualization of the character, like the characteristic of the people, what they do, what they interested to, etc. Thus, the social class structure also influences the lifestyle of the London society at the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this case, lifestyle of London society concerns with the three main points such as marriage, materialism and hedonism.

There are three main points of the lifestyle in London society in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; they are marriage, materialism, and hedonism. These lifestyles occur in the play An Ideal Husband. Marriage is an institution where the individuals are joined. It is universally believed that marriage must be supported with honesty, loyalty, and love. London society, in fact, does not apply this concept in their marriage. The most important thing in their marriage, in state, is to whom they are married to. So the play An Ideal Husband, pictures a different view of marriage, especially that of Sir

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