

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Literature is a work that becomes an expression to define the human experience of what a person feels, sees, and wants. Austin(2022:1) defines that literature is the expression of the author's collection of experience and knowledge that guides the reader to feel the author's message when reading and imagining characters in literary works. In line with this statement, Iser (1972: 274) stated that literature has 2 poles, namely the artistic pole which symbolizes the text or literary work created by the author and the aesthetic pole which represents the awareness achieved by the reader. In other words, reading literary works is a process of stimulating the reader's thinking which can influence the reader's awareness so that it can trigger responses such as providing criticism, changing the reader's views. In accordance with Miller's (2011: 81) statement regarding the quality of literature which can provide access to the virtual world, can support the human desire to live in an imaginary world and can even bring the imaginary world into real life.

Literary works have 2 forms, that is fiction and non-fiction. This research discusses fictional literary works in the form of drama. Drama comes from Greek which means action. Elam (1980:98) explains that drama is a literary work written to be performed. This research tries to analyze the implications of moral nihilism in "Doubt: Parable" by American writer John Patrick Shanley (2004). This drama is set in a Catholic school in the Bronx. According to Islamy (2003, 114-115), implication is everything that has been produced by the policy formulation process, in this case implication can be interpreted as a process of changing the view of moral values in the

characters in the drama. By considering the conflict and the environment in which the characters are portrayed The conflict in this drama was started by Sister Alysius who suspected that there was a scandal between Pastor Flynn and Donald Miller. The research will be carried out by considering the existence of moral values that connect the drama with the author's environment and the era when the drama was written to analyze the author's subconscious desires and the ideas that emerged to the researcher after reading "Doubt : A Parable". To analyze the author's intention about moral values and subconscious desires, the most suitable approach to use is Psychoanalytic Theory.

Psychoanalysis is an approach to analyzing the writer's subconscious desires using language and symbolic order Eagleton (1996: 145), psychoanalytic theory is perhaps the most appropriate for analyzing the thoughts expressed by Shanley in the plot of the drama Doubt Parable, by analyzing the moral symbols that exist in the drama "Doubt: Parable" (2004), Shanley's experience of attending a Catholic school. Ethical Nihilism is the absence of moral objectivity as a universal guide, Krellenstein (2017:3) moral nihilism is a response to broad moral objectivity, according to him there is no foundation that is solid enough to enable us to believe and carry out the moral actions that we believe in. Of course, this research will be carried out by looking for the moral implications of nihilism that radiate from the conflict, theme and setting in "Doubt : a Parable"

The researcher is interested in researching the drama "Doubt: a Parable" because the drama has a very large attachment to the moral crisis in American society in the early 2000s, especially related to violations of moral

values committed by religious leaders, As is the case that is starting to occur frequently in Indonesia today, moral nihilism is the theme that researcher choose to reveal the outline of the problems that exist in the drama. Moreover, in previous studies, characters who are indicated to have moral nihilism are always described as changing from protagonist to antagonist, but in this study researcher tried to look at moral nihilism from the other side, namely by trying to describe the reasons for changing the views of good and bad in the characters in the drama "Doubt: A Parable".

## **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

1.2.1. What are the implications of moral nihilism at catholic school in Shanley's Doubt : a Parable ?

1.2.2. How does the implications of moral nihilism change the characters' moral actions in Shanley's Doubt : a Parable?

## **1.3. Scope of The Research**

This research focused on analyzing the implication of moral nihilism embracing the changes of moral value in Sharleyn's "Doubt : A Parable" to stand with this issues and the authors' unconscious desire to revealed the urgency of moral panic in American society, the researcher use Jacques Lacans' Psychoanalytic theory as an approach and Mackey's Error theory as a main Theory. This theories fit with moral issues which is indicated to be in Drama.

## **1.4. Objectives of The Research**

1.4.1. To analyze the Implication of moral nihilism at catholic school in Shanley's Doubt : a Parable ?

1.4.2. To analyze the implications of moral nihilism change the characters' moral actions in Shanley's Doubt : a Parable?

## **1.5. Significances of The Research**

### **1.5.1. The Theoretical Significances**

In this study the researcher hopes that this research will give benefit for english literature student that want to make some researches about Ethical nihilism specially the evolution moral value that implicate in Doubt parable,

### **1.5.2. Practical Significances**

For English Department, this research can added more scientific works of the English department especially for those who focuses on analyze about the moral nihilism and literary psychoanalytic

For the Literary world, this paper proves that moral nihilism may serve skepticism value and also elevate sense of self awareness, furthermore to add to literature research lists about the moral evolution of characters in a literary work.

Last but not least For upcoming researchers or students, this undergraduate thesis can boost them to analyze moral and ethical nihilism more focused.

## **1.6. Review of Related Literatures**

To support this study, researcher tried to look at some of the previous studies that addressed similar issues in connection with research of Comparative literature and Nihilism.

The first one the research by Fritch Castro, "Unveiling The Symbolic : Literature and Cinema In John Patrick Shanley's Dramaturgy"(2019) this work try to analyze Symbolism in Doubt Parable can influence the audience and the use of symbolic elements in dramas and films which can cause differences in the way viewers/readers understand "Doubt : A Parable". This research uses a semiotic approach and a literary approach. The difference between Castro and the researcher's work lies in the object of research where Castro has researched in both the film and the drama "Doubt : A Parable", while this research focuses on just drama and its relationship to the social environment in that era.

The second Trembley Michelle's thesis "Direction of the Play : Doubt : A Parable"(2011). Michele's research has 2 goals. The first is to analyze the themes, characters and symbols contained in "Doubt: Parable", the second is research to find out the process of making and adapting the drama "Doubt : A Parable" into a film that attracts audiences. This research uses a dramaturgical approach and a symbolic approach. The differences between Michele's work and this research lies on the themes that focuses between the research, this research focus on moral nihilism, while michele works focus on character and the symbol in "Doubt : A Parable"

The third is research from Kibin "The Concept of Morality in Doubt Parable, a Play by John Patrick Shanley" (2023). The aim of this research is to analyze the concept of morality which triggers conflict and thus influences

the characters in the drama *Doubt: Parable*, this research uses Literary approach. This research uses Ethical Theory and Dramaturgical Theory to analyze the concept of morality and story construction in the drama *Doubt: Parable*. The difference between this research and my research lies in the theory and approach used.

The fourth is the research *From Jagad (2017) Moral Nihilism as Reflected by Joker In The Dark Knight Movie*, Jagad Discuss about the behavior of Joker that ignoring moral rules also this study use library research to prove that Joker has Nihilist Character, the similarity in this thesis lies on moral nihilism theme but there big difference in approach theory that Jagad and The researcher use.

## **1.7. Theoretical Bases**

### **1.7.1. Relation between Psychological and Literature**

The psychological relationship between literature cannot be separated from the view of "art for life's sake", where literary works are required to contribute to social life by carrying a humanitarian message and not just to enjoy their beauty. Therefore, literary science began to be compared with applied sciences such as psychology. Walgito (2004:10) explains that psychology is a field of science that studies activities and behavior which are considered as manifestations of the human mind. While the field of literature is the result of human work, Miller (2011: 81) analogizes literature as a virtual/imaginary world. He states that humans have a tendency to live in an imaginary world and want to carry out activities in the imaginary world in the real world. It can be interpreted that joining the fields of psychology and literature can open up opportunities for researcher to analyze the activities or

behavior of objects through the world of dreams or the subconscious. The combination of psychological theory and literary theory is called Psychoanalysis Theory.

#### **1.7.1.1. Psychoanalysis Theory**

Psychoanalytic Theory is a derivative of psychoanalysis developed by Freud, Artika (2015:23), if Freud developed Psychoanalysis to analyze and help his patients recover from mental disorders, then Psychoanalytic Theory was developed by Jacques Lacan, Lacan put forward Psychoanalytic Theory to reveal subconscious desires and conflicts subject as well as translating the language and symbolic order of a literary work, Eagleton 146). Lacan's theory (1996:73-81) regarding the Mirror stage can help researcher to analyze and interpret a text, this is in accordance with Gallop's (1984:48) opinion which says that reading a text is not just about reading content or ideas but how to read and interpret the text. The "mirror stage" theory introduced by Lacan, Aritonang (2020:1) reveals 3 Mirror stage phases that Lacan has, these stages are;

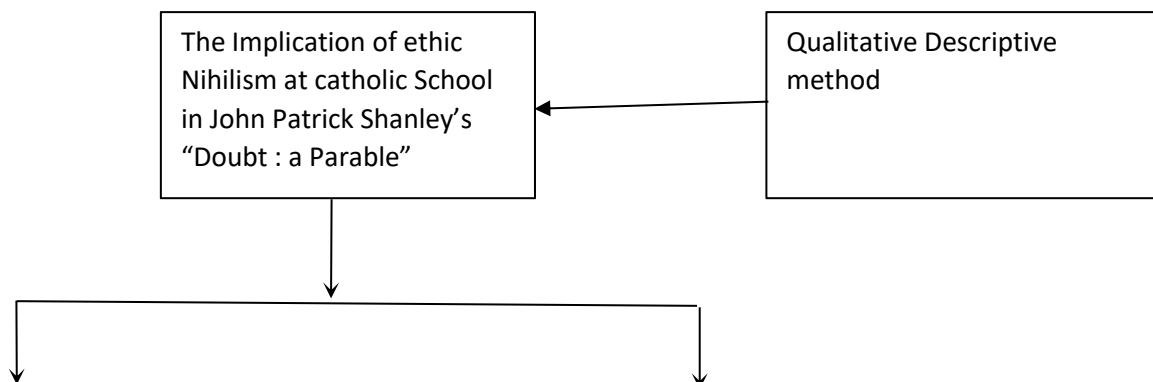
1. The imaginary, the stage before the baby acquires language, the stage when the baby is 6-8 months old where the baby is very dependent on the mother to fulfill his biological needs, at this stage the baby does not yet have demands for his desires, but in the next stage when the baby is 8-18 months old he begins to recognize himself, which Lacan calls this the process of "identification", a process that occurs when the baby looks in the mirror and assumes that the image in the mirror is himself.
2. the symbolic, at this stage a child already has the ability to learn and recognize language and rules, Lacan said the Symbolic is

the phase where a child begins to realize that he is a separate entity and begins to identify himself as "I", this opens the child's ability to realize that there are desires that must be fulfilled.

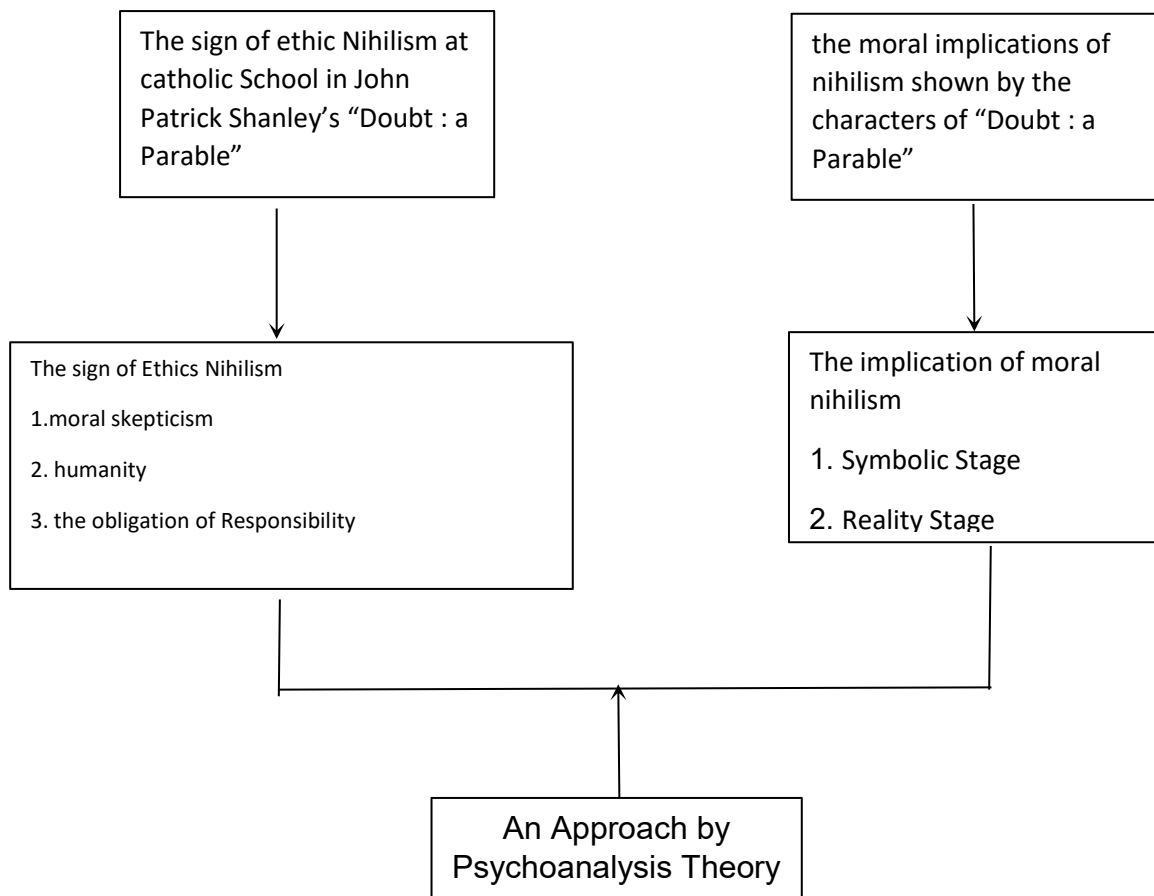
3. the reality, this last stage occurs when the child's desire to return to "the imaginary" stage because at that stage the child's biological desires are always fulfilled, this desire encourages the child to choose the target of the "desires" that he desires in his life.

Lacan's mirror stage theory is very suitable to help researcher analyze the drama "Doubt: Parable", the first stage of this theory can be assumed to be the stage where researcher are just starting to get to know or read the title and synopsis of "Doubt: Parable", and then proceed to the imaginary stage where the researcher or reader begins to imagine the characters in the drama, starting from the background of the place, the nature of the characters, and the setting in which the drama is written, after which the researcher will be faced with conflicts and the way the characters in the drama resolve or struggle to face the problems they face, and in In the final stage, researcher have reached a conclusion about the drama "Doubt: Parable"

### 1.8. Conceptual Scheme







**Picture 1. The Conceptual Scheme of The Causes Of Moral Nihilism at Catholic School In John Patrick Shanley’s Play “DOubt : A Parable” (Psychoanalytic Approach”**

The Researcher will analyze the indication of moral nihilism at Catholic school in John Patrick Shanley’s “Doubt : A Parable” using a qualitative method. In this study, it will be examined by researcher. The first is the causes of moral nihilism and the implication of moral nihilism using mackie’s Error theory. The last but not least is the changing of Character moral act using an approach of Jaques Lacan’s psychoanalysis theory.

## **1.9. Method and Technique**

### **1.9.1 descriptive Qualitative method.**

This brief working paper uses descriptive qualitative methods because that is the most appropriate method for explaining the meaning behind an event in literary works. The Qualitative methods is the method which analyze both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of that

novel, according to "*Qualitative Research Methods*" book by Prof. Dr. Lexy J. Moleong M.A. Qualitative method of research, a study based on positivism philosophy, is used to study natural objects, (as the opposite of experiment) which researcher use as key instruments. With this method the researcher can use the sources that are needed for analyzing the literary work, the researcher uses the literary work as the primary sources and read information of some articles and journals that have relationships with the literary works above.

## **1.9.2. Technique of Collecting Data**

### **1.9.2.1. Reading Comprehension**

First the researcher read "Doubt: a Parable" from the beginning to the end of the story several times, then the researcher tried to underline phrases or sentences that could answer the questions in this research.

### **1.9.2.2. library and Internet Sources**

Second the researcher collected data that have relation with moral nihilism and try to analyze before and after the era "Doubt : a Parable" has been published to encourage all the information and of course read about psychoanalysis theory in order to sharpen this research.

## **1.9.3. Technique of Analyzing Data**

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the data through several steps ;

First, the researcher focuses on reading the drama "Doubt: a Parable" in order to get accurate information to get the data that the researcher wanted.

Second, take a note to write down all the important data and support data that can facilitate the process to analyze the literary works.

Lastly, the researcher classifies the data based on the formulation of statements, and interprets and discusses the data. The technique to analyze the data in this research is by combining all the data that has already been collected in the form of literary text, and describe the data after analyzing the literary works.