

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A problem can motivate someone to do something better and learn from the problem. To solve all the problems in life people cannot just stay silent. Struggle, sacrifice, and patience are required. That is what is called the struggle for life. Struggle is closely related to effort which exerts energy, mind, or body to achieve a goal.

Someone usually struggles for some reasons such as to have a better life, to achieve certain things, to defend their rights, and so on. Struggle is often used as a topic in various literary works because this topic can provide knowledge for readers so that readers can understand if the struggle is an activity demanding freedom or equal rights so as not to become a marginalized group. One example is in the drama text of Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*.

*A Woman of No Importance* talks about a woman who becomes a single parent. Someone who becomes a single parent with the birth of an illegitimate child is not well received in society. However, when she has the chance to become a married woman, she refuses and remains proud to be a single parent. Being a single parent is not a life choice for all women, but some women choose to be a single mother for their children. Women who are well prepared to become single parents tend to adapt more easily to their status as single mothers. Women can become single mothers when they give birth to children without a marriage.

This drama is Oscar Wilde's that centers around the revelation of an old secret regarding Mrs. Arbuthnot's dark past. It started with a party going on at Lady Hunstanton's country house, when it was announced that Gerald Arbuthnot had been appointed as Lord Illingworth's bright and wealthy secretary. Gerald's mother stands in the way of his appointment, but is afraid to tell him the reason, because who would believe Lord Illingworth is a part of Mrs. Arbuthnot. *A Woman of No Importance* is a play created by Irish playwright Oscar Wilde, with works that include plays, poetry, short stories, fairy tales, essays and novels. Oscar Wilde was one of the most successful playwrights of the late Victorian Era in

London and was known for his witty sense of humor. He was known for his word processing skills and the use of paradox in his work and was also praised as a skilled storyteller.

The struggle in this drama is taken as this study's focus because this drama has a very interesting and unusual story, Mrs. Arbuthnot has a strong main character in all conditions or problems in her life, and there are many moral messages that can be taken in this drama. So, Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's drama *A Woman of No Importance* is very interesting to discuss.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The following are the problem statements of the study.

1. What are the motives of Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*?
2. How does Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The following are the objective of the study.

1. To find the motives of Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*.
2. To describe how Mrs. Arbuthnot struggles in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to give contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to increase knowledge about literary analysis whose starting point is a struggle, and to enrich references to the study of literature conducted from the perspective of psychology. Practically this research is expected to give insight about a struggle as a single mother in living life.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study**

The scope of the study is Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* and the study is limited on the motives and portrayal of Mrs. Arbuthnot's struggle in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This research is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and thesis organization. The second chapter is the review of the related literature. The third chapter is research method which includes research approach, research design, source of the data, research instrument, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure. Chapter four presents the discussion. The fifth chapter provides the conclusion of the problem that has been analysed. Then, it is followed by bibliography and appendix.