

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Reginald Rose is the most well-known writer in the Golden Age of Television (Buchanan). The Golden Age of American television in the 1950s generally refers to the production of original and classic dramas created for live television during America's post-war years (Everett). Reginald Rose composed his first teleplay *Bus to Nowhere* for CBS's Studio One in 1951 and it was three years later that he became the head writer for that series and produced the work that turned out to be his masterpiece, *Twelve Angry Men*. (Buchanan)

I have chosen Reginald Rose's play *Twelve Angry Men*, to be analyzed in my thesis. It is one of Rose's best works. The story is based on Rose's own experience in the New York City courtroom. He once commented on how he was inspired to write *Twelve Angry Men*,

“It was such an impressive, solemn setting in a great big, wood-panelled courtroom, with a silver-haired judge, it knocked me out. I was

overwhelmed. I was on a jury for a manslaughter case, and we got into this terrific, furious, eight-hour argument in the jury room. I was writing one-hour dramas for *Studio One* then, and I thought, wow, what a setting for a drama.” (Lee)

Twelve Angry Men is set in the jury room and the case is about a boy who is accused of killing his father. He is charged with the first degree premeditated homicide and faced with a death sentence. United States criminal court use jury trial that means the twelve jurors are responsible for deciding whether or not a defendant is guilty of violating the law in a specific case. This is the standard type of jury used in criminal cases in the United States. Their decision is known as a verdict and decides whether a person is guilty or not guilty. (“Type of Juries”) The verdict must be unanimous, which means that all the members of the jury should give the same verdict; otherwise the trial will be repeated with a new jury panel. Whereas, in the Indonesian legal system which is use bench trial the verdict is taken by the judge with the help of two judge members. The jury gives a guilty verdict if there is no reasonable doubt and a not guilty verdict if there is a reasonable doubt. According to the United States court system,

Reasonable doubt is a standard of proof used in criminal trials. When a criminal defendant is prosecuted, the prosecutor must prove the defendant's guilt Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. If the jury—or the judge in a bench trial—has a reasonable doubt as to the defendant's guilt, the jury or judge should pronounce the defendant not guilty. Conversely, if the jury or judges have no doubt as to the defendant's guilt, or if their only doubts are unreasonable doubts, then the prosecutor has proven the defendant's guilt

beyond a reasonable doubt and the defendant should be pronounced guilty.
("Reasonable Doubt")

The strength of this play is the conflict. "In literature, a conflict is a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces usually a protagonist and an antagonist" ("Conflict"). There are two types of conflict. The first one is inner conflict, "In this case, the struggle actually occurs inside a character, usually the protagonist, or main character. With internal conflicts, the character could be struggling with a decision he must make or with his own weaknesses in his personality" (Janovsky). The second one is social conflict or external conflict,

. . . struggles between the protagonist and some other force outside his body. The main type of external conflict occurs when the protagonist struggles against the antagonist, which is a character who mainly opposes the protagonist. However, other types of external conflicts can also arise due to other characters, acts of nature, or society itself in which the character lives. (Janovsky)

The conflicts in *Twelve Angry Men* are social conflicts, juror number eight as the protagonist tries to convince the other jurors who have a different view that there is a reasonable doubt in this case.

Statement of the Problem

The problems I am going to discuss are :

1. What kind of conflict happens in the drama?

2. What is the cause of the conflict?
3. What is the resolution to the conflict?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the above problems, the purposes of the study are :

1. To show what kind of conflict happens in the drama.
2. To show the cause of the conflict.
3. To show whether the conflict is solved or unsolved.

Method of Research

The method I use in writing this thesis is library research. First of all, I read *Twelve Angry Men* play script by Reginald Rose as the primary text. After that, I obtain some data from the Internet to support my analysis of conflicts in *Twelve Angry Men*. In the end, I draw a conclusion from the whole discussion.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is organized into three chapters, which are preceded by the Acknowledgement, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. Chapter One consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Analysis of Social Conflicts in Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the Synopsis of the Play and the Biography of the Author.