

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having read the drama, I find that the author, J.M. Synge, has successfully conveyed the theme, which is 'One who is strong and dares to rebel against the authority and the moral standard of a society may be considered a hero by a community which is strictly bound by rules and is lacking in strong men'.

The theme is revealed by contrasting the characteristics of the protagonist of the drama and the major characters, the Mayo society. I contrast the characteristic of the protagonist and those of the major character in this drama in order to show they are completely different character.

Christy Mahon, who is the protagonist in this drama, has a rebellious character. Christy Mahon, who suffers from his father's pressure, cannot stand living any longer with his father because his father often hits him for no apparent reason and often forces his will on Christy Mahon. He encourages himself to rebel against his father by killing him. Christy Mahon also rebels against Catholicism. He does not follow the Catholic moral code by living with an unmarried woman under the same roof. I also find that Christy Mahon is portrayed as a man who is strong. Christy Mahon's physical strength is seen

when he is able to beat all the participants in the local sport game and when he defeats his cruel father with bare hands. Christy Mahon is also portrayed as a strong man who is able to protect the women in the Mayo village.

The Mayo villagers act as an obedient lot. The Mayo village society is oppressed by the authority. However, in contrast to Christy Mahon, they do not have the courage to rebel against it. The Mayo villagers also feel irritated by the moral codes applied there, but they just follow the codes without taking any action to oppose them. I also find that the Mayo men are weak. Most of them are handicapped and stupid. They are not only weak but also cowardly. Their cowardice makes them unable to protect their women.

The Mayo villagers adore Christy Mahon as a hero for the reason that he is a figure whom the Mayo villagers want to be. The Mayo villagers see Christy Mahon's rebellion and strength as an act of heroism, which they cannot have. I assume that this drama is an excellent work of J.M. Synge as he is successful in contrasting the protagonist with the major characters. Moreover, the contrast creates an uncommon theme; the theme rarely happens in our society. In my opinion, one who rebels the institution cannot be considered a hero, yet he must bear some consequences. One also cannot be considered a hero simply because he is physically strong. Moreover, one deserves praise to be a hero if one is brave to do something worthy and not something which is inappropriate or which puts others into misery.

Having analysed The Playboy of the Western World, I find that J.M. Synge wants to give a moral message to the readers that all oppressions can create unwanted result in a form of rebellious of those oppressed.

Furthermore, the drama itself is controversial. I am of the opinion that it is controversial because the Irish objected to J.M. Synge, who was known to have been reviving the Irish legends, culture and traditions in his literary works, creates characters who do not reflect true Irish. The protagonist of the drama, Christy Mahon, an Irishman, does not represent the noble quality as a hero. On the contrary, in my opinion he is actually a criminal because he tries to kill his father. Moreover, the Mayo society who is supposed to represent the Irish society, adores Christy Mahon. Perhaps J.M. Synge's portrayal of the Irish cannot be accepted by the Irish society. Besides, the depiction of their rebellion to Catholicism and the use of so many rude words and violent acts in this drama offend Catholicism in Ireland. I conclude that the drama, The Playboy of the Western World, is a controversial work which is interesting to analyse.