

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The present writer has decided to analyse drama because she is more interested in reading and analysing drama than novel. Drama is ‘a composition in prose or verse presenting in pantomime and dialogue a narrative involving conflict and usually designed for presentation on a stage’ (Shaw, 1972:123). She finds drama more realistic since it contains more dialogues. She is also of the opinion that analysing drama is more challenging than novel and poetry because as a reader, she should use her imagination and feelings to understand the play better. Drama is more than the representation of life and characters through action and dialogue; drama is also an entertainment.

The present writer would like to analyse a Shakespearean play for her thesis, because Shakespeare is the greatest playwright of the sixteenth century who is also one of the greatest poets of the Elizabethan period. He has in fact given a lot of contributions to English literature. Shakespeare has written thirty-six plays, some of which are world famous.

Shakespeare writes four kinds of plays: comedies, tragedies, histories, and romances. Shakespeare is commonly admired for his tragedies and historical

plays. However, he also has a great talent for writing comedies. A. L Rowse states in Prefaces to Shakespeare's Plays:

“Dr. Johnson, greatest Shakespearean critics...observed that comedy was what came naturally first to Shakespeare. Comedy was instinctive with him; he had to work, the deepening experience of life aiding, towards tragedy. In his comic scenes, he seems to produce without labour what no labour can improve.”
(Rowse, 1984:74).

The present writer has decided to analyse one of Shakespeare's famous comedies: A Midsummer Night's Dream. This play is considered his first mature comedy. In this play, there are amusing characters and comical situations. However, the theme of the play is worth analysing. The present writer would like to analyse the love theme through the characteristics of the women major characters. According to Harry Shaw in Dictionary of Literary Terms, ‘theme is the central and dominating idea in a literary work’ (Shaw, 1972:378). She finds that although A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy, it has a profound message or moral lesson. The personalities and behaviours of each of the women major characters really contribute to the revelation of the theme of the play.

In analysing this play, the present writer pays attention to the characterization techniques, such as the women major characters' actions, speech, and dialogues. Those techniques bring her to an easier understanding of the story and help her in analysing the theme.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Having read William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the present writer wants to state the following problems:

1. What is the love theme of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream?
2. How does the portrayal of the women major characters help to reveal the theme of love?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The present writer intends to do two things:

1. To show the love theme of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.
2. To show how the portrayal of the women major characters help to reveal the theme of love.

1.4. Method of Research

The present writer uses the library research in analysing the theme of the play and she uses an intrinsic approach. First of all, she reads the primary text entitled A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare. She then gathers some information related to the analysis from some references, including the Internet to support her data. The present writer also uses the theories that support her analysis and finally she draws her conclusion.

1.5. Organization of the Thesis

The present writer divides her thesis into three chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the

Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the analysis of the love theme of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Chapter Three is the Conclusion of what the present writer has analysed in the previous chapter. The next part is the Bibliography, which contains the list of all the references she has used. At the end of the thesis, the summary of A Midsummer Night's Dream and the author's biography are presented in the Appendices.