

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Both Ionesco's *Amedee* and Albee's *The American Dream* can be categorized into Theatre of the Absurd. Both plays have similarities and differences. In this chapter I would like to contrast both plays.

Their similarities are both Ionesco's *Amedee* and Albee's *The American Dream* have women characters that are major characters and they both are married and are more dominant than their husbands. The husbands in both plays are the main objects of their wives domination.

Their differences are Madeleine is working to earn a living for her family whereas Mommy is a housewife; and how the wives in both plays dominate their husband. In Ionesco's *Amedee*, Madeleine's domination toward Amedee is like a boss to a worker; whereas in Albee's *The American Dream*, Mommy's domination toward Daddy is like a parent to a child.

In Ionesco's *Amedee*, Madeleine's domination like boss to a worker is shown through how she commands Amedee, her bossy attitude, her blame-fixing, she keeps on commanding Amedee until she gets what she wants, and she is always trying to find Amedee's fault; and she keeps on criticizing Amedee;

whereas in Albee's *The American Dream*, Mommy's domination like a parent to child can be seen through Mommy's obsessive behavior in getting Daddy's attention, how she commands Daddy, Daddy's echoing Mommy and vice versa, Daddy's seeking her approval of his masculinity, her using reverse psychology and Daddy's indecisive and submissive action.

Using Paranoid Personality Disorder theory, I realize why Madeleine is more dominant as she can not function in subordinate position and she has the fear of losing her independence; therefore, she is always on top of Amedee making her domination like a boss to a worker; and using Reverse Psychology theory, I realize that Mommy is emasculating Daddy by making him like a child as parents may use Reverse Psychology to control their children.

Even though both plays portray dominant women, both playwrights have different purposes. Ionesco's *Amedee* like many of his other plays is experimental or absurd. The dominant woman is one of the elements that make the play absurd because it is contrary to the reality of life. Ionesco is living in France by the time he made the play in 1954 and the French society in Ionesco's days has the view that women should be dependent on the husband or the husband should take a dominant role in families. Ionesco's *Amedee* is opposed with the reality of life as women in 1954 are always dominated by men but Ionesco reverse the role of making Madeleine dominant; therefore, making the play a literary experiment. Making experimental plays has a purpose to attack the bourgeois realism. Ionesco feels that realism plays is a limitation for playwrights to adopt a critical view.

Whereas Albee's purpose in creating the dominant women are firstly, he wants to reflect his life experiences by making his dominant women characters

based on his stepmother, secondly, he wants to criticize the society that now men are emasculated and powerless in the society especially in family life, and thirdly he wants to criticize that feminism movement plays a role toward the emasculation of men. The dominant women in his plays are the reflection of the playwright's experience, Albee growing up in the care of his dominant stepmother and weak stepfather. Through the negative portrayal of the woman, Albee's plays show that he despises his stepmother. Albee puts forward that men in American society are emasculated and powerless; seen from Albee's *The American Dream* that Daddy is emasculated by Mommy and he is fighting a losing battle over household decision and ends up by questioning his masculinity to Mommy. It shows that Daddy is the portrayal of men that need women's acceptance and reassurance. Albee also suggest that Feminism plays a role in emasculating men. Extreme feminist view mentions that men can be made just the same as women by emasculating them.

I think that Albee's play is more successful than Ionesco's in conveying their messages to the reader. Firstly, Ionesco's *Amedee* is an experimental play and Ionesco only made another play that has the same theme about dominant woman; secondly as his dominant woman is opposed to the real life, my guess is the French society at Ionesco's days will consider the play as fiction and can never happen. On the other hand, Albee's plays, talk more frequently about dominant women in household and people can find such dominant women in real life at the time the play was published in 1960. Therefore I think Albee is more successful in conveying his message.