CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading the play and analyzing the female characters in Oscar Wilde's <u>A Woman of No Importance</u>, I conclude that the female characters support the revelation of theme of this play. The theme itself has a connection with social life of Victorian period because this play was written at that time. The theme of this play is, "society plays a very important role in how a woman thinks and shapes herself as an individual in the society".

Wilde's <u>A Woman of No Importance</u> has formulated a theme that I believe has a correlation with real life, because until today, every human being still lives in the society which can bring a certain impact to them. Taken place in 19th century, Wilde tries to display a generalization of how women conduct their lives. This is revealed from the three female major characters in the play.

The first female character is Mrs. Arbuthnot, a woman with an illegitimate son. She is portrayed as a reserved and self-conscious person. These two characteristics are influenced by the society which believes a woman who committed adultery would not be accepted in the society. The second character is Hester Worsley. She is described as an open minded and critical woman. Her

15

characteristics are shaped because she has already seen and compared both American's and English's society. The third female character is Lady Jane Hunstanton. She is a shallow and conceited woman. Her characteristics are constructed by the society that believes in social barriers and the idea that appearance is everything. After analyzing the play, I can see clearly that the three female characters are influenced and shaped by the society.

From the way Wilde creates these three female characters, I discover a theme which reveals an embodiment of certain people in society. I believe all the characters are very effective in supporting the theme. The theme has given a very good picture that society can produce different kinds of effects to women. I also learn from this play that society can give either good or bad influences toward an individual; therefore one has to consider one's surrounding and environment in the society.

I find from this play that society is a part of human being that cannot be separated because wherever people stand they are always connected with the society's values or custom. Yet, the society does not always give good effects in shaping a person. Sometimes a person experiences the bad effect. The bad effects can occur when the society is not healthy. A person's choice between the bad and the good is also the important lesson that I can get from this play.

I believe as well that the title <u>A Woman of No Importance</u> is to satirize the people at that time because it actually shows that women still have their importance in society. The reason why the women turn out to be important in this play is because they still acquire the strength to live among the society which

16

gives them some pressure. They could bear the society custom who forbids them to do a lot of things according to their wills.

The other message that I get from this play is that society ruled by man sometimes treat women unjustly. In Mrs. Arbuthnot's characterization, for instance, I reckon that the unjust society makes her feel not comfortable to herself. Men's thoughts also become an important thing to count because what their thoughts are what is ruled in the society.

I think that Wilde is a great writer since this play can be seen from some points of view about not only women but also the society's conventions which dominate certain aspects of life. Therefore, I conclude that after studying the play, I can find some important values concerning life and society in the real life. As a final point, I state that theme of the play is, "society plays a very important role in how a woman thinks and shapes herself as an individual in the society."