

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Finding true love could be one of the most life-changing experiences. Beyond admiration, desire, or friendship, love is a strong bond between people. Deep reciprocal expressions include respect, trust, sincerity, dignity, intimacy, chemistry, and relationship. Love is something that is constantly shared and cannot be separated. It is managed by two people, not only one. Because of love, we can get to know one another.

True love is also one of theme that is often used in a play. According to Collins Dictionary a play is a piece of writing which is performed in a theatre, on the radio, or on television. In literature, a play is when written dialogues and stage actions are put together and read aloud. It is a literary genre in which actors perform a writer's words before an audience. There is a good chance we will find comedy, farce, opera, melodrama, musical drama, tragedy, and tragicomedy among the literary genres. The writer reads or sees a performance on the stage of the play, and the writer can see the dramatization of the human condition. The history of the drama began in Greek drama with the work of Aristotle's Poetics, which is the oldest recorded work of dramatic theory (335 B.C.). The word drama means "action" in Greek. In English, wordplay is the standard term for dramas until Shakespeare's time (Aristotle's Poetics, 335 B.C.). When problems between partners become unclear,

a fantastic relationship might become complex. A spouse may have feelings of befuddlement yet not express them to the other. One spouse may think everything is all right when it is not because they are not on the same page. When one partner is unsure what he or she wants or wants to break up, the relationship becomes problematic. As a result, a partner may find it difficult to express his or her thoughts and feelings. Understanding a complicated relationship entails understanding the problems that may be causing the situation (Herrin).

Queen Elizabeth I of England was the most beautiful age in English literature (1558–1603). It is called Elizabethan Literature. Many writers flourished during Elizabeth's reign, including Sir Philip Sidney, Edmund Spenser, Roger Ascham, Richard Hooker, Christopher Marlowe, and William Shakespeare. Shakespeare's play, in particular, flourished during the Elizabethan period. The Elizabethan era also saw the development of poetry. It inspired an extraordinary variety of prose, such as historical chronicles, Bible versions, pamphlets, and literary criticism for the first English novels. A sudden darkening of tone became evident in most literary speeches, particularly drama, around the beginning of the 17th century, and the shift roughly coincided with Elizabeth's death. From 1603 to 1625, English literature is called Jacobean, after the new king. However, as 16th-century themes and trends were carried over into the 17th century, writing from his reign's early years is often referred to as "Jacobean" (Agustin, 2020). William Shakespeare is a well-known playwright and poet who wrote about love in his works—popularly known as the "Bard of Avon." Shakespeare is an English playwright widely regarded as the most excellent writer in the English language and the world's greatest playwright. Later

in life, he worked as an actor in the theatre, and throughout his life, he wrote 154 sonnets and 37 plays, all of which he wrote with grandeur and maturity. Shakespeare's poetic and dramatic career progressed with his life and mind's development and experience. Shakespeare often talks about Rome rather than England, and it is because he learned Latin or the Roman language and then tried to find a relationship with Julius Caesar. Shakespeare wrote almost all types of plays—Tragedy, Comedy, Tragicomedy, and, Historical. He is entirely objective and unbiased, portraying both the good and the bad, the wicked and the virtuous, with the same loving care—English literature's greatest humorist (MDDM College, p.1).

Stories of true love became Shakespeare's mainstay as the storylines he often used. Love is a central theme that Shakespeare often uses in his works, impacting all of the key characters' actions. In another way, love is at the heart of Shakespeare's work. Some of the characters in the play had love interactions, which is one of the reasons the writer chose this topic. William Shakespeare has become a well-known writer whose work feels real that it is like telling his own love story on his work.

Furthermore, the writer will describe a complicated couple in Shakespeare's play; *Much Ado About Nothing*. In 1600, *Much Ado About Nothing* was published as Shakespeare's play about two couples, Claudio & Hero and Benedick & Beatrice, who had problems in their relationship. Many people want to separate their relationships because they do not want them to be together. Don John, Don Pedro's younger brother, plans to destroy Claudio's relationship. He orders people to tell

Claudio that Hero is not loyal. Meanwhile, Benedick and Beatrice have a love-hate relationship that complicates their relationship.

The writer derives these plays as the object of the research by reasons. First, the writer is interested in discussing romance and love stories. Second, the writer wants to identify the play's irony, paradox, and ambiguity to know how complicated their love is. Third, the writer chose these plays by William Shakespeare because Shakespeare is the best of the playwrights, and many of Shakespeare's works deal with complex love stories and it fits the title and topic of the writer.

That play is rare to analyze. Based on the background of the study, the researcher will make a study entitled **The Complicated Love Story in *Much Ado About Nothing*, A Drama by William Shakespeare.**

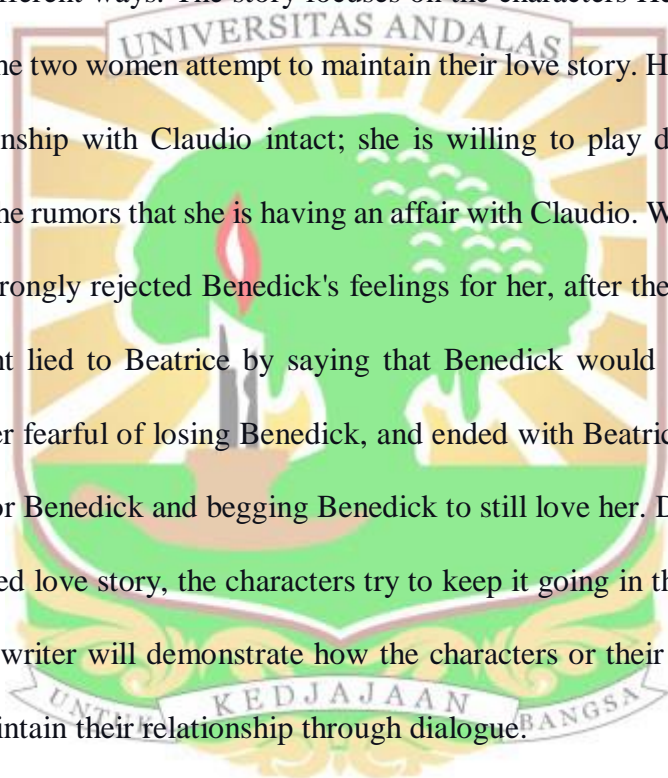
1.2. Identification of the Problem

The writer pays attention to the complicated love issues between the characters in the play. The writer wants to know the following:

- ◆ The complicated loves story. Love story is the central theme of Shakespeare's works. In any event, a complicated loves story is present in all of his works. One example is the *Romeo and Juliet*, and *As You like It* dramas. Another example is *Much Ado About Nothing* drama, which is the object discussed by the writer in this research. The existence of a complicated love story is found in characters created by Shakespeare. The diverse characters, such as Claudio and Beatrice, make the story in this comedy drama complicated. Claudio who betrayed Hero by trusting other people's words more than the woman he is going to marry, caused a miss communication between the two, whereas in a

relationship communication and mutual trust are things that must exist in a relationship. Meanwhile, in Beatrice's character, Shakespeare wants to show how the picture of a hypocrite who does not want to be honest with his feelings and what the consequences will be if someone makes a fool of himself and his own feelings.

- ◆ How they maintain their true love. The characters in the play keep their love alive in different ways. The story focuses on the characters Hero and Beatrice and how the two women attempt to maintain their love story. Hero tries to keep his relationship with Claudio intact; she is willing to play dead in order to disprove the rumors that she is having an affair with Claudio. Whereas Beatrice initially strongly rejected Benedick's feelings for her, after the plan, Hero and her servant lied to Beatrice by saying that Benedick would stop liking her, making her fearful of losing Benedick, and ended with Beatrice admitting her feelings for Benedick and begging Benedick to still love her. Despite having a complicated love story, the characters try to keep it going in their own unique way. The writer will demonstrate how the characters or their behavior in the drama maintain their relationship through dialogue.
- ◆ Love affairs. The love affairs in Shakespeare's works always heighten the reader's interest. Therefore, from his work, there is always something to learn. In *Much Ado About Nothing* play, Claudio & Hero and Benedick & Beatrice's love affairs are complex. The relationship between Claudio and Hero is complicated by Claudio's distrust of his partner, Hero, and his accusations that she is cheating on him. In contrast, Benedick and Beatrice's dishonest



relationship with the feelings they have makes it difficult for them to be together. In addition, from their love affairs, we know how important communication, honesty, and mutual respect are in a relationship.

Despite their issues with trust in their relationship, the power of their love, and trust in each other, they can finally be together and live happily ever after, just like any other couple. Even though Romeo and Juliet died tragically, their love is eternal, and they can eventually be together despite being in different worlds. This research is necessary to prove that relationships with true love and honesty will last. The characters in the play will teach what is and is not appropriate in a relationship.

1.3. Review of Previous Study

The author found some theses regarding the topic and the selected Shakespeare drama in this research. The first journal is by Daalder (2004), entitled *The Pre-history of Beatrice and Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing."* This study explains the history of the characters Beatrice and Benedick in the play. Daalder says that in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shakespeare implies interestingly that prior to the play's main action, there was an earlier story between Benedick and Beatrice, and the author calls it 'pre-history.' This 'pre-history' between Beatrice and Benedick is what the author discusses in the journal. According to the author, knowing history is very important and often overlooked. In the scenario, Shakespeare presents issues about gender that are very basic and logically implied. The author analyzes this journal using linguistic techniques because a series of words signaled in a complex manner makes Daalder have to analyze carefully. Using this journal as an illustration for the writer's research will be very helpful for the writer in analyzing the sentences

contained in the dialogue that the author will analyze. Furthermore, it can help the author know more about Benedick and Beatrice's characters.

The second is the article by Aliakbari, H., and Abjadian A (2012), entitled "*What is it else?*" *Love's (Con-)Text in Romeo and Juliet*, both researchers, is from the Faculty of Humanities and Literature, Shiraz University, Iran. This study shows that identity in general, and the identity of love in particular, is not set in stone and is all based on text. Many people believe that Romeo and Juliet's play still follows the lead of the comedies in presenting its central theme. However, drawing upon Derrida's deconstruction of the play, the written have shown that love as an idea, a word, or a nomenclature, follows the same aporetic law of the proper name in that it is split, not unified, contradictory, not lucidly meaningful. The search for the inherent contradictions of a text, which is one of deconstructionism's main concerns, may not satisfy a curious mind which looks for some novel ideas in a text, a mind which seeks the discovery of an *original* subject or an *illuminative* explication that leads to new *meanings*.

Aliakbari and Abjadian explained that Shakespeare's realistic portrayal of the nature of human relationships and human love undermines our romantic ideals. He shows how love may be fundamentally re-presented through the text. Only by escaping to non-signification, death, can we avoid the text's or nomenclature's sovereignty (21). The drama highlights the auxiliary identity character regarding language and name sovereignty. The name of a being or object is the only item that can be accessed. Romeo has to perish. His name will live on in perpetuity. The amorous death must be wed to love itself. Love, the umbrella term for all human

impulses, will continue to be deciphered in many contexts (21). This article does not study but is linguistic studies. The author chose this article to know about another research who have the same object as the writer who talks about love.

The third study is a journal article by Richard Henze (1971) entitled *Deception in Much Ado About Nothing*. This study discusses *Much Ado About Nothing* is about the end of deceit and wrong deception that causes conflict and mistrust, as well as about good deception that results in marriage. This study focuses on the deception of Claudio in his character. The dangerous characters in the play are not Don Pedro or Borachio, but it is Claudio. His character, who hides his suspicions behind an act of fidelity and virtue, is more deceptive than Pedro and Borachio's plans, which makes deception for destroying Claudio and Hero's relationship.

Henze explained that this Shakespeare play is only about lies. He said that play is about appropriate deception that results in marriage and the cessation of deception, as well as improper deception that fosters conflict and mistrust. Because Benedick and Beatrice are deceiving themselves by pretending they will be the last people to marry one another, Don Pedro and his allies can fool Benedick and Beatrice. Claudio's deception by Don John and Borachio is successful because he is deceptively wary and distrustful. Shakespeare illustrates the power that hatred can have when it becomes respectable through Claudio. Henze concludes that not Benedick and Beatrice or Don John, who is so dishonest that he could deceive only a fool, pose a threat to social order; instead, in this drama, Claudio hides his suspicions behind an act of fidelity and virtue.

The fourth is a journal from Dr. Meeta Mathur (2018) entitled *Much Ado About Nothing: A Complex Comedy*. This journal discusses comedy, love, hate, noting, nothing, misunderstanding, mistaken identity, masquerading, infidelity, deception, separation, and reconciliation in *Much Ado About Nothing* drama. The play's themes of infidelity, deception, mistaken identity, and nothingness are all well-delineated. Quite magical and noticeable is the transformation from mutual hatred of the characters toward one another into pure love between the two of them. When one character acts like the other, as in a masquerade or mistaken identity, it is funny and gives the other character a chance to say what they think about them. It is common for his comedies to end with pleasant endings, such as wedding bells, dancing, and singing. At the time of Shakespeare's writing, "nothing" was used as a synonym for "noting," making it more important.

Mathur explained that the truth and all the lies that the main characters tell make up a big part of the action's effect. The essential part of the church scene of the story is all about the idea that seeing or hearing is believing. Besides that,

Mathur said that the play's title is a play on words. Critics have said that "noting" sounded the same to Elizabethans as "nothing" and that the play is a sort of dramatized pun on a misreading. After that, he says that *Much Ado About Nothing* is a comedy by William Shakespeare it deals with clever love, misinformation, and misunderstanding. The play's central themes are the flowering of love between Beatrice and Benedick after *Much Ado About Nothing* and the misunderstanding between Claudio and Hero and how it is resolved. Between these two spouses, there is a significant difference in their connection. A voyage of mirth

and wit intertwined in a beautiful play takes one from complete disrespect for the institution of marriage to intellectually falling in love.

The fifth thesis about love is by Mochammad Ichwanudin (2008) entitled *The Analysis of Main Character's Love In Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost*. This thesis discovers that the type of love experienced by the characters in this drama is romantic love. Love plays a vital role in Shakespeare's play, and all of the main characters' actions are affected by it. In another way, love is a driving force behind this job. One of the reasons Ichwanudin chose this subject is because some of the characters in the play have romantic encounters. Psychologists also describe love as an internal condition or process that responds to objects such as death or life. He discusses the philosophy of love, the factors that influence love, and the impact of love on human beings.

Ichwanudin argues that romantic love is the type of love the characters in the play have. Love plays a crucial role in Shakespeare's play, and all key characters' actions are impacted by it. In another way, love is a driving force behind the work. Ichwanudin argues that the impact of love on the play's characters is (a) perplexed by their emotions and motivations. The protagonists must choose between love and studies and decide whether to maintain or break their pledge (61). (b) The key protagonists feel compelled to sacrifice by violating their promise since they are all in love (61). (c) Send material expressions of affection to their lovers; they provide gifts to each of the major characters' lovers to express their feelings and let their lovers know about it (62). Thus, these analyzes explain that love is very influential

in a relationship. Love can blind those who are in love. They are willing to do anything as long as they are happy.

Regarding the five sources above, the writer decided to examine the Complicated Love Story in *Much Ado About Nothing*, A Drama, By William Shakespeare, through Formalist Theory. Previous studies concentrated on the genre and conflict of love contained in different Shakespeare plays. While in this study, the author will discuss the complicated love story in one of Shakespeare's famous plays in 1598 and 1600 in the Elizabethan era, namely *Much Ado About Nothing*, using formalist theory by analyzing irony, paradox, and ambiguity in the drama. The writer chose to use the Formalist Theory for this Mei 23.

1.4. Research Question

Based on the background above, the writer would like to present the research question as follows:

1. How does the irony present the complicated love story of the characters in the drama?
2. How does William Shakespeare utilize paradox in the drama?
3. How is the ambiguity of the character's personalities in the drama?

1.5. Scope of the Research

In this lesson, the writer will look at the complicated love story in Shakespeare's drama; *Much Ado About Nothing*. The complex romance we all experience as we all face it. As a result, the writer will examine the characters' personalities and the strength of true love between them in the drama. Formalism will be this research tool. The search for true love is the subject of this study.

In another way, this work is all about passion. The writer will deduce the true meaning of love from the drama. The writer will analyze the characters in the play: Claudio & Hero and Benedick & Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing* play.

1.6. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

1. To figure out how the irony presents the complicated lovers of the characters in the play.
2. To reveal how William Shakespeare utilizes paradox in the play.
3. To figure out how the ambiguity of the characters' personalities is in the drama.

This research examines and summarizes the context of Shakespearean drama involving complicated love stories. The writer seeks to learn about the characters' backgrounds, personalities, and the strength of true love between the characters in the drama. This research will study the reader that true love exists despite its many complicated problems, but it must be a beautiful ending if carried out together. This study demonstrates how William Shakespeare's play depicts a main character's struggle to find true love.

