THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL CONDITION TOWARD GERALD ARBUTHNOT'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT AS SEEN IN OSCAR WILDE'S A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

A Thesis
Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra
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by
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Dr. Fr. B. Alip, M. Pd, M.A.
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I am very grateful to my Jesus for blessing me with His Unconditional Love. Because of Him, I have restored. I will never be able to forget the 'best condition' of my life when I felt so unworthy, weak, and hopeless. It is true the best condition of my life for He has been faithful to me and He will always be. I am also very grateful for the people who have given me their time, assistance, patience, and encouragement. It is impossible to accomplish this thesis without the help from them.

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I will never be able to forget the best part of my life, my husband, Budi Prasetia, S.Si, for being with me since July, 1999 (I will never allow someone else to be close to my heart because I want to be faithful as Jesus is faithful to me, His church).
ABSTRACT

Imelda Gunawan (2002): The Influence of the Social Condition toward Gerald Arbuthnot’s Personality Development as Seen in Oscar Wilde’s A Woman of No Importance, Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis deals with the work of Oscar Wild entitled A Woman Of No Importance. In this drama, Gerald Arbuthnot, the character analyzed, has the personality development which is influenced by the social condition.

This thesis is made to know the influence of the social condition in Gerald Arbuthnot’s place and also the influence of the family, in this case are his mother and his father, toward his personality development. The writer has formulated the problems into three questions to find the answer of the analysis. The first question deals with the description of Gerald Arbuthnot’s character and the other characters. The second question deals with how they can influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality. This question is meant to find how far the social condition, in this case the other characters influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development. The third or the last question deals with the author’s messages revealed through the presentation of the characters and also through the personality development of Gerald Arbuthnot.

The method of the analysis which is used is library research. To support the data in the analysis, the sociocultural-historical approach is used. This approach is to find the information about the social condition which is described in the drama. Several theories about society is used to find the influence of the social condition toward Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development.

From this analysis, we find that the personality of someone can be influenced by the social condition. The society, in this case the persons in the society and also Gerald Arbuthnot’s family have the important role in his personality development.
ABSTRAK

Imelda Gunawan (2002): The Influence of the Social Condition toward Gerald Arbuthnot’s Personality Development as Seen in Oscar Wilde’s A Woman of No Importance, Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

Tesis ini berkaitan dengan karya Oscar Wilde yang berjudul A Woman Of No Importance. Dalam drama ini, Gerald Arbuthnot sebagai tokoh yang dianalisa mengalami perkembangan kepribadian yang dipengaruhi oleh kondisi sosial yang ada.


Dari analisis ini, kita menemukan bahwa kepribadian seseorang juga dapat dipengaruhi oleh kondisi sosial yang ada. Masyarakat dan keluarga juga mempunyai peranan yang sangat penting dalam perkembangan kepribadiannya.
An Expected End

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith The Lord, thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11

Dedicated to

My mother and my father, my sister Tata and Mia who give me support.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, our society needs a lot of information. The information can be taken through many media such as printed media and electronic media. Printed media as information source can be taken from newspapers, magazines, tabloids, books, while internet, television, and radio are electronic media that can be used to take a lot of information. Book is one important of many information sources because science has been written and published in form of books. Unfortunately, there is a part of our society that does not have enough willingness to read. Therefore, we should grow their willingness to read books as the source of good information. To improve their willingness to read, we can make creative writings such as stories.

Stories are one of the interesting ways to learn something about our life. Stories have been developed since human life began. Firstly, they developed orally because of no other else medium. In this modern era, however, we can see many tools to develop or to spread out the stories. The people from many countries may hear the stories from different background and societies so that they will know the cultures of others and they can learn something from many countries' stories, especially the problems that are faced by the society's member where they live.
Among several genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short-story, and novel, I am mostly interested in drama. Drama as one of literary genre represents this idea. Drama or play is the imitation of daily life which consists of dialogues and is performed on the stage in front of the audience. Therefore, through reading or seeing a play, we will be aware of something like our awareness toward the environment around us.

Drama is not designed to be read. Walley states that a play is not only as the matter of seeing it in the theater but it is quite different from other kind of literature. What are designed to be read are novels, short stories, and poems. They are ordinarily designed to be read (Walley, 1950:5).

Reaske says that a play is an experience. Different plays produce different experience. By reading a play, we can enter particular condition or particular situation. Therefore, every play has particular identity. When we read a play, we join the other world that is described in it. That is why by living inside of the play, we try to describe the world with all its meaning (Reaske, 1970:80).

Naturally, human beings are created to associate with others. Each person cannot be separated from others. They are called dependent creatures because they depend on each other. They need other's help to fulfill their needs so that they cannot rely on themselves. Seeing the reality that they are dependent creatures, they live in a group which is called society. That is why society is the important thing for us.
The problems revealed in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance* such as the social condition and its influence to the member of the society give more facts that we, as the individual, depends on the society. Therefore, the reasons the writer chooses the topic are to broaden knowledge on the condition of society and to understand the problems inside the society so that we can have more experience by learning the problems.

Gerald Arbuthnot is one of main characters in Oscar Wilde's *A Woman Of No Importance*. The writer does decide to choose Gerald Arbuthnot as an interesting topic to be discussed. Gerald Arbuthnot experiences problems which include other main characters in the drama. The conflicts experienced by him are very complex. Those conflicts are rised because of the influence of the social condition in where he lives. That is why the writer takes the topic as a worth-discuss topic in the analysis.

This thesis deals much with the social condition which is described in the play and also with its influence towards the member of the society.

**B. Problem Formulation**

In this thesis, the writer of this thesis only deals with the condition of the society as seen in the play and the effect of the social condition toward Gerald Arbuthnot's personality development. Since they become the object of the analysis, some question based on the topic should be
formulated. Those questions can lead to what the analysis should do. They also can rise the sense of curiousity to find out what *A Woman of No Importance*, as a work of literature can offer to the reader.

These are questions which have been formulated as problems in the analysis:

1. How are Gerald Arbuthnot’s character and other characters in the drama described?
2. How do they influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality?
3. What are the author’s messages through the characters and the personality development of Gerald Arbuthnot?

C. Objective of the Study

The aim of this study is to answer the questions put forward in the problem formulation that deal with the social condition as described in the drama and its effect to the member of the society.

The analysis on Oscar Wilde’s *A Woman of No Importance* has to have goals to make the analysis valuable and to contribute something to the study of literature. Some of the goals can be mentioned as follows:

1. to know how Gerald Arbuthnot’s character and other characters are described in the drama.
2. to understand the influence of the society toward Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality.
3. to find the author’s messages through the characters and the personality development of Gerald Arbuthnot.

D. Benefit of the Study

The analysis of Oscar Wilde’s *A Woman of No Importance* will be worthy if it can give benefits to the reader and also to the study of literature. The writer expects that the analysis will be able to contribute new valuable things. Therefore, it is hoped that this study will help the readers aware of the social condition and also the influence of the social condition toward a character named Mr. Gerald Arbuthnot as seen in the play. This analysis can help the reader to gain a better understanding about social’s problems especially how the social condition can influence one of the society’s member as seen in the play.

Secondly, this thesis is to convey that society is the important part of our life because we cannot be separated from others. Society is a place to grow both our mental condition and physical condition. We cannot deny that family is the primary form of group of life and it has crucial role to form a person’s condition. That is why we have our own ways of thinking and our own beliefs. In family, a person is socialized from the first time.

Personally, for the writer, the social condition in the play give many contributions to be learnt. From the condition, we can aware that our social condition is different from others and it can give effect to the
members of the society. Also, from the personality development, we can enrich our understanding that human beings have unique personalities.

Finally, it is hoped that the analysis can help the readers to appreciate the work of literature, especially in the form of drama. It is also hoped to give contribution to the enrichment of literary study in Sanata Dharma University.

E. Definition of Terms

To avoid any misunderstanding on the flow of the study and to provide a clear illustration of the study conducted, some terms are needed to be clarified. This is also to help the process of analysis. There are six words which have to be defined in this thesis. They are the word influence, social, condition, personality, and development. Since this thesis deals with the character, the writer decided to define the word character. Those terms which are used in the analysis are:

1. Influence

The word "influence" according to Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary is the power of a person or group to produce effects without the exertion of physical force or authorithy, based on wealth, social position, ability, etc (McKechnie,1983:940). In this thesis, it is related to the power of the society that can give effects to one of the society's member named Mr. Gerald Arbuthnot.
2. Social

The word "social" has several meanings in the same dictionary. It has to do with human beings living together as a group in a situation requiring that they have dealings with one another. The other meaning is that it is related to living and associating in groups or communities (McKechnie, 1983:1722). In this analysis, it deals with Gerald Arbuthnot's social condition; his status or his family rank.

3. Condition

According to Chambers Essential English Dictionary, the word "condition" means the statement in which a person or a thing is. Condition means that someone or something described as they are (Macdonald, 1973:99).

4. Personality

In Social Psychology: Understanding Human Interaction, Baron and Byrne say:

"Personality is the combination of those relatively enduring characteristics of an individual that are expressed in a variety of situations." (Baron, 1974:527).

Macdonald states that personality is the characteristics of an individual such as emotional, physical, and intellectual that are appeared to other people (Macdonald, 1973:375). Furthermore, there is a different definition of personality as stated by Richard A. Kalish. He states that personality is the changing and interacting organization of typical
qualities. Those typical qualities support every human being to act as he does so that he is different from other people (Kalish, 1973:53).

5. Development

According to McKechnie, the word development means a step or stage in growth, advancement, etc. It also means a thing that is developed (McKechnie, 1983:499). In the analysis, we do not deal with the growth of something, but we deals with the growth of someone. The social condition that appears in the play can influence Mr. Gerald Arbuthnot's growth of personality.

6. Character

In A Glossary of Literary Terms written by M. H. Abrams, character is a person who shows a certain quality. The quality is expressed from the dialogues and the actions.

"Characters are the persons, in a dramatic or a narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say-the dialogue-and what they do-the action" (Abrams, 1981:20).

In this thesis, the writer tries to analyze one of the characters in the play named Gerald Arbuthnot. The theory of the character will be discussed in the next chapter.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

The Victorians believed that man's future reward of punishment was determined not only by his faith but above all by his conduct. Duty and self-seriousness, and self-improvement were judged as outstanding virtues. So nearly it was that it imposed upon all alike a code of moral conduct which could be broken only by the risk of social disapproval (Lunt, 1945:751).

The Victorian literature, according to Smith, is called the new reality. The literature in The Victorian Age is often directed to rebel against the Victorian idealism and institution which remained strict and stuff (Smith, 1959:71). Abrams states that literature in the Victorian age is realism. It is said as a "criticism activity". It means that many works which are produced in Victorian age have purpose to criticize the sicial problems. It also means that there is a tendency that many authors realize their social problems (Abrams, 1981:156).

The Victorian preferred to entertain their friends and neighbors in their homes. The homes built at that time were comftable and hospitable homes in which one met refined manners and pleasant social intercourse. Therefore, the Victorian often conducted dinner party for their relatives, friends, and their neighbors. It has been accepted as their social duty to show their respectability (Lunt, 1945:750).
Oscar Wilde is known as an Aesthetic. His works, including *A Woman of No Importance*, seems to lack moral or social purpose but pleasure in the beauty and form, or wit, is all that matters (McEwan, 1986:54). *A Woman of No Importance* also can be called as “a drama with a certain purpose” because “the speciality of drama referring to the meaning ‘behind’ or ‘between’ the lines.” (Short, 1966:181). The words *A Woman of No Importance* themselves have other meaning beside the meaning that there is a woman who is not important. It has its purpose which is concerned to a woman’s struggle toward man’s treatment. Therefore this drama may draw the relationship between the social environment and the individual who lives in it.

In Tyrone Guthrie’s criticism, he tries to show to the readers that *A Woman of No Importance* is influenced by other Wilde’s works and also it has relationship with the author’s life in the society. Wilde’s men characters such as *Fin de Siecle* represented by Lord Darlington and *An Ideal Husband* represented by Lord Goring are more or less the same types of characterization. This type also appears again in *A Woman of No Importance* represented by Lord Illingworth (Maine, 1954:4). It means that Wilde creates more or less the same type of characterizations in his works but presented in different names and situations. Guthrie’s statements is also supported by G. J. Renier.

*A Woman of No Importance* semms to me “the least able of the four plays”. Just here and there it has the melodramatic touch of “The duchess of Padua” (Renier, 1993:76).

Wilde creates literary works based on the life he experiences. He tries to raise the problem in his real life. We can conclude that most critics say that *A*
Woman of No Importance is influenced by the characters of his other plays. Wilde raises the problem in his real life and tries to write it in different way.

B. Review of Related Theories

In this thesis, the writer is going to analyze Oscar Wilde’s work which deals much with the social condition and also the personality development of a character named Gerald Arbuthnot. To support this analysis, the writer uses some books that are related to the theories on literature, drama, and also theories on society. That is why, in this chapter, the writer is going to present some theories that are considered to be relevant to this study. The first part is the review on society which are presented to gain a better understanding that society or social condition can influence someone’s personality. The second is the theories of characters which have purpose to describe the characters which are going to be analyzed in this study. The last part is the approaches which are used in this study.

B.1. Review on Society

Society is an organization of people who live in a place around us. We are a part of that society. There are various society forms, such as village or rural society, a nation, and an urban society. In the society, there are a lot of persons who have various values and desires. In his book, An Introduction to Sociology,
Vander Zanden says that society forms can be small community such as a tribal community of several dozen people and it can be large community such as a modern nation-state with hundreds of millions of people (Zanden, 1988:101). Furthermore, R. M. Maciver and Charles H. Page say:

“Society is a system of usages and procedures, of authority and mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of controls of human behaviour and of liberties” (Maciver, 1949:5).

As an individual, we have to adapt to the society where we live in. The existence of the society does influence everyone’s life. A certain society has some values which are built together. Sometimes, the values are different from values which are had by every individual. We have to adapt ourselves to the environment so that we can be accepted by the society. The claims of “independence” from certain people cannot separate every individual from the society. On the contrary, every person can influence the society around them. For example, if a person is honoured or considered to be a leader, he or she can influence the society through his or her way of thinking and his or her behaviour.

There is also likeness which is had by every person in the society. The likeness is like the likeness of values, desires, interests, and purposes. Society is formed from the likeness and also from the difference from every individual. Maciver and Page say that without likeness there will not be the sense of “belonging together”. Without the sense of likeness there also could be no society because of no mutual recognition. Society exists if every person resembles one another in some degree, in body, and in mind. However, society also depends on difference as it depends on likeness. If people are absolutely alike, the social
relationship which they have built would be limited. Perhaps, it is like a hundred or may be a thousand of ants or bee. It will be only little give and take. It will be only very little contribution from one person to another (Maciver, 1949:7).

Basically, human beings are personal creature and dependent creature. The need of being in society shows that human beings are dependent creature who cannot live without others. Every person needs to have ability to adapt in the society so that they can hold out in their environment. In *SOCIETY: An Introduction Analysis*, Maciver and Page say that for protection, comfort, nurture, education, equipment, opportunity, and the multitude of definite services, man needs what society can provide. That is the proof that man is dependent on society. His birth in society itself shows that man absolutely has the need of society. Some persons show their interests of “independence”. We may hear the claim of “Independence” but, nevertheless, no man is free of the need of society (Maciver, 1949:8).

The English society is divided into three classes. The three classes are the upperclass or the aristocracy, the middle class and the working class. The division stated in McKay’s *A History of Western Society* is based on the income and the occupation. The income of the upper class is surely different from the income of the middle class or the working class. The upper class, which is also called the rich, receives approximately one-third from all national income (McKay, 1983:846). Besides having high income, the upper class also has good position in the occupation. Kenneth O. Morgan in his book *The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain* states that the upper class or the aristocracy has good place in
political power. They almost own all places in political power. They also lead the army and involved in industrialization, especially in the development of mining, canals, and railways. They have position in banks and insurance companies (Morgan, 1988:493).

The middle class requires more mental than physical skill. This class is composed from families which have successful business on banking, industry, and large-scale commerce. They have almost same style of life with the upper class. The middle class also consists of successful industrialists and merchants, professionals in law and medicine, and also independent shopkeepers, small traders, and tiny manufacturers (McKay, 1983:846-847).

The working class or the lower class has occupation which requires physical skill. McKay states that:

“Many members of the working classes—that is, people whose livelihoods depended on physical labor and who did not employ domestic servant-were still landowning peasants and hired farm hands”. (McKay, 1983:851).

The society in this age takes the important thing in respectability. Nevertheless, they often fail in their attitudes toward the others. Virginity is the important thing for woman before having a marriage. The continence is the important thing for man. The society also does not like formal dissolution of a marriage or a divorce. They believe that divorce is the source of social disgrace. The society also does not like the affair which involved a husband or a wife with other persons. Nevertheless, the private pleasure is liked by the people (Amstein, 1988:81).
The society in this age, is a patriarchal one. Mother's duty only becomes a household manager. A mother takes the important role in growing up the children. Even, it is stated that a mother takes the first fifteen years of a child to prepare the child to face this life (Arnstein, 1988:82).

B.2. Review on Personality

In fact, the personality development can be influenced by some factors. Horton and Hunts say that the factors that can influence the personality are heredity, physical environment, and culture (Horton, 1987:114). Heredity is an inherent factor from our parents. What is meant by physical environment is the environment around us such as our parents, friends, and other people. Culture in society presents some experiences which are experienced by the people in the society. While according to Justin Pikunas in his book *Human Development: An Emergent Science*, the growth of individuals is devided into two big influences. They are hereditary influence and environmental influences. Environmental influences include physical environment, family, peers as models, education for life, community, and culture. Let us understand the factors that can influence the personality one by one.

a. The Hereditary Influence

The hereditary influence is concerned with DNA and RNA molecules. This factor influences biologically. This hereditary factor is transmitted from parents to the children. This is also called biological inheritance (Pikunas, 1969:54).
b. Physical Environment

Physical environment is concerned with environmental ecology, food, and chemicals. The rapid population growth causes pollution problem which is increased. Without good handling, the environment will be worse. The damaged environment causes the bad quality plants. Some additives which are included in food can also cause cancer.

c. Family

Living in the household with the parents and the children is called a family. In a family, we are taught to socialize and also taught about values. A family is formed from two persons who have the same commitment of living together and officially recorded in a marriage institution. The family is the most minimum size group in society. Furthermore, Light, Keiler, and Calhound say:

"The family is the primary agent of socialization for children, who are in process of developing fundamental values and learning about social relationships. For many years the family serves as the foremost agent of socialization in a child's world (Claudia Parks/Stock Market)" (Light, 1989:124).

Why do we talk about a family? We talk about a family because a family is an agent to form a society. Society is formed from several families who live together in a place. An individual grows in a family. An individual tries to face the fact or the reality and the problems so that in the future the individual can easily adapt to the society. It cannot be denied that a family is also a factor of one's personality development. Light, Keller, and Calhoun also state:
“The family introduces a child into society, locating him or her on the social map. To be born into a particular family is to acquire a social status. Whether a child’s parents are wealthy or on welfare is no fault of the child; nevertheless, family status has a strong effect on how neighbors, teachers, and others see that child” (Light, 1989:124).

According to Justin Pikunas, a family is formed by marriage and blood relationship

“The family is an enduring social group based on marriage and blood relationship, exercising hereditary and environmental influences of prime dimensions on the offspring.” (Pikunas, 1969:60).

Mother and father have the important role toward personality development of their children. They have different tasks in the family. The mother has role to take care of the children with her affection. Moreover, the emotional condition and social development of the children are influenced by the mother’s attitude.

“The psychosocial development and emotional security of the child are based on the mother’s reasonably consistent, patient, and tender care. Each year of full-time mothering tends to pay large dividends to both mother and children” (Pikunas, 1969:61).

While the role of the father tends to the protection and the discipline for the children. With the existence of the father’s discipline, the father can guide the children to have reality orientation. The father teaches the children to view everything as a reality.

“The father usually shoulders a major part of discipline and arbitration as children grow. By his authority and discipline he stimulates their reality orientation.” (Pikunas, 1969:62).

The family has a special condition if there is unequal leadership between the parents. The mother who is more dominant than the father influences family condition.
In a minority of families however, the mother becomes recognized as the decisive and leading person. Often it is the husband's passivity and insecurity that facilitates dominance by the wife and mother. The family situation becomes unsound if she takes advantage of her dominance. (Pikunus, 1969:62).

d. Peers as Models

For many people, associates with peers is very pleasing. They have the same needs because they are at the same age and maturity. They can share their problems together. The peers can also influence their way of thought and their feeling.

“Most persons enjoy associating with those who are similar in age, maturity, and status.” (Pikunus, 1969:66).

e. Education for Life

Children's education is influenced by the condition of the family. Children from rich family will have a better education than the children from poor family.

“Many children from the lower income brackets are socially and culturally disadvantaged and greatly in need of regular preschool training to fill gaps in their cognitive and social experience so that they can respond properly to the demands of school.” (Pikunus, 1969:67).

f. Community

Someone's growth is also influenced by the community. Community's life which has high social status is different from community's life which have middle or low social status.

g. Culture

Rules, norms, and hopes in community influence someone's life.

B.3. Review on Character

Among all of drama elements such as setting, plot, and theme, characters also have an important role to a story. An author or a playwright presents his or her ideas through characters. If we compare characters’ description, we may find out that the characters’ description in a novel is different from the characters’ description in a play or a drama. Reaske says that because of no narration or description in a drama, the playwright has to show his idea or his characters’ description through dialogues and actions. While in a novel, the author describes a character in an objective way (Reaske, 1966:13). Through the dialogues, the characters can speak about other characters’ condition: what other characters’ feel, and how other characters view something. Also, the characters can speak about themselves; how they feel, how they view something, and what opinion they have (Reaske, 1966:40). Through the actions, the characters interact with other characters. The interactions among characters can arise our understanding about the characters themselves.

In this part, the writer tries to present characters’ distinction. According to Reaske, characters can be differentiated into major characters and minor characters, round characters and flat characters (Reaske, 1970:169-170), and also active characters and passive characters (Reaske, 1966:43-44). The first part is the explanation about major and minor characters.

*Major characters*. Major characters are characters who have large part in the story. They act in the main action. This kind of character is a complex
character. It means that they have big portion and they are very important to develop the main plot.

*Minor characters.* Minor characters are characters who have only small part in the story. They are less complex if they are compared to the major one. Also, they do not always present in important actions. Although they only have a small part in the story, minor characters are usually used by the playwright to bridge between major characters so that the story can be developed. Reaske, in The College Writer’s Guide To The Study Of Literature says:

“Minor characters often serve as “links” between major characters, and they also are often extremely functional in terms of developing the plot” (Reaske, 1970:169).

The second distinction is round characters and flat characters. For further explanation, the writer will also explain what round and flat characters are.

*Round characters.* Round characters are like major characters. They are complex in personality features. They also have distinctive expressions. Their behaviour is usually as a product of various behavioral forces.

*Flat characters.* Flat characters are characters who never become complicated if it is compared with round characters. They have common and very simple expressions. In the story, they do not get involved in extensive psychological development. This kind of character is like minor characters.

The third distinction is active characters and passive characters. This is a very simple distinction of characters. The last explanation below is the explanation about active and passive characters.
Active characters. Active characters are characters who have not the same condition in the beginning of the story and at the end of the story. They have large part in the play and their performance is very important. This active character is a dynamic character.

Passive characters. This type of character is the opposition type of active characters. Passive characters are characters who do not have experience of changing. They are in the same condition and have the same personality features in the beginning of the story until the end of the story. They are static characters.

C. Theoretical Framework

The previous part of this chapter provides some reviews and some theories about society, and character. It is hoped that those theories will have role and contribution to answer the three problems in the previous chapter. The review about society gives a basic understanding to analyze the society that is described in the drama. The review about society reveals the essence of individual in a society. It is needed and significant to answer the problem about the influence of the social condition towards Gerald Arbuthnot's personality.

Mary Rohrberger and Woods introduce the five approaches that can be used to interpret literary works. Among those approaches, the writer chooses only an approach. It is the sociocultural-historical approach. The sociocultural-historical approach is used to give a basic understanding that the writer is going to analyze the society that can influence someone personality: the personality of Gerald Arbuthnot.
Since this study employs the character named Gerald Arbuthnot, the review on character in the previous part of this chapter is used to give a basic understanding of characters’ types.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object Of the Study

*An African of No Importance*, the drama I would like to analyze, was first published in 1894 by Methuen and Co. This complete text consists of 182 pages, and was published in London. The drama I shall be studying is the one which had been performed in London, Haymarket Theatre on April 19th, 1893. *An African of No Importance* written by Oscar Wilde is the drama with 15 characters. There are 8 male characters and 7 female characters in the drama. This drama consists of 4 acts of which all of the acts take time between 24 hours. The setting of act one is in the terrace at Hunstanton Chase. Act two takes place in the drawing room at Hunstanton Chase. The hall also at Hunstanton Chase becomes the third act’s setting of place. The fourth act or the last act of the play takes place in the sitting room at Mrs. Arbuthnot’s house at Wrockley.

In the first act, there are 11 characters who are involved in the story. The major story in this act is that Gerald Arbuthnot receives Lord Illingworth’s offer for being his secretary. Because it is considered to be something important, Lady Hunstaton decides to send a letter to Mrs. Arbuthnot, Gerald’s mother, telling that her son will become Lord Illingworth’s secretary.

In the second act, Lord Illingworth is involved in conversation with Gerald Arbuthnot and Mrs. Arbuthnot. Mrs. Arbuthnot does not agree with Gerald’s decision of being Lord Illingworth’s secretary. Actually she is hurt by Lord
Illingworth in her past life. For approximately 20 years ago, Mrs. Arbuthnot had a close relation with Lord Illingworth. She was pregnant. She decided to leave Lord Illingworth because he did not give the child a name. She asked him to marry her but he refused it. In this act, Gerald Arbuthnot does not know yet that Lord Illingworth is his own father.

In the third act, Gerald is still trying to defend his decision to leave his own mother for the sake of his career. With that kind of career, he also may attract Hester’s love. Once, Gerald is doubt about what his mother has taught him. Gerald says that what his mother has taught him is quite wrong. When Gerald is involved in a conversation with his mother, Hester enters in terror because Lord Illingworth has insulted her. Gerald sees the situation and wants to kill Lord Illingworth. When he tries to kill Lord Illingworth, his mother tries to stop him. And at last, he knows from his own mother that Lord Illingworth is his father.

In the last act, finally, Gerald decides to refuse Lord Illingworth’s offer. Lady Hunstanton says that Gerald’s rejection of being Lord Illingworth’s secretary is not right. Nevertheless, Gerald does not wish to leave his mother. Gerald also writes a letter to Lord Illingworth telling that he should marry his mother. Mrs. Arbuthnot knows and refuses it. But, after his mother assures him that she loves him, he does not implore his mother again to marry Lord Illingworth. Moreover, Hester tells that she loves Gerald and wants them to leave their country to get a better life. Lord Illingworth, once, wants to marry Mrs. Arbuthnot but she refuses it. Finally, because of being rejected, Lord Illingworth does not want to marry her.
B. Approach

In *Reading And Writing About Literature*, Mary Rohrberger states five approaches which can be used in literary study. The first one is the Formalist Approach which examines literary works through the idea of the work itself. It insists on the complexity of literary work without referencing to author's life, to the genre of the piece or to its place in the development of the genre or in literary history, and to its social milieu. The second approach is Biographical Approach which insists on the author's life. The third one is the Sociocultural-Historical Approach which insists to place the literary work in civilization that produce the work. The fourth approach is the Mythopoeic Approach which discovers universal patterns of human thought in the literary works through myths and folks rites as the basic of human thought. The last approach is the Psychological Approach which draws on a different body of knowledge: that is psychology (Rohrberger, 1971:6-15).

From the five approaches stated by Rohrberger, the writer decides to choose one of the approaches. The writer chooses the Sociocultural-historical approach because the analysis will deal much with the society. Moreover, Rohrberger states that:

"They define civilization as the attitudes and actions of a specific group of people and point out that literature takes these attitudes and actions as its subject matter." (Rohrberger, 1971:9).

According to this approach, the literature contains of social milieu in which the work was created and which it necessarily reflects. (Rohrberger, 1971:9).
C. Method Of the Study

There were three steps in this analysis. The first step was reading the drama. The writer tried to understand the drama completely so that rereading the drama was very important. The second step was collecting references relating to the topic that was analyzed. To get some references for this analysis, here the writer applied library research. The references consisted of primary references or primary data and secondary references or secondary data. The primary data was taken from the drama itself, Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*. The secondary data were taken from books on English literature such as *A Glossary of Literary Terms, The Book of the Play: An Introduction to Drama, The College Writer's Guide to the Study of Literature, How to Analyze Drama, Reading and Writing about Literature*, and also *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*, and *Chambers Essential English Dictionary*. The references related to sociology were also taken as the basic understanding of the social condition that was analyzed in this study. The references were *Society: An Introductory Analysis, Sociology by Horton and Hunt, Social Psychology: Understanding Human Interaction, Sociology by Light, Keller, and Calhoun, and The Social Experience: An Introduction to Sociology, Human Development: An Emergent Science, A History of Western Society, Britain Yesterday and Today and The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain*. The third step was taking the data and managing the important points that might be very useful in analyzing the topic. By using some theories from some references that the writer had, she would try to answer the questions that were formulated in the problem formulation. The writer tried to find
out Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development by understanding some factors that could influence it such as inherent factor and environmental situation. Finally, after the writer had finished to find out all of the problem formulation’s answer, she drew some conclusions.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

A. The Description of the Characters

To understand Gerald Arbuthnot's personality development, we need to look at the factors which influence the personality. Since it will be analyzed in this chapter, Gerald Arbuthnot's personality development is influenced by the social condition. What is meant by the social condition is several persons or people which have important roles in the society of the drama. Before knowing the factors, it is better for us to know Gerald Arbuthnot's personality.

A.1. Gerald Arbuthnot

In the drama, the character of Gerald Arbuthnot is liked by the other characters, such as Hester, the young American lady, who starts to show her interest to Gerald Arbuthnot.

Hester: Mr. Arbuthnot is very charming (Act 1 Page 3).

Hester's opinion about Gerald Arbuthnot is supported by Lady Caroline, the wife of Sir John.

Lady Caroline: Ah yes, the young man who has a post in a bank. Lady Hunstanton is most kind in asking him here, and Lord Illingworth seems to have taken quite a fancy to him. I am not sure, however, that Jane is right in taking him out of his position. In my young days, Miss. Worsley, one never met anyone in society who work for their living. It was not consider the thing (Act 1 Page 4).

Lady Caroline respects Gerald Arbuthnot because in her young days, she does not find person like Gerald Arbuthnot who is working when he is young.
Gerald is a young man who is working in a small bank. It shows that he is a hard worker young man and he is not ashamed toward his society.

Lord Illingworth: ...An underpaid clerk in a small provincial bank in a third rate English town... (Act II Page 91).

When Gerald Arbuthnot is offered becoming a private secretary of Lord Illingworth, almost all of the people state their support. They support Gerald because they think that Gerald will get a higher position. It means that his financial condition will be better. When he hears that he will get a new higher job, Gerald Arbuthnot is very optimistic to accept it. It proves that he is an enthusiastic young man. It is shown in his conversation with Lady Caroline.

Lady Caroline: That is a very wonderful opening for so young a man as you are, Mr. Arbuthnot.
Gerald: It is indeed Lady Caroline. I trust I shall be able to show myself worthy of it. Of course I am. It means everything to me, things that were out of the reach of hope before may be within hopes reach now.
Lady Caroline: I trust so (Act I Page 7).

As he is so proud of Lord Illingworth’s offering to become his private secretary, he defends Lord Illingworth from his mother opinion.

Mrs Arbuthnot: There can be nothing in common between you and my son, Lord Illingworth.
Gerald: Dear mother, how can you say so. Of course Lord Illingworth is awfully clever and that sort of thing. There is nothing Lord Illingworth doesn’t know (Act II Page 82-83).

Gerald Arbuthnot is an ambitious man, so that he may give everything to get the job. He wants to reach what he cannot reach so far. He considers his confidence so much. Gerald Arbuthnot thinks that if he accepts Lord Illingworth’s
offering to be his private secretary, his confidence will be increased. He also
thinks that his mother will be proud of him.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: At the prospect of going away?
Gerald: ...But I am ambitious; I want something more than
that. I want to have a career. I want to do something that
will make you proud of me. He is going to do everything
for me (Act III Page 131).

He is too ambitious to be brave enough stating his opinion about his
mother. He states that his mother has taught him wrong things so far. He thinks
that a successful man is like Lord Illingworth who has spectacular career, high
position, and makes a lot of money.

Gerald: ....You have told me that the world is a wicked
place, that success is not worth having, that society is
shallow, and all that sort of thing. well, I don’t believe it,
mother... You have been wrong in all that you taught,
mother, quite wrong. Lord Illingworth is a successful
man.... (Act III Page 131).

Nevertheless, Gerald Arbuthnot actually loves his mother. He is proud of
his mother. He feels that his mother is everything to him because since he was a
child, he only lived with his mother who loves him so much. It is shown when he
talks to Lord Illingworth.

Lord Illingworth: (winces slightly). Really? (Goes over and
put his hand on Gerald’s shoulder.) You have missed not
having a father, I suppose, Gerald?
Gerald: Oh, no; My mother has been so good to me. No one
ever had such a mother as I have had (Act III Page 103).

He once again shows that he loves his mother so much by stating his
feeling to Mrs. Arbuthnot. He states that because his mother thinks that Gerald
insists to leave her.
Mrs. Arbuthnot: At the prospect of going away?
Gerald: Don’t put it like that mother. Of course I am sorry to leave you. Why, you are the best mother in the whole world.... (Act III Page 131).

Gerald Arbuthnot knows easily that there is an unoccasional relationship between his mother and Lord Illingworth. It is because his mother states her objection to Gerald Arbuthnot’s decision to be Lord Illingworth’s private secretary several times.

Gerald: Mother, what is your objection to Lord Illingworth? Tell me, tell me right out. What is it? (Act III Page 133).

From the explanation above, we can understand that Gerald Arbuthnot is actually a good young man. He is only a simple young man who works in a provincial bank. Nevertheless, when he gets an offering to be Lord Illingworth’s private secretary, he feels that he get a great gift in his life. Because he is too ambitious, he underestimates his mother’s opinion.

In this sub chapter, we will know the factors that influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development. The factors come from the social condition. The people who are on the society where Gerald Arbuthnot lives, influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality. The explanation later will make us know the characters one by one which have important roles.

A.2. Lord Illingworth

Lord Illingworth is a man who has high position in politics. He is respected by people around him.

Lady Hunstanton: We all have our different tastes, have we not? But Lord Illingworth has a very high position, and there is nothing he couldn’t get if he chose to ask for it... (Act II Page 74).
With his high position and with his ability to talk, Lord Illingworth feels proud of himself. He has a strong self-confidence. He confidently denies what Lady Stutfield says about him. Lady Stutfield says that he is very wicked.

Lady Stutfield: The world says that Lord Illingworth is very, very wicked.
Lord Illingworth: But what world says that, Lady Stutfield? It must be the next world. This world and I are on excellent terms. (Sits down beside Mrs. Allonby.) (Act I Page 16).

He is proud of himself so much so that it makes him an arrogant man. He says that what he has done or what he is doing right now is always right. He thinks that his opinion will always be true. Moreover, Lord Illingworth is a man who may work hard especially to reach advantages for himself. This is shown when Mrs. Allonby gives a challenge for him to kiss Hester. In this case, Lord Illingworth believes that he will win the challenge. It means that he is going to kiss Hester.

Mrs Allonby: Then it is lucky you are not going to kiss her!
Lord Illingworth: Is that a challenge?
Mrs. Allonby: It is an arrow shot into the air.
Lord Illiongworth: Don’t you know that I always succeed in whatever I try (Act I Page 39).

For him, he is full of good attitude. Lord Illingworth feels that he is perfect and he has a lot of good values. This is shown when he talks in front of several people about himself.

Lord Illingworth: I have been discovering all kinds of beautiful qualities in my own nature (Act III Page 119).

The other interesting thing from Lord Illingworth’s character is that he is considers honour and money more than anyone. In his past life, Lord Illingworth has ever done wrong thing. He makes Rachel, or Mrs. Arbuthnot, pregnant. When
Lord Illingworth know that she is pregnant, he does not want to marry her. When Mrs. Arbuthnot ask for his responsibility, Lord Illingworth answer it that it is Mrs Arbuthnot's mistake. Lord Illingworth’s mother thinks that he can responsible for it by giving Mrs. Arbuthnot a sum of money through his mother. That idea is agreed by Lord Illingworth. It is proved that Lord Illingworth thinks that money is more valuable than anyone else even it is more than the person who is loved by him at that time.

Lord Illingworth: My dear Rachel, generalities are always interesting, but generalities in morals mean absolutely nothing. As for saying I left our child to starve, that, of course, is untrue and silly. My mother offered you six hundred a year. But you wouldn’t take anything (Act II Page 89).

Besides relying on his richness, Lord Illingworth also considers that performance is more important than person’s personality. According to him, the performance shows someone’s personality.

Lord Illingworth: People nowadays are absolutely superficial that they don’t understand the philosophy of the superficial. By the way, Gerald, you should learn how to tie your tie better. Sentiment is all very well for the button-hole. But the essential thing for necktie is style. A well-tied tie is the first serious step in life (Act III Page 105).

The fact that he leaves Mrs. Arbuthnot which is pregnant, shows that he does not respect woman’s quality. At that time, Mrs. Arbuthnot leaves her family so that she can be with Lord Illingworth. The fact that Lord Illingworth does not respect woman is said by his friends. Even, this is also said by Lady Hunstanton, a woman who is known that she has positive thinking of anything.
Lady Hunstanton: Ah yes! - the moral qualities in women-that is the important thing. I am afraid, Caroline, that dear Lord Illingworth doesn’t value the moral qualities in woman as much as he should (Act I Page 15).

Not only a person who talks about Lord Illingworth’s weakness. Lady Stutfield who is always has negative way of thinking says clearly about negative thing in front of Lord Illingworth.

Lady Stutfield: Everyone I know says you are very, very wicked (Act I Page 16).

Kelvil, one of Lord Illingworth’s friends, also says the weakness of Lord Illingworth. He says clearly about what he has thought about Lord Illingworth. He says that Lord Illingworth is a smart man, but he has a wrong understanding about the purity of life.

Kelvil: Lord Illingworth is, of course, a very brilliant man, but he seems to me to be lacking in that fine faith in the nobility and purity of life which is so important in this century (Act I Page 26).

Kelvil does not only say about it. Moreover, he is brave enough to tell that Lord Illingworth considers woman as a toy. In this case, Kelvil has the opposite position to Lord Illingworth because Kelvil very respects of woman.

Kelvil: I am afraid, too, that Lord Illingworth regards woman simply as a toy. Now, I have never regarded woman as a toy. Woman is the intellectual helpmeet of man in public as in private life. Without her we should forget the true ideals (Act I Page 27).

Those statements are also supported by Lord Illingworth’s attitude, which describes that he underestimates woman. Once when he talks with Kelvil and Mrs Allonby, Lord Illingworth says that there is no serious thing in this life except passion.
Lord Illingworth: Quite serious, Mr. Kelvil. (To Mrs. Allonby.) Vulgar habit that is people have nowadays of asking one. After one has given them an idea, whether one is serious or not. Nothing is serious except passion (Act I Page 23).

In the other opportunity, when he talks with Mrs. Allonby about Hester, Lord Illingworth one more time shows that he likes to underestimate woman. Mrs. Allonby and Lord Illingworth have ever bet about Hester. Mrs. Allonby says that Hester will not let herself to be kissed by Lord Illingworth. Lord Illingworth considers it as a challenge. He wants to prove that he is brave enough to kiss Hester.

Mrs. Allonby: Then it is lucky you are not going to kiss her!

In the other occasion when he talks with Gerald Arbuthnot, he underestimates woman one more time. He says that every woman is a rebel.

Lord Illingworth: One should never tell them so, they'd all become good at once. Women are fascinatingly willful sex. Every woman is a rebel, and usually in wild revolt against herself (Act III Page 109).

Mrs. Allonby's challenge is proved by Lord Illingworth when he is only with Hester. Suddenly, Hester runs and shouts that Lord Illingworth tries to insult her. When Hester is running and shouting, this is seen by Gerald Arbuthnot and his mother. This is also shown that Lord Illingworth does not have moral qualities.

Hester: He has insulted me! Horribly insulted me! Save me!
Gerald: Who? Who has dared----? (Lord Illingworth enters at back at stage. Hester breaks from Gerald's arms and points to him.)
Gerald: (He is quite beside himself with rage and indignation.) Lord Illingworth, you have insulted the purest thing on God's earth, a thing as pure as my own mother. You have insulted the woman I love most in the world with my own mother. As there is God in Heaven, I will kill you! (Act III Page 138-139).

Lord Illingworth does not only underestimate woman with his impolite attitude, but he also gossips woman in front of anyone else. When Gerald wants to introduce his mother to Lord Illingworth, Lord Illingworth answers that it is the honour for him. After Lord Illingworth says that, at the same time he sees Mrs. Allonby and says that every mother makes him bored.

Gerald: Lord Illingworth, I want you so much to know my mother.
Lord Illingworth: With the greatest pleasure. (to Mrs. Allonby). I'll be back in a moment. People's mothers always bore me to death. All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy (Act II Page 81).

A.3. Hester

Hester is a young American lady who has different culture from the English society. In English society the one who says his or her feeling is taboo. But Hester several times does it. She likes to tell about what she feels honestly. When she does not like anything, she does not want to cover it, and when she likes something she also says it. For example when she does not like Mrs. Allonby, she tells it in front of the people.

Hester: I dislike Mrs. Allonby. I dislike her more than I can say (Act I Page 3).

She has her own thought which is different from what English society thought. When English people is not used to tell about man, Hester is used to.
Hester: Mrs. Arbuthnot has a beautiful nature. It is so simple, so sincere. He has one of the most beautiful nature I have ever come across. It is priviledge to meet him.
Lady Caroline: It is not customary in England, Miss Worsley, for a young lady to speak with such enthusiasm og any person of the opposite sex. English women conceal their feelings till after they are married. They show them then (Act I Page 4).

In English society, a close relationship between a man and a woman isn’t suggested.

Hester: Do you, in England, allow no friendship to exist between a young man and a young girl? (Enter Lady Hunstanton, followed by footman with shawls and a cushion.)
Lady Caroline: We think it very inadvisable... (Act I Page 5).

Hester is not only very brave enough to tell her opinion about a man, she is also brave to tell different things between English society’s opinion and her opinion.

Mrs. Allonby: Don’t find yourself longing for a London dinner-party?
Hester: I dislike London dinner party.
Mrs. Allonby: I adore them. The clever people never listen, and the stupid people never talk.
Hester: I think the stupid people talk a great deal (Act I Page 35).

Hester also tells that there are stages of life in her country as in else where. Nevertheless, Hester does not take it as a problem. She does not care about the differences between rich man and poor man. She only tells that actually United States consists of good woman and good man.

Lady Hunstanton: I hear you have such pleasant society in America. Quite like our own in places, my son wrote to me.
Hester: There are cliques in America as else where, Lady Hunstanton. But true American society consists simply of
all the good woman and good man we have in our country
(Act II Page 64-65).

Hester criticizes English society that does not know how to live a life.

Even, Hester tells them that English society is foolish.

Hester: (Standing by table) We are trying to build up life,
Lady Hustanton, on a better, truer, purer basis than life rests
on here. This sounds strange to you all, no doubt. How
could it sound other than strange? You rich people in
England, you don’t know how you are living. How could
you know? You shut out from your society the gentle and
the good. You laugh at the simple and the pure... You have
lost life secret. Oh, your English society seems to me
shallow, selfish, foolish... (Act II Page 67).

She is an extrovert woman. She is honest woman. That is Hester’s
personality. She brings different colour in English society.

A.4. Lady Caroline

The next character we will discuss is Lady Caroline’s character. Lady
Caroline is a woman who proud of her country. She tells that environment around
her is very fascinating. She is not afraid to tell that in front of Hester even when
Hester says that she prouds of her country too.

Lady Caroline: ...Well, you couldn’t come to a more
charming place than this, Miss Worsley, though the house
is excessively damp, quite unpardonably damp, and dear
Lady hunsiantin is sometimes a little lax about the people
she asks down here.... (Act I Page 2).

Lady Caroline is Sir John’s wife. She cares about his husband so much
even when it is related to small things. From her statements, she treats her
husband as a little child who has to be cared for all the time. She is afraid what
will happen with her husband when she is not with him.
Lady Caroline: ...(To Sir John.) John, you should have your muffler. What is the use of my always knitting mufflers for you, if you won’t wear them? (Act I Page 2).

Not only a time she tells about it. She even tells it several times until Sir John also several times convinces Lady Caroline that he is fine.

Lady Caroline: John, the grass is too damp for you. You had better go and put on your overshoes at once.
Sir John: I am quite comfortable, Caroline, I assure you (Act I Page 10).

Lady Caroline is also a woman who has negative way of thinking about other opinion. She is a woman who likes to tell everything honestly. When she does not agree about something, she can have synical attitude toward it. Once when Lady Huntstanton, her friend, tells about Lord Illingworth that Lord Illingworth will work in diplomacy, Lady Caroline does not agree about it. According to her, the country must be represented with married man, not an unmarried man. Lord Illingworth is not married yet.

Lady Hunstanton: I fancy, Caroline, that Diplomacy is what Lord Illingworth is aiming at. I heard that he was offered Vienna. But that may not be true.
Lady Caroline: I don’t think that England should be represented abroad by an unmarried man, Jean. It might lead to complication (Act I Page 8).

Lady Caroline also does not like Hester. This is shown through what her reward to what Lady Hunstanton says. Lady Hunstanton says that Hester is an American woman who is beautifull but Lady Caroline comments it sinically.

Lady Hunstanton: He is an admirable young man. And his mother is one of mu dearest friends. He has just gone for a walk with our preety American. She is very preety, is she not?
Lady Caroline: Far too pretty. This American girl carry of all the good matches. Why can’t they stay in their own
country. They are always telling us it is the paradise of woman (Act I Page 17).

Lady Caroline has thought that a man has to see that part of others. It is just because this is safer to do it until one knows that others are fine.

Lady Stutfied: Do you really, really think, Lady Caroline, that one should believe evil of everyone?
Lady Caroline: I think it is much safer to do so, Lady Stutfied. Until, of course, people are found out to be good. But the requires a great deal of investigation nowadays (Act I Page 26).

Lady Caroline likes femininity so much. According to her, femininity is the most pleasing thing in woman. It is shown when she talks to Lady Hunstanton.

Lady Caroline: ... Femininity is the quality I admire most in woman (Act I Page 31).

Nevertheless, she also has an opinion that a woman must have taken care of man and place in a proper place. When Lady Stutfied says that man does not have feeling and he only uses his power, Lady Caroline says that that thing is not worthy enough to be considered.

Lady Stutfied: It seems to me that it is we who are always trying to escape from them. Men are so very, very heartless. They know their power and use it.
Lady Caroline: (Takes coffee from servant.) What stuff and nonsense all this about men is! The thing to do is to keep man in their proper place (Act II Page 48).

Moreover she only says that a husband does not do anything. He only provides the cost which are needed by a family. It shows that Lady Caroline has a monoton life. Lady Caroline is a stable woman.

Lady Caroline: As far as I can see, he is to do nothing but pay bills and compliments (Act II Page 60).
A.5. **Lady Hunstanton**

Lady Hunstanton is a kind rich woman. She often arranges parties in her house and invites her friends. Lady Hunstanton likes to appreciate her friends.

Lady Caroline: ...Jane, I was just saying what a pleasant party you have asked us to meet. You have a wonderful power of selection. It is quite a gift.
Lady Hunstanton: Dear Caroline, how kind of you! I think we all do fit in very nicely together. And I hope our charming American visitor will carry back pleasant recollections of our English country life... (Act I Page 5).

She does not only praise Lady Caroline, she also appreciates Lord Illingworth. When Lord Illingworth offers a job to Gerald Arbuthnot, she convinces that Gerald Arbuthnot's mother will feel very happy to hear it.

Gerald: Lady Hunstanton, I have such a good news to tell you. Lord Illingworth has just offered to make me his secretary.
Lady Hunstanton: His secretary? That is good news indeed, Gerald. It means a very brilliant future instore for you. Your dear mother will be delighted. I really must try to induce her to come up here tonight. Do you think she would, Gerald? I know how difficult it is to get her to go anywhere (Act I Page 6).

Nevertheless, Lady Hunstanton comments other people when Mrs. Allonby says a rough thing about man. It is shown that Lady Hunstanton does not like a rough thing.

Mrs. Allonby: Just as far as the conservatory. Lord Illingworth told me this morning that there was an orchid there as beautiful as the seven deadly sins.
Lady Hunstanton: My dear, I hope there is nothing of the kind. I will certainly speak to the gardener... 
Lady Caroline: Remarkable type, Mrs. Allonby.
Lady Hunstanton: She lets her clever tongue run away with her sometimes (Act I Page 24-25).

That is all the personality of Lady Hunstanton.
A.6. Mrs. Arbuthnot

Gerald Arbuthnot has a mother who loves him so much. She is Mrs. Arbuthnot. When she was young, Mrs. Arbuthnot was an innocent girl. She loved a man named George Harford. As she loved him so much, she would do everything to be with George Harford. From their an unofficial relationship, Gerald Arbuthnot was born. When Gerald Arbuthnot was born, Mrs. Arbuthnot pushed George Hardford to marry her. She also wanted George Hardford to give his name to show that Gerald Arbuthnot was his son. But, George Hardford refused it. George Hardford’s father had ever command him to marry Mrs. Arbuthnot. But, George Hardford still refused it. When George Hardford’s mother knew that his son made a young girl pregnant, she wanted to give a sum of money to the girl. Mrs Arbuthnot as a young girl who was pregnant, refused the offering. Not even a cent she received from George Hardford’s family because she felt underestimated. Because George Hardford did not want to give the son his name, and because of George Hardford’s family treated her badly, Mrs. Arbuthnot decided to leave George Hardford. Because of his bitter experience of being with George Hardford, she decided to grow her own child by herself. She grew up as a mature woman which was so introvert, especially if there are things which are related to her past life. This is shown when Gerald talks to Lord Illingworth.

Gerald: It is very curious, my mother never talks to me about my father. I sometimes think she must have married beneath her.

Lord Illingworth: (winces slightly.) Really? (Goes over and puts his hands on Gerald’s shoulder.) You have missed not having a father. I suppose Gerald? (Act III page 103).
Gerald Arbuthnot's statements above shows that his mother is a secretive woman. Mrs. Arbuthnot does not want to tell about Gerald's father because she does not want Gerald to be ashamed. Not only she is introvert, Mrs. Arbuthnot is a woman who does not like to socialize with others. She rarely socializes with her friends. It is told by her friend, Lady Hunstanton.

Lady Hunstanton: ... I really must try and induce her to come up here tonight. Do you think she would, Gerald? I know how difficult it is to get her to go anywhere (Act I page 6).

Even her friends have known that Mrs. Arbuthnot does not like to talk to her neighbour. Mrs. Arbuthnot actually realizes that she lives lonely and does not like to socialize. She meets people around her very rarely. She is a lonely woman.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: I'm afraid I don't. I live so much out of the world, and see so few people.... (Act II Page 73).

The other effect from her bitter feeling is she becomes selfpity woman. When Gerald Arbuthnot decides to work to Lord Illingworth, Mrs. Arbuthnot does not agree about it. Even she herself asks to Lord Illingworth not to take her son away from her. Mrs. Arbuthnot does not want to miss her happiness being with Gerald Arbuthnot, the only son. Mrs. Arbuthnot does not think deeper about Gerald Arbuthnot's future. She only thinks about herself and her happiness, by commanding Gerald not going with Lord Illingworth.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: George, don't take my son away from me. I have had twenty years of sorrow, and I have only had one thing to love me, only one thing to love... Don't come now and rob me of...of all I have in the whole world. You are so rich in other things. Leave me the little vineyard of my life; leave me the walled-in garden and the well of water... (Act II Page 93).
The other effect from her being bitter is her synical attitude toward people who hurt her, and also toward God. Her synical attitude intends to Lord Illingworth who used to be as George Hardford. Mrs. Arbuthnot says rough thing in front of Lord Illingworth several times.

Lord Illingworth: (putting his hand on Gerald’s shoulder.) Oh, Gerald and I are great friends already, Mrs....Arbuthnot.
Mrs. Arbuthnot: There can be nothing in common between you and my son, Lord Illingworth (Act II Page 82).

Mrs. Arbuthnot agrees with Hester’s opinion, the young American lady, that a woman who has sin has to be punished. She also agrees to the opinion that the sin lady must not have been permitted to join good people in the society.

Hester: I didn’t know you had heard it. But I knew you would agree with me. A woman who has sinned should be punished, shouldn’t she?
Mrs. Arbuthnot: Yes
Hester: She shouldn’t be allowed to come into the society of good man and woman?
Mrs. Arbuthnot: She should not (Act III Page 127).

Moreover, when Hester states that the sin of parents must be linked to the children, Mrs. Arbuthnot also agrees with the opinion. Mrs. Arbuthnot thinks that if there are parents who have sins, the children from the parents automatically have also the sins. According to her, this is God’s terrible role.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: In the same way. And the children, if there are children in the same way also?
Hester: Yes, it is right that the sins of the parents should be visited on the children. It is a just law. It is God’s law.
Mrs. Arbuthnot: It is one of God’s terrible laws (Act III Page 128).
Besides her bitterness toward God, she is actually a religious woman and also close to God. She always teaches Gerald Arbuthnot about God. Lord Illingworth also knows about it. He talks to Gerald about that.

Lord Illingworth: I suppose your mother is very religious and that sort of thing.
Gerald: Oh, yes, she's always going to church (Act III Page 105).

Gerald Arbuthnot agrees with Lord Illingworth statements. When Mrs. Arbuthnot knows that Gerald decides to be Lord Illingworth's private secretary, she refuses Gerald decision. She does not permit Gerald to receive the offering. But later on, she agrees with Gerald Arbuthnot because Gerald has strong willingness to have the position. In her heart, actually she still does not agree with Gerald's decision. She becomes an unstable woman because her statements are changeable. One time she agrees and the other time she does not agree with the decision. Gerald himself is very confused about his mother attitude.

Gerald: Mother, how changeable you are. You don't seem to know your own mind for a single moment. An hour and a half ago in the drawing room you agreed to the whole thing, now you turn round and make objections and try to force me to give up my one chance in life. Yes my one chance...(Act III Page 131).

When Gerald Arbuthnot knows that there is an inappropriate thing between his mother and Lord Illingworth, he pushes his mother to tell him about their relationship. Finally, his mother tells him that Lord Illingworth is actually a cruel man and she does not permit her son to be with Lord Illingworth. At the end of act III, when Hester shouts that there is a man who underestimates her and when Gerald knows that Lord Illingworth is the man who underestimates Hester, so that
he wants to kill him, suddenly his mother tells him not to kill Lord Illingworth because Lord Illingworth is his own father. It shows that she is actually a kind woman.

B. THE WAY THE SOCIETY AND THE FAMILY INFLUENCE

GERALD ARBUTHNOT’S PERSONALITY

B.1. The Society

As stated in Chapter II, society is an organization of people who live in a place around us. In society, there are a lot of people who have various values and desires. In his book, An Introduction to Sociology, Vander Zanden says that society forms can be small community such as a tribal community of several dozen people and it can be large community such as a modern nation-state with hundreds of millions of people (Zanden, 1988:101). What is meant by the society in this analysis is the people who form the society. As this thesis is about the influence of the social condition toward Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development, the analysis is concerned with the people who influence Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development. The people around him are friends and also family.

There is likeness in the society. There is also difference in the society. Both likeness and difference are concerned with values, desires, hopes, and interests. Without likeness, there will not be “the sense of belonging together.” Without the sense of likeness, there also could be no society because of no mutual
recognition. However, society also depends on likeness as it depends on difference (Maciver, 1949:7).

B.1.1. Lord Illingworth

In the beginning of the story, Gerald Arbuthnot does not know that Lord Illingworth is actually his own father. He only lives with his beloved mother. He does not recognize who his father is. Even, when he tries to ask to his mother about it, his mother cannot answer who his father is. In this condition, Gerald is known as a simple young man. He trusts his mother so much.

From the beginning, Gerald only looks at Lord Illingworth as a man who is well-trusted and deserved to be admired. Good position and his ability to talk make Gerald admired him. Although he does not know that Lord Illingworth is his father, Lord Illingworth still influences his life. The existence of Lord Illingworth can bring Gerald into reality. Since he meets Lord Illingworth, Gerald becomes an ambitious man. What is done by Lord Illingworth toward Gerald is like what is done by a father. Justin Pikunas says that:

"The father usually shoulders a major part of discipline and arbitration as children grow. By his authority and discipline he stimulates their reality orientation" (Pikunas, 1969:62).

Lord Illingworth is a man who has an orientation to the reality. This is shown through his conversation with Mrs. Arbuthnot, Gerald's mother.

Lord Illingworth: ...Rachel, I want you to look at this matter from the common-sense point of view, from the point of view of what is best for our son, leaving you and me out of the question. What is our son at present? An underpaid clerk in a small Provincial Bank in a third-rate English town... (Act II Page 91).
Moreover, Lord Illingworth also says that he makes Gerald discontent so that Gerald wants to start his new life, a better life. Lord Illingworth thinks that he gives Gerald hope which is impossible for him before.

Lord Illingworth: Of course, I made him so. Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man or a nation. But I did not leave him with a mere longing for things he could not get. No, I made him a charming offer... (Act II Page 92).

Lord Illingworth’s ability to talk persuades Gerald. He is finally succeeded in persuading Gerald. By his persuasion, Gerald becomes an ambitious man. He does want a better position.

Gerald: I want to make myself a position, to do something... (Act II Page 95).

In the beginning of the story, we can see that Gerald likes Lord Illingworth so much. Lord Illingworth offers him a job to be his private secretary. The offering can be known from Gerald and Lady Hunstanton’s conversation.

Gerald: Lady Hunstanton, I have such good news to tell you. Lord Illingworth has just offered to make me his secretary (Act I Page 6).

The offering makes Gerald happy and proud. Even, he feels that he himself is worthy enough to receive the job. It is shown when Gerald talks to Lady Caroline.

Gerald: It is indeed, Lady Caroline. I trust I shall be able to show myself worthy of it (Act I Page 7).

Moreover, the given offering by Lord Illingworth makes Gerald thinks that the impossible thing before, can be reach right now. He starts to be succeeded in persuading Gerald.
Gerald: Of course I am. It means everything to me—things that were out of the reach of hope before may be within hope’s reach now (Act I Page 7).

Actually, Gerald feels inferior. It is shown from his conversation with Lord Illingworth. But when Lord Illingworth heard it, he gives Gerald more support.

Gerald: But I am so ignorant of the world, Lord Illingworth.
Lord Illingworth: Don’t be afraid Gerald. Remember that you’ve got on your side the most wonderful thing in the world—youth!... (Act III Page 102).

Lord Illingworth’s attitude which support Gerald more makes Gerald feels comfortable. Gerald can talk everything in his heart to Lord Illingworth. Lord Illingworth has already known that Gerald’s mother does not agree with Gerald in fact of receiving the offering. That is why Lord Illingworth tries to win Gerald’s heart by stating the bad side of mothers.

Lord Illingworth: I am quite sure of that. Still I should imagine that most mothers don’t quite understand their sons. Don’t realise, I mean, that a son has ambitions, a desire to see life, to make himself a name... (Act III Page 103).

Moreover, Lord Illingworth has the opinion that inside mother’s love which is so touching, there is also selfishness in it. Lord Illingworth says that in order to make Gerald agree with him. Hearing Lord Illingworth’s statements, Gerald feels less anxious about that. Nevertheless, he finally agrees Lord Illingworth’s opinion.

Lord Illingworth: A mother’s love is very touching, of course, but it is often curiously selfish. I mean, there is a good deal of selfishness in it.
Gerald: (slowly). I suppose there is (Act III Page 104).

Almost all of Lord Illingworth's statements are agreed by Gerald. The supports which are given by Lord Illingworth make Gerald more enthusiastic. Gerald is very happy so that he believes that Lord Illingworth will do everything for him. Gerald trusts him because he does not know the quality of Lord Illingworth. Gerald is blinded by Lord Illingworth's opinions. Gerald only wants a career without considering anything else.

Gerald: .... But I am ambitious. I want something more than that. I want to have a career. I want to do something that will make you proud of me, and Lord Illingworth is going to help me. He is going to do everything for me (Act III Page 131).

Finally, when there is an incident involving Lord Illingworth and Hester, shameful incident, Gerald starts not adoring Lord Illingworth more. This is shown by Gerald by his refusing Lord Illingworth's offering to be his secretary.

Gerald: I have given up my intention of being Lord Illingworth's secretary (Act IV Page 147).

Even, when Hester asks him whether he respects his father or not, Gerald answer her clearly that he despises his father.

Hester: Do you respect the man who is your father?
Gerald: Respect him? I despise him! He is infamous (Act IV Page 164).

There is difference between Lord Illingworth and Gerald Arbuthnot. Gerald is a simple young man, while Lord Illingworth is an ambitious man. Gerald does not have a good position in his job, while Lord Illingworth has a good position in his job. These differences make them having a very long conversation that at last makes Gerald discontent. Gerald starts to understand the reality that he
can have more achievement by receiving Lord Illingworth's offering. This is what Lord Illingworth's aim. As Lord Illingworth is his friend and also his father, this situation is the same as the theory below:

"The father usually shoulders a major part of discipline and arbitration as children grow. by his authority and discipline he stimulates their reality orientation." (Pikunas, 1969:62).

From the explanation above, the writer wants to show that in the beginning of the story, Gerald is a simple young man. He loves his mother so much. His attitudes is changed when he meets Lord Illingworth. The way Lord Illingworth influences Gerald is by persuading and making him discontent, so that he agrees with what Lord Illingworth has said to him. Lord Illingworth always persuades Gerald with statements which are exaggerated. Now, Gerald becomes an ambitious young man. He wants to have a higher position and makes a lot of money. Because of Lord Illingworth's attitude toward Hester, Gerald starts to realize that he is wrong. Finally, at the end of the story, what Lord Illingworth has said is refused by Gerald.

B.1.2. Hester

At the beginning of the story, it is known that Hester likes Gerald Arbuthnot. It is shown from the statements about her feelings toward Gerald Arbuthnot.

Hester: Mr. Arbuthnot is very charming (Act I Page 3-4).

Even, she shows her interest to Gerald twice.

Hester: Mr. Arbuthnot has a beautiful nature! He is so simple, so sincere. He has one of the most beautiful natures
I have ever come across. It is a privilege to meet him (Act I Page 4).

From the beginning, Gerald is also shown interested in Hester. Once, when Gerald is offered a job by Lord Illingworth, Almost everyone congratulate him. At that time, Hester has not congratulated him yet. Gerald wants Hester congratulate him.

Gerald: (to Hester). You have not congratulated me yet, Miss Worsley (Act I Page 7).

Hester has wider thoughts about many things. What Hester thought is not often thought by anyone around her. Gerald says that the job makes him more confident that something in his past is impossible for him, now it can be reached. Gerald states that the offering opens his mind for a higher thing that cannot be reached before. Hearing his statements, Hester has a different opinion. Hester says that nothing is impossible because life is always a hope. She states that there always be a hope in life. The hope will erase the impossible things.

Gerald: Of course I am. It means everything to me—things that were out of the reach of hope before may be within hope’s reach now.
Hester: Nothing should be out of the reach of hope. Life is a hope (Act I Page 7).

This is shown that Gerald and Hester can complete each other and also can take and give opinions about something. They are peers who can influence each other. Justin pikunas says that:

"Most persons enjoy associating with those who are similar in age, maturity, and status." (Pikunas, 1969:66).
Hester is so valuable for Gerald so that Gerald will do everything for her. It is shown when Hester is insulted by Lord Illingworth, he wants to kill Lord Illingworth although Lord Illingworth has offered him a good job.

Gerald: Lord Illingworth, you have insulted the purest thing on God’s earth, a thing as pure as my own mother. As there is a God in heaven, I will kill you. (Act III Page 139).

Time goes by. When Gerald asks his mother to marry Lord Illingworth, Hester refuses that idea and defends Mrs. Arbuthnot’s opinion. She even asks Mrs. Arbuthnot to leave the country and go to her country.

Gerald: ...I can’t help it... you must become my father’s wife. You must marry him. It is your duty. Hester: No, no; you shall not. That would be the real dishonour, the first you have ever known. That would be real disgrace; the first to touch you. Leave him and come with me. There are other countries than England.... (Act IV Page 162-163).

The honest statements of Hester make Gerald love more his mother and also Hester. Hester says that Gerald cannot love her unless he loves his mother.

Hester: (waving him back). Don’t, don’t! You cannot love me at all unless you love her also. You cannot honour me, unless she’s hollier to you.... (Act IV Page 163).

The statements again make Gerald realize something. It makes Gerald confused of what he is going to do.


Hearing that, Hester says to Gerald to ask his own heart about what should be done. This makes Gerald afraid of losing his mother. He respects more to his mother.

Gerald: You are my mother and my father all in one. I need no second parent... (Act IV Page 165).
There is likeness between Hester and Gerald Arbuthnot. They are approximately at the same age. They are young. There is also a difference between them. Gerald has a narrow way of thinking, while Hester has a wider way of thinking. Her way of thinking influences Gerald. She gives him different opinions about something.

At the beginning of the story, Gerald is a simple man. When he meets Hester, he starts to be different. From the explanation above, we can understand that Hester’s statements influence Gerald’s attitude. Hester influences Gerald by making statements which make Gerald think deeper. She also influences Gerald by her love and her attention. Gerald, who is so ambitious, now realizes that there is something more valuable than the career. The more valuable things are his mother and also Hester.

Once again, this is proved that peers’ opinion is very important.

"Peers modify the child’s thoughts, feelings, and aspirations as he learns to give and take, to wait for his turn, and to win and lose gracefully (Hartup, Glaser, & Charlesworth, 1967).” (Pikunas, 1969:66).

B.1.3. Lady Caroline

As the writer states in the review of society, Justin Pikunas says that cultural traits can influence someone’s personality.

"Cultural traits, norms, and expectations influence everyday living and special occasions alike.”(Pikunas,1969:73).

Lady Caroline is a woman who takes important thing in behaving. The attitude of the society’s members influence everyday’s living. The society around
Gerald is a society which has good etiquettes. By saying good statements, Lady Caroline influences Gerald.

From the beginning of the story, Lady Caroline supports Gerald so much. When she hears that Lord Illingworth has offered Gerald to be his private secretary, she states her happiness to Gerald.

Lady Caroline: That is a wonderfull opening for so young a man as you are, Mr. Arbuthnot (Act I Page 7).

What Lady Caroline says above makes Gerald happy. He has more self-confident.

Gerald: It is indeed, Lady Caroline. I trust I shall be able to show myself worthy of it (Act I Page 7).

Gerald is so happy when Lady Caroline congratulates him. Gerald even says about it to Lord Illingworth.

Gerald: Lord Illingworth, everyone has been congratulating me, Lady Hunstanton and Lady Caroline, and...everyone. I hope I shall make a good secretary (Act I Page 34).

Lady Caroline has the same desire with the people around her toward Gerald. She wants Gerald to have a better position so that he can make a lot of money. Gerald himself wants to make his mother proud of him by taking the offering. Her opinion makes Gerald supported so much. Gerald who did not have a desire to have a better job becomes more ambitious and has a better self-confidence. Moreover, it is supported by Lady Caroline. Her support means so much to Gerald.

From the explanation above, the writer wants to show that the way Lady Caroline influences Gerald is by stating good statements which are support Gerald
so that Gerald feels supported. Her caring and her attention makes Gerald happy. Nevertheless, finally Gerald does not take her opinion seriously. He refuses Lord Illingworth's offering.

B.1.4. Lady Hunstanton

Lady Hunstanton is a type of woman who is well-behaved. Her attitudes make the others comfort. Lady Hunstanton as a woman from the upper class simply has an aristocrat attitude. She is very kind of others. From Lady Hunstanton's character, we have known that Lady Hunstanton believes good of everyone. It is shown when Lady Caroline, her friends, talks to several persons about it. Lady Hunstanton traits influence Gerald's personality. Pikunas, in his book Human Development: An Emergent Science, says that cultural traits influence everday living (Pikunas, 1969:73).

Lady Caroline: You believe good of everyone, Jane. It is a great fault (Act I Page 25).

She has been known as a kind woman. She supports Gerald when Gerald is offered by Lord Illingworth to become his secretary.

Lady Hunstanton:...I have written a line to your dear mother, Gerald, to tell her your good news, and to say she really must come to dinner (Act I Page 8-9).

That is why Gerald is so happy. It is because Lady Hunstanton gives him attention.

Gerald: That is awfully kind of you, Lady Hunstanton. (To Hester.) Will you come for a stroll, Miss worsley? (Act I Page 9).

Gerald feels so happy so that he tells Lord Illingworth that everyone congratulates him for being Lord Illingworth's secretary.
Gerald: Lord Illingworth, everyone has been congratulating me, Lady Hunstanton and Lady Caroline, and... everyone. I hope I shall make a good secretary (Act I Page 3-4).

In act IV, when Lady Hunstanton talks about Gerald's new job, Gerald states that he has given up his willingness to become Lord Illingworth's secretary. Hearing that, Lady Hunstanton feels sorry. She cannot believe why Gerald decides to do it.

Lady Hunstanton: She is quite incorrigible, Gerald, isn't she? By-the-by, Gerald, I hope your dear mother will come and see me more often now. You and Lord Illingworth start almost immediately, don't you?
Gerald: I have given up my intention of being Lord Illingworth's secretary.
Lady Hunstanton: Surely not, Gerald! It would be most unwise of you. What reason can you have?
Gerald: I don't think I should be suitable for the post (Act IV Page 146-147).

Even, Lady Hunstanton says that Gerald's rejection of being Lord Illingworth's secretary is not right.

Lady Hunstanton: But, my dear Gerald, at your age you shouldn't have any views of life. They are quite out of place. You must be guided by others in this matter... (Act IV Page 148).

When Gerald says that he will not leave his mother for the job, Lady Hunstanton states that it is Gerald's laziness.

Gerald: I don't wish to leave my mother.
Lady Hunstanton: Now, Gerald, that is pure laziness on your part. Not leave your mother! If I were your mother, I would insist on your going (Act IV Page 149).

From the explanation above, we know that Lady Hunstanton treating Gerald well. She supports Gerald to reach his dream. By her caring, Gerald feels supported. With her support, Gerald has a higher desire in his life. In the last act,
when Gerald gives up his attention of being Lord Illingworth’s secretary, Lady Hunstanton still support him. In this condition, her support does not influence Gerald as it is before. Finally he decides to give up Lord Illingworth’s offering.

B.2. The Family (Mrs. Arbuthnot)

In the beginning of the story, the character named Mrs. Arbuthnot is rarely told. She is told when Gerald is offered the job by Lord Illingworth. Gerald believes that his mother will be happy and support him to receive the offering. Lady Hunstanton is very happy so that she sends a letter to Mrs. Arbuthnot telling the offering.

Gerald introduces his mother to Lord Illingworth. That is the first time for Mrs. Arbuthnot to speak synically to Lord Illingworth. This shows that she has cynical attitude toward certain persons.

Lord Illingworth: (Putting his hand on Gerald’s shoulder.)
Oh, Gerald and I are great friends already,
Mrs…. Arbuthnot.
Mrs Arbuthnot: There can be nothing in common between you and my son, Lord Illingworth (Act II Page 82).

The attitude of Mrs. Arbuthnot annoys Gerald. Gerald is dissapointed with what Mrs. Arbuthnot says toward Lord Illingworth.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: There can be nothing in common between you and my son, Lord Illingworth.
Gerald: Dear mother, how can you say so? Of course Lord Illingworth is awfully clever and that sort of thing. There is nothing Lord Illingworth doesn’t know.. (Act II Page 82-83).

Gerald’s statements above shows that he starts to take the opposite side to his mother. Actually, Gerald loves his mother so much. He does not ever think
bad thing about his mother before his mother meets Lord Illingworth. He is
dissapointed toward his mother. That occasion is similar to what Pikunas states.
He states that the emotional condition and social development of the children are
influenced by the mother’s attitudes.

“The psychosocial development and emotional security of
the child are based on the mother’s reasonably consistent,

Mrs. Arbuthnot does not agree with Gerald decision to receive the job.

Gerald: He knows more about life than anyone I have ever
met. I feel an awful duffer when I am with you, Lord
Illingworth. Of course, I have had so few advantages. I
have not been to Eton or Oxford like other chaps. But Lord
Illingworth doesn’t seem to mind that. He has been awfully
good to me, mother.
Mrs. Arbuthnot: Lord Illingworth may change his mind. He
may not really want you as his secretary (Act II Page 83).

Mrs. Arbuthnot statements disturb Gerald’s happiness. Gerald even starts
to persuade Lord Illingworth to speak with his mother again. Gerald wants Lord
Illingworth to convince his mother that Lord Illingworth really wants to have
Gerald in that position.

Gerald: (to Lord Illingworth). Do speak to my mother, Lord
Illingworth, before you go into the music room. She seems
to think, somehow, you don’t mean what you said to me
(Act II Page 85-86).

Gerald’s asking makes Lord Illingworth decides to have more
conversation with Mrs. Arbuthnot. But the answer of Mrs. Arbuthnot is still the
same. She does not permit Gerald to leave her to come with Lord Illingworth.
When Gerald asks about Mrs. Arbuthnot’s attitude, she only looks for reasons so
that Gerald will not leave her. It shows that Mrs. Arbuthnot is a selfish woman.
Gerald: Why, mother?
Mrs. Arbuthnot: I thought you were quite happy here with me, Gerald. I didn’t know you were so anxious to leave me (Act II Page 95).

Nevertheless, Gerald does not change his mind. He still wants the position so that his mother cannot say anything.

Gerald looks very happy with the offering. His mother becomes more synical toward Gerald. What Mrs. Arbuthnot says shows that she does not agree with what Gerald thought. Because Gerald knows that his mother does not agree, Gerald does not only argues with his mother but also talks synically toward his mother right now. He even defends Lord Illingworth in front of his mother.

Gerald: Don’t put it like that, mother. Of course I am sorry to leave you. Why, you are the best mother in the whole world. But after all, as Lord Illingworth says, it is impossible to leave in such a place as Wrockley. You don’t mind it. But I’m ambitious; I want something more than that. I want to have more career. I want to do something that will make you proud of me, and Lord Illingworth is going to help me. He is going to do everything for me (Act III Page 131).

Because she feels that she cannot argue Gerald with her ridiculous words, she starts beg to Gerald not to leave her. The changeable attitude of Mrs. Arbuthnot really makes Gerald annoys. That is why Gerald is braver to defend his opinion in front of his mother. Gerald even says clearly that he wants to have the job because it is the only opportunity in his life.

Gerald: Mother, how changeable you are! You don’t seem to know your own mind for a single moment. An hour and a half ago in the drawing room, you agreed to the whole thing; now you turn round and make objection, and try to force me to give up my one chance in life. Yes, my one chance…. (Act III Page 131-132).
Moreover, the effect of Mrs. Arbuthnot attitude is Gerald’s braveness to blame his mother.

Gerald: ....You have told me that the world is a wicked place, that success is not worth having, that society is shallow, and all that sort of thing—well, I don’t believe it, mother. I think the world must be delightful. I think society must be exquisite. I think success is a thing worth having. You have been wrong in all you taught me, mother, quite wrong. Lord Illingworth is a successful man... (Act III Page 133).

Nevertheless, Gerald still uses his mind. Gerald asks his mother about what his mother’s objection to Lord Illingworth. Mrs. Arbuthnot only answers that Lord Illingworth is bad.

Gerald: Mother, what is your objection to Lord Illingworth? Tell me----tell me right out. What is it?
Mrs. Arbuthnot: He is a bad man (Act III Page 133-134).

Gerald, finally decides if there is something disgraceful about Lord Illingworth, he will not go with him.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: What this man has been, he is now, and will be always.
Gerald: Mother, tell me what Lord Illingworth did? If he did anything shameful, I will not go away with him. Surely you know me well enough for that? (Act III Page 135).

Mrs. Arbuthnot tells him that it was a girl who loves Lord Illingworth so much so that she left her parents to be with Lord Illingworth. When the relationship went far, the girl was pregnant. The girl asked Lord Illingworth to give his name, but he refused it. Because of being refused, she decided to leave Lord Illingworth. She tried to grow the children up by herself. When Gerald hears the story, he feels sorry.
Gerald pushes his mother to marry Lord Illingworth. But, Mrs. Arbuthnot does not want to marry him. She starts to use her status as Gerald’s mother to refuse what Gerald wants.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: I refuse to marry Lord Illingworth.
Gerald: If he came to you himself and asked you to be his wife you would give him a different answer. Remember, he is my father.
Mrs. Arbuthnot: If he came himself, which he will not do, my answer would be the same. Remember, I am your mother (Act IV Page 156).

In her long conversation with Gerald, Mrs. Arbuthnot explains how much she loves Gerald.

Mrs. Arbuthnot: .... Gerald, when you were naked I clothed you, when you were hungry gave you food. Night and day all that long winter I tended you. No office is too mean, no care too lowly for the thing we women love—and oh! How I loved you... (Act IV Page 159-160).

When Gerald hears that, Gerald becomes aware that his mother loves him so much. Finally, Gerald can understand his mother's attitude and ask her to forgive him.

Gerald: (Rushes over and kneels down beside his mother.) Mother, forgive me: I have been to blame (Act IV Page 165).

Pikunus says that when mother and children share a lot of time together, it can strengthen their relationship. A close relationship gives them more advantage than when they rarely share their time together.

"Each year of full-time mothering tends to pay large dividends to both mother and children.” (Pikunus 1969:61).

At the beginning of the story, we know that Gerald loves his mother so much so that he can do all things to his mother. He only wants to make his mother
happy. He is a very good man. He adores his mother so much. Gerald starts to change when he is offered a job by Lord Illingworth.

From the explanation above, we can understand that Mrs. Arbuthnot tries to make Gerald refusing the offering by showing synicall attitudes toward Lord Illingworth and also toward him. In this condition, Gerald fells that his mother does not support him to have a better position. His mother opinion and attitudes make him annoyed. He starts to be brave enough to argue his mother’s opinion. Realizing that her attitude does not change Gerald’s decision, she starts to beg Gerald not to receive the offering. The attitude of Mrs. Arbuthnot makes Gerald think what is the matter with Lord Illingworth. He starts to think deeper of what has happened before. He asks his mother about Lord Illingworth and tries to understand her. Finally, seeing his mother’s love and caring, Gerald decides to refuse the offering. He realizes that is mother is more important than the offering job.

C. THE AUTHOR’S MESSAGES THROUGH THE CHARACTERS AND THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF GERALD ARBUTHNOT

After reading this drama, the writer considers that through Oscar Wilde’s work, the author wants to give several messages to the readers. In this thesis, the writer tries to get the messages through Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development.

Gerald Arbuthnot, one of many characters in this drama, belongs to lower society. In the beginning of the story, the author describes the simplicity of Gerald
Arbuthnot’s life. Gerald Arbuthnot and his mother live together in happiness at a simple house. There is nothing special in Gerald and his mother’s life.

The author describes Gerald as simple man and a hard-worker person. Gerald works in a small provincial bank. His income is used to pay his needs and his mother’s. Gerald does not think to get a better job or a better position.

Still in the beginning of the story, in the middle of Chapter I, Gerald is described as a happy person. Gerald gets an offering from Lord Illingworth to become his private secretary. When he gets the offering, that is the first time he thinks that his life can be changed better. This offering makes Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality change. He becomes a young ambitious man and starts to be brave enough to argue his mother’s opinion. The author describes how Gerald’s effort in asking his mother’s opinion so that she gives permission to Gerald to have the new position.

At the end of the story, the author creates a tragic ending in this drama. Gerald’s ambition cannot be reached because finally his heart is changed with his mother’s story about Lord Illingworth. Gerald Arbuthnot’s ambition is too high so that he does not consider his mother’s opinion.

The writer also gets several moral messages from Gerald arbuthnot’s character and other characters. In this drama, Gerald is offered a higher position by Lord Illingworth. Lord Illingworth tries to persuade him with his good arguments so that Gerald is interested with his offering. When Gerald hears Lord Illingworth’s opinion, his willingness to get a new higher position is appeared. Considering his youth, the willingness to get the better life through the new job
becomes a motivation for him to have a high ambition. He is too ambitious so that he thinks that position and money can buy anything. High position will produce high income so that he can make his mother and himself happier. He also thinks if he gets the job, Hester can be proposed. Gerald has that kind of thought because Lord Illingworth has succeeded in persuading him with many good statements which are seen so wise. From his attitude, we can study that the author wants to give messages that happiness cannot be reached by only a high position. The author wants to tell us that there are other things besides position and money which can support the happiness.

The author wants to show to the readers that in this life, we need to consider with healthy mind about all offerings or all things which are seen well. In one side, the offering promises all good things. But in the other side, that offering has also bad side, the sacrifice of peoples who we love so much.

We need to ask for others’ opinion in deciding something. Those people will give us all the good side and the bad side of our decision. There are people who support our decision and several people do not. Of course, the decision itself depends on ourselves. We have right to have our own decision. Nevertheless, we need to consider first the people’s opinion.

We can learn something from Gerald’s character. Gerald may become a rich man with a high position, and loved by people when he chooses to receive Lord Illingworth’s offering. Nevertheless, there are people who he loves that will be hurt if he decides to have the job. Those people are his mother and also Hester. Hester is not a materialistic woman so that she is blind with a high position. She is
only interested in Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality who is charming without considering his social status. Nevertheless, finally Gerald does not receive the offering because he sees Lord Illingworth’s bad attitudes. The richness and the higher position cannot pay anything.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After the writer has finished analyzing the problems in *A Woman Of No Importance*, she comes into conclusion. In the drama, Gerald Arbuthnot’s personality development is developed because of some factors in social condition. His personality development is started when he meets Lord Illingworth and is offered to be Lord Illingworth’s private secretary. Some factors that make his personality developed come from the social condition, the society members. All of them have changed his mind, thinking, and behaving.

The social condition or the members of the society which influence Gerald’s personality are: Lord Illingworth, Hester, Lady Caroline, Lady Hunstanton, and Mrs. Arbuthnot. We have already known that Lord Illingworth is Gerald’s father. Lord Illingworth has a very good position in the House of Lords. Since he knows that Gerald has only a post in a bank, Lord Illingworth offers him a position to be his secretary. Through some conversations with Gerald, finally he can attract Gerald’s attention to leave his position in the bank and also to leave his own mother. He decides to take Lord Illingworth’s offering. In this condition, Gerald who used to be as a very simple person with no high desire in life becomes more ambitious now. His attitude changes. He has more self-confidence. He has a big desire to have a better job. He admires lord Illingworth so much. He does not listen to what his mother says. He starts to realize the reality when Lord
Illingworth insults Hester. Seeing the fact, Gerald becomes think deeper. In addition, when his mother tells him about her past life with Lord Illingworth, he realizes that his decision is not right. He chooses to be with his mother than Lord Illingworth.

We have already known that Hester is a unique woman who is different from English society. She is very extrovert woman. Hester is brave to tell what she think and what she feels. When she likes or dislikes something, she will tell honestly. She influences Gerald with her caring. Gerald and Hester have approximately the same age. They are young. Hester's opinion make Gerald think wider than before. When Gerald becomes so ambitious, Hester remains him by being with his mother. Hester tries to be in his mother's position. This condition makes Gerald think wider of what has happened. His way of thinking becomes different when he meets Hester. He starts to understand his mother's feeling.

It is different from Lady Caroline. Lady Caroline is also a person in English society who influences Gerald Arbuthnot's personality. She is a person who proud of her country. She is also a woman who loves her husband so much. She influences Gerald with her caring and attention. Her support makes Gerald having more self-confidence. He becomes more ambitious. Although Lady Caroline still supports him, finally her support does not affect him anymore.

We have also already known that Lady Hunstanton is a kind and a wise woman. She supports Gerald Arbuthnot in whatever he does. We have already known that at the last act, she still tells Gerald to have the new job. Gerald tells her that he gives up his attention of being Lord Illingworth's private secretary.
Hearing that, she tells him that it is because of his laziness. Finally, her opinion does not change Gerald's decision.

The other factor which develops Gerald's personality is his family. What is meant by the family here is his own mother. His mother is a kind woman. She does not have close relationship with the society around her. Gerald wants to make his mother happy by taking Lord Illingworth's offering. But his mother refuses his decision of having a better position in his job. His mother's opinion makes him annoyed. In addition, when she tells ridiculous word in front of Lord Illingworth, Gerald becomes more annoyed. He starts to be brave enough to argue his mother's opinion. Realizing that her attitudes do not affect Gerald's decision, his mother tries to beg Gerald not to take the offering. This attitude also does not affect Gerald's decision. But, it makes him think deeper about his mother and Lord Illingworth. He asks his mother's rejection to the offering. When his mother tells him about her and Lord Illingworth, finally Gerald feels sorry.

In the story, Gerald's personality develops gradually. It starts from when he is offered to be Lord Illingworth's secretary. Since that time, Gerald feels that he has a very good opportunity. He only thinks about his new life of being with Lord Illingworth. Hearing that offering, Gerald becomes an ambitious man. His life starts to grow with his high dreams, becomes rich and sees the world. The offering changes Gerald's simplicity becomes big ambition. Even, because of his ambition, he is brave to tell what he thinks although it is different from what his mother thinks. He is also brave enough to tell his mother that his mother has taught him wrong things. Gerald becomes brave and so ambitious when he is
offered by Lord Illingworth with wonderfull things. In addition, his decision to be Lord Illingworth’s secretary is supported by Lady Hunstanton and Lady Caroline.

The next development is when Gerald knows that Lord illingworth is not a kind person. Gerald sees Lord Illingworth insulting Hester. Gerald feels very dissapointed with Lord Illingworth. Hester is a person he loves so much beside his mother. His mother finally tells him about her past life with Lord Illingworth. Hearing that story, Gerald feels more dissapointed.

The last development is when he decides to give up Lord Illingworth’s offering. Gerald finally realizes that whole things is out of what he expects before. The wonderful dreams that he has ever thought have no values right now. Gerald realizes that Lord Illingworth is not as good as he thinks. He also realizes that his dream becoming with Lord Illingworth makes his mother hurt. Finally, he only wants to be with his mother and Hester, the people that he loves so much. He just wants to be with them although he does not have a good position and the richness.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


