REVEALING THE MORAL MESSAGE
OF THE CHARACTER SHYLOCK
AS SEEN IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS
Presented as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
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Never Give Up!
For
My Beloved Parents and Family
In the Hope of a Better Future
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ABSTRACT


The writer is interested in revealing the moral message of the character Shylock in William Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice. It is because in a literary work, like for example in Shakespeare’s work. The story sometimes contains moral teaching that can be revealed through the reflection of sequences or acts that happen in the story that can be obtained through examples of what the characters get after certain things that he or she has done. It is because in a plot of a story, there is a cause and effect pattern that shows the character’s development resulting in some examples for us to learn.

Three problems are formulated to analyze the moral message of the character named Shylock. The first is to find out the characteristics of the character Shylock. The second is to find out the plot of the story. The sequences of story from the plot will show how the character experiences some effect resulted from what the character do in the initial part of the story. The importance of it is to show the cause and effect pattern that will become the example for the moral messages. The last one is to reveal the moral message that is reflected from the characteristics and plot of the character Shylock.

The study uses moral-philosophical approach. This approach is considered as the appropriate one as it is concerned with what we can learn from a literary work. The moral philosophical-approach achieves the moral quality through what is seen and learnt from a character inside the story or literary work. Therefore, the study seeks moral messages from the character Shylock through a learning process of what the character does inside the story, which can produce examples to reveal the possible moral messages. In other words, the moral messages are revealed through the reflection of what the character experiences throughout the story.

The study finds out that the character Shylock has an evil characteristic. It is shown in his decision towards the loan agreement between him and Antonio the borrower. He demands Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment. It means that Shylock would kill Antonio if he cannot repay the loan, if Shylock takes a pound of Antonio’s flesh, Antonio would die because of it. The result of his villainy produces a bad luck for him. The case shall go to court because it shall be judged under the Venetian law. In the court, it is revealed that Shylock does not mention that blood may spill in the agreement. Shylock cannot do anything to run away from the consequences. Shylock is proven guilty because of endangering a Venetian citizen’s life, and because of that, he shall lose all of his goods and be converted into Christian. Here, the cause and effect pattern exists. Because he does wrong he will get what he deserves.
ABSTRAK


Penulis tertarik untuk mengungkapkan pesan moral pada karakter Shylock dalam karya William Shakespeare The Merchant of Venice. Ini karena sebuah karya sastra seperti karya Shakespeare, dapat mengandung pelajaran moral yang dapat diungkapkan melalui refleksi dari sekuens atau tindakan – tindakan yang terjadi di dalam cerita, yang dapat dipelajari melalui contoh-contoh tentang apa yang dialami karakter setelah apa yang dia lakukan. Karena dalam sebuah plot cerita, ada sebuah pola sebab akibat yang dapat menunjukkan perkembangan karakter, yang dapat menghasilkan beberapa contoh untuk kita pelajari.

Tiga topik masalah disusun untuk menganalisis pesan moral dari karakter Shylock. Pertama adalah untuk mengetahui karakteristik dari karakter Shylock. Kedua adalah untuk mengetahui plot cerita, untuk menunjukkan pola sebab akibat yang kemudian menjadi contoh dari pesan moral. Terakhir adalah untuk mengetahui pesan moral yang dapat dicerminkan dari karakteristik dan plot dari karakter Shylock.

Pendekatan moral-filosofis adalah salah satu pendekatan yang paling cocok karena membahas tentang apa yang dapat kita pelajari dari sebuah karya literatur. Melalui pendekatan moral-philosophical, kualitas moral tercapai melalui apa yang dapat dilihat dan dipelajari dalam sebuah cerita dalam karya literatur. Maka, studi ini mencari pesan moral dari karakter Shylock melalui proses pembelajaran dari apa yang dilakukan karakter dalam cerita, yang dapat menghasilkan contoh-contoh untuk mengungkapkan pesan moral. Dengan kata lain, pesan moral didapatkan melalui proses pembelajaran dari apa yang dialami oleh karakter Shylock dalam cerita.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Usually people think that reading a literary work is considered easy, but that opinion will be true if the reader is only a text reader who does not need hard effort to read a literary work. In other words, what the reader does is just only reading the text and that is all; he or she will only know the content of the text. It is different from people who are looking for benefit or knowledge through gaining a deep understanding of a text. They will explore more about what is inside and looking for the author’s message that can be revealed through the study of a text. By doing a study on a literary work, hopefully it can give a great advantage especially for the writer who conducts the study, and generally for the readers who read the result of the study.

A written text can be categorized as a literary work. It might be divided into several types. One of them is drama. According to Milly S. Barranger in the book Understanding Plays (1990: 4), a play is defined as “a text” to be read and a script to be performed. The performance of the script is known as drama. She also says that in contrast to novels and poetry, a play is often the most difficult type of literary work to read because it is written not only to be read but also to be performed before an audience. According to Richard Goldstone in Context of the Drama (1960: 10), the essential difference between reading poetry or fiction and drama is that both poetry and fiction relate what the writers saw, felt and imagined
in past time. However, a play is taking place as we see it. By reading a play, we want to learn deeply how to identify the playwright’s order and clarify imitations of real life in a dramatic text.

In reading a play, the reader must depend upon the dialogue that moves the drama forward. Through dialogue understanding, we could build or arrange the situation, plot development, characters development, and emphasize the theme or the meaning of the play, because indirectly the dialogue explain them. The influence of the playwright’s creativity has a great importance in them, the more creative the playwright wills often resulting in a more complex story.

One example of the best playwright ever is William Shakespeare. He was born in 1564, and he is recognized as one of the most influential writer in English literature. Many of his great works has been discussed and even filmed such as *Romeo & Juliet* or *Hamlet*. His chosen work for this thesis is *The Merchant of Venice*.

*The Merchant of Venice* is one literary work, which was written in as a play. Shakespeare wrote sonnets, tragedies, comedies, history plays, tragic comedies, and many great drama scripts that were all written in English. Shakespeare’s aim to write drama was to entertain the audience. His plays were made for performance rather than publications. They were successful as an entertainment. Moreover, they also arouse the moral and philosophical issues of the time. According to John Wilders in his book *Shakespeare the Merchant of Venice* (1969, 11) *The Merchant of Venice* is a ‘Jewish’ play written by
Shakespeare. It might be that anti-Jewish feeling had been running high at that time.

The writer is interested in Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* because the story contains moral message that can be revealed from the antagonist character named Shylock. What happened to him is nearly similar to tragedy, but there is no catharsis as he is an antagonist character. What the audience feels is only thanking god for the justice that had been given to him. Not feeling of sorry or sad. His life turned upside down as he lost his dignity.

Shylock experiences a great loss at the end of the scene; it is happened because of his bad will. He expects a victory for the case although his expectation in gaining victory is resulting in a bad finish for his life. A good will ends in a good result, a bad will ends in a bad result. This is nearly similar to the Javanese moral philosophy that says “*Wong kang nandur bakal ngunduh.*” It means that anyone who did a good thing will gain a good result, and otherwise, anyone who did a bad thing will gain a bad result also.

Before proceeding to the next part, the writer thinks that it is important to provide guidance in order to understand the flow of the analysis. Therefore three possible questions mentioned below, as the problem formulation, will hopefully be able to guide the readers to reach the same result. It is to reveal the moral message from the character Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare.
B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background above, then the writer would like to raise the following problems:

1. How is the character Shylock characterized in the story?
2. How is the plot of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* presented?
3. What is the moral message of character Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*?

C. Objectives of the Study

This study is conducted mainly to find the satisfying answers to the questions in the problem formulation. From those questions, it is expected that the moral message of character Shylock can be found out through the analysis of character and plot.

Analysis of character is firstly done to find out how does the character Shylock appear in the story. The analysis of character can reveals how Shylock looks like, or how good/ bad Shylock is. The analysis of plot is needed in order to find out the structure, and to show the cause and effect pattern in the story. If the cause and effect pattern that exists in the story has been revealed, the moral message then can be revealed, it is because there is always something that we can learn from it.

The last part is to define the moral message. The moral message is revealed through the character’s analysis because the focus is to find out the moral message from the character Shylock through his characterization and plot as seen in William Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*. What happens to the character
in the end of the story is then related to how do the character at the beginning of
the story looks like.

D. Definition of Terms

Atar Semi says, “Moral is a norm, a concept about life, which is highly
honored by a certain large group of society. The morality aspect is a
measurement, which is used to judge whether a man’s action is wrong or right
seen through the goodness and the badness of the society’s way of life (1993: 49).
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

A. B Taylor in his book *The Merchant of Venice* tells that the drama has told something about Jewish. It is also told in his book that in *The Merchant of Venice* written by Shakespeare, readers must be aware of the historical background when the story was written. Taylor stated that in the decade when the play was performed, the audience strongly prejudiced against Jews. The prejudice was not so violent in English as there was smaller number of Jews lived in the Country than in other Continental countries where Jews were more numerous. Yet the practice of usury, which denounced by the Christian Churches were sufficient to inspire strong hatred against the Jewish race (1963: 236).

Draper in *Shakespeare “The Comedies”* stated that *The Merchant of Venice* has a close relationship to religious and racial issue. Furthermore he stated also that *The Merchant of Venice* involves the difference on culture and value, which is reflecting prejudice in Shakespearean day where as told before that the audience in that era had prejudice against Jews and especially the practice of usury in *The Merchant of Venice* (1998: 223).

The figure of Shylock in the setting and how the society treats him encourages Wilder’s interest, which then makes him published his book about *The Merchant of Venice*. He stated that Shylock is a type of persecuted race which generation after generation has been cruelly used, insulted, and executed (1969:
He also stated that although Shylock is a sympathetic character, he is a cruel character, or in other word it can be said that he is a villain character (1969: 21).

Besides the issue about the race-hatred, there is also an issue about judgment and mercy. John Russel Brown in *The Arden Shakespeare* (1959: II) stated that *The Merchant of Venice* written by Shakespeare is one of the most ingenious satires on justice and courts of law in the literature of the world. A. D. Moody in his book *Shakespeare the Merchant of Venice* (1964: 9) also stated that the play is about judgment and mercy too. It seems that some writers think that *The Merchant of Venice* is a play, which is pointing on the law, judgment, and mercy. It can be seen in the plot where the antagonist finally got punishment because of his cruelty, and the protagonist character will finally got mercy because of his goodness.

To get a deeper understanding about the play itself, John Russel Brown in his book *The Arden Shakespeare* (1959: xxxvii) stated that the reader shall aware and see the quality of *The Merchant of Venice* from the characters. He explained that the characters are capable of many interpretations. Then, in order to find out the moral message that can be reflected through the character development of Shylock, one must get a deep understanding on the character’s development and then reflected it through an understanding of morality.

As stated above, many writers are interested or focused on the racial hatred issue or judgment and mercy issue, which is concerning on the content of the story itself. However in this study, the writer will analyze the moral message that can be revealed through the character development of Shylock as seen in
William Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*. Until now, there are no study concerns about similar focus yet. The writer will analyze the character and how he or she is characterized throughout the story, the plot, and then through the understanding of both elements there will be an analysis to reveal the moral message of Shylock character.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theories on Character and Characterization

   In every novel or drama script there are always some characters that exist and become the subject of the story. The topic for this thesis concerns with one of the main characters in the story as the object of the study. Therefore it is necessary to dig in deeper on how the character is characterized in the story.

   E.M Forster, in *Aspects of the novel and Related Writings*, introduced popular new terms for an old distinction in discriminating between flat and round characters. A **flat** character is built around “a single idea or quality” and is presented without much individualizing detail, and therefore adequately described in a single phrase or sentence. A **round character** is complex in temperament and motivation is represented with subtle particularity (1927: 20).

   There is must be a clear idea of how the character is characterized in the story. It is because later in looking for the main purpose in this thesis, in which point is to look for the moral message from the character; character understanding is considered very important for the background. Therefore, to find out how the character is characterized in the story the writer agrees with Murphy in his book
Understanding Unseen (1972:137), that characters must be understandable and come live for his readers. There are nine points stated in this book. They are:

a. **Speech**

   The character’s words will help the readers to achieve some clues about him. Because from what the character said, the readers can have a perception. The character’s speech describes his/her behavior toward other characters and life in the story.

b. **Past life**

   This has a relation to the character’s past life. The author helps the readers by giving a clue to past events or important moments that finally backgrounds the person’s character or character personality.

c. **Conversation of others**

   The readers will achieve some clues about a character’s personality from the other characters conversation.

d. **Reactions**

   A character’s personality can be described through his reaction on different situation or moments. The readers will understand how the character’s quality in dealing with the situations that encounters him/her.

e. **Thought**

   The author describes the character’s personality by stating explicitly about the character’s mind. The author has the ability to tell the readers what are other characters thinking of.
f. **Mannerism**

The readers can understand the character’s personality based on his behavior and his habit either the good or the bad ones. From the description of his behavior and his habit, the readers can conclude the character’s personality.

2. **Theories of Plot**

In a literary work we recognize what is called plot. It is the central aspect of all drama, and it usually concerned with what happens. In this thesis, the analysis of plot is used as a tool to show how the cause and effect of what the character do, to give signs to any things that the character done in the story, which causes him to get something, which will then lead us to reflect the result to reveal the moral message. Reaske (1966: 35) explains that plot is basically another term of structure, the difference being that when we discuss plot we more or less are committed to discussing everything that happens in the play.

Furthermore, in *Aspects of the Novel and Related Writing*, E.M Forster explains the difference between plot and the story. A plot, however, is also a narrative events but it emphasizes on causality. He gives the example as follows. “The King died and then the Queen died” is a story, while “The King died and then the Queen died of grief is a plot. It is clear that plot needs causality while story is merely telling the chronological events. (1927: 60)

In discussing the structure of a plot, Pickering and Hooper (1986: 21-22) divide traditional plot structure into five parts. They are:

a. **Exposition**
Exposition is where the necessary background information sets the scene. The description about the situation and time when the action takes place is given.

b. Complication

This sometimes is referred to as the rising action breaks the existing equilibrium and introducing the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict.

c. Crisis

This is also referred to as climax. It is a moment when the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity, it is the turning point of the plot that may have to its resolution.

d. Falling action

This is the tension subsides once the crisis has been reached and plot moves toward the appointed conclusion.

e. Resolution.

It is the final section of the plot. The outcome of the conflict happens and establishes some new equilibrium or stability. Sometimes it is also referred to as the conclusion or denouement.

3. The Relation between Literature and Morality

The study of literature is more than the other kind of study; it has a relation with the other branch of knowledge disciplines. The diverseness of literature will then bring students to a new experience, which is very useful for the addition of literature knowledge. Literature is various, confronts the students with the opportunity of dealing with an endless stream of fresh and unpredictable
experiences. It is an excellent preparation for later life, especially at the more professional levels where the educated man has to be ready to take on, evaluate, and make decisions about a wide range of diverse problem (Moody, 1971:48).

Literary work always offers moral messages that connected with human’s noble behaviors, struggles for the right and dignity of human being. Those human’s noble behaviors can be displayed through characterization of the attitudes and the behaviors of the characters in the novel (Moody, 1971: 48).

Moody also adds that sometimes the characters will be found to fall into categories of ‘good’ and ‘bad’, or ‘sympathetic’ and ‘unsympathetic’; more often they will seem to possess various degrees of ‘goodness’ and ‘badness’, for most human beings have at least some redeeming features, just nobody is perfect (1947: 48).

The existence of moral value inside a novel is an inevitable aspect or a very important thing and useful for human’s life. The morality value is the lesson of the goodness and the badness of behavior, attitude, and obligation. The moral value that is reflected from the novel itself, revealed to be used as a guide for readers to have a decent personality, and obey the norm in the society.

Morality is a norm or a concept about life, which is highly honored by a certain large group of society. The moral aspect is a measurement, which is used to judge whether a man’s action is wrong or right seen through the goodness and the badness of the society’s way of life. The moral values inside a literary work, thus, can be in the form of manners that is coherent with morality and natural
ability, therefore it can be said that morality is one of the significances, which implied in literary works (Atar Semi, 1993: 49).

The morality values are implicitly exist in a literary work and revealed through reflection from series of events in the plot. It is said that the author of literary works are always put moral value inside together with the plot of the story. Throughout the understanding of the plot, the readers will see the several of attitude and behavior of the characters in the various events. The readers then, by themselves will have a reflection towards the goodness or badness of the attitude or behavior of the characters. The reflection itself can be said as the ‘revealed moral value’, because the reader will try to find out why something can happen, and how something will happen as the result of what he has done. Through the plot of the story, the author can give some clues, advice or moral messages, moral actions with good morality, and also moral characters. Through this, the readers are able to learn and know about the morality value and moral messages so that they are able to apply them into their daily life.

Moral teaching usually produces a good sense of behavior. But when the interest is on the antagonist character, which has a bad tendency, or unpleasant behavior, it is not necessary to act similar to those characters; it can be seen the positive things that can be gained from the bad or unpleasant behavior of the antagonist character. That is how reflection works. The result of the bad deeds of the antagonist character is used as an example for the readers to be thinking of. Is it acceptable? Is it good according to the society norm? Is it right according to the state law?
The moral messages that are intended to be conveyed by the author usually presents the messages that have connection with the relationship between human beings, like friendship, loyalty, love, betrayal, rivalry, or other relation, which include the interaction of human beings. The characters inside the novel itself carry this, with their own personalities and problems in the story. Therefore there is a tight connection between the author and his works with the reality of life in the society such as morality.

4. Theory on Moral

Human being as a social creature needs someone else to live together in a society. In the society itself, there are always norms and values that are meant for the goodness of the people who live in the society. There are several values that exist in the society. One of the values that will be used in this analysis is the moral value. This value is used in the analysis to help to make judgment on the goodness of moral conscience that is presented by Shylock’s character through his characterization and plot of the story.

The terms moral belongs from the Latin plural mores, which means manners or moral (Ross, 1972:68). According to Longman dictionary, moral first concerning or based on principles of right and wrong behavior and the difference between good and evil (1992: 862).

Moral is not just about differentiating between good or bad. It has a deeper meaning than that. In the book, The Domain of Moral Education, Cochrane, Hamm and Kazepides say that moral thinking is about the fundamental value by
which we profess to live. The word *values* means that the things we seriously believe in to be worthy pursuing, the ends that we think to be worth realized and the action which we think worth doing, or which we think important to refrain from doing. They also state that the basic fact from moral thinking starts is that human action are never done in a vacuum but in a context which directly or indirectly involves the person (1979: 7).

Moral is a clue of how to act rightly; to differ from what is good and what is not good. It means that moral refers to the way of how to do good things. Moral action can be learnt from anywhere, like a story or event. If we discuss about moral, we cannot separate ourselves from what is called *morality*. It is the judgment on the action that we do whether it is good or not (Hamm & Kazepides, 1979:7).

If we talk about morality inside a society means that we will talk about morality norms, which exist in human’s society. It means that in this analysis the writer will talk about the rightness of moral action in the society. As stated before that moral is how to do good things and morality is the goodness behind the action. Therefore, although both of these things are similar, they are not totally the same. It is morality that deals with the goodness of the moral action or principles (Ross, 1972: 68).

No one can act upon a moral principle, or precept, or rule, unless he is first aware of it. He must for example, have learnt respect for the property of others if he is to know that he should resist the temptation to take it when safe opportunity offers (Bull, 1969: 5). Since moral refers to a piece of guidance on how to act
properly, this knowledge of respecting the property of others can be considered as moral knowledge. The action of resisting “the temptation to take it when safe opportunity offers” can be called as moral action (1969: 5).

A person can be judge to have a good morality conscience if he does not have any other purpose in helping people. Rachel says in her book, *The Element of Moral Philosophy*, the rule of goodness in moral is not that we ought to help people if we care for them or if we have some other purpose that helping them might serve. Instead, the rule is that we should be helpful to people regardless of our particular wants and desires (1995: 118-119).

The writer concludes that a morality judgment must be backed up by reasons. There must be “a reason why” someone should or not do something. The reason behind his or her moral action must be good, so it will indicate that he or she has a good morality conscience. The reason must be free from his or her desires. Someone’s reason of action is important to indicate that he or she has a good morality conscience or not.

C. Theoretical Framework

Theories chosen above are considered as the suitable theories for the basic of analysis. First, the theory of character and characterization is used to reveal how the character Shylock is characterized in the story. Second, the theory of plot is used to analyze and divide the story into some segments, and through it, the character development of Shylock can be seen; how he starts and how he ends. The third, the relation between literature and morality is also put inside this thesis
because the writer realizes that not all readers aware about the relation between the literature and morality, as those are actually work in different field of knowledge; literature is concerned with texts, how it is written, and what is it inside, while morality is a branch of philosophy which resulted from the experience of life. But somehow, both are related each other. Because the creator of a literary work is a human; and a human always has his or her own ideology, belief, idealism, and socio-historical background that implicitly influenced by the result of a literary work. That is how morality can be related with literature. Theory of moral is used to strengthen the idea of “what is a moral?”, and to serve as the basic for the thesis writer to reveal the moral value that can be reflected from the character Shylock. The concept of moral in story telling will give a basic idea on how stock characters and its interplay in the story becomes the vehicle for the writer to reveal the moral message also. Through the characterizing and plotting process, readers will understand and able to imagine how the character Shylock looks, behaves, and also how the society of Venice judge him as a Venice citizen in the front of Venice citizens who are loyal under the Venetian law and norms.
A. Object of the Study

The object of the study in this thesis is *The Merchant of Venice* written by William Shakespeare in an uncertain date between 1594 and 1597. It entered the Stationers’ register on 22 July 1598. The act 1 scene 1 of *The Merchant of Venice* contains an allusion to the ‘wealthy Andrew dock’d in sand’, which has been accepted as a reference to the San Andrés, a Spanish ship captured during the expedition to Cadiz in 1596. News of this exploit reached court by 30 July 1596, so Shakespeare could not have written *The Merchant of Venice* before that date.

In general, *The Merchant of Venice* is about the case of moneylending between Antonio the money borrower; a Venetian Merchant, and Shylock as a Jewish money lender. Shylock agrees to lend 300 ducats to Antonio in an unusual term. Antonio should pay within the agreed period of time, and if he cannot meet the demand, he must payback with his pound of flesh, not with extra fee or doubled cash. This kind of deal is considered as a dangerous term that can endanger someone’s life; in this case Antonio is the one who should deal with it. In the final chapter of the story, Antonio cannot repay the loan, and consequently he should give a pound of his flesh as the payback. The case goes to the Venetian court where Shylock asks his right to has Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment because he cannot repay the amount of ducats within the agreed period. But then finally, Portia (one of Antonio’s friends) who disguised as a
young Doctor replacing Doctor Bellario of Padua, whom the Duke has asked to judge Antonio’s case can reveals that the loan contract makes no mention of blood; while if Shylock spills a drop of that, his lands and goods will be confiscated by Venice. Then Shylock is accused guilty for his conspiration against a Venetian citizen’s life, and he loses all of his goods because of that. Half of them go to the estate, and the rest half goes for the victim. This is where the writer is interested in. Shylock whose arrogance finally puts him in trouble can have a moral message if it is analyzed deeply.

B. **Approach of the Study**

In order to gain a basic understanding of a literary work or to criticize it, the writer needs a certain approach that fits the purpose of the thesis, which is to reveal the moral message from a character inside a story. Therefore it is best to choose moral-philosophical approach as the appropriate one.

According to Guerin in his book *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, the basic position of such critics is that the larger function of literature is to teach morality and to probe philosophical issues. They would interpret literature within a context of the philosophical thought of a period of group. This means that a literary work can be analysed through philosophical thought in the search of moral value. Furthermore, he also explains that the critic who employs the moral-philosophical approach insists on ascertaining and stating what is taught. This means, the critic who employs it as the approach, should always aware of what can be learnt from a literary work, or in other words, the moral-
philosophical approach achieves the moral quality through what is seen and learnt from a character inside the story or literary work (1979: 126)

The writer chooses moral philosophical approach as the appropriate base for the thesis because the thesis purpose is concerning with the revealing of moral message through the study of character’s characterization and also character development through the plot. That is the most possibly best reason of why the writer shall choose moral-philosophical approach.

C. The Method of Study

Working on the chosen topic, the writer applied a library research. There were two kinds of data used in the study. They were primary and secondary data. The primary data was the play script of *The Merchant of Venice* written by William Shakespeare. The secondary data were several comments and critics on the novel and the author in books and online articles that closely related to it and believed to be reliable. Books about literary theory or literary studies were also used in the study, such as *A Glossary of Literary Terms, Understanding Unseen: An Introduction to English Poetry and English Novel, Practising Theory and Reading Literature, A Handbook of critical approaches to literature*, etc.

Adapting with the rise of global technologies, the writer also used web sites as the resources to get various information throughout the world about any possible source needed for the study.

There were several steps taken in the analysis. The steps were meant to lead or direct the writer to a certain direction, which was the purpose of the study
itself. The first step was reading the story in detail and thoroughly for several times in order to identify the main character’s characteristics and the plot of the story. The plot was needed to be analysed because it was important to recognize how the life of the character Shylock from beginning till the end, which finally led to the understanding of his character development. At this stage, theories of character and characterization were firstly applied because the first thing to analyze was how Shylock character characterized in the story.

The second step, the analysis of plot was done in order find out the cause and effect pattern that is exist in the plot. The cause and effect pattern showed the result of what the character did throughout the story.

The final step was to reveal the moral message that could be learnt from the character Shylock. This was done by collecting data from events of the plot and also the cause and effect pattern in Shylock’s plot that best described the moral message, and proved it through the application of selected theories from books and internet while holding on the selected moral-philosophical approach. The moral message itself was a reflection of what Shylock had done (his character development). It was analyzed by examining what he done in the story and trying to make it as the moral lesson or moral message. Such moral message would become a valuable message for the writer and also readers to concern.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer will try to answer the problems formulation stated in the chapter I. There are three problems, firstly is to find out the characteristics of Shylock, secondly to find out the plot and character development of Shylock, and the last is to reveal the moral message of the character Shylock from his character development. Therefore, the writer will divide the analysis into three part also.

A. The Characteristics of Shylock

In *The Merchant of Venice* Shylock is presented as a Jewish moneylender who lives at the street in Venice. He is categorized as an antagonist character in the story because of his villainy in deciding anything. The text does not describe how old Shylock is, or how he looks like. However seeing the fact from the text saying that he has a daughter who is ready to get married, then he must be quite old enough. The analysis of Shylock characteristics will merely concentrate on his personality because the final goal of this study is to find out the moral message. What relates them is the character’s personality which becomes the matter of consideration that results in a moral value or a moral message.

As a Jewish, Shylock is a fanatic of his own faith, and consider others are not better than him. This can be seen from the speech when Shylock comments on Antonio’s arrival.
Shylock: How like a fawning publican he looks
I hate him for he is a Christian,
(line 42–43, Act I Scene III)

Straightforwardly he says such thing without any notice of how Antonio will feel toward his words. Therefore here Shylock is a straightforward person also, but in this part he is a straightforward person who shows a bad attitude, because he says such words without any consideration of how Antonio would feel if he hears it. Issue on religious fanaticism and hatred also rise here, but the writer will not discuss further about the issue. There might be some historical backgrounds which can prove that.

As a moneylender, he also practices usury. He is a person who likes to take advantage of his clients by giving interest on the lending. In his dialogue, he confesses that he is a usurer.

Shylock: But more than that in low Simplicity
He lends out money gratis, and brings down
The rate of Usance here with us in Venice,
If I can catch him once upon the hip,
I will feed fat the auncient Grudge I bear him.
He hates our sacred Nations, and he rails
Even there where Merchants most do congregate
On me, my Bargains, and my well-won Thrift,
Which he calls Interest. Cursed be my Tribe
If I forgive him. (line 44-53 Act I Scene III)

Shylock hates Antonio for being kind in giving loan with no interest. Shylock is a person who hates competitors. The merchant, Antonio, is a person outside of Shylock’s community, and even worse Antonio takes no interest in his moneylending. That makes Antonio the competitor towards Shylock, and furthermore, he can ruin Shylock’s business.
The words from Shylock, “He hates our sacred Nations..” (line 49 Act I Scene III) also emphasize that Shylock has a prejudice to Antonio. The prejudice comes from their background. Shylock is Jewish, and Jewish people are mostly spread and come from Israel. Antonio is Christian, and Christian people are mostly spread and come from Italy. That is why the writer of this thesis thinks that Shylock has prejudice toward Antonio, because of his chosen word “our sacred Nations” that the writer interprets as a certain ethnic, which is Israel.

Seeing the fact that Shylock loves giving interest in his moneylending, it is true that Shylock is a person who likes to take advantage towards other people, who are his clients. This is in contrast with Antonio, who never gives interest to his moneylending, in other words, Antonio does not take advantage towards his clients.

Shylock : ...Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe. Will furnish me..... (line 58, Act I Scene III)

From Shylock’s speech above, it is obvious that Shylock has a pride of his tribe. He is proud of his friend Tubal who is also from the same tribe. In this part, the writer then concludes that Shylock does not work alone. He has his business mate to support him. Shylock’s business mate must be the person who has the similarity, which is the similarity of Nation or tribe. Since he is repeatedly stating his proudness of his tribe and mocking Antonio, who is in fact a person from different tribe, and then finally named his friend Tubal as his fellow.

Shylock : In such a place, such a Sum or Sums as are
Express’d in the condition, let the Forfeit
Be nominated for an equal Pound
Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken
In what part of your body pleaseth me. (line 149-153, Act I Scene III)
Shylock is a villain character. He requests Antonio’s pound of flesh as the penalty if Antonio cannot repay the loan on the agreed period of time. This is clearly an unusual deal. If it happens, Shylock will not get any advantage. What he gets will only Antonio’s pound of flesh, and maybe some pride. This is a very different situation. Usually in usury practice, the money lender will ask repayment with its interest is doubled. In contrast with that situation, Shylock requests a thing that is considered very dangerous, and it is not an equal repayment, because Antonio can lose his life because of that. That is why in this part, there is an image of Shylock as a villain character.

Shylock’s act of requesting Antonio’s pound of flesh as the penalty also raises the issue of racial hatred. As explained before, the fact that Shylock is proud of his own tribe, and he hates others who are different, is strengthening the idea. It can be concluded that Shylock becomes a villain character because of his own pride, as he always mocks Antonio, and then endangers his life by the request of penalty. His strong belief and pride influence all his decision. The usury practice, and the loan penalty, are the evidence of his villainy.

Launcelet Gobbo, Shylock’s servant, has his testimonial dialogue which tells that he does not like Shylock, he even thinks of running away from his master. A servant shall be obedient and loyal to his master, but what can be seen from Launcelet’s dialogue below is the fact that he feels not comfort being with his master.

Launcelet : Certainly my Conscience will serve me to run from this Jew my Maister. The fiend is at mine elbow, and tempts me, saying to me, ‘lobbe, Launcelet Lobbe, ’good Launcelet, or
‘good lobbe, ‘or ‘good Launcelet lobbe. Use your Legs, take the start, run away. ’ My conscience says ‘no, take heed, honest Launcelet, take heed, honest Lobbe, ’ or, as afore-said, ‘honest Launcelet Lobbe, do not run;
(line 1-9, Act II Scene II)

There must be something wrong with Shylock or Launcelet himself toward Shylock. Launcelet’s dialogue above implies that he is confused with the choices, whether to leave his master or not.

Launcelet: I should stay with the Jew my Maister, who (god bless the Mark) Is a kind of Devil; and to run away from the Jew I should be ruled by the Fiend, who (saving your Reverence) is the Devil himself. Certainly the Jew is the very Devil incarnation, and in my Conscience my Conscience is but a kind of hard Conscience, to offer to counsel me to stay with the Jew. The fiend gives the more friendly counsel. – I will turn, Fiend; my Heels are at your Commandement, I will run.
(line 23 – 34, Act II Scene II)

Launcelet calls his master Shylock as ‘a kind of devil’. The word ‘devil’ itself represents something that is evil, wicked, or bad. That is the image that he gives to his master Shylock. Reversely, his conscience says that he shall not leave his master Shylock, not for any reason. His hard conscience shall be his fear of his master. He is afraid that if he leaves his master Shylock without any notice, it will cause trouble. Furthermore in the end of line 34 he finally agrees the ‘devil of his mind’ suggestion to run away, that is probably what he wants to choose.

Tubal: Yes other men have Ill luck too: Antonio, as I heard, in Genoa –
Shylock: What, what, what, Ill luck, Ill luck?
Tubal: Hath an Argosy cast away coming from Tripolis.
Shylock: I thank God, I thank God, is it true, is it true?
Tubal: I spoke with some of Sailors that escaped the wrack.
Shylock : I thank thee, good Tubal: good News, good news. Ha ha, here in Genoa. (line 106 – 114, Act III Scene I)

Shylock’s dialogue above tells that he feels really glad that Antonio’s ship that carries all his wealth is wrecked. This is a statement saying that Shylock is a cruel man, thanking god for other’s disaster. In fact that Antonio is the one who becomes the guarantor for the loaned ducats, he is really glad to see that Antonio will not be able to repay the agreed loan contract. Shylock himself considers Antonio as an enemy for him, since Antonio is a Christian. His hatred of Christian does not have any reasonable motive, because from the beginning of the story, he already has a great feeling of hatred to Christian people such as Antonio. The only reason that comes from Shylock’s mouth is that Antonio as a Christian does make loan to people without giving any interest to them, that is before the deal between Shylock and Antonio has been made. Furthermore he considers the news of Antonio’s wrecked ship as good news. That is clearly a state of hatred feelings, since he hates Antonio; he loves to hear that Antonio got a misfortune.

Shylock : You knew, none so well, none so well as you of my daughter’s flight.
Salarino : That’s certain: I for my part knew the Tailor that made the wings she flew withal.
Solanio : And Shylock for his own part knew the bird was Flidge, and then it is the Complexion of them all to leave the Dam.
Shylock : She is Damn for it.
Salarino : That’s certain, if the Devil may be her Judge.
Shylock : My own flesh and blood to rebel.
(line 27 – 37, Act III Scene I)

Despite of his bad personality, Shylock has a good personality too. He really loves his daughter Jessica, who is in love with Lorenzo. Lorenzo himself is
a friend of Antonio and Bassanio whom Shylock really hate. One night, Jessica runs away with Lorenzo when Shylock did not notice, because she knows that her father will never give permission to let her go with Lorenzo. They go to Bassanio’s feast and stay there.

Shylock shows his anger in his dialogue above, but it does not mean that he hates his daughter, but his anger is more because of his love to her that he will never be willing to let her lovely daughter to go away with a man that he does not want. Therefore the love which Shylock shows here is a kind of possessive characteristic.

Duke : Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,
That thou but lead’st this fashion of thy Malice
To the last Hour of Act, and then ‘tis thought
Thoul’t show thy Mercy and Remorse more
Strange (line 15 – 20, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock shows lack of mercy and remorse towards his victim. Shylock insists on having his bound to be done although he knows and realizes that Antonio’s ship that brings his wealth has miscarried. It shows that Shylock is really a cruel man. He knows and realizes that Antonio has got a misfortune, but he still insists on having his bond to be done in the front of the royal court of Venice. This fact can be seen in Shylock’s speech below.

Jew : Gaoler, look to him; tell me not of Mercy,
This is the fool that lent out money gratis.
Gaoler look to him.
Antonio : Here me yet, good Shylock.
Jew : I’ll have my Bond, speak not against my Bond;...
(line 1 – 5, Act III Scene III)

There is no guilty feeling shown by Shylock. In fact, he says, “tell me not of Mercy”. He is cruel most of the time. In any situations, he always treats
Antonio as an enemy just because he does not practice usury, and also his hard feeling toward the Christians without a strong reason. He requests Antonio’s pound of flesh as the forfeit. He is thanking god after hearing the news from Tubal that Antonio’s ship is miscarried. Shylock character is really cruel.

Shylock’s cruelty has struck him down. All of his hard feelings toward Antonio then finally change his destiny. Shylock is a cruel man, a villain, a merciless person who makes an unusual term of loan agreement. He initially feels so glad that Antonio fails to repay because of his ship is wrecked and miscarried. He insists on having Antonio’s forfeit just as what they have agreed. As a result, the case then goes to the court. The Duke asks Shylock to be merciful, as the bond can lose Antonio’ life, but Shylock’s pride prevents it from happening. Shylock keeps on having his bond to be done.

Shylock: I have posess’d your grace of what I Purpose,
And by our holy Sabaoth have I sworn
To have the Due and Forfeit of my Bond.
If you deny it, let the Danger light
Upon your Charter and your City’s freedom.
(line 34 – 39, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock, with his lack consciousness of pity, refuses him from giving mercy, although Bassanio is willing to pay the forfeit twice of the sum, and even ten times. Shylock has too much pride that blinds him from any forgiveness; the background of Christian hate also influences him. All he wants is just to have his bond. To cut a pound of Antonio’s flesh.

Bassanio: Yes, here I tender it for him in the court,
Yea twice the Sum; if that will not suffice,
I will be bound to pay it ten times o’er
On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart.
If this will not suffice, it must appear
That Malice bears down the truth. And I beseech
You
Wrest once the Law to your Authority:
To do a great right, do a little Wrong,
And curb this cruel Devil on his Will.
(line 215 – 220, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock does anything he wants without any awareness to the Venetian law. His evil passion blinds him from any kindness. Therefore Shylock is really careless person, because he does not aware of Venetian law that stands high upon his willingness to beat the Christian, who in this case is Antonio. His careless behavior then sends him down. Lately in the court, he realizes that what he has done was wrong, and it is too late to fix everything.

Portia : Tarry a little, there is some thing else.
This Bond doth give thee here no iot of Blood:
The Words expressly are ‘a pound of Flesh’.
Take then thy Bond, take thou thy Pound of Flesh,
But in the cutting it, if thou doost shed
One Drop of Christian Blood, thy lands and Goods
Are by the Laws of Venice confiscate
Unto the State of Venice.
Gratiano : O upright judge.
- Mark, Jew: ‘O learned Judge.’
Shylock : Is that the law?
(line 309 – 319, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock does not mention in the loan agreement that blood may spill from Antonio’s body. Then what he shall do is to cut Antonio’s pound of flesh without spilling one drop of his blood. Shylock is trapped by this statement. What he faces is Venetian law, in the Venetian court, in the front of Venetian Duke, and in the
front of Venetian people who become the witnesses. This is a result of his careless behavior.

Shylock : I take this offer then: pay the bond Thrice,
        And let the Christian go.
Bassanio : Here is the money.
Portia : Soft, the Jew shall have all justice;
        Soft, no haste,
        He shall have nothing but the Penalty.
(line 323 – 325, Act IV Scene I)

How tricky Shylock is, denying the penalty and requesting the bond payment and then just want to go away. What he shall face is a consequence of what he did. Therefore he is not granted the bond payment, but he is demanded to keep on doing his penalty while not one drop of blood may spills from Antonio’s body. What Shylock has shown in this part is his cowardliness. He wants to run away and keep himself safe while get some benefits. He is coward because he wants to run away from the fact that he may not spill one drop of Antonio’s blood in the penalty. Furthermore, he easily asks for a bond payment three times of the sum, but nothing he can get but only the penalty to be done.

That is the how he struck down. Shylock, who is cruel at the beginning, then becomes the one who is coward. His pride and principle blind him; it makes him a careless person. He refuses any kindness or mercy to his victim Antonio. The steps he took are against the Venetian norm and law, but he does not realize it. Finally, when everything is too late, he realizes that he is wrong, and he changed his own term. He requests the bond to be paid three times as the forfeit, but he may not have it. He is really a coward because when he feels trapped by the
condition that he cannot cut Antonio’s pound of flesh without spilling any drops of blood from his body, he wants to run away.

B. Plot

In this part, the writer will try to explain how the plot of Shylock reflects moral messages that can be useful for the readers. As the writer mentioned in chapter two that through the plot of the story, the author of the script can give some clues, advices or moral messages, moral actions with good morality, and also moral characters. Through this, the readers are able to learn and know about the morality value and moral messages so that they are able to apply them as a useful matter in their daily life.

The structure of the plot will be explained below. Its purpose is to show the cause and effect pattern in the character’s plot that can give some clue to the readers about what happened after what has done by the character in the story. Referring to the theory of plot by Pickering and Hooper (1986: 21-22), the plot structure of the character Shylock story in Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice consists of five parts, they are:

1. Exposition

According to Pickering and Hooper (1986: 21-22), exposition contains background information that sets the scene. In this part, the character background information is explained through characters conversation. There is no narrative explanation given as the story flows through the dialogue and interaction of
characters. The setting of time and place is also explained. There are also some clues to the readers of what will be the background of the conflict in the story.

In the story, Shylock is explained as a Jewish moneylender in Venice. Everybody who needs quick money can try to meet him and borrow some. The borrowing itself demands interest. So everybody who borrows money from Shylock will have to return the whole money, plus the charged interest agreed before between Shylock and the borrower. It explains information about Shylock’s background.

Shylock can be categorized as a usurer because usurers always charge an interest on the loan that they give toward the borrowers. The loan from usurers can bring trouble to the borrowers because whenever the borrowers cannot repay the loan within the agreed period, the interest will increase, and it will become a burden for the borrowers.

The results of the loan itself bring a great advantage for Shylock as a moneylender. For example, if he gives loan three thousand ducats for three months, then he gives the rate of interest about 50% for each month, and then he will receive 7500 ducats back. That is the kind of loan that will burden the borrowers, and in contrary, it will brings great advantage to Shylock.

There are two persons come to Shylock to borrow some money. They are Antonio and Bassanio. Shylock welcomes them and asks them how much money they need. Bassanio asks for three thousand ducats and Antonio will act as the guarantor. Shylock agrees to lend him three thousand ducats for three months. The root of the conflict started from this part.
Usually a usurer like Shylock will demands great interest toward the loan, but in this case, he does not give any interest to the loan that he gives. Shylock demands Antonio pound of flesh as the repayment if they cannot repay the loan within the agreed period. This is probably because he sees Antonio as a Merchant who usually lends money also, but the difference is that Antonio never demands for interest in the loan for his own advantage.

Shylock: Me thoughts you said you neither lend nor borrow
Upon Advantage.
Antonio: I do never use it.
(Line 69 – 71, Act I Scene III)

Probably that is why Shylock does not demand for interest, but Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment. It is one way to express Shylock’s hate towards Antonio, because of their difference in the way of lending money. Shylock hates it primarily because the way Antonio lends money brings down the rate of usury that Shylock practice in Venice, and such thing can cause financial loss to Shylock, because everyone will not come to usurers anymore as it brings burden to them.

Shylock: He lends out money gratis, and brings down
The rate of usance here with us in Venice.
(Line 45 – 46, Act I Scene III)

Antonio agrees to this term. He thinks that it is only a joke; he does not take it seriously because he believes that his ship carrying his fortune will arrive a month before the day he should repay. Antonio agrees to this deal, and he realizes that if he cannot repay the loan, he can make himself in a big trouble, because losing a pound of his flesh means risking his life. Shylock is happy because Antonio is brave enough to accept his offer.
2. Complication

This part contains a rising part that breaks the existing equilibrium and introducing the character’s conflict (Pickering and Hooper, 1986: 21-22.). After the exposition, in which the background informations that set the scene are explained, there is a part that explains where the characters in the story experience some problems and leads to the conflict. The story becomes tenser as the conflict starts to arise; the plain situation becomes plain no more.

In Venice, Shylock is angry because he is losing his daughter Jessica, who is in love with Lorenzo, one of Antonio’s best friends. Lorenzo takes Jessica away from Shylock’s house; they go to Bassanio’s masque. This situation makes his hatred towards Antonio more severe. He wants to revenge. All that Shylock wants after the incident is Antonio’s pound of flesh. That is possibly the only way to revenge. This part is a part where the conflict starts.

As explained before, the root of the conflict started from the point when Antonio and Bassanio came to Shylock to borrow some money. The moment Shylock loses his daughter becomes one factor that affects his feeling toward Antonio. The plain situation that exists becomes tenser and worse.

Shylock sends his friend Tubal to find his daughter, Jessica, but he fails to find her. Shylock is very sad because of this. Then Tubal informs Shylock that Antonio’s ship carrying his fortunes is wrecked. Shylock then feels glad. It means that Antonio will not be able to repay the loan because his fortune sinks with his ship in the ocean. No matter how, Shylock insists on having Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment. He will not change his principle.
This situation brings advantage to Shylock, but it brings burden to Antonio because he will not be able to repay the loan. He has nothing but feeling of loss. Antonio hears that Shylock will insist on having the bond. Shylock says that they will meet in the court to finish the case.

From the situation above, Shylock shows that he is a man who lack of mercy. Realizing that his client, in this case is Antonio, having a bad luck, he does not show any mercy to Antonio. Shylock shall give dispensation to Antonio, but because of his loss of his daughter and his hate toward Antonio, he refuses to give any dispensation to Antonio. The court will be the right place to judge whether Shylock will win the bond or not.

3. Crisis

In crisis, climax is reached, and the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity (Pickering and Hooper, 1986: 21-22). The conflict between characters arises, and then there will be a climax to sign the peak of the conflict of the characters. After the climax is reached, there will be a turning point that signs where the conflict begins to end.

In the court of Venice, there are the Duke of Venice, Antonio, Bassanio, Shylock, and others. Shylock is asked by the Duke to show his mercy towards Antonio, but Shylock refuses it. He considers that he shall get the bond that they have agreed. Shylock then offers twice of the sum by Bassanio to repay the loan, but again Shylock refuses it and saying that the pound of Antonio’s flesh belongs to him without any reason, as Antonio cannot fulfill the agreement that has agreed.
In determining the case, the Duke cannot work by himself. He asked Bellario, a learned doctor who is expert and competent in determining this case. Nerrissa disguising as a judge clerk, enters, bringing a letter from Doctor Bellario. Bellario, in his letter, states that he is unwell and has sent a young doctor in his place. Portia enters in disguise as a young doctor from Rome whom Bellario believes to be the right person to determine the case.

Portia’s disguise in the court is in the objective of helping Antonio, and bearing the truth. Shylock is really cruel in his money lending to Antonio. The pound of flesh of Antonio’s shall be the repayment, is an example of Shylock’s cruelty. Therefore, Portia’s disguise in this case is to reveal Shylock mistake, because there is no evil will runs smoothly. The justice stands upon the law. Law is stiff because it is human made, but beyond the stiffness, justice exists to reveal the truth. The truth will throw all the lies and fakeness of human. Law needs justice. That is what Portia will do; to upright the justice so that the truth will be revealed, and the Duke will be fairs enough to upright the law.

Shylock and Antonio are asked some questions by Portia. Shylock is asked to be merciful, but he refuses it. Antonio is asked if he confess the Bond, and he answers yes. Then Portia asked if there is any possibility to exchange the bond with less life-risking payment. Bassanio answers it, he says that he is willing to pay the bond thrice, and even ten times to prevent his friend’s life to be in danger, but Shylock refuses it, and he still keen on having his bond to be done.

There is nothing Portia can do or say about Shylock statement. Shylock has his right to have the bond, because he is the lender, and they have an
agreement before. The agreement has been fixed, Shylock has decided to have his bond, and Antonio confessed the bond and willing to take the risk. Then Shylock is asked to prepare for the execution.

Portia: A Pound of that same Merchant’s Flesh is thine:
The Court awards it, and the Law doth give it.  
(Line 303-305, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock prepares himself for the execution of Antonio’s pound of flesh. He is ready with the knife. The bond is going to be done. Shylock still insists of having it although Bassanio has offered him three times or ten times of the ducats that he borrows from Shylock.

In the middle of the way when Shylock is going to cut Antonio’s pound of flesh, Portia says that Shylock may cut Antonio’s pound of flesh, but there is no one spill of blood may fall, because there is no mention of blood in the agreement. Shylock pauses himself; he is really surprised with Portia’s word. Furthermore, Portia says that Shylock must cut only a pound of Antonio’s flesh, not more, not less. It is the point where the plot reaches its climax. Here, Shylock has failed in getting his will that has been prepared since the deal made, and there is nothing he can do to change it.

Portia: Therefore prepare thee to cut off the flesh:  
  Shed thou no blood, nor cut thou less nor more  
  But just a Pound of Flesh. If thou tak’st more  
  Or less than just a pound, be it so much….  
(Line 328-330, Act IV Scene I)
4. **Falling Action**

After the climax has been reached, the plot moves toward the falling action, or the appointed conclusion (Pickering and Hooper 1986: 21-22). After the conflict ends, the characters will move toward a state of stability and they will appoint a conclusion from the experienced conflict.

Shylock never realizes about this fact. He cannot cut Antonio’s pound of flesh because there shall no blood may spill. Furthermore, if he cuts more than a pound, he will be punished and his goods will be confiscated. Nothing more he can do but only escaping from this situation.

Shylock then requests his principal back; he cancels the bond to Antonio. Bassanio has been ready to give Shylock the money back, but Shylock’s statement prevents him from having his principal back. In the front of the Duke, and all Venice witness in the court, he refuses to receive the cash back, and only wants Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment. Shylock is trapped by his own will. Therefore, he cannot run away. The case shall be finished, and the justice shall be upright, because law exists in Venice.

The conclusion is that, this all happens because of Shylock’s mistakes. He endangers Antonio’s life as one of Venice citizens. Therefore, Shylock is guilty because of endangering the life of Venice citizen. Shylock’s life then depends upon the mercy of the Duke, while before he did not give any mercy to his victim Antonio.

Portia is arguing that Shylock is guilty because he has conspired against a Venetian citizen’s life. Half of Shylock’s goods are forfeit to the state, and the
other to the victim, and he shall die hanged. That is the law that exists in Venice. The Duke agrees with it, but gives pardon to Shylock’s life. There is nothing Shylock can do, and he is speechless. Shylock is standing below a stronger power, which is Venetian Law.

What has happened to Shylock is not merely an accidental incident. It is an effect of what he did towards Antonio, and this is what he deserves because he endangered a Venetian citizen’s life.

5. Resolution

Resolution is the final section of the plot. The outcome of the conflict happens and establishes some new equilibrium or stability (Pickering and Hooper, 1986: 21-22). After the characters are showing that they are moving toward the appointed conclusion from the conflict, they will move to a new stage that is more stable even though one shall experiences a total different outcome.

In the final part of the story, Shylock is really sad that he shall lose from the person that he really hates. His greed that blinds him has sent him into losing situation. At first, he thinks that he can take anything that he wants, but then the situation changes. He shall lose all of his goods.

Antonio then pronounces his mercy towards Shylock. Antonio understands that Shylock will not be willing to give any of his ducats to Antonio, so he decided to give his right of half of Shylock goods to Lorenzo, who is in love with Shylock’s daughter, Jessica. Antonio takes this decision because he knows that Lorenzo and Jessica will be married soon. The next request is that Shylock must presently become a Christian and must do record a gift, means that Shylock must
inherit all of his possessions to Lorenzo and Jessica until he dies. The Duke agrees with it and asked Shylock to do it, or else the Duke will retake the pardon that he gave to Shylock.

Antonio: To quit the Fine for one Half of his goods
    I am content: so he will let me have
    The other half in use, to render it
    Upon his death unto the Gentleman
    That lately stole his daughter.
    Two things provided more: that for his favour
    He presently become a Christian;
    The other, that he do record a gift
    Here in the Court of all he dies posses’d
    Unto his Son Lorenzo and his Daughter.
(Line 384-393, Act IV Scene I)

Shylock cannot refuse the Duke’s request. He can only accept it and remains silent. After he contents to the charge, he then leaves with no words. All of those things happen because of what Shylock did in his life. He takes advantage of many people in the loan, in other words, he is a usurer. Usurers are greed of possessions, and such thing can lead to loosing situation if he does not aware of the existence of justice and law.

Shylock’s life has changed because of the Duke’s order. It is the fair judgment for him, and it is also an answer towards the things he did in the past. After the decision is made, Shylock must turn into Christian, and he shall loose all of his goods. His life is totally changed. He hates Antonio before, because he is an honest Christian merchant, and he curses Antonio for that, but then Shylock must turn his faith into Christian that he hates before. Shylock is a rich man before. He lends out money to Venice people who need it quickly, but he takes great advantage on them by giving large interest in the loan. Finally he shall lose
everything. Half of his goods are forfeited to the state, and the rest goes to his victim, Antonio.

C. The Moral Messages

In this part the writer will try to explain the moral messages that can be revealed from the analysis of character Shylock above. The revealing itself is a study from the analysis of plot and characteristic of Shylock. As stated before that the analysis of character is helpful in finding the characteristics of character Shylock that becomes the background of the situations that is happened in the plot, and the plot structure itself is very helpful to find out the cause and effect of what the character Shylock does that can be the substance for moral learning or moral message. There are some moral messages that the writer of this thesis wants to tell, they are presented below.

1. Greediness is the source of destruction

One of Shylock characteristics is greedy. He takes great advantage to the person that borrows money from him. It is a typical characteristic of usurers. Therefore, greedy person is always blind. He takes everything in front of him, and he forgot to look back. He enjoys the happiness of standing above others pain, but when the judgment day comes, he will get what he deserves.

Greediness in this case is what Shylock does toward Antonio and other borrowers. Shylock practices usury in his business. It is shown in the exposition part of the plot; it explains that he puts a great interest to them who borrows money from him. This kind of business brings a great advantage to Shylock, but a
big burden for the borrowers, because whenever the borrowers cannot repay within the loan period, the interest will become larger, and if it is continuing, it will be possible that the borrower can lose all of their possessions.

The deal that Shylock made to Antonio is an example of his greediness. He asked Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment if he cannot repay within three months. It is a soft way in saying that Shylock wants Antonio’s life rather than the paid back money, because Antonio’s life is large more valuable than the amount of money that is borrowed.

His greediness then brings destruction to his life in the end of the plot. In the court Shylock refuses to give mercy to Antonio although Bassanio has offered three times of the money paid to Shylock. Shylock wants everything that he wants, it is Antonio’s life by the pound of flesh, but what he got is nothing but he loses all of his possessions, because it is revealed that no mention of blood may spill in the letter of loan agreement. Because of his greed, Shylock loses all of his capital, and he must convert his faith to Christian.

Antonio: Two things provided more: that for his favour He presently become a Christian; The other, that he do record a gift Here in the Court of all he dies possess’d Unto his Son Lorenzo and his Daughter. (Line 389-393, Act IV Scene I)

2. Cruelty will throw us into danger

One of the most visible characteristics of Shylock is cruel. He is cruel most of the time. The plot shows evidence that Shylock is cruel from the beginning until the end. He shows lack of mercy, he hates everyone who is close
or relatives to Antonio. In the resolution part of the plot, Shylock got what he deserves because of his cruelty.

Shylock’s cruelty towards Antonio brings him into danger. In the court it is revealed that Shylock endangers Venetian citizen’s life, because he made an agreement that risking Antonio’s life. This situation then brings Shylock into a great danger. He is punished to be hanged up, and all of his goods are confiscated to the state.

Although the Duke gives pardon to Shylock, but still, Shylock will loses all of his possessions. Shylock does not realize that he does cruel, and his greed is the one that blinds him from the fact that he is really cruel. Therefore, cruelty can lead us into danger, because law, norms, and justice are exist beyond all things that we do.

3. **We shall let someone we love to choose the best for him/her.**

Shylock’s loving characteristic appears in the complication part of the plot. He is angry when he knows that his daughter run away from home with a man who is Antonio’s relative. His possessive characteristic is shown by his protective nature. He would never agree to let his daughter go along with a man that he thinks not appropriate.

The scene when Shylock feels really angry because Lorenzo takes Jessica away resembles Shylock’s unwillingness to let his daughter happy with her choice. Jessica is in love with Lorenzo, and Shylock does not want to understand it, because he knows that Lorenzo is one of Antonio’s friends, and Shylock really hates Antonio because they have different principal in doing business.
Shylock feels that it is a love that prevents him to allow Jessica to go along with Lorenzo, but it is wrong. If he thinks so, he is really selfish, and does not want to know what his daughter feels and want. What Jessica needs and wants is only to live with Lorenzo. Jessica has grown up, and he knows her choices. It is supposing that Shylock loves his daughter, he shall give permit to Jessica to go along with Lorenzo, and let his only daughter happy.

The conclusion is that we shall not be selfish. Sometimes it is hard to let someone we love to go away, but behind that we shall know what love is. Love is taking and giving, love is about understanding. To understand what Jessica feels is the thing that Shylock does not realize. He just let his selfishness overpowers him. It leads to the increased feeling of hate towards Antonio, because he is a friend of Lorenzo, and that great hate feeling makes him insist on having Antonio’s pound of flesh. If Shylock just let his daughter go, it is supposing that he will not feel a great anger towards Antonio, that impulses revenge in him.

4. To be merciful is valuable

In the crisis part of the plot, Shylock refuses to give mercy towards Antonio although the Duke has requested him to be merciful. Again, this is because of his cruel characteristic that prevents him from giving mercy to Antonio.

It is good to be merciful. We believe that if we doing well, we will get good result also. Giving mercy needs a heart of ocean. It is not as easy as turning our hands, but doing so; it will give us a peaceful mind.
When Shylock hears the news that Antonio’s ship has miscarried in the way return to Venice, Shylock feels glad. He knows that Antonio will not be able to repay the loan within the agreed period of time. When Antonio meets Shylock, Shylock does not even want to hear Antonio’s explanation, he insists on having his bond if Antonio cannot repay the loan within the agreed period.

Shylock in the court refuses to give mercy to Antonio although the Duke and Portia who disguised as Balthazer have requested him to be merciful. The result is Shylock loses all of his possessions and he must convert his faith into Christian. This situation brings a great stress for Shylock; he does not even think that the result could be like that.

Therefore giving mercy is gold in our life, because subconsciously, it is resulting in a peaceful in our mind, because we will be avoided from the feelings of hate and troubles.

5. Law, justice, and society norms must be obeyed.

In the falling action part of the plot, Shylock is banned because he endangers Antonio’s life as a Venetian citizen. Therefore, he shall deal with Venetian law. He is careless because of his cruelty. All he wants is just to have his bond to be done, but behind all of his will, he does not realize the existence of Venetian law.

Law and justice lies beyond anything that we do. Because of that, if we do anything that is in the line of law and justice, we shall be always careful. As an example, Shylock does not aware of the law in Venice that if somebody endangers
one of Venetian citizens, he or she will be punished, and all of his or her estates and goods will be confiscated by the state.

The characteristics of Shylock that is cruel and greed have blinded him from the existence of law and justice in Venice. It is an example of careless and immoral behavior. He asks for Antonio’s pound of flesh as a matter of repayment. It risks Antonio’s life. Because there is no mention of blood in the agreement, Shylock cannot cut Antonio’s flesh, unless the cutting will not spill one drop of blood, and the pound of flesh itself cannot be more than or less than one pound.

Portia found that Shylock has endangers Venetian people life. Therefore he shall grant his punishment that is exist in Venetian law. The result of conspiracy against Venetian law is that Shylock must give half of his estate to the state and half more for Lorenzo and Jessica. He loses everything. That is the result of not upholding the law and justice in his business.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION

After analyzing the problems mentioned in the problem formulation, the conclusion then can be deduced from the analysis. The conclusion part of the study contains a brief explanation about what has been explained in the previous chapter. The first problem analyzed is the characteristics of Shylock. There are several characteristics of Shylock that can be found in the first part of the analysis. Shylock is characterized as a Jewish moneylender in Venice who is engaged in a loan deal between him and Antonio, in this case Shylock acts as the moneylender. Shylock’s personality can be categorized as a villain character. His profession as a usurer demands him to take a great interest towards the loan deal that he gives, and personally he has an evil characteristic. When he meets Antonio and Bassanio, who eager to borrow money from him, he demands Antonio’s pound of flesh as the payback if Antonio as the guarantor cannot repay the loan within the agreed period of time. The act of demanding the pound of flesh as the repayment is showing how Shylock’s evilness influences his step in making decision. It is evil because it has a life risking matter. If Shylock cuts a pound of Antonio’s flesh, then Antonio’s life can be in danger, because Antonio would die because of it. That can also mean Shylock wants Antonio’s life as the repayment.

The next part of the analysis deals with the plot of the story. The plot analysis is used to show the cause and effect pattern that is useful to reflect the moral message from the character Shylock. The plot of the character Shylock in
William Shakespeare’s \textit{The Merchant of Venice} follows the common pattern rule because it shows exposition, complication, crisis, falling action, and resolution pattern that becomes the common plot pattern in the work of literature. Shylock character’s plot itself ends before the whole part of the story ends, because his story ends after the judgment for him is decided. The analysis on the plot reveals some clues to the process of moral message revealing. The sequences of plot gives a clear idea about what the character did in the story and the resulted problem that the character made because of his will. From the existing example, then it can be reflected that such kind of behavior is resulting in a certain condition that is bad or good depending on what the character did. In this case, what Shylock did in the beginning part of the story is giving Antonio a deal that is unequal on its value. Shylock asked a pound of Antonio’s flesh as the repayment if he cannot repay the loan within the agreed period of time. Then finally the case goes to court, because everything that exists inside Venice is protected by Venetian law. Therefore, the case is judged under the Venetian law by the Venice Duke, and in the front of many witnesses. Shylock is guilty for he is endangering a Venetian citizen’s life, and all of his goods are confiscated, half for the state and the half other for his victim.

The cause and effect of what the character did in the story is the reflection of moral value. There is something that readers can learn from the story that gives a reflection of something good or bad that becomes the moral messages for the readers. There are several moral messages that can be revealed from the plot and character analysis of the story. First, greediness is the source of destruction.
Shylock’s greediness in demanding for the loan repay becomes the source of his destruction.

The second, cruelty will throw us into fire. Shylock’s cruel characteristic results trouble to him. In the final section of the plot, Shylock is proven guilty and shall lose all of his goods; furthermore he must convert his faith into Christian. Those are the results that Shylock feels really ruin his life, but he has to accept it as a consequence.

The third, love sometimes means that we shall let it free. Shylock’s loving characteristic appears in his protective nature when his daughter is running away with Antonio’s friend. He feels really angry when his daughter flees, while his daughter chooses to flee because she wants to live with the one she loves. Shylock’s pride and his hate towards Antonio refuse him to agree to let her daughter go along with Antonio’s friend. The fourth, to be merciful is gold in our life. Shylock always refuses to give mercy towards Antonio, he insists on having Antonio’s pound of flesh as the repayment. The consequence of his will is that he is proven guilty for he is endangering a Venetian citizen’s life, and shall loses all of his goods, furthermore he must convert into Christian. If Shylock gives mercy to Antonio, and accepts the three times payback from Bassanio, he would not set himself into trouble; he will even get the money back three times.

The last, upholding the law and justice must always be done. Shylock’s act in the loan agreement is one example of cruel behavior that does not based on Venetian law. Shylock lives in Venice, therefore then he must be obedient to the
Venice law. In the court, the case is judged, and Shylock shall accept the consequence for not obeying the law and justice.

In general, what Shylock has done in his business agreement to Antonio is considered not proper. It is because according to the Venetian norms and law, such kind of behavior endangers one’s life, and it is considered as an act that against the Venetian law. The judge and the society consider Shylock as a person who lacks of mercy and remorse. Therefore he is punished because of his deed. Shylock does not aware of how the moral in Venice. The law and norms that exist in Venice prevent Shylock from his deed. Moral deviation will produce a failure in someone’s life because there are always norms, law, and ethics in the society that shall always be obeyed.
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