CRITICS TOWARDS AMERICAN DREAM IN ARTHUR MILLER’S ALL MY SONS DRAMA

A PAPER
Submitted to the Faculty of Adab and Humanities
In Partial Accomplishment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Strata I

By:
NUNI ANITARIA
102026024499

ENGLISH LETTERS DEPARTEMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
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Submitted to the Faculty of Letters and Humanities In Partial Accomplishment of the Requirements for the Degree of Strata 1

By:

NUNI ANITARIA
NIM:102026024499

Approved By:
Advisor

Dini Masitah, M. Hum
NIP. 150 317 724

THE ENGLISH LETTERS DEPARTEMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SYARIF HIDAYATULLAH
JAKARTA
LEGALIZATION OF EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

A paper entitled "CRITICS TOWARDS AMERICAN DREAM IN ARTHUR MILLER'S ALL MY SONS DRAMA" was examined at examination session of the faculty of Adab and Humanities in partial accomplishment of the requirements for the degree of strata I (S-I) at the English Letters Department.

Examination Committee

Chairman

Nurhasan, S. Ag., MA
NIP. 150 281 978

Advisor

Dini Masitah, M. Hum
NIP. 150 317 724

Examiner

Dr. Muhammad Farkhan, M.pd
NIP. 150 299 480

Dr. Muharifin, M.pd

Drs. Nan'an Tarihoran, M.Hum
ABSRACT

Nuni Anitaria, A Deconstruction and characterization in Critics Towards American
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In this research, the writer analysis an alternative reading of Joe Keller characterization in the drama text of All My Sons by Arthur Miller's on 1974. At that time the individualism, materialism, and un responsibility was become one critics towards American Dream in All My Sons drama. And of course All My Sons drama regards as the drama which convey that critics. Joe Keller characterization that is always treated to gaining the successful life, and finally he trapped in his ambition that caused the death of Joe Keller himself. In this drama Joe Keller as the main character is able to face various conflicts in his life. The situation in his circumstances where he lives has built his into brave and decisive man. And these characteristics are considered support critics movements.

In this paper, the writer would like to analyze Joe Keller characterization by using deconstructive analysis. Deconstructive analysis is one of theory which focuses on the text. Deconstructionist analysis a literary work by finding something contradiction which is contained in the text in which meaning are expressed directly contrary to the surface meaning, such as time, tone, person and view point. The main character "Joe Keller" in All My Sons drama represents characteristics which considered represent critics towards American Dream, Arthur Miller's portray Joe Keller characterization that always treated to gaining the successful life, and he trapped in his ambition that caused the death of Joe Keller himself. Critics point of view considered Joe Keller as an independent, courageous and decisive man. In other view, by using deconstructive theory the writer sees there are some different things or contradiction with Joe Keller's characteristics. The different through Joe Keller's words, motivation and action. From her words, motivation and action, it reveals that actually Joe Keller only wants her family to live in enterprise, prosperity, respected a lot of money, well prudent in old time and life better than before.
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In the name of Allah SWT, the most gracious, the most Merciful.

First of all, the writer would like to thank Allah SWT for His favor and guidance to her in completing this paper. She does believe there is nothing she could do without His help. All praise belongs to Him, the Creator of the living things from being nothing to exist, May solution and benediction is into the nobles of the prophet and messenger, Muhammad SAW.

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Finally, the writer hopes this paper will be useful especially for the writer and those who are interested in it. May Allah bless us. Amien.

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Nuni Anitaria
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A. Background of the Study

American Dream – a dream of American style – the term floored by a historian, James Truslow Adams that influenced American very much, as the success story was different from any other’s country. Every one can put their own dream in different ways, but banded in the same ideas; the same chance for every one, the same of level, the competition to achieve, and the important thing is the idea of success, individualism and hard work. Every one must succeed in their fields, succeed in performance, in social intercourse, or succeed in collecting money.¹

America is the country - founded base on the dreams. It begun when the pioneers sailed on the Mayflower ship and stepped on America continent; they struggled to make the dreams come true. They dreamed a democracy. They didn’t want aristocracy anymore, with the tight status different like in Europe.² Democracy would allow them progress in politic, struggle in equal social status, self - freedom and independence. All over that, they dreamed of success achievement. Based on this will, the pioneers opened and the land and strived on the earth which is rich of nature


resources, the roads and luxurious apartments were built in every place, but still need hard work to dig all of that. Beside that, there was challenge from the Indian. Finally, they succeed solve all of that with strong motivation.³

The struggle in confidence and optimism that inheritance by the pioneers was not only grow the respect toward self, but also the conscious that other people also have the same ability and opportunity. For that they must be honored. This opinion, that every one has the same chance to develop, enable the opportunity for every one and their family to increase social status from the lower class up to the higher one.

Existence of social mobility in American society this represented the strong motivation for every people to work extra ossifying, more than required. During American nation realize to get time to go forward for every one who will try, America Dream always live and real in their life. But for the man who have the strong optimism but getting difficulty to get the opportunity to go forward, that dream turn into the illusion and which remain only feeling frustration and hostility.

Along with time movement, the epoch develops by technology development and mind change. Economic change influenced the way of people thinking. In the end of 19th century when the big scale business in the high development made the attention focus changed into materialism and greedy values, As which has tells in drama All My Sons by Arthur Miller. Arthur Miller is a dramatist, which has potential position in the theater world of America. His name was put in the row of many other

famous dramatist such as; Eugene O’Neill, Thornton Wilder, and William Saroyan. As the first time of his career in drama, the critics assessed his show on the Broadway stage as the promising talent to be the scriptwriter in the future. Finally, he was confessed as a good dramatist through his writings, one of them was *All My Sons* (1947). Drama *All My Sons* just only one a media of Arthur Miller to criticize the American society who is always have the ambition to get the America Dream, however the criticism is not about a meaning of American Dream itself, but it is about the way of American society, who is always use the bad way, likes using insincere or bad various means to get the American Dream. A critic is somebody judging something, somebody who judges or appraises somebody or something – that criticizes media has been played by Joe Keller as a character protagonist in drama of *All My Sons*.

The protagonist character in *All My Sons* drama took the main role; the protagonist character was gained the sympathy of American. The protagonist character was very effective in showing in this drama. By choosing the protagonist or central character 'the protagonist or central character its means – the central character in the conflict, whether he be a sympathetic or an unsympathetic person'⁴, the author wanted to show the will and ambition of some person which lived in enterprise, individualism, prosperity, respected, a lot of money, well prudent in old time, and family life’s better than before. These ambitions surrounded Joe Keller character, it changed human’s attitude from good into bad, depend on how the author bring the

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⁴. Lawrence Perrin, *Story and Structure*, p. 59
plot in the drama that he is going to write. But in this All My Sons drama, the figure of protagonist was created so real and resemble with the condition happened at that time. The character of Joe Keller can criticize the attitude and character of American, which is careless, and never think about other’s need and their life in individualism.

There are three-protagonist characters in All My Sons drama, first of all, Joe Keller (a father), second, Kate Keller (a wife), third, Chris Keller (youngest son). Joe Keller, was a kind of father that survive by hard working, he made himself become a great money earner and switch an individualism in himself, he put his family’s need and happiness above all thing, he never care about other’s problems, he ordered Steve to send the out of order plans’ tool and these damage tools killed twenty one recruit of aviators and inflicted the financial lost of the state, by this mistake he strived to twist the fact, and suspected Steve, and Steve could do nothing for no evidence proved him – from clarification about Joe Keller, we was get a little conclusion, that Joe Keller was not admit his mistake, because he was not – what his get for during the time with the struggle will lose on his hand. On that account, Joe Keller use the way of insincere or bad for the shake of maintaining its successfulness. Kate Keller, was character of mother which tried to support her husband though she often heard that his husband ever made a fatal mistake in but she kept close ears and never believed it till she realized some day that his husband made mistake by causing the death of their oldest son “Larry”, and finally she admitted that her husband was reliable to be punished for his mistakes. Chris Keller, was the youngest son which hold the good principle; to emphasize other’s interest than his, this character was
contradictive with his fathers, for the first time, he did not suppose that his wealth and happiness that he enjoyed along was gained from harming others’ happiness, until finally he recognized that his father was responsible for the accidents, he asked the father spontaneously to hands over the police and beg the pardon to Steve’s family.

However, in the drama of *All My Sons*, there are some things which reveal other meaning besides about critics towards American Dream movement. To know these, the writer will find something different (sometimes opposite) in the text. If we look closer, we will find that the meaning is always contaminated with another context; there is no ‘original’ meaning. One of theories which see the different in the text is deconstructive theory. Deconstructive aim is not to produce consistent meaning but to reveal contradiction and equivocation in order to make fiction interpretable by making it readable. Thus, Joe Keller’s character in the *All My Sons* drama will produce different meaning and perception. And of course interpretation of Joe Keller’s character will change.

By using deconstruction of critics towards American Dream we can analyze the character’s words, action and intention that will bring out another meaning from the meaning which contained in the text. Since the meaning of text are plural and no single meaning, the text of critics towards American dream in *All My Sons* drama by Arthur Miller can be seen in different point of view and it also produce many perceptions. That’s why the writer is interested in analyzing further of course as mentioned above from the text drama of *All My Sons* drama which reveals different meaning.
B. Focus of the Study

To anticipate unnecessary addition and problems broadening that there is no relation with the object of studied research, the problem will be focused on main characterization in the drama *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and relates it with deconstruction theory of critics towards American Dream.

C. Research of the Question

Based on the background of the studies, the research questions are;

1. How does American Dream influence American People?
2. How does the protagonist character criticize American Dream?

D. Significance of the Study

The writer hope the result from this analysis can show a positive description from American - Dream in *All My Sons* drama. This paper can be one form literary criticism for this drama or can be useful as input to add understanding about intrinsic and extrinsic elements, and can become complement in interpretation treasure. Finally, the writer hopes this paper can be profitable to the next research.
A. Character and Characterization Theory

In literary works characters and characterization are important elements because they build the story. A story could not be called as a story without any characters in it. In narrative or dramatic works it, usually uses the term characters and characterizations. The theory of character and characterization, according to Pickering and Hoeper in Minderop, usually the author will take two ways or methods to provide and consider the character of the character in their book. The first is direct method (telling) and, the second is indirect method (showing). Telling method used to be used in the past, so the characterizing of the character was clearly felt, and the reader can do understand and fully comprehend the character of figure based on the author's explanation. Whether the showing method (indirect) indicates that the author placed himself outside of the story and gives the chance to the character to show their characteristic through dialogues and actions.1

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Richard has said that: A character is a person in a literary work; characterization is the way in which a character is created. Characters are all the product of characterization: that is to say, they have been made in a particular way, character are what they are like because of the way they have been made.

The kind of conversations they have, the things they do, their appearances and so on are the particular ways in which the author has chosen to characterize his or her characters. We might remember the difference by saying that: characterization is a method and character is product. Klarer has asserted that: generally speaking, characters in a text can be rendered either as types on an individual. A typified character in literature is dominated by one specific trait, and is referred to as a flat character.

The term round character usually denotes a person with more complex and differentiated features. Robert also has declared that: no matter what one call it, character in literature is an author’s representation of human being, specifically of those inner qualities that determine how an individual reacts to various conditions or attempts to shape his or her environment. Choice and actions indicated character.

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Character can be defined as the people created by a playwright, imagined by the audiences. He or she must be fiction and non-real but when a story inspired or based on a real fact in the writing, the character usually must be real. They may be round or flat, static or dynamic. Generally speaking, major characters are likely to be round, while minor characters are apt to be flat. Through the players are multidimensional characters, skimpily develop characters or perhaps merely foils, character whose main purpose is to shed light on more important characters. They also learn about emotions, attitudes, and values that help to shape the characters. In addition, readers learn from the play whether or not characters grow and change emotionally, and they are able to trace their development by comparing their early words and actions with the later ones. In short, observant readers can learn a good deal about a play characters by what those characters say and do.

They are two kinds of character in drama; protagonist and antagonists. Protagonist is a character deals with truth and being conflicted by other character. While protagonists character forces and often gives any trouble or conflict to the protagonist one.

A drama has it is arts as an art of intensification. Its intensity is greater develop in character, so the characters have the primary function the idea of the drama. It is resultant is major characters in serious drama which are depicted under the stress of relatively high tensions.\(^\text{10}\)

Most plays, however, do not include narrators who person background. Instead readers must learn about the characters from the characters’ own words, the characters’ actions, and comments by the others about them. Viewers at a performance have the added advantage of learning from the actors’ reactions to one another and form the director’s interpretations of the characters.

Another way for revealing what people are like is to show what they say. A character’s words probably reveal the most about his or her attitudes, feelings, and values and believes. In addition to the meaning denoted or suggested by the words themselves, such factor as the character’s accent or dialect, the level or formality of a character’s speech, and his or her use of ungrammatical constructions of figurative language can all contributed to the reader’s knowledge about the character.

B. **Deconstruction Theory**

Deconstruction theory is focus on text. It cannot be separated from text, but more based on it. Text's meaning has not limited. Even more, deconstruction also rejects the old common structure. For deconstructionists, text "language" is logic and consistent. For example, a big theme that evil cannot be beaten by good by the deconstruction is not always correct. At present, art is allowed to turn the theme

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upside down. Therefore, text understanding is not sequences, but can be in reverse order.

A text in deconstruction views will have many means, so text can be complex. Net of means in text can be complicated, so it would be possible for readers to speculate about the meanings. Meaning is not singular, but plural. It is not static but dynamic and develops. Therefore, deconstruction let the text ambiguous and opens for every option.

It is consider that art understanding which are based only on structure will futile. That; Junus – suggest that in the search of meaning of text, started from structure then add the "strength" of the meaning based on the structure. The "strength" is deconstructive efforts, by screwing the text; make it far from the common structure.¹³

Art deconstruction study will never trust the language mean. If the structures are based on textual, it will face death end, for not every language can be compare to reality. That is why, freeing from structure and try to relate texts and even contexts, is more adequate. This is what deconstructionist want, reformations for understand. In this related, Roland Barthes, gave the research stages of deconstruction, as follows:¹⁴


1. All elements (structure) on text are based on equal stand. Every element is understood separately. Therefore not even a single element is considered unimportant or role-less.

2. The elements which are understood will be connected to others in order to know whether those elements are one, both inter-element network (X network) or a network with other element (X and Y network).

Based on those stages, it is not impossible for an art text to be understood based on other text. Art text is not understood by structures, but by other codes beyond the text. In this event, reading an art text is a paradoxical activity. A reader may re-create the realms, imaginary realms, and make it something so it would be easier to recognize. The strange is, mislead, and shocking in text had been naturalized and re-position to a more common realm.

Rolland Bathes (Pradopo, 1991:78) says that art had double meanings. Even more, in his essay *The Pleasure of the Text* he distinguishes pleasure as two meanings: pleasure (amusing) and bliss (happiness). For example, we read erotic or porn texts; it will lead to both pleasures. Each reader will find differences kind of pleasure. It shown that a "meaning" of a text is plural, no singular.15 Peter Barry in his book “Beginning Theory” gives an example of deconstructive practice. He gives three stages of deconstructive process, which he called the verbal, the textual and the

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linguistic. The 'verbal' stage involves in looking the text for paradoxes and contradictions, at what might be called the purely verbal level.

On the 'textual' stage, the critic looks for shift or breaks in the continuity of the poem. These shift reveal instabilities of attitude, and hence the lack of fixed and unified position. These shifts can be various kids (as listed above); they may be shift in focus, shift in time, or tone, or point of view, or attitude, or pace, or vocabulary. They may well be indicated in the grammar, for instance, in shift from first person to third, or past tense to present. Thus, they show paradox and contradiction on a large scale than in the case with the first stage, taking a broad view of the text as a whole.

The 'linguistic' stage, finally, involves in looking for moments in the poem when the adequacy of language itself as a medium of communication is called into question. Such moments occur when, for example, there is implicit or explicit reference to the unreliability or untrustworthiness of language. It may, involve, for instance, saying that something is unsay able; or saying that it is impossible to utter or describe something and then doing so; or saying that language inflates, or deflates, or misrepresents its object, and then continue to use it anyway.

More precise, Foucault states that there are no fixed theme, both cause and impact in an art text. If for long, art critics being done, it is just over doing, for most of the case, it cut of the text from the reality. Art texts, are "mortal", therefore it understanding mostly connected to authority and power.16 That is why; understanding

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of an art text must base on differences, not from single view. In fact, some day, it is necessary to see and deconstruct themes, which are small and non-literal.

From above explanation, it is said that the present of deconstruction study is a following of previous art studies. This deconstruction is seems not having a chance in developing. But, as one side of view of study, it is hard for art scholars to leave this method. It is a correction for previous art study. At least, structural assumption or others, which worship text, autonomy, is break because of deconstruction.

Based on the explanation above, clearly deconstructive reading is a reading which analysis the specificity of a text’s critical difference from itself. As quoted by Peck and Martin Coyle, Derrida said, however the text should be seen as an endless stream of signifier, with word only pointing to other words, without any final meaning. The figure Joe Keller in *All My Sons* drama will produce the concept a man as figure of man’s movement based on Arthur Miller’s perception. On contrary, deconstruction sees that the language does not have stable meaning. The figure Joe Keller in *All My Sons* drama can be seen in different point of view, besides critics towards of American Dream.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. The Method of the Research

In this paper, the writer uses qualitative research as the analysis method, by using analytical description and the description of this research will be attached with deconstructive analysis. In the study of literary work, the writer will find the contradiction of Joe Keller characteristics in All My Sons Drama. In this research, qualitative method used by the writer to explain critics towards American Dream in Arthur Miller’s All My Sons drama.

B. The Technique of Data Analysis

In this research the technique which used is qualitative analysis. First the writer reads the drama and underlines sentences which reveal the character and characterization, for structural analysis which analyzed with critics view. Then, for deconstructive analysis, the writer tries to see and find the contrary of Joe Keller’s characteristics in the critics towards American Dream in Arthur Miller’s All My Sons drama.
C. **Instrument of the Research**

The research accomplish in eight semesters 2005-2006 in English Letters Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty. This research will be done at Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta’s principal library and another library in Jakarta which can give reference and information about the material the need.

D. **The Unit Analysis**

In this paper, unit of analysis unit that used in this research is American Dramas in 1940-s by Arthur Miller “*All My Sons*” drama (1947).

E. **Times and Place**

This research will be held on even semester, academic year 2005 - 2006 and will take place in Ciputat - Tangerang.

F. **Organization of the Paper**

This paper consists of five chapters. *The first chapter contains about:* a). Background of the study, b). Focus of the study, c). Research question, d). Significance of the study.

*The second chapter contains about:* Theoretical framework; a). Character theory, b). Deconstruction theory.
The third chapter consists about: Research Methodology; a). The method of the research, b). The technique of data, c). Instrument of the research, d). The unit analysis, e). Time and place, f). Organization of this paper.

The fourth chapter contains about: a). The Influence of American Dream toward American People, especially in Civil War II; Socio - Economic Condition in America, American Dream Myth and Its Development (After Depression Era). b). Critics Toward American Dream in All My Sons Drama; Character Joe Keller, character Kate Keller, character Chris Keller.

Furthermore the third chapter is about: Conclusion and Suggestion. This paper is also completed with references and appendixes.
CHAPTER IV

A. The Influence of American Dream Toward American People,
   Especially in Civil War II

In this chapter, I explore the effect of American Dream toward American people. American people have good principle in their life and this principle obsessed by American dream. American Dream is a dream to be a success person through hard working, safe, never gives up, and positive thinking. By this way, they can gain their dream to be a success man, a lot of money, high position and honorable.

However, their dream occurred before civil war between north and south people or after that. We can see the difference in gaining the dream between two sides. Before civil war, the people in the south and north of American life side by side, they lived in peace. But it was not long time, the peace changed becomes adversary, no honor committed anymore when the war erupted.

They begun to compete each other, which had the capital 'money', power, and ambition they will gain the honor. And in the contrary, if they had no money, power and ambition they live will far from prosper and live in poverty.

We can find the description about how American Dream effected toward American people in the history running at that time, some of them are:
A. I. Socio - Economic Condition in America

Before the civil war within 1861 - 1865, the agriculture and industry live side by side without any problem. The expert of social and culture supposed the period before the war as ‘The Golden Age’.

After the civil war ended, the change occurred in this new continent. The conflict between east - south stimulated the industrial growth, increased civilian amount, accelerated nature resources exploitation, factory building in big scale, bank investment growth, abroad trade expansion, and brought new brand “Captains of Industry” and “Master of Capital” in the next generation.\(^\text{17}\)

The industry was divided in two parts, they are; the First, the glory and the decline of Agriculture industry and the second, the glory and the decline of Mine industry.

\(\Rightarrow\) The Glory of Agriculture Industry, that are;

a. Since 1800, the manufacture of textiles in New England was already so established that was inevitable for industry to develop quickly about it.

b. Since 1866 – 1914, the export of agriculture increased three times, meanwhile the national import increase two times. Favorite production at that time and can be quoted was cotton, tobacco and Citroen orange.

c. Since 1870 – 1890, the farmer was selling his produce in a world market – in competition with the farmers of Russia, the Argentina, Canada, and Australia.

\(^\text{17}\) Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op cit., 269
Meanwhile, the industry growth form agriculture industrial to heavy industry, in mine industry and its manufacture. The industry spread day by day. The businessmen who had a big capital tried to invest his money more to seek the bigger profits. “In the decade from 1860 to 1870, the total number of manufacturing establishment increased by eighty percent and the value of manufactured products by one hundred per cent. The industrial revolution was an accomplished fact, bankers and investors profited along with industrialists”\textsuperscript{18}.

- The Glory of Mine Industry, that are;
  a. Since 1870 – 1890, the mine industry was beginning from foreign capital, most of them came from England and intruded to America. These businessmen invested their funds especially for train way establishment and mine industry.
  b. Since 1901 – 1929, the development in industry and growth of fabrics got the support from the government, and made this sector boomed. The conspicuous development from “Industrial Boom” was trained way establishment “Railroad Mileage”.

The businessmen opened the new areas for trail way establishment. This train way establishment pushed the mine industry development, such as iron and steel as well as timber business.

To process all of woods and mine products need the machine production or machine manufacture. So that, machine maker factory turned up. These factories

\textsuperscript{18} Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op, cit., p. 282
spread along in some places and pervaded the worker in that place. Because of these industrial developments, the agriculture begun unprofitable. The development of reached its turning point in period 1914 - 1918.

> The decline of Agriculture Industry, that are;

a. The mine industry was grow up and of course the agriculture industrial was decline, little the farmers choose to work in factory to get money – this was something natural, that to be the labors will make definite income for them. They will receive weekly or monthly salary without waiting the harvest time that was only twice or three times in a year; besides, the fail in harvest could be happen any time.

b. The lack of agricultural area for opening new area to be used for factory establishment and train way made the agriculture land left behind.

c. The development in technology caused the proposal to specific agriculture product decreased. Invention in rayon for example, caused changes in consumer appetites with the result that the demand for cotton and wool decreased.\(^{19}\)

The intensification in land processing by using tractors was supported, as well as disinfectant for product protection from pests. Finally, the agriculture products were over loaded but the prices continue decreasing – example, In 1927 - 1929 unsold

coffee world stocks increased rapidly from 380 millions pounds to more than 3, 8 milliards pounds.\textsuperscript{20}

> The decline of Mine Industry, that are;

In the same time with the agriculture depression in 1921, goods export also decreased. Within 1920, Americas condition in economical recession. The uncertain economy plus the excess of money overflow was the fall of market or stock exchange in 1929. To anticipate this, the government applied devaluation. After that time, the prosperity and glory of this country collapse. American intruded the economical depression era.

To anticipate that, the government under the leadership of president Hoover appealed the populace to press the production, especially for over loaded agriculture. Until the end, American congress legalized “the agricultural Adjustment Act” in 1933. According to this new policy, the surplus product from the farmers must be assembled together in one institution (pool) and then sell it together. The farmer who saved his product in this ‘pool’ would get the loan with low interest. And then, to minimize the production and to control the price, the government took the policy to hire the farming lands under agreed price. The tax was purposed to agriculture manufacturing owner, such as the wheat grinder to support government programs.\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{20} Ibid., John A. Garraty, p. 56

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid., John A. Garraty, p. 65
Along with state economic fluctuation, the spiritual condition of civilian shifted. The Puritanism they pliant before disappear gradually and materialism grew prosperously. The citizens begun to think something secular, that is wordy hard to achieve the material success. The competition occurred in every life aspects, especially in business. Many industrialists strived to ruin others or their competitor. This situation made possible for the liberalism in American politic and without any government intervention, and made the motto "the stronger is the winner" became part of the economical politics.

In 1933 - 1945, the government led by F. D. Roosevelt. He applied New Deal policy to reform the economy. There were four point of life concerned with New Deal; agriculture, labor, social assurance and administration. The government made the new trade pledge with other countries, and then the relationship with other countries in economy was going better. America can export his over production with fair tax and vice versa. This new government policy increased the export gradually in 1937 - 1939. This condition continued with the amount of exported goods higher that amount of imported goods every year, and refined the economy condition of the state little by little.

In the labor field, the government applied minimum salary policy, age limitation and work time amount allowed, to avoid human exploitation. In industry administrative field, the government re-evaluated the monopoly right for big corporation which manipulated their profits for the little part of men, enlarged the tax

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22. Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op. cit., p. 480
for 'the rich' and ended the dirt competitions.\textsuperscript{31} This economy and business situation recovery which was pioneered had interfered by recession happened on August 1937. This recession was fast ended but quite harms the state. Fortunately, deficit fund showed development on 1938 - 1939, that help economical healing process.

Accounted until August 1939, there is less than 10 millions joblessness. Another policy taken by Roosevelt to solve the problem was to develop the sectors, which fulfill the primer, needs of the civilians. The young moved and summoned to develop agriculture field. The harvest results were getting better day-by-day. The stepping applied by the government began to show the result. State economy was succeeded to recovery and the trust of civilian toward the government was turned back.

At the beginning of 1940 the economy of America was restored by Second World War and 'Cold War'. The Second World War implied the increase economical state suddenly. Only within four months, from August 1939 till December at the same time, the production index increased 20 points (from 105 to 125), while joblessness was decreased up to 10%.

During Second World War, the industrial sectors were focused on agriculture industry and war utilities. Between 1939 and 1944, the agriculture production in America increased up to quarter and continued within war, for the need to the food was increasing too.

\textsuperscript{31} Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op. cit., p. 478 - 479
In the industry field, the needs increased, especially for war equipments, such as gun, ammunition, spare part and war vehicle. Meanwhile the government was busied with the war, the businessmen began surrounded uncontrolled. Even though the tax income was high, but the industrialist could not reach unlimited profits. To face the competition at this era, the professionals were required. They who knew industry technique and knowledge of marketing business will survive.

Since the war break until the end of 1950, the effect of “U.S. Military Program” was felt in the state buy account, more ever when entered ‘cold war’, where Russia and America competed to produce atomic weapon. Most of state buy account were invented into atomic industry field. Regarding this, to know atomic technology needed the smart human resources, clever and high educated. For that succeed perhaps only felt by the rich intellectual.

Finally, Second War World brought the development of “National Income”. The industry that only focused in household industry, now changed soon into industry for war equipment. The war caused the demand on military equipment increased, with the result that exported goods from America to close the economic deficit were increased.

Industrial developments were implemented widely in many aspect of life to repair economical condition of people and their prosperity. The repairing in social-economy field had changed the inclination of people as a matter of fact.

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24. Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op. cit., p. 502 - 503
B. II.  American Dream Myth and Its Development (After Depression Era)

American Dream - a dream in American style-, is the terminology wrote by a historian James Truslow Adams, it is so printed in every American people, especially in Joe Keller character in this drama; the first is he must become a father and husband for his family, he must give a good example in his life time, as the responsible for himself and others. The second, he is a businessman where in usually little part of them who use a right path, the businessman use many ways to success in his life. Every one can put their different successful dream In American Dream; the opportunity for every one, equal position, competition for achievement, and the most important is the idea of success; whether the success in their own field, success in performance, in community interaction, or the success in pulling up money. From many concepts of success, there is no equal with the success in pulling up money for American people. Only in America, whoever can dream to success in every field and put the dream come true without hindrances.

It began when the declaration of American nation independence on July 4th, 1776:

"We would these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness".

American people had proclaimed the dream, which not only contained of life and freedom, but also happiness achievement that becomes the life view of that
nation. They were different with European people, which disappointed with suffer and war for centuries. European people tend to think that this life is hard and not provide happiness. From their history, the innocent of American people viewed their experience is unbreakable chain of success. American thought that life must become enjoyable experience, likewise knotted in their independence declaration. The history of America, even full of anxious and worry, that everything could they solve and their dream would come true.

Along with time movement, the epoch develops by technology development and mind change. Economic change influenced the way of people thinking. In the end of 19th century when the big scale business in the high development made the attention focus changed into materialism and greedy values. Those values must be different with the old values that lived in ancient America. For the first time, the greedy in material was unseen as the final destination, but only the way where everyone can enjoy their life, secures, education, stylist personality.

The history like wise leant to American, after the difficult era in the end of 19th century, America got its glory in 1920th, one decade which got the nice name in the history of America, like the jazz age, the prosperity decade, the new era, the incredible era, the dollar decade, and many more. The action of machine completing which was found before the first world war, massif production and massif consumption helped so much to solve the problem of joblessness and agriculture. The longer the more they felt sure that their destiny is to be the prosperity people. And then many people speculated in every field of economy, and as the result was stock
market crash in 1929. The fall of stock exchange caused to be experience by every people and the joblessness was jump up.

The war which many people hated, it brought the mercy for American as a matter of fact, to solve the joblessness problem. In order the second war world, American forces opened mass recruitment and established the war tools factory, which opened the chance for work. Beside that, the New Deal policy, like social guarantee, compensation paid for the joblessness and another program for the president Franklin D. Roosevelt can solve the worst crisis even experienced by America, for one decade. Slowly but sure, the men which live in the poverty line stepped to the higher class to middle class, the class in general dominated America at that time.

Around 1910th till the end of 1930th, many exoduses happened in America from the white skin as well as the African. They left the agriculture area to the city. Many works done to make the people, especially the young endure in the farming area. Street repair, school establishment, the stores, agriculture diversification, and many more programs seem useless. They thought that they would find the new style in the city that they might be success.

Where their desire to move is not other just for reaching a dream. The dream to have own farmland, which gives the reliance in life, changed into the dream to choose the bigger opportunity, new enjoyment, and consumed modern tools. Although to achieve this, they must forget the reliance idea and work for other people. Industry not only result the wide chance for work in the factory, but also
created the office worker (white-collar occupations). This was what the new comer wanted which most of them the young, white skin, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestants. They worked commonly as the typist, secretary, salesman, young accountant, and also as the manager, trader and banker.

These workers then created new middle class. They who made the shift from American dream. The strong motivation to have the land had been changed to be the hunger of owning the house and thirsty of money. The output was the frontier area in the village might be disappear, the reality that could not be denied. As the change, in this frontier area turn up the frontier of the city and industry, where in the wider opportunity to charge American Dream which grew in their individual life in the past time. Everyone, like wise the frontier land in American ancient era can reach this middle class. As short, he who is adroit will gather in this class. American traditional values like optimism, the will to work, the flexible readiness to solve the new problems and the ability to adaptation still exist, even though the community situation had changed.

American Dream myth not only inspires the success for the WASP (White-Anglo-Saxon-Protestant). American Dream also gives the chance for Black American to work hard and proofs that they were reliable to get the equal status and right. This myth also considered as the light start of other immigrant from Europe, Latin America, and Asia. They believed the success Dream of America could change their destiny.
But it was undeniable that the WASP who awaken the motivation up and the teaching to work hard for prosperity and success will, like written in William Lawrence, as Episcopal preacher from Massachusetts, quoted from Robert N. Bellah’s book;

"In the long run, it is only to the man of morality that wealth comes. We believe in the harmony of God’s universe. We know that it is only by working along His law natural and spiritual that we can work with efficiency. Only by working along the lines of right thinking and right living can the secrets and wealth of nature be revealed... Godliness is in league with riches... Material prosperity is helping to make the national character sweeter, more joyous, more unselfish, more Christ like. This is my answer to the question as to the relation of material prosperity to morality (Bellah: 75)."

They believed that they can develop themselves and their nation to be as ideal as they wanted to be; the life is full of happiness, care about others, consider with Christian faith, and hard work as His lines. The higher prosperity they gained, the closer they realize the will.

B. Critics Toward American Dream In All My Sons Drama

After the civil war ended, the change occurred in this new continent. This civil war made a revolution or big change in social and economy life in America come to surface, both in North America or South America. The conflict between east - south

25 http://www.online – Literature. com
stimulated the industrial growth, increased civilian amount, accelerated nature resources exploitation, factory building in big scale, bank investment growth, abroad trade expansion, and brought new brand “Captains of Industry” and “Master of Capital” in the next generation.26

Agriculture industry also applied technology. Agriculture industries by technology succeed to increase the productions, that since 1866 to 1900 the export of agriculture increased three times, meanwhile the national import increase two times. Favorite export at that time was “Balled Cotton”, etc.

In this paper, I am going to observe there-protagonist character in All My Sons drama, written by Arthur Miller, they are Joe Keller (a father), Kate Keller (a wife), and Chris Keller (an oldest son of Joe and Kate Keller);

One prominent aspect in Arthur Miller’s story is the serving of modern protagonist character as human characterizing. Arthur Miller likely refused the classic protagonist concept, which is not suitable with the modern perception of the reality. Arthur Miller considered that figuring person in country to- X century must be rooted to the system value that in the line with democratic society. The first figure of Arthur Miller must be Common man, because he who can fell and know every difficulties and fear on this earth.27

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26. Henry S, Nevins, Commager, op, cit., p. 269

B. I.  Joe Keller

In this drama, Joe Keller was a protagonist character. His actions and words viewed as very important. Besides the character of Joe Keller was supported by fail character. In this drama, Joe had to play two important roles. First, he must become a father and husband for his family; he must give a good example in his lifetime, as the responsible for himself and others. The second, he is a businessman where in usually little part of them who use a right path, the businessman uses many ways to be successful in his life. The ambition of Joe Keller make him does not care of other people. He became an individualistic character. One of Joe’s characteristic was he didn’t want to think over about other’s problem, because he just care of his own family’s problem. Out of his family’s problem is considered not his problem at all. Joe Keller loves his son Chris Keller; "... Because what the hell did I work for? That's only for you Chris, this whole shoot in match is for you?".

Joe Keller: ... I don't know, once upon a time I used to think that when I got money again I would have a maid and my wife would take it easy. Now I got money, and I got a maid ...

(Miller, 1947: 70)²³

There is nothing more important to Joe Keller except his family; he will never care about every problem that not relate to his family’s problem. His effort to make his family happy and having a lot of money, he will not take seriously even though

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²³ Arthur, Miller, *All My Sons Drama*, (Reprinted by Permission of The Viking Press, Inc, 1947), p. 70
harm other people, even though he is his best friend that will be his relation in parenting. Steve’s daughter, Annie got in fiancée with Joe Keller’s older son, Larry. As Steve is not only his friend or relation in parenting but more than that, he had been his friend for long time and even their house are side by side. But all of that is not in his calculation.

So that, he has principle in his life; to have a happy family. A happy family includes many factors, some of them are; hard working, responsible, life in prosperity and even luxury, has supported fund in old time, has a charisma and the high level over others, become a success man, free to inspire, money earner. And those factors are in the American Dream, which describe earlier, is a spear, spirit or a motto for American society, especially in World War II. There for Joe doesn’t want to doze and lay down, he must arise and fulfill the meaning of American Dream. He doesn’t want his family live in poverty as cost of World War II.

According to Joe Keller, every member of family must support any other member. Joe Keller loved his family very much. He didn’t want anything that happened to him when he was young, likes the deficiency condition family, Joe was burned from the unable family, his father and his mother only a carpenter, their social status is very apprehensively and Joe parent’s can’t do something for their family. Joe Keller felt as the strange man in his family when he was child, like what reveled in the conversation with his mother. Don’t ask me, Joe..., Mother said. I’m asking you. What am I, stranger? I thought I had a family here, what happened to my family. Joe
Keller said. (Miller, 1947:119). On that situation, Joe must be wake up from his sleep, he didn’t want anything that happened to him when he was young – the deficiency condition and the lower society status – also happen to his family today.

Beside that, the description of Joe Keller in All My Sons drama as the protagonist figure which has no responsibility toward other problem. Miller did not search for the contemporary figure (stage context), this figure has no determine background and has no hope in the future. He does not have many choices anymore. The incapability of Joe to understand everything happened and incapability of him to know his domain.

The success of Joe Keller in his business was not as good as he wanted before. But we cannot deny that whoever unable to protect his business would be kicked away from this life for the era is more advance. The first fault of Joe Keller begun when he sent the defect machine for the government; he did the fault for keeping his family from the dissolved condition. It was sorry that the defect machine caused loosing life of some pilots. By this accident, Joe Keller did many other mistakes that harm many people. For the principle of business is not to think other’s interest and also his will to complete family’s life to be better, finally he thought that the accident was something ordinary in war, besides, there were many people who did business by selling war tools, he was sure that not every body did his work clean and honest. This thought made him felt not guilty.

\[29\] Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 119
Joe Keller  


Many person got benefit from Second World War. Beside the army force could decrease the joblessness and opened the massive recruitment for the people, many people established the weapon's spare parts and opened new job area. Many people of America confessed that Second World War had succeeded in solving economical problem that had run for long time. Joe Keller was only one of them who got the benefit from the war. The business world is very cruel and full of competition. Joe did not feel guilty for providing the harm plan tools for the government, for the reason that he did the same with others action; to protect the business keep going. However, doing the same with others did not mean right decision. There are the moral values, which Joe did not understand well, like what is described above.

The dialogue and explanations above was giving us the illustration about the character of narrator as shown indirectly in his words. The characters of Joe are: careless of other's importance, more care of his family's interest than others, has the strong ambition or dreams and doing every paths to reach it. According to Joe who ever has money will gain the high level, honor and even the world would be in his grasp automatically. So that, he will never let everything he gained before to loose anyway.

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10. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 123
Joe Keller was only thinking every thing for his business; he didn’t care with the need of other people in his society or country where he lived. He thinks that as the businessman, the company is everything. Joe Keller didn’t want to lose his job that he support for long time, and he felt of unfair if his efforts for many years will break in the short time. Joe Keller attempt to keep his business by every way he got; he wanted to heir his business for his children some day in the future.

Joe Keller: For you, a business is for you...
Chris Keller: With burning fury, for me! Where do you live, where have you come from? For me... I was dying every day and you were killing my boys and you did it for me? What the hell do you think I was thinking of, the Goddam business? What is that, the world of business? What the hell do you mean, you did it forme? Don’t you have a country? Don’t you live in the world? What the hell are you? You’re not even an animal, no animals kill is own, and what are you? What must I do to you? I ought to tear the tongue out of your mouth, what must I do? With his first he pounds down upon his father's shoulder. He stumbles away, covering his face as he weeps. What must I do, Jesus God, what must I do?

Keller: Chris... My Chris... (Miller, 1947: 116).³¹

The dialogues above show us that we can know hidden character of other character from the statement identity of protagonist character, like Chris, which stated about his father’s character. In his conversation with his Mommy, Chris knew the action or fault committed by his father from his close friend George and Anna (in this paper we can see it on page 10 and in All My Sons drama in page 101-102). George and Annie is the children from Steve Deever, where they have the close relationship

³¹ Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 116
with Joe children's – Larry love Anna – but their relationship must be ended in the midway because Larry's father action and that action is Joe was accuse Steve – sent the damage plan toolkits and as the result, 21 of fight plane fall down and kill 21 pilot. With that's occurrence causality – Larry was hopeless and kill himself because of his father. Through that letter, the failure of Joe was completed. He failed to achieve the happiness. His oldest son reported disappear, killed himself because of ashamed of his father's action. Larry who took the short way to finish his life was the victim of moral violation of Joe. However, before Larry suicide, he write a letter to Annie, in that letter Larry was write down about his feel, he is very disappointed to his father. Chris : ..."My dear Annie, it is impossible to put down the things I feel. But I've got to tell you something. Yesterday they flew in a load of papers from the States and I read about Dad and your father being convicted. I can't express myself. I can't tell you how I feel – I can't bear to live anymore. Last night I circle the base for twenty minutes before I could bring myself in. How could he have done that? Every day three or four men never come back and he sits back there doing business....I don't know how to tell you report me missing. If they do, I want you to know that you musn't wait for me. I tell you, Ann, if I had him before there now I could kill him..." (Miller, 1947:126). If we see from the George and Annie action, we can get the one point, George's and Annie's position as non-central character, it was also important for he stated indirectly the negative character or the faults committed by Joe that actually he should account for in the jail.

12. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 126
The mistakes of Joe Keller were packed well by his tricky, but it would be known some day some how. There was a time when George visited his dad "Steve" in jail. In jail, Steve told the true incident to George and finally George told this story to Chris and Anna, the brothers of George.

George: ...Dad came to work that day. The night came to him and showed him the cylinder heads...they were coming out of the process with defects. There was something wrong with the process. So dad went directly to the phone and called here and told Joe to come right away. But the morning passed. No sign of Joe. So dad called again. By this time he head over a hundred defectives. The army was streaming for stuff and dad didn't have anything to ship. So Joe told him we weld, cover up the cracks in any way he could, and ship them out.....dad was afraid. He wanted Joe there if he was going to do it. But Joe can't come down....He's sick. Sick! He suddenly gets the flu! Suddenly! Gets the flu! Suddenly! But he promised to take responsibility. Do you understand what I'm saying? On the telephone you can always deny a phone call and that's exactly what he did. (Miller, 1047: 101 – 102).33

The dialogue above, show the location of conversation between Steve and George, his son, in the jail. And in jail, the father Steve told about the chronological story to George and then George retell it to Chris and Annie, the sister of George. And shorten such occurrence or story is, that Steve provides himself indirectly and he wants to tell that he is innocent; it was Joe's fault. Steve sent the damage plan toolkits in the order given by phone line. Joe's order was result 21 of the fight plane fall down and kills 21 of pilot.

33. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 101 - 102
Finally, Chris knew the bad side of his father and he attempted to make his father acknowledge by his mistakes. But his effort was failed for his father denied all his faults.

\[ Chris : You \ even \ knew \ they \ wouldn't \ hold \ up \ in \ the \ air \]
\[ Joe \ Keller : I \ didn't \ say \ that \]
\[ Chris : But \ you \ were \ going \ to \ warn \ them \ not \ to \ use \ them.. \]
\[ Joe \ Keller : But \ that \ don't \ mean... \]
\[ Chris : It \ means \ you \ knew \ they'd \ crashed \]
\[ Joe \ Keller : I \ don't \ mean \ that \]
\[ Chris : Then \ you \ thought \ they'd \ crashed \]
\[ Joe \ Keller : I \ was \ afraid \ maybe... \]
\[ Chris : You \ were \ afraid \ maybe! \ God \ in \ heaven, \ what \ kind \ of \ a \ man \ are \ you? \ Kids \ were \ hanging \ in \ the \ air \ by \ those \ heads. \ You \ knew \ that! \]

(Miller, 1947: 115). 34

From the dialogue above, we can see the illustration about the situation of the conversation as a little bit tighten in the debate between Chris and Joe Keller. So, this debate made Joe shocked, for he could not believe about the action taken by his son ‘Chris’.

At the first time, his wife ‘Kate Keller’ didn’t believe and even denied if Joe was wrong. Finally, she is conscious that she must face every thing that happens. Kate who though that his first son is still alive and will reveal some day, she must acknowledge that Larry has gone as the result of Joe’s action. Where the Joe action is, Joe was sent the damage plan toolkits and was result 21 of fight plane fall down and kill 21 of pilot, because of that Larry felt depression and committed suicide.

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34. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 115
Mother: Altogether! (To Chris, but not facing them) Your mother’s’ alive, darling, because if he’d dead, your father killed him. Do you understand me how? As long as you alive, that boy is alive. God does not let a son killed by his father. Now you are see, don’t you? Now you see. (Miller, 1957: 114).³⁵

From the protagonist character of ‘Joe Keller’ character, indicated that he has fallen in deep depression as he trapped in very difficult problem in his life time, some of them are - the first, Joe felt depression of responsibility among his friends; he was caused Steve in jail, even though Steve did not make mistake. He felt this feeling and he hidden it for many years. The second, he felt depression of his family, the feeling made him uncomfortable to life and made him stress for he received this continuously shaken hard his soul and block his ambition to gain his dream he wanted; to be the American carrying the principle or the American dream myth in his life. “I ignore what I got to ignore”.

Beside that, Joe Keller had chosen the wrong path; he lied in front of the court that he did not send the defect tools. This choice had been suffered other people actually, it was Chris and Kate. Kate denied confessing Larry’s death; she felt that if it is true that Larry had passed away, Joe Keller must be the one who is responsible for his son’s death. The suffer of his beloved persons was the hardest part than the guilty he felt after that. He could not act as free as he want “I ignore what I gotta ignore”. His family’s suffering was some thing hard for him to neglect as well.

³⁵ Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 114
Finally, Joe Keller had fallen in deep depression. He just realized that his action; killing the pilots, even not expressly, as the same as he kill his sons, for Joe is part of his society and country, that he could not neglect anyway. This was clear from Joe’s statement, ‘But I think to him they were all my sons. And I guess they were, I guess they were.’ So that, Joe had fallen in deep depression, he felt unable to stand in this world anymore and finally decided to kill himself as the happiness he seek for along his life runs for nothing.

The depression and death of Joe was one critic, that the dream would not come true if it is achieved through a by wrong way. The motivation of American Dream was the opportunity to have the better life than before, the equality, competence to gain achievement and the most important thing was to be a successful persons.

Arthur Miller does agree with the mean or aim of American Dream, he just deplored that most of the people meant it incorrectly — than he implement it into All My Sons drama. The critics of Arthur Miller in derailed meaning of American Dream in this drama is really clear, one of them he created the protagonist figure “Joe Keller” as one of the man who derailed the meaning of American Dream; to be successful man through all ways. According to American Dream, we as human must be successful, if the success is in our hand; the high level, honor, and money would come to us. We must work hard to get success in the right track, in good way and not commit all the wrong way like wise Joe did. Joe was the sample for those who commit all ways to get his own success, he harmed other people especially his family.
He sent poor plane’s tools and caused pilot killed, and also caused financial loss for the country. He accused his best friend ‘Steve’ and made him go into jail. He caused his son ‘Larry’ killed himself for he ashamed to have a father like Joe which has no responsibility of his actions. And the most fatal one, Joe never confessed every mistake he committed whereas his family had known about his faults. Finally, all of his family; wife and sons blamed him. His dream, which he hopes, had been dissolved for his past mistakes. Joe Keller felt depression and killed himself. So that, the story of All My Sons drama was suitable to put the critic for American. Every body which utilizes all ways to get success will fail and most of them could not accept this reality and ended by deep depression or death like what Joe committed in All My Sons drama.

I watch the main problem of analysis with the evidences that we mention above at prologue, I can conclude that the character of Joe was very individualist, he only think about his needs and his family — to him, there is nothing important than family, he loves his family so much, he will do everything to make his family happy even in the bad way and make other people benefit less. From the business side—Joe had the big ambition; “I’m in business, a man is in business; a hundred and twenty cracked, you’re out of business; you don’t know how to operate, you’re stuff is no good; they close you up, they tear up your contracts, what the hell’s it to them? You
lay forty years into a business and they knocked you out in five minutes, what could I do, let them take forty years, let them take my life away?" (Miller, 1947:115).16

Those ambitions had burnt Joe's spirit to do everything in order to fulfill his needs. Besides that, Second World War had made American people's prosperity increasing; mining industry: steel and iron; farm industry: cotton, tobacco, and citron orange. High-level factory building in order to produce the weapon and equipments. Banking investment growth, the foreign businessman had invested the fund to produce Railroad Mileage. Abroad trade expansion, where the main and agriculture had exported to other country to get big profits.

The profit had made American people in prosper, even in the Second War condition. But only a few people who feel that prosperity, that lived in high level position and rich, so that, Joe didn't want to lose in the business fighting because only the honor and money will make him and his family in better life — due to that motivation, Joe sacrifice everything; his friendship with Steve and his relation to the community. But he forgot that his profit by doing wrong way will not go for long time and would not give the true happiness, for he could not live in peace — he will always restless, the material and ambition which covered his heart will not able to help him, and at the same time his family hated him. And finally, he felt depression and could not hold all of that and kill himself.

16 Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 115
B. II. Chris Keller

The next protagonist character in *All My Sons* drama was Chris Keller; where in this drama he was a son holding the result of parent’s deed. In *All My Sons* drama, Larry and Chris were the victims of his father’s action. Larry could stand on his father’s deed; he took a tragic decision, killing himself.

The next is Chris, the little brother of Larry, now he asked about inhumanity decision of his father. His father that he respected and trusted along time caused the death of other people including his own brother. The disappointment feeling of Chris was so deep. Chris could not accept his father’s action, which broke the law, while him, and could do nothing to erase regret from his heart. The result was, the conflict arose in him; whether he reports his father’s action to district judge? He wanted to report the admission of his father to the police, if not, it means Chris protect a guilty man or hide a crime. In another side, Joe is his father and he loves him so much.

*Chris*: ... I'm yellow. I was made yellow in this house because I suspected my father and I did nothing about it, but if I knew that night when I came home what I know now, he'd be in the district attorney's office by this time, and I'd brought him there. Now if I look at him, all I'm able to do is cry.

*Mother*: What are you talking about? What else can you do?

*Chris*: I could jail him! I could jail him, if I were human any more. But I'm like everybody else now. I'm practical now. You made me practical. (Miller, 1947: 123).37

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37. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 123
Actually, Chris did regard his father as a holy man. Chris realized his father wasn’t a God that never do mistake. But Chris could not think that his father as bad as that manner.

Joe Keller : Then ... why am I bad?
Chris Keller : I know you’re no worse than most men but I thought you were better. I never saw you as a man. I saw you as my father. Almost breaking: I can’t look at you this way. I can’t look at myself! (Miller, 1947: 125).

The conflict in Chris was; he could not accept egoistic father. Chris wondered if his father could see in this life not lone himself and his family, but there is other world and other person to be his responsibility. This conflict arose based on the reality Chris faced, that his father is the one who only thinks about himself. This judgment related to the way his father maintained his business. This conflict arose, as there was the life opinion distinction between the father and son.

Chris still maintained the humanity. He could not understand why his father gave priority to his business and ignored his morality. He really wanted to punish his father but he wondered whether he would be happy and satisfy if succeed make his father in jail.

Chris Keller : Do what? What is there to do? I’ve looked all night for a reason to make him suffer.
Anne : There’s reason, there’s reason!
Chris Keller : What? Do I raise the dead when I put him behind the bars?

34. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 125
Then what 'll I do it for? We used to shoot a man who acted like a dog, but honor was real there, you were protecting something. But here? This is the land of the great big dogs, you don't love a man here, you ate him! That's the principle; the only one we live by --- it just happened to kill a few people this time, that's all. The world's that way, how can I take out on him? What sense does that make? This is a zoo, a zoo! (Miller, 1947: 124).39

The confusion of Chris was that he could do nothing. Even he could jail his father, but it would not make the victim alive again. Chris is more disappointed when Joe did not repentance his deeds. Joe thought the victim was an accident and not his responsibility. The approval from Joe was he did all of that for the sake of his family's future.

Joe Keller : ... I spoiled both of you. I should've put him out when he was ten like I was put out, and make him earn his keep. Then he'd know how a buck is made in this world. Forgiven! I could live on a quarter a day myself, but I got a family, so I ---
Mother : Joe, Joe ... It doesn't excuse it that you did it for the family (Miller, 1947: 120).40

The dialogue above given us the character's personality aimed by the narrator, 'Chris' always sorry for the faults committed by his father in every conversation. As his father only care about his business not his morality. He intended to punish his
father but however he was just only a son who still loves his father, and finally this pressure made him stress.

Another pressure that Chris felt from his father’s deed was Chris could not marry Annie. Joe betrayed his business partner, Steve Deever, the relationship between two families was broken. Joe and his wife refused Annie to be their daughter in law.

Chris Keller: Sometimes you just infuriate me, you know that? Isn’t that your business, too, if I tell this to mother and she throws a fit about it? You have such a talent for ignoring things.

Joe Keller: I ignore what I gotta ignore. The girl is Larry’s girl.

Chris Keller: She is not Larry’s girl. (Miller, 1947: 68). 41

The reason from Joe to refuse Annie was because Annie used to be Larry’s darling. Another reason was Joe worried if Annie would make Chris as a medium to prove her father’s revenge in the past because of Joe’s fault. At that time Joe still kept the secret of violation in his business.

Joe Keller: Asking uncomfortably: Chris! You - - You think you know her pretty good?

Chris Keller: Hurt and apprehensive: What kind of a question?

Joe Keller: I’m just wondering. All these years George don’t go to see his father. Suddenly he goes ... and she comes here.

Chris Keller: Well, what about it?

Joe Keller: It’s crazy. but it comes to my mind. She don’t hold nothing against me, does she?

Chris Keller: Angry: I don’t know what you’re talking about.

Joe Keller: A little more combatively: I’m just talkin’ to his last day in court the man blamed it all on me, and this his daughter. I mean if she was sent here to find out something?. (Miller, 1947: 87). 42

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41. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 68

42. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 87
Nothing can be done, Joe suspicious Annie’s visit obsessively as the past event with Steve. Joe worried, ‘... they want to open up the case again, for the nuisance value, to hurt us? (Miller, 1947: 87). Actually, Joe did not want his past action jail Steve to open again. The prove that his father was fault. At the first time, Chris was proud of his father for he was a polite person, humorous and wise. But, when he knew that his father did fatal action, in turned Chris hated him.

The dialogue above tells us the illustration the mental quality of character, which they had the close-minded, in where the father was too offensive in maintaining his idea. Joe was sure that Annie had a bad intention toward Chris, because Annie was the sister of Steve, and Steve was the friend that Joe exploited him to cover his mistakes, another reason is Annie was the girlfriend of Larry – the brother of Chris, for that, Joe apposed their relationship. Joe was the kind of person who keeps close for his fault. This attitude harms many people especially himself.

Arthur Miller had put the positive values in his drama, one of them is character of Chris, where as Chris attitude was the opposite of his father—he cares other’s interest very much, and in the contrary, his father only thinks for his own interest. Chris is the one sample of a good in this drama. Where as Chris always strives to make his father aware of his past action that it was wrong and he must responsible for all by the jail. But unfortunately, Joe looked after himself that he was innocent and every thing he done was only for the happiness of family.

\[42\] Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 87
Arthur Miller keeps Chris’ character to face toward his father’s belief, ‘Joe’. Where Chris never gives up in making his father realize about his mistake especially to Steve family. Arthur Miller wanted to show to the reader especially American people that we are not alone and not all the success will stay along by wrong way. We live in world that is full of challenge, struggle, hard work, and competition. But we realize in every conflict, struggle, and hard work—we still have the person who loves us, reminds us if we commit mistakes. This life will be so beautiful in we go through in good way and alongside with the persons who love us.

We can take conclusion from the discussion above; the character of Chris was far different from his father’s. He cares other people — when George and Annie came to his house, Chris welcomes them nicely, even their fathers Joe and Steve fallen into big problem. Chris did not think over about that, and he was ready to hear the truth. He was amazed and disappointed when he knows that his father did not responsible for his faults, and Annie sent the letter written by Larry. He is disappointed when he knows that Larry killed himself because of his misery of his father and Larry could not stand for it.

The disappointment of Chris to his father was very big but he was more motivated than his oldest brother Larry. Finally, he holds his principle. He kept care to others’ importance and realize his father that every thing he had done was wrong.

Chris never bored to realize his father mistake that every thing he had done was wrong and he must take responsibility for that in jail. But it’s too pity for Joe that he always cover himself and felt not guilty and reasoned that every thing is for his
family. The character of Chris in *All My Sons* was kept by Arthur Miller, because he wanted to proof that must take responsibility of our actions, to be honest to our self and not afraid to loose the position and money because the true happiness is to live with our beloved family without any guilty.

C. III. Kate Keller

The violation of Joe concerning his betrayal to Steve and his fraudulent in business transaction, not only arose the negative reaction from his son Chris, but also from Kate, his wife. Kate tried to deny the reality that Joe was wrong for long time, but finally Kate realized that however she must face that. Kate always supposed Larry, her oldest son, still life and will come back some day, finally she must acknowledge that Larry was disappearing and died because of what Joe did.

Mother: Altogether! (To Chris, but not facing them) Your brother’s alive, darling, because if he’s dead, your father killed him. Do you understand me now? As long as you live, that boy is alive. God does not let a son killed by his father. Now you see, don’t you? Now you see. (Miller, 1947: 114). 44

The dialogue above gives us the illustration about the character’s action of Chris’ wife ‘Kate Keller’. In where, she never cares everything she heard about the crime and faults that Joe committed for the first time. Finally her protection disappear

44. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 114
as well when she knows that her older son disappear and died because of her husband fault, Joe.

The change of demeanor from Chris and Kate caused conflict in Joe occur. Before that, Joe didn’t feel in guilty for every thing he had done, because he taught that he dedicated it for his family not only for the money and business. The reality now is, everything like boomerang attacking against Joe; Chris and Kate blamed Joe.

Mother : A little fearfully: I mean if you told him that you want to pay for what you did.
Keller : Sensing ... quietly: How can I pay?
Mother : Tell him - - you’re willing to go to prison pause.
Keller : Struck, amazed: I’m willing to - -? (Miller, 1947: 120).

When Kate suggested Joe to surrender himself and jailed to compensate his sins, Joe was surprised. Now he realized that Kate considered him in fault. Joe was very shocked as his great struggle for his family was nonsense.

The dialogue above has given us the character’s expression of Joe when he was frightened when Kate and Chris supposed him to be responsible to everything he had done in the jail.

Joe Keller : For you, a business is for you...
Chris Keller : With burning fury, for me! Where do you live, where have you come from? For me... I was dying every day and you were killing my boys and you did it for me? What the hell do you

Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 120
Joe Keller

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think I was thinking of, the Goddam business? What is that, the world of business? What the hell do you mean, you did it for me? Don’t you have a country? Don’t you live in the world? What the hell are you? You’re not even an animal, no animals kill his own, and what are you? What must I do to you? I ought to tear the tongue out of your mouth, what must I do? With his first he pounds down upon his father’s shoulder. He stumbles away, covering his face as he weeps. What must I do, Jesus God, what must I do?

Joe Keller: Chris... My Chris... (Miller, 1947: 116).

Beside that, his assist of his business opinion “I am in business, a man is in business; a hundred and twenty cracked, you’re out of business; you don’t know how to operate, you’re stuff is no good; they close you up, they tear up your contracts, what the hell’s it to them? You lay forty years into a business and they knocked you out in five minutes, what could I do, let them take forty years, let them take my life away?” (Miller, 1947:115). He thought that to every businessman, the business is everything. He didn’t want to loose the business, which he worked since years and let it dissolved in short time. He determinates to keep his business in all ways and heir it to his sons.

Chris refused Joe’s reason and Chris didn’t want to fate as the same as his brother ‘Larry’ – Larry broken hope and kill himself because of his father. Through that letter, the failure of Joe was completed. He failed to achieve the happiness. His oldest son reported disappear, killed himself because of ashamed of his father’s action. Larry who took the short way to finish his life was the victim of moral

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46. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 116
47. Ibid., Arthur Miller, 1947, p. 115
violation of Joe. And then Chris, the rest son, turned to hate Joe too. And finally, Kate felt sorry for Joe’s action and undoubtedly asked him to repentance and hand himself over the police to be jailed.

We take conclusion from every dialogue above, we easy to understand the aim of the author "Arthur Miller", he always put Kate as the middle yard of principle of Joe and Chris, in which both of them had the positive side, Joe principled of business and only think about his family's happiness, that principle became one of social-economy critics in All My Sons drama, that business world will not far away from economy field and individualism character of Joe did not far from social field. Chris never understands the business opinion because he only thinks of how to care to others than him. At the end, we can see that Kate was close to Chris' opinion, because he attend for the happiness of his father and make him in peace and realize, that every thing he done was wrong and he must responsible for that. Beside, Kate always tries to make her husband understand — but her action was failed, because she never accepts that except Larry's death.

Arthur Miller had made the situation and character of Kate as simple as possible, for the function of wife all over the world was only to accompany her husband, to support and help him; but the wife would became the enemy if her son be victim of his father. Larry felt unhappy and under pressure of his father's actions. Protagonist character in All My Sons drama was clear, every one of them had taken part in the game, so that, All My Sons drama was really character critics and social economy for all of American people and especially in character All My Sons drama.
The character of Joe are careless of other's importance, more care of his family's interest that others has the strong ambition or dreams and doing every paths to reach the American Dream, Joe Keller was only thinking everything for his business, he didn’t care with the need of other people in his society or country where he lived. Character of Chris, where as Chris attitude was the opposite of his father – he cares other and he have motto in his live: don’t afraid to loose the position and money because the true happiness is to live with our beloved family without any guilty. And character of Kate, Kate as the middle yard of principle of Joe and Chris, in which both of them had the positive side, Joe principled of business and only think about his family happiness and Joe just want to get the American Dream in his life but Chris never want to understand the business, he only thinks of how to care the other and Chris just want his father awaking about his mistake.

As the explanation above, Kate Character is against the term of American Dream, in wrong way. And I tray to connect it between Kate character and deconstructive theory which about are connected. As Rolland Barthes (Prodopo, 1991: 78)\(^4\) says, viewing text with double means. As readers we are free to articulate the plot in drama, based on plot, character, theme or other, still, you are remain a reader. Try to learn *All My Sons* drama, will focus on character.

Double terms are that Kate really hates American Dream, since American Dream made her husband over ambitions which end their family in ruin. The second, the term American Dream gives spirit to her husband life and struggle for the sake of

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\(^4\) Rachmad Djoko, Prodopo, op. cit., p. 78
their family. Which ever ways that Joe took as long as their family is prosper. Even though explanation above has double means, as a reader, I will be focus on the means that the American Dream made their family in ruin; therefore, Kate doesn’t have implication to the term of American Dream. My opinion is seemed at the end of story where Kate directly cornering Joe to admit his false, where the truth will always win.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. CONCLUSION

The analysis toward *All My Sons* drama starts from the assumption or opinion of someone who said that this drama stands for social-economic critics. The social-economic critic in this drama is meant to “American Dream” that absorb the mind and attitude of American people at that time; before or after civil war between North and South American. Not only had that, in this civilized era, and assumption and opinion of people had been developed. *All My Sons* drama was not only the social-economy critics but character critics.

Arthur Miller was a famous American philanthropist. One of his characteristic was writing social-economic dramas. In this opportunity, Miller attempted to convey his critics on the failure of American people in reaching that dream. The dream is to reach material success as the implementation of “American Dream”. By this material dream, the people are indulging of glorification and made the success in material as the measuring rod to judge the success.

Miller presented his theme through the prominent character dan protagonist personage. The prominent character was created as the one who did not take his responsibility towards the mistakes he committed, more ambitious to gain American Dream through by every ways he could and finally it became the proof of the failure of American Dream itself, while the protagonist characters was used to show the voice.
of social-economic critics. The characters were conducted in many ways. Joe Keller was conducted as a good father which took full responsibility of his family survival in every fields of material aspects, gave a best example to his beloved family, meanwhile in his part of business, he must take every ways to keep his company survive in tight competition.

One of American Dream implementation was the materialism. This success was related to indulge in glorification for the businessmen, which Miller critisized as a fault. This critic was conveyed through the plot which tells about the businessmens’ world. Miller showed the reality in business world. The businessmen straive to win the competition that sometimes forced them to do amoral and out of business ethic. They only think for the profit oriented or their business interest, careless about employee’s welfare. Labour exploitation occurs sometimes in work relationship. The critic of Miller related to the citizen to not indulge in glorification of the business as the best profession all over the world.

Joe Keller was not the only success person, besides that he was nice guy; friendly, humorous, and calm. Joe loved his family very much as much as his family did. All of that, Joe had a happy life, but behind all of his happiness and peaceful, he kept the ‘bad history’ in his business career.

When the Second World War rose, Joe sell the poor plain’s tool that caused 21 fight plain fallen and killed 21 of the pilots. Joe and his partner, Steve Deever, brought to the court. By his cleverness and expert, he succeed to ensure the court that he never know about that, in deed he ordered Steve Deever to sent a bad tools. Steve
received this order via phone and disapproval. Steve must take responsibility and go into jail for 5 years, and Joe is free.

In his short victory, he still strives to gain American Dreams “American Dream” created the consumptive and materialist generation. By this attitude, they identified the success as money earning. They thought that the success could be seen from the rich of money he got. Base on this assumption, businessman is the profession that could give that kind of success. Further more, the intention to use the success in material as the measuring tools, the consumptive attitude appear. Some one will look like the success person if he has favorite stuffs. For that, they strived to pretend to consume more, to get the acknowledgment from the society.

This attitude clearly appeared in Joe Keller character in All My Sons drama. All My Sons drama, was didactic drama as well as social critic-economic. This drama teach that human existention is not only individual creature but also social creature that must take care of other person. Joe receive this value “to give precedence for own importancean family” and adopted work orientatio; to seperate moral from business ethic. The lesson from this drama is “an image of an American success, who is destroyed he “Joe” is forced to see that image in another context—through the eyes of his idealist son “Chris”. (Weales, 1975: page, 97)

Miller did not only critic the social behaviour and Joe character for that time being, but also the good examples. Miller created the second protagonist character Chris. Chris acted as the son with different character with his father. Chris and Kate give more precedence common importance than individualism. Chris and Kate dislikes
his father attitude that denied to acknowledge his own mistakes, and throw it to others, appropriately his relation of parenting “Steve”. Chris strived to make his father aware of his mistakes. He asked his father to admonish for his mistakes, but his effort was nonsense. His effort for his father was useless for he loves or kill himself than to go to admonish his mistakes. Even though, Chris was not success to make his father aware of his mistakes, but he still can called by a hero because he kept trying to make his father aware of. Another attitude of Chris was his supposed toward the business profession as not only one of prospective career.

The figures that had the perception of the success behind material show their failure. Miller created that characters that make the message work. And this is one reason why many persons love Miller’s drama very much. Kate was the wife and always helps Chris in order to realize her husband.

For that, Chris and Kate ask their father to be responsible of his action and acknowledge it, but Chris and Kate’s efforts fail because Joe chose to kill himself than to acknowledge his action. The end of this drama is the death of Joe, which we can see the fail of American Dream which Joe dreamed in his life and that fail as the mirror for us. The drama made by Arthur Miller became success and American people loved in so much, even the content of drama was the irony for them but they made it as the mirror for their life and especially for all of us—to not do the same thing and for those who want to success in the life he must work hard, responsible and to be honest in life.
B. SUGESTION

In order to get a better understanding of one text reader can use different point of view to analyze the text drama. By doing so a reader can enrich his knowledge on a particular text.

To enrich an understanding of a text, a reader can use deconstructive approach to get a different meaning from the text. Because deconstructive approach see that a text does not have stable meaning. The text is closely related to the context. Thus the text will always change. And that theory will be support by characterization theory.

By having different perception from different point of view, a reader can produce another meaning from the meaning in the text, of course it makes a reader more critical and taking part actively in reading a text. In other words a reader does not accept the meaning, which is given in a text or by dominant reading. A reader can use many theories to get different meaning.
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APPENDIX

All My Sons Synopsis and The Biography of Arthur Miller
APPENDIX

A. All My Sons Synopsis

Joe Keller was a success businessman. Has a good attitude; generous, humorist, and calm. He loves his family and so do they. In short, Joe has a happy family. But behind that, Joe kept a bad past in business.

When the Second World War took place, Joe sold one of plan spare part, but he sold the damage one. As the result, 21 of fight plane fell down and kill 21 of pilot. Joe and his partner, Steve Deever, called to the court. By his tricky and smartness, he was able to assure to the court that he did not know about the dispatching, because he was ill at that time. Joe did not send the tools, but Joe asked Steve to do so. Steve received that order via phone, that he can proof anything. For that, Steve must take responsibility and stay in jail for more that five years, while Joe is free.

Three years after, Annie (Steve daughter) visit Joe Keller’s family. His arriving is to marry Chris, Joe Keller’s son. Joe’s wife gaze directly at him for Annie used toarry’s girl, older Kate and Chris and Chris’s brother. Larry, who joined in military duty, was claimed lost when evacuated by phone. By this reason that Larry was supposed still life, Kate disagree with the married of Annie and Chris.

This controversy was more added by the appearance of George (Annis Sister) assis his son and rob Anni’s intention. This controversy runs as finally Joe did the mistake when Annie shows Larry’s letter. Larry kill himself after he knew
everything, and can not accept his father’s action. When every one penetrated him, Joe felt more guilty. Joe could not see another way except killing himself.

B. The Biography of Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller was born in New York, 17 October 1915. And raised to age thirteen in Jewish household on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, attending school in Harlem. His ancestry was German and his home life middle class, with his father, Isidore Miller was a ladies-wear manufacturer and shopkeeper who were ruined in the depression, and his mother a teacher. The sudden change in fortune had a strong influence on Miller. In 1928 the family moved to a small frame house in Brooklyn, experiencing there the hard times of the hard times of the depression, which is said to the model for the Brooklyn home in Death of Salesman. Miller spent his boyhood playing football and baseball, reading adventure stories, and appearing generally as a nonintellectual.

Arthur Miller graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1932, but since he had been more interested in athletics than studies his grades were too poor for admission to college. After a series of jobs, he settled down to daily grind in an automobile parts warehouse to earn money for college. Having read Dostoevsky's novel The Brother Karamazov Miller decided to become a writer. To study journalism he entered the University of Michigan in 1934, where he won awards for playwriting – one of the other awarded playwrights was Tennessee Williams. After graduating in English in 1938, Miller returned to the New York. There he joined the Federal Theatre Project, and wrote script for radio programs,
such as Columbia Workshop (CBS) and Cavalcade of America (NBC). Because of a football injury, he was exempt from draft.

In 1940 Miller married a catholic girl, Mary Slattery, his college sweetheart, with whom he had two children. Miller’s first play to appear on Broadway was *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (1944). It closed after four performances. Three years later produced *All My Sons* was about factory owner who sells faulty aircraft parts during World War II. It won the New York Drama Critics Circle awards and Two Awards. Miller’s plays often depict how families are destroyed by false values. *Death Of Salesman* (1949) brought Miller international fame, and become one of the major achievements of modern American theatre.

In 1949 Miller named an “Outstanding Father of the Year”, which manifested his success as a famous writer. But the wheel of fortune was going down. In the 1950s Miller was subjected to a scrutiny by a committee of the United States Congress investigating Communist influence in the arts. He was denied a passport to attend the Brussels premiere of his play *The Crucible* (1953). Miller “*The Man Who Had All The Luck*” married the motion-picture actress Marilyn Monroe in 1956; they divorced in 1961 a year after his divorce, Miller married the Austrian photographer Inge Morath in 1962. After Inge Morath died, Miller planned to marry Agnes Barley, a 34 - year old artist.
Arthur Miller


b. Education :
   1. Abraham Lincoln High School
   2. University of Michigan
   3. Ann Arbor

c. Family : Married;
   1. Mary Slattery in 1940 (divorced 1956)
   2. The Actress Marilyn Monroe in 1956 (divorced 1961)
   3. Inge Morath in 1962
   4. Agnes Barley

d. Career :
   1. Worked in automobile supply warehouse 1932-34
   2. Member of the federal theater project 1938
   3. Writer for CBS and NBC radio workshops
   4. Associate professor of drama
   5. University of Michigan 1973-74

e. Awards :
   1. Theater Guild Award 1938
   2. New York Drama Critics Award 1947, 1949
   3. Tony Award 1947, 1949, 1953
   4. Pulitzer Price 1949
5. National Association of Independent School Award 1954
6. American Academy Gold Medal 1959
7. Brandeis University Creative Arts Award 1969
8. Peabody Award for Television Play 1981
9. Bobst award 1983
10. Alguf Meadov Award; Southern Methodists University 1991
11. D.H.L University of Michigan 1956