CHARACTER ANALYSIS ON AUGUST STRINDBERG’S
THE DANCE OF DEATH

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JAKARTA
2009
CHARACTER ANALYSIS ON AUGUST STRINDBERG’S
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A Thesis
Submitted To Letters And Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For
The Degree Of Letters Scholar

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ABSTRACT


In this thesis, the writer analyzes the characteristics of the two major characters in the drama and the influence of their relationship to their character development. The method used in this paper is descriptive-qualitative. The writer employs herself to collect the data by reading the text and marking them. In this research, the writer uses the text of drama *The Dance of Death* by August Strindberg published in 1962 by Mc Grawhill Book.

In the drama, Captain and Alice are the main character. The characteristic of both characters mostly come from their views to one another. Captain is an arrogant person, a tyrant, a liar, yet he is a man who keeps his pride. Alice is materialistic but a good mother too.

Captain and Alice are married couple but they hate each other. This feeling affects their relationship and the relationship they have emerge several characteristics. Those characteristics refer to their character development. Finally, all of characteristic possessed by both character make the husband and wife share the blame for their inability to live together harmoniously.
APPROVEMENT

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LEGALIZATION

This thesis entitled “A Character Analysis On August Strindberg The Dance Of Death” has been defended before the Letters and Humanity Faculty’s Examination Committee on February 19, 2009. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Strata Scholar.

Jakarta, February 19, 2009

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, February 19, 2009

Fajriah Kamilah
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In The Name Of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful, May Peace

And Blessing Of Allah Be Of Us

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the world who has authority of creation in the whole world, the real writer’s guide and the one who gives special attention to us by giving Al Qur’an, the best holy book ever been revealed. Salutation and benediction be upon our prophet, Muhammad and his Family.

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Hopefully, this thesis will be a benefit for all the people who read it. Last but not least, any constructive suggestions and critics are needed for the writer to make this paper better.

Jakarta, February 19, 2009

The writer
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of The Study

Every work of art has its own aims and so is drama as a part of literary work. The major aim of drama, like the other work of art, is aesthetic in that it attempt to move people emotionally, to arouse their interest, and to satisfy those interest. To obtain the aims, a playwright should create a drama which has distinctive uniqueness from the same genre in literary work for attracting people attention. For achieving this intended distinctive uniqueness, the playwright could explore the elements of drama, either intrinsic or extrinsic one. The element that can be more explored is character. Unordinary character will be able to satisfy the interests which arise, and by appropriate word choices in depicting the characters, the reader or playgoer will be easier to memorize them. When the characters are memorable, a literary work becomes a great literature. As Gass state, “great literature are great because its characters are great, and the characters are great when they are memorable.”

By presenting unaccustomed characters, the dance of death is one of the dramas which fulfill the aims of drama that have mention above. There are two major characters in drama which created by its playwright, August

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1 Barrows, Herbert, Et Al., An Introduction To Literature (Massachussets: The Riberside Press, 1959) P. 319
Strindberg, as attractive as possible by giving them the characteristics as uncommon as possible. The characters are Captain and Alice.

Captain and Alice are called as unaccustomed characters since they are married couple and live together for twenty five years, but instead of live harmoniously, they hate each other. The hatred which appears in their early marriage brings misery to their life. The queer thing is, they never really want to end their marriage. They were doing so for keeping their image in the neighborhood.

The hatred also affects the way they communicate to each other. They used to speak cynical and sometime it tends to coarse one. However, they are able to open to each other. It can be seen from how they can share their opinion and thought with no doubt. They also do not stop admire their couple due to the hatred.

The uncommon relationship they have interest the writer to analyze them deeper. By focusing on the character and their interaction with each other, it will be revealed the oddness of the each other.

B. Focus Of The Study

To achieve the intended purposes the writer only focusing the research to analyze the intrinsic element of the play that is the character of Captain and Alice.
C. Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to limit the problems which are:

1. What are the characteristics of Captain and Alice as two major characters?
2. How does their relationship influence their characteristic development?

D. The Significance Of The Study

Based on the research question above, the significance of the study are:

1. To know the characteristic of Captain and Alice as two major characters
2. To find out how their relationship influences their characteristics development

E. Research Methodology

1. The Objective Of The Study

The objective of the study is to know the characteristic of Captain and Alice as two major characters and how their relationship influences their characteristics development.
2. The Method

The method used in the study is qualitative method with descriptive analytic by describing major characters, Captain and Alice.

3. Data Analysis

The collected data concerning with some events, expressions and conflict that happen in the play are read, underlined and grouping in two groups, Captain and Alice.

4. The Unit Analysis


5. The Instrument Of The Research

The instrument of the research is the writer herself through reading the text. She observes the text of the play then classifies the characteristics she found into Captain’s and Alice’s characteristics.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Drama

1. Introduction

Drama as a part of literary work comes from the Greek verb ‘dran’ means to do; to act; to accomplish. It means that drama as the work of art is certainly written to be act on the stage. As like Semi says: “Drama adalah cerita atau tiruan prilaku manusia yang dipentaskan. (Drama is presentation of a story or of imitated human behavior). On the other hand, drama is defined as ‘a form of literature intended for performance by actors’. From those definitions, it can be concluded that drama is a kind of literature that written to be acted on the stage and seen by spectator.

Drama in the beginning was only a form of a religious ceremony. In Greece it was held to honor their god, Dionysus, the god of wine, vegetation, and fertility. In that time only the priest who came forward and told the stories. Drama developed as an art form around 500 BC. In this period, a man named Thespian took the pries duty over and became the first actor. About 100 years later, Aeschylus, the other Greece playwright added the second actor. While the third actor added by Sophocles approximately 50 years later.

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Since drama is made to be presented upon the stage by actors, it makes drama has several elements that cannot be seen in prose. The elements are thought, diction, music and also spectacle.

2. The Element Of Drama

According to Aristotle in *poetics*, a play has six important parts, named here in order of their importance: plot, character, thought, diction, music and spectacle.\(^7\) Plot is simply known as a succession of events which happen in a story, while the character is commonly defined as a fictitious figure who present in a story. Thought is theme as transmitted by language.\(^8\) By using language, it is mean that thought can come from what character says and does. Thought in this term, is not only refer to what character have been thinking but also includes sensations, feeling, and emotion as well as deliberation.\(^9\)

Diction is simply the dialogue of the play, the combination of words into a speech. Formally, it is controlled by thought of the characters.\(^10\) Since thought controls the diction, it can be said, thought influences what characters say and how they say it. Music in this case, is not denotes to a sound of which produced by means of music.

\(A \text{ spoken word is a single sound or a combination of sounds. When a series of words is skillfully patterned into a speech and properly spoken by an actor, it will have rhythm and melody which aids in}\)

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\(^10\) *Ibid*. p. 350
conveying its feeling and thought. This is the “music” of dramatic diction.\textsuperscript{11}

Spectacle is actual presentation of event with full of the stage craft and properties.\textsuperscript{12} In this section, visual imagery which readers catch when they read dramatic text is visualized in customs, setting and so on.

Every element in drama has their own roles in making the drama become a great one, and each of them can be discussed in detail and deeper. However, in this study, the element that is observed is only character and its characterization.

B. Character And Characterization

1. Character

Character in narrative fiction and drama is central core of the story. Character becomes one of the most single important elements in these forms of literature since the character that experienced the sequence of plot. Characters also have motivation to do something and have some traits that make them classified into dynamic/static character or flat/round character and so on.

Character in literature generally means a fictional person appears in the story. Although the character is only a literary figure, they made as similar as real person in actual life. They also posses some inner qualities which real person also posses. They have name as Romeo, Raina and others. In fact,

\textsuperscript{11} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{12} Hubenka and Garcia (1979), loc cit.
there are plays with the character name based on their social background. For example, King Lear (Shakespeare's *King Lear*), Captain (August Strindberg’s *The Dance of Death*), Attorney (Susan Glasspel’s *Trifles*).

Character not only has external traits, but also the internal one. The character can be angry, grief, happy, sad, love and other emotions and feeling aspects. Character has great impact to audience as they begin to identify themselves with the character. The audiences feel as if they get in the story and begin to react differently. The character's feeling, emotions or thought is pretended as their own.

Although the character in literary work commonly is defined as the fictional human being, sometime character refers to something beside people. The character may thing or anything that possess certain qualities. It can be concrete or abstract ones. As Gass state:  

> "mountains are character in Malcolm Lowry’s *Under The Volcano*, so is the ravine, a movie, mescal, or a boxing poster. A symbol like the cross can be a character. An ideas or situation (The anarchist in the *Secret Agent*, bomb ready in his pocket), or a particular event, an obsessive thought, a decision (Zeno’s, for instance, to quit smoking), or a passion, a memory, the weather, Gogol’s overcoat—anything, indeed, which serves as a fixed point, like a stone in a stream or that soap in Bloom’s pocket, functions as a character."

For having those certain qualities, Sutton (1971) divided character into some classifications, flat or round and static or dynamic.

> Character is often describe as being flat or round, static or dynamic. A flat character is not fully developed. The writer may reveal only one or two personal traits. On the other hand, a round character is a very complex individual, more like someone in real life with several facets.

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in his personality. A static character is one of who does not really change in the progress of the story; he is the same person at the end as he was in the beginning. But a dynamic character does change psychologically.\footnote{Larry M. Sutton. Journey: An Introduction To Literature (Boston: Holbrook Press, inc., 1971) p. 5.}

According to the statement, since the flat and static character is resembled that they do not have progress during the story, it is mean that flat character are nearly static but round character is not only dynamic. Nevertheless, a round character can be static if during the story he does not develop. In this case, the author only focuses his work to the plot and ignores to the character development. It usually happens to a literary work which contains mysteries that have to be solved or a detective story and sort of.

There are two types of traits character should posses, they are external and internal traits. External traits that possessed by a flat (one dimensional) character, such as names, physical appearance, manner of speech and accent, social status and so on. The internal traits possessed by a round (multi-dimensional) character are: thought, feelings and emotions. A round and dynamic character must posses not only internal traits but also external ones.

It means that whether the characters are flat or round is distinguished by the personal traits they have. As the character describes, for example, Mr. Henry, forty years old and works as a postman, then Mr. Henry is a flat character since he only has external traits. But, when Mr. Henry is described as a male in forty, works as a postman and feels bored with the job, then Mr.
Henry is a round character since he is not only has external traits but also internal ones.

Mr. Henry can be a static character if he still worked as a postman whether he is flat or round. But, when Mr. Henry finally realizes that being a postman can be a joyful work, he is a dynamic character.

A character in fiction is divided into some types, which are:

1. Major and minor character
   Major character is a character that has big part in the story or play. He has important role because he always appears in each conflict. While, the minor character that have small portion but his appearance support the major character.

2. Protagonist and antagonist
   Protagonist is the main character of the story, the one who become the center of the story and action. He always depicted as sympathetic person. Antagonist is the character who cause problem for the protagonist. He always described as unsympathetic person. But the antagonists not need to be a person. It can be animal, ghost and so on.

3. Foil, confidant/confidante and stock character
   Foil is the character that acts as the butt of the jokes. Also the character used to show contrast with the main character. Confidant/Confidante is a friend or servant of the protagonist who by ‘listening’ provides the audience picturesque what the major
character are thinking and feeling. Stock character is a character that only has superficial roles.\textsuperscript{15}

2. Characterization

Characterization, in literature, is the presentation of the attitudes and the behavior of imagery person in order to make them credible to the author’s audience.\textsuperscript{16} It means that characterization is the way to presenting the character and make them acceptable to the audience. But in drama, it is not only the playwright who characterizes the character. Actors who represent the character on the stage also take part in characterizing the character with their own interpretation to the character.

There are two methods of characterization. The first is, direct characterization. In this method the author is ‘telling’ the audience about what the personality of the character is. For example, ‘the gullible girl does not know her lover lies.’ The author directly telling the audience the personality of the girl is gullible. The second method is indirectly characterization. In this method, the author is ‘showing’ the audience about the character of the story.

Meanwhile, Pickering and Hoeper describe the technique of characterization by telling, as follow:

a). Characterization through the use of names

Names are often providing essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant traits. Yet,

\textsuperscript{15} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fictional_character
other characters are given that reinforce or sometime are in contrast to their physical appearance.

b). Characterization through appearance

The author gives clues about the characterization of the character in the story from the character dress, how he looks likes, and other details of appearance.

c). Characterization by the author

The author characterizes his characters implicitly by using certain words that shows the personal traits clearly.

d). Characterization through dialogue

Characterization generally reveal from the dialogue among the character. When the characters speak, they may show their characterization by themselves or what they said give clues about their characterization to whom they speak.

e). Characterization through action

Personal qualities of character can reveal from what he does to himself, others, and his surrounding.17

In addition, stage direction sometime gives clues about the character. The author is directly telling the audience what happen to the character in the stage direction. Then, it is necessary to give attention to the stage direction and not to under estimate it.

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CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Data Description

In this chapter the writer will analyze two major characters in the drama The Dance of Death. Then the writer will explain about the influence of the two major character’s relationship to their characteristic development.

Before the writer start to analyze the characteristic of the two major characters, the writer would like to give a short description about the drama itself.

The Dance of Death is two-part play which tells about married couple, Captain (Edgar) and his wife Alice, living together for twenty five years and has two children. Living in an island and being alone since there are no children around and they have no relatives or friends also. It makes the life they have been through for a quarter century is very typical. Instead of living harmoniously they hate each other. Their hatred is more clearly seen after Kurt, Alice’s relative and the friend of Captain visits them. He comes to the island to work in the quarantine station there. He can feel the hatred odor up to entire house right after he walks in. The worst is, both Captain and Alice descend their hatred to their children in order to against their opponent.

Captain (Edgar) is captain in garrison artillery. He never becomes major due to his attitude towards the other. Meanwhile Alice is a housewife and an actress when she was young. The hatred they feel is very unusual feeling since it has no cause, no object or its end.
Although Captain and Alice have intricate relationship and they also hate each other, the loneliness in the island makes them communicate well. They are also able to open to share their feeling and opinion to one another with no doubt.

B. The Characteristic Of Captain And Alice

These characteristics are obtained mostly from Captain and Alice’s point of view, but there are other characters’ sentences that become clues to their characteristics.

1. The Characteristic Of Captain

a. Captain Is An Arrogant Person

Captain is an arrogant person since he never admits that his health decline is the result of his age. For the declining health, he got problem with his and also his ability to calculate. But he denies it and says that he has never been sick too. He also declares that he will still live another 25 years and if he dies he will dies like a soldier and does not dies because of an illness. For his attitude, Captain has problem in obtaining medical help.

From the dialogue between Kurt and Alice, it clearly shows that Kurt also admits Captain is an arrogant person. Captain state, “I exist: therefore there is a God!”\(^\text{18}\) It means that Captain regards his existence becomes proof of God existence. If he does not exist then God does not exist too.

\(^{18}\) \textit{Ibid.} p. 439. The sentence refer to \textit{the Cogito principle} by Rene Decartes, a French philosopher, which state, “I exist: therefore God exist”. It means that one existence become a proof of God existence. He also states that the idea of god is not acquired either through the sense or produced by human imagination.
Captain also states that he, “…claimed to have solved the riddles of the universe! [and] he discovered the immortality of the soul!”\(^{19}\). It shows that Captain is an arrogant person although Kurt considers his statements are resulted from his lack of sleep. For this statement Kurt says Captain the most arrogant person he ever met.

b. Captain is a man who despises other people

Captain is a man who despises other people since he feels that he has power on the Island. This feeling rises because of his position in artillery and his relationship to Colonel whom he will matches with his daughter, Judith. He crowns himself as a master of the island and sees other people as a proletarian, people who have lower social status than him. Captain also says that he is the only one who behaves in a good way.

Captain \([\text{agitated]}\) Yes, and what of it? We’re not invited because we don’t associate with the doctor’s family, and we don’t do so because we don’t want to--because I despise the pair of them. Rabble, that’s what they are!

Alice That’s what you say about everybody

Captain Because everybody is rabble!

Alice Except you!

Captain Yes, because I have behave decently in all circumstances. That’s why I’m not rabble\(^{20}\).

Moreover, Captain clearly insults people whom he regards as not good ones by mentioning them one by one, including the doctor who becomes Kurt’s superior. It happens when Kurt asks to Captain what kind of doctor he is.

\(^{19}\)Ibid. p. 439.

\(^{20}\)Ibid. p. 426.
**Captain** A scoundrel, that’s what he is! And that’s what the rest of them are too—the Custom Surveyor, the Postmaster, the telephone girl, the chemist, the pilot . . . what is it they call him . . . the Master Pilot—scoundrel, all of them; and that’s why I don’t associate with them!  

Captain feels there are no nice fellow in the island, according to his standard, and nobody whom he can talk to due to their lack of understanding on Captain’s statements. But it does not occur with Kurt because Captain used to like arguing with him and Kurt spent his money for paying Captain’s help as a peacemaker between him and his wife when they divorce and fuss over custody of their children.

He also calls the islanders as the society of idiots since there are not person who understand to what he says.

**Captain** [loftily] Accomodating or not, he [Kurt] was at least a man one could talk to . . On this island here there isn’t one single person who can understand what I say . . it’s society of idiots . .

Captain does not choose his victim when he begins to insult. In fact, Alice, a woman who accompanies him for a quarter century is ever called hyena by him. He also despises Kurt for makes him waiting so long when Kurt went to the doctor’s house.

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c. Captain Like To Interfere Other People Life

Captain begun to interfere other people business when he is not interested in his own life anymore because it has completely vanished for him and acts as if people issues are his own.

Captain, of course, never admits that he like to interfere people, but it is clearly stated by Alice, his wife, to Kurt

Alice It’s not easy to say: but he possesses an incredible talent—it may be just luck—for nosing other people’s secret . . . And did you notice how, the whole of yesterday, he seemed to be living in your quarantine station: how he sucked an interest in life from your being: how your children alive? . . . A man-eater, you see! I know him! His own life is going, or is gone . . .

Moreover, Alice called Captain as a vampire for acting like a vampire who is, “… a dead man’s soul seeking a body to live in as parasite.” Alice says so because as a living person Captain acts as if he is dead and wants to live by living in other person affairs in order to get reasons to survive. And what Captain does when he is parasite is, “… to seize hold of other people’s fates, to suck interest out of their lives, to order and arrange for them…”

Furthermore, the reason why he does so is simply because, “…his own life is absolutely without interest for him…” Captain is no longer interested in his own life because he knows that everything in his

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23 Ibid. p.444.
24 Ibid. p.458.
25 Ibid. p.443.
26 Ibid.
household is in his control. It is different from people business which he
does not know yet and seems to be more challenging.

d. Captain Is A Liar

This personality can be seen easily from Alice and Kurt’s dialogue
in which Alice warns Kurt no to believe Captain so easy since Captain
behave differently.

**Alice** You deceive yourself! he is conjuring up evil! And don’t
believe what he says: he lies deliberately, and he knows the art of
intrigue as no else . . . ²⁷

Captain is called as liar from his confession to Kurt that he could
not live long and has no intention to divorce Alice.

**Kurt** He told you *that*?
**Captain** *[tearful voice]* Yes, that’s what he said!
**Kurt** The other wasn’t true then?
**Captain** What? Oh . . . no, that wasn’t true!²⁸

Captain also confesses he has no intention to divorce Alice, in fact
he acts as if he never says such thing.

**Captain** Divorce? No, I never heard of it!
Kurt *[getting up]*: Then will you admit that you’ve been lying?
**Captain** My friend uses such strong language. We all need
forbearance!²⁹

Even though Captain does not say yes or no but he tends to avoid
the answer and it indicates that he lies.

The writer finds that Captain is a liar not only from Captain’s dialogue with Kurt, but also it comes from Alice statement how Captain lies to her in the beginning.

Alice My despised art!—But he cheated me, you know! He hold out prospect of a happy life . . . a beautiful home; and all I found was debts the only gold was on his uniform and even that wasn’t a gold !he cheated me!\(^{30}\)

e. Captain Is A Tyrant

Captain act as a tyrant is still related to Captain’s view that he is a master of the island. He treats his inferior as he likes. Captain makes Jenny, his housemaid, afraid of him and eventually, she behaves too humbly toward Captain. It can be seen from Captain and Alice dialogue below. Captain does not feel he is a tyrant but Alice shows how he can be called as a tyrant.

Alice It’s your fault. You spoil them!
Captain Not at all! You can see how polite they always are to me!
Alice That’s because you cringe to them! The fact is you cringe to all your superiors, because, despot as you are, you have a slavish nature.
Captain Oh, come!
Alice Yes, you cringe to your men and your NCO’s\(^{31}\), but you can’t get on your equals or your superiors.
Captain Out!
Alice That’s the way with all tyrants! . . . Do you think she’ll leave?\(^{32}\)

\(^{30}\)Ibid. p. 443.

\(^{31}\)Noncommissioned officer, also known as an noncom, is an enlisted member of an armed who has been given authority by a commissioned officer. “Noncom” is the lesser-used term in many militaries since it may also refer to non-combatants. The NCO corps includes all the grades of sergeant and, in some militaries, corporal and warrant officers. The naval equivalent includes some or all grades of petty officer, although not all navies class their petty officers as NCOs. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-commissioned_officer].

\(^{32}\)Ibid. p. 428.
Apparentlly Captain does not tyrannize over his maid only, but also his inferiors. Consequently, they do not want Captain to have promotion and become a major because there are no people who want to be his inferior.

**Kurt** Why did he never become a major?
**Alice** You ought to be able to guess that! They didn’t want to have a man over them who’d been a tyrant when he was under them! But you must never let him see you know anything about that! He himself says that he didn’t want to be major . . . Did he mention the children at all?\(^3\)

### f. Captain Is Ungrateful Person

Captain became an ungrateful person since he thinks that what he has now comes from what he did. He works so hard for reaching his position now and he never admit that he owe to everybody else. Alice, in this case shows to the writer with her dialogue how ungrateful person Captain is. When Jenny and Kristin, the other Captain’s housemaid, left Captain’s house, the fact that Alice and Captain owe Kristin’s wage for six months is revealed. Moreover, Alice had borrowed some money from Kristin, the other housemaid, but Captain seems unconcern.

**Alice** Well, you see! Do you know that we owe Kristin six months wage?
**Captain** Well, she’s stolen that amount!
**Alice** Besides that, I have had to borrow from her!
**Captain** I can believe that of you!
**Alice** How ungrateful you are! You know I borrowed it for the children’s journey to town!\(^3\)

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Captain also never say thanks to people who ever help him in his earlier career as an officer.

Alice Think of me then! . . . However, his earlier years as an officer were no doubt martyrdom. But he got help now and then from rich people. He never will admit that, and he’s taken whatever he’s been able to get as a tribute due to him, and without a word of thanks!35

g. Captain Is A Man Who Keeps His Pride

Although Captain has bad nature, but the playwright shows that he basically is only a common person. He has few prides he must keep it hard. He prides to be a husband who keeps his promise to take Alice to Copenhagen. He also described as a man who keeps his family name. it is the reasons why Captain never strike Alice when they fight. His act indicates that he is a man who keeps his pride.

Nevertheless, it is still become Captain’s pride, he can fulfill his promise to his wife. Captain also seems to keep his family name and try to make his family appears as a happy family. It is the reason why Captain never strikes Alice when they dispute.

Kurt Has he ever struck you?
Alice Me? oh, no! he knows I would left him if he had! One must keep some of sort of pride.36

Captain knows if he strikes Alice, he only will streak his name and the family. As he knows Alice will leave him if he does it. It means that

35 loc. cit.
36 Ibid. p. 435.
everyone on the island will know Captain left by his wife due to he commits such a domestic violence. It is finally streaks his name.

For keeping this pride, it is Captain’s duty to defeat Alice and Kurt’s plan after he is nosing at it. He gives him self authority to take Alice’s secret letter from post office. He said he only want to avoid any attempt to ruins his family by commit a criminal.\textsuperscript{37}

2. The Characteristic of Alice

a. Materialistic

Materialistic is one of the first characteristic of Alice which found by the writer. It is told that Alice is coming from rich family and also is actress when she was young. Alice ever lived in a glamorous way before she married Captain. Captain knows it and began to tempted her with a prospect of happy life with a beautiful home. When Alice finds out that Captain is not as rich as she thought before, Alice still want to live in a life that Captain cannot fulfill it.

\textbf{Captain} Always money! [Alice goes out. To Kurt] Money, money, money! All day long I go about with the purse, till I fancy in the end that I am a purse. Do you know the feeling?\textsuperscript{38}

For always asking money to Captain it indicates Alice as a materialistic woman. For this behavior, Captain guesses Alice will leave him if he has no money anymore.

\textsuperscript{37} \textit{Ibid.} P. 464.
\textsuperscript{38} \textit{Ibid.} p. 432.
Captain It’s awfully good of you but I have my own banking account. You see in this household [glancing towards the door, right]—nothing must be wanting. The day I run short of money—off she goes!39

Alice also disappointed when she found Captain is not as rich as she thought before. Due to this nature, Alice makes Captain never gives his family some money from his wage and Captain does not do anything. She always keeps her eyes on Captain. So, she can assures herself Captain does what she wants.40

b. Alice Is A Good Wife And A Good Mother

Although, it seems to be contrary with the characteristic of Alice that have mentioned previously, but the writer found her materialistic does not stop her to be a good wife for her husband and be a good mother for her children. She still wants to do the housework although they have housemaid and she shows that she cares to Captain no matter how she hates him.

Captain Yes, she’s been a faithful wife . . . a splendid mother, splendid . . . But [with a glance towards the door, right] she’s got the devil of temper. You know there have been times when I have cursed you for saddling me with her!41

As a mother, Alice care for Judith, her daughter, deeply and give great attention to her. She worries about Judith when Alice finds Judith wears too short skirt, and she advices her.

Alice Will you listen to for a moment

39 Ibid. p. 433.
40 Ibid.
41 loc. cit.
Judith Of course I will! [Alice sits down on the sofa. Judith remains standing.] But say quickly whatever you have to say. I don’t like long lectures.

Alice Lecture? . . . Very well put up your hair and wear a long skirt:

Judith why?

Alice Because you no longer a child! And you’re too young to have to make yourself out younger than you are!

Judith what does that mean?

Alice that you’re of marriageable age! And that your way of dressing shocks people!

Judith All right, I’ll do it!\(^2\)

She also is a caring woman who does not only care to Judith, but also to Allan, Kurt’s son. She advises him to get closer to Judith because Alice knows his true feeling to her.

c. Alice Really Understand To Captain’s Act

The writer called Alice is really understand to Captain’s act since she guess easily what Captain does. It is certainly the benefit of living for long time with the same person. It makes one knows what partner does even when he does not tell everything truthfully. It happen to Alice when Captain leaves the house to town, Kurt catches a sight of glitter from Captain’s helmet. Kurt feels curios to what Captain does in the town so he asks Alice, and Alice translates the Captain act easily.

Alice It’s easy to work that out. He was in parade dress—so he must have gone to see the Colonel. He had on his best gloves—so he was paying calls.\(^3\)

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\(^3\) *Ibid.* p. 444.
Coming back from town after seeing doctor, Captain brings news that he may live another twenty years if he keeps on healthy life, but Alice knows he lies.

**Captain** Oh, all sorts! Among other things I went to see the doctor, and he said it was nothing; that if I took care of myself, I might live another twenty years!

**Alice** [to Kurt] Now he’s lying! [To Captain] That was a good news, dear!\(^4\)

Although she knows Captain lies but she pretends she does not know it. Alice also can detect Captain’s interference in quarantine station.

**Kurt** By the way, do you know who writes those silly articles in the paper?

**Captain** [getting red] No, I don’t; but why do you call them silly?

**Alice** [to Kurt] Look out! He wrote them himself!

**Kurt** [to Alice] He did? . . . [To the Captain] Not very intelligent then?\(^5\)

By the change of Captain’s face color, Alice knows he has covered something and it is apparently that Captain who writes the article and affects Kurt has to let his idea to make the quarantine station nearer to the shore stolen by Captain.

**d. Alice Is Temperamental**

The writer concludes that Alice is temperamental since she can easily change her thought, feeling, and behaviour to Captain and Kurt also.

She easily admires Kurt as she easily hates him.

**Alice** Kurt! Don’t desert me! Don’t desert us!

**Kurt** Good-bye! [Goes.]


Alice [changing her attitude] What a wretch! There’s a friend for you!
Captain [gently] Forgive me, Alice! And come here! Come quickly!
Alice [turning towards him] That’s the most miserable wretch and hypocrite I’ve ever met!—You are a man, anyhow!\(^{46}\)

Changing her attitude makes Alice called temperamental since she usually take side to Kurt but when Kurt leave her and Captain in their fight, she emotionally see Kurt as a hypocrite and it makes her stuck together with Captain. It also makes her see Captain differently.

She realizes that Captain more gentle than Kurt. At least Captain never struck Alice when they are fighting before. He also is a person who keeps his promise to take Alice to Copenhagen. But Kurt does not. He ever promises Alice that he will not desert her no matter what happen.

e. Alice Is A Decisive Woman

This characteristic is shown on the story to complete Alice personality. Although she lives with a husband who shown has more negative personality than positive one, it does not make her live in anxiety to her husband. The writer found she can bravely decide what the best for her and her husband.

Captain I think I’m getting worse!... try and get a doctor from the town!
Alice [goes to telegraph] I must do it by telegraph then!\(^{47}\)

\(^{46}\) Ibid. p. 451.
\(^{47}\) Ibid. p. 436.
Alice also quickly resolve what she want to do to Captain whose health is not in good term after he falls while he dances. She bravely decides to ask for an absence to Colonel for her husband. She does it without Captain permission.

**Captain** Leave of absence? But I never asked for any?  
**Alice** No, but I did.\(^{48}\)

Alice also becomes a decisive woman when she finds a friend who also hate Captain deeply, Kurt. Kurt begins to hate Captain when he finds Captain separates him with his children when Kurt divorce. Alice instantly gets the idea how to ruin Captain and dishonor his name.

**Alice** He has taught me the tactics! Drum up enemies and seek out allies!\(^{49}\)

By doing the tactics, Alice and Kurt believe they can take revenge to Captain. So, they begin to make a plan for avenge Captain by relating him to an embezzlement.

C. The Influence Of Captain And Alice Relationship To Their Characteristics Development

From Captain and Alice description, it can be seen that they insult each other. Their relationship is not really harmonious. But the way they behave and their inharmonious relationship which shown basically make them able to open to each other.

Although, the way they communicate impressed to be a coarse one, actually it is a form of open communication. Either Alice or Captain outspoken to each other, there are no secret between them. This uncommon way of communication, finally makes Alice and Captain have long lasting marriage.

The inharmonious relationship comes from Alice and Captain’s inability to adapt with some changes individually, socially and environmentally after they are married. Individually, Alice clearly shows that she cannot adapt to her new lifestyle after she married Captain. She cannot accept the fact that Captain is not as rich as she thought, so she cannot continue her glamour life when she was a single woman.

Alice cannot adapt to her new environment. She was an actress whose manner is free, she also has a lot friends. Living in the island makes her feel bound due to Captain’s dreadful act. It really affects her relationship to other people there.

Captain also shows he fails to adapt to the changes. Socially, he used to associate with rich people who give him some favors before he sent to the island. Because of his failure, he considers the islanders as rabble and it makes him do not want to associate with them.

On the whole, what happen to their relationship finally make the couple share inability to live harmoniously during their marriage.

Captain and Alice as the main character in the drama, have several characteristics which emerge along with their uncommon relationship as married couple. Finding Alice and Kurt try to dishonor his name, Captain secretly against
them by taking Alice letter back from post office. He is aware that it will ruin his family name. So, Captain has to become a man who keeps his pride. In some occasion, Captain says untruthfully. It undeniable that telling a lie is one of Captain’s basic characteristic since it appears before they got married. But it also appears sometime caused by his relationship with Alice. He lies when he intends to divorce Alice and marries again.

When he realizes that his hard effort to match Judith with the Colonel does not work, Captain gets stroke and finally die. But, before he died, Captain rely his children on Kurt to take care of. It is so contrary with Captain’s behavior which always interfere other people business and pretends it was his own. He also said a noble word which indicates his changes.

This oddness relationship also affects Alice. She learns Captain in detail either his acts or his words. She easily guesses what Captain will do or the meaning of the words. Knowing how Captain behaves to her and their inharmonious relationship, Alice hides her ability to operate the telegraph from Captain. Nonetheless, she quickly decides to telegraph the doctor in town when Captain must get a medical help. There are also other examples which pointing to Alice become a decisive woman due to the relationship she and Captain have.

In addition, in the end of the story, Alice no more denies that she loves Captain and that their cynical way to communicate is useless and cannot hide the love they feel. Alice regrets it and admits Captain is not as bad as she think before. It does not take a long time after she finds Captain does such things only to keep family survive.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter the writer concludes the paper analysis then followed by the suggestion for the drama.

A. Conclusion

*The Dance of Death* is one of many plays written by August Strindberg. The play tells about a married couple, Captain and Alice, who hate each other. The hatred clearly shows during the story; nonetheless, they have along lasting marriage. And the end of the play, in the moment Captain die, Alice is aware that the hatred they feel all that time was part of the love they have for they their partners.

Based on the analysis that has been done in previous chapter, the writer found the characteristics of major characters in the drama, Captain and Alice. Having a special relationship with the Colonel make Captain feels he has power on the island where they live. As the result, he becomes a tyrant, an arrogant person, likes to despise other people. He also describes as a liar, an ungrateful person, likes to interfere other people business and also he is a man who keep his pride. While Alice depicted as materialistic, a good mother and wife, understand to Captain’s act, she is also temperamental and a decisive woman.

The writer also found that there are several characteristics of Captain and Alice which have mentioned above, emerge after they got married. The
characteristics are pointing to their characteristic development. Becoming a man who keep his pride and a liar are the characteristic that rises after he married Alice. Then, at the edge of his age, Captain rely his children on Kurt to take care of. He is no longer interferes other people business. Meanwhile, Alice’s characteristics which appear after she married are she really understand to Captain’s act and become a decisive woman. This character development in consequence of the way they relate to one another.

The relationship Captain and Alice have is uncommon one since the way they express their feeling, thought and opinion are often unromantic, cynical and tend to be coarse. In spite of that, they outspoken to each other. It is considered as a kind of open communication they have been used during their togetherness for a quarter century. All of characteristics owed by both character eventually make the couple share their inability to live harmoniously during their marriage.

B. Suggestion

In this study, the writer discusses character as one of intrinsic element of the drama. As the two main characters in the dance of death, Captain and Alice have an odd relationship, the writer forum that the main characters are interesting characters. However, the writer has some suggestion for the readers who interest to analyze this drama. If the readers interest in analyzing the character deeper, the readers can us psychological approach. Then, relate it with the psychological aspects the characters have in order to find any correlation between their characteristics to their psychological background.
The language used in the drama also can be analyzed by the readers who interest to the drama form linguistic view due to the two characters often use teasing word and cynical too. They also analogize their partner with a few animals sometime.
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Appendix

The Summary of The Dance Of Death

*The Dance of Death* is a two-part plays created by August Strindberg, a Swedish playwright. The drama has some characters; they are Captain, Alice, Kurt, Judith, Allan and lieutenant. The play, in general, discuss about the uncommon relationship between two major characters. It finally influences the way these two major characters express the hatred and the love they feels to each other. The two major characters are Captain and Alice.

Captain and Alice are a husband and wife leave together for twenty five years. Captain is a captain in a garrison artillery settled o the island. While Alice is formerly an actress. Kurt is Alice’s cousin and also Captain’s friend. He comes to the island for working at the quarantine station there. Judith is Captain and Alice’s daughter. She is a grown up lady and loves Allan, Kurt’s son.

It is called uncommon relationship since Captain and Alice are married couple, but instead of live harmoniously, they hate each other. The hatred that appears from their early marriage brings misery to their life. The queer is, they never really want to break the marriage and get divorce. They are doing so, for keeping their good image in the neighbourhood.

Captain is so arrogant and always despised other people that he has less friend. It also affected his military carrier. He never promoted as a major because of his behavior who tyrannize over his inferior. For those behaviors Captain and
Alice are stayed away social intercourse. Having few friends on the island makes Captain and Alice send their children to town looking for companionship. The other reason why they send their children is because they do not want to ruin their children with their hatred. Kurt also can feel the hatred odor up the entire house right after he walks in when he visits Captain and Alice.

Although the hatred has no reason, no object and either Captain or Alice does not know its end, it does not stop them for adoring their couple. Captain should confess that Alice is a faithful and a splendid mother. While Alice admits that Captain is a responsible husband for what he has done for the family. And unlike the people who hate each other, Captain and Alice, on the contrary are able to open each other. The loneliness, as the result of Captain’s whim, certainly affected this situation. So they can share their feeling, thought, and opinion about everything with no doubt.

Not only have fewer friends but also Captain and Alice have no relatives on the island. It happened after Captain uprooted Alice’s brothers and sisters. Then, Alice does the same to Captain. Alice begins to learn how to use telegraph in her house by herself. Alice intentionally lie to Captain due to it is the only way to keep in touch with the people outside of the island. She starts to be more temperamental and aggressive since Kurt visits them. She tells Kurt that separated him with his children. Consequently, Kurt begins to hate Captain. With Kurt by her side, Alice who always put up with Captain’s behavior begins to dare contradict him. Meanwhile, Captain become temperate since he get faint and knows how bad the heart disease he got. But in his, he knows about Alice’s
conspiracy with Kurt who want to imprisoned him and dishonor his family name. Captain makes a step ahead to preventing it and he is success.

Finding Judith loves Allan, Captain tries to separate them because he already matched Judith with Colonel whose age up to fifty. He is doing so, for keeping family’s good name and Captain had already used Colonel’s name to make people bow down at him.

Although Judith is a daughter who always respect to her father, but she also pities to her mother for what she had been through. Judith, at last, disobeys his father’s wishes and she prefers to catch up with Allan after she rings Colonel to break off. When Captain finds this out, he directly gets stroke and pass away. Before he dies, Captain says some noble words that refer to he is a kind person and what he did all this time only for keeping his family survive. This is the situation where Alice finally realizes that she loved Captain, and yet she still hated Captain.