

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

It is the tendency of human being to live in an ideal group of people who share common culture, norm, and similar propensity inhabiting beneficial lives. This group of people insisting what in modern term known as society, all individuals would have a basic inclination to reside in an ideal social setting, as it is vital for their optimal functioning and fulfilling the desire of well living, as how Wright Mills ever stated since 1959 (Mills, 1959). To achieve this, people make significant efforts to establish and sustain such a desirable living situation. This would lead into a stable situation of society where people could live their lives along with another's without something in between involving problem.

It ought to be considered how individuals may came out with differences among others when it comes to the living as how society has impact on shaping an individual (Henslin, 2018). The diverse thinking of each individual may result something out of common sense in behaving towards other, which may conclude different value of doings. When a certain individual's doing crossed the line of another in scale of general society norm, this would lead to the behaviour of a deviant. As how Howard S. Becker ever stated once in his work called "Outsiders: Studies in The Sociology of Deviance", deviant behaviour would involve a failure of obeying certain rules of a group (Becker, 1963). This may cause an imbalance in ideal state of a society in various aspects. It is plain to see how the interaction of individual's behaviour is quite relative (Durkheim, 1938) and may be clearly seen in an image of social group of living in one place, as a village and a city.

The big picture of deviances may not only be seen in general living, for its popular common case, deviances were able to impact the huge part in the existence of literary studies. For the beginning of literary works era, we have been served with various of conflicts among the works of literature form such

as poetry, novel, drama, even for one of the latest forms of literary work, play. In general, a literary work would tell the audiences about something with message and certain topic from the author. In comprehensive way, one of the classic forms of literary work which able to take the audiences into realest experience is drama. As how Arthur Miller ever stated in “The Death of a Salesman”, drama as literary work does the representation of nature (Miller, 1949). This resulting literary works expanding its function of reflecting the image of real life consisting human behaviour that stands in the right path and the one that involves deviance.

In 1953, Arthur Miller has come with a related literary work involving society interaction of deviant behaviour in a play called *The Crucible* (Miller, 1953). The following play would consist the clear picture of several individuals behaving in a town with their own behaviour of the roles. The play served remarkable tendency of individuals to live their own state of ideal society with such diverse visions from each individual. This play also did emphasise how deviant behaviours may appear for certain personal’s impact and how it would influence one and another in scale of large society.

This literary work of drama would deliver a huge picture of a small town called “Salem” as a mainly focus of the following thesis to be furtherly discussed in the matter of society. The plot was set during 1692 and was described how people in that period would have a controversial perspective towards a witchcraft. The town of Salem would stand in completely oppose the practice of witchcraft, to the point stating anyone who involved in such an activity would be sentenced death by hanging through the current law of court. This current situation of law was not only used to prevent the town from the threat of witchcraft works, but also used by several people to get rid someone they ought to think is not likeable. The court would be a pleasant place for certain individual to bring other towards false accusation of witchcraft.

Several citizens of the town ended up being deviant figures who break the rules of society in order to achieve their own goals of getting rid of someone or fulfilling their own desire. There also certain case of adultery among legal

marriage where someone tried to fulfill their need of lust and goal by breaking the norm of society. This case of individual achieving something in a way out of society's standard and rules is what make them a deviant, and for every act and behaviour they intend to accomplish is what would be called as a deviance.

As literary works would have so many to offer, the following play also offer not only the deviant aspects to be analysed further, but also providing how the character dynamics that live up the entire play. The character dynamic would not only consist of emphasising what's happening between characters in this play, but also breaking down certain big picture of two main ideas that oppose each other into deep literary analysis of what influence around the issue. This matter also famously well known as binary opposition, involving two intimate circumstance that has its own standing value opposing each other.

The world would conceivably familiar with the matter of good vs bad. But this play has deep matter of binary opposition to offer which would come to certain confusion understanding to people for them to stand in one of the sides and played crucial role in understanding the way of meaning (Barthes, 1967). This would be influenced through the unique value of how the binary opposition in this play appear quite similar of each other while offering what's worth to an individual with diverse way of interpreting. The indicated study of binary opposition would proof how literary works would be a way for an individual to sense an awareness towards the sociology aspect in daily lives to be far sharpen in comprehensive way.

It is appear how The Crucible play does offer a significant point of view how the existence of certain deviances come to such a complex understanding. This play does provide how specific individual of characters or certain party tend to achieve one goal. In this particular case, the characters in the play did occur the picture of having how the characters allowed themselves achieving the goals with validating any kind of way to having the goals achieved. The following matter has become the main highlight of value in this research, as how this research offer the deep dive into occuring certain understanding on why several deviant acts have committed in this play.

This following research occur to deep complex understanding on how and why several deviant acts have appeared in the play. In the early phase of the play, when a witchcraft accusation exist and started everything, it is appear peculiar yet brought such a unique value (in the wrong way) how one character push another figure in order saving themselves from the actual deviant act of strange activity, which has crossed the standards and norms of current societal rules. In this specific scene of the play, the audiences received the impression on how deviant act was having the phase of morally incorrect yet validated as part of character's life. This decision hugely impact the general situation of the play, and yet does impact the existence of the value between good and bad.

The deviances in this play does put the value involved in between. The readers of the play brought the thinking of having one deviant act broke down further into another layer of duality. As how one deviant act committed, the impression in general scale comes to two sides of party, the good and the bad. This triggered how the involvement of binary elements are having opposed among each other. The huge scale of context happening in the play does bring up how the deviant acts occur to bound with the binary opposition as the great resource of this following research to furtherly broke down with related particular topics.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of the problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What are the Deviant Acts appeared in *The Crucible* play?
2. How can the Binary Opposition be seen among the characters in *The Crucible* play?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

This study will mainly focus on finding academical answers from the following *The Crucible* play, with several purposes of:

1. Acknowledging deviances appeared in *The Crucible* play.

2. Discovering binary opposition among the characters in *The Crucible* play.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

The following research do provide several theoretical significances, furthermore in existing literature of socio-literature context of deviance elements in the literary work of drama. This went along to what Earl Babbie has ever stated in 1998, as how the research would answer specific question and topic (Babbie, 1998). The study of deviance itself has a lot of relevant concern with the sociology field, as how deviance concept itself is grounded among the social order (Goffman, 1963), and furtherly this research also connects the study with literary devices and drama itself as the subject. This would result in such a contribution for the current studies of related fields. Specifically, the following research would offer theoretical insights on how complex analysis of deviance aspects and binary opposition in a play, by bringing up and highlighting what fulfil to become a situation of deviance and character dynamical of binary opposition, the result may sharpen more awareness through the theoretical approach of this research (Goode, 2017). The awareness of acknowledging contrast and different would also shape the understanding of reality (Said, 1979).

#### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

1. Drama

Drama does involve huge scale of literary elements consisting organic plot structure, emotional roles among characters and conflict in form of narrative fiction (DiYanni, 2002). The following literature genre involved major role of specific object in this research.

2. Play

Play is the specific form from literary genre of drama. This involve further performance in a theatre and capturing all the scenes from textual form

(Bauman, 2013). In further, this also represents specific situations from the dialogue happened in certain context.

### 3. Deviant

A deviant could stand for both an adjective of a certain behaviour that violates social norms and standard, and stand for specific individual who done the following act (Macionis, 2010). This related behaviour would become most focus of the following research.

### 4. Deviance

In the scale of society, deviance would stand for the following deviant act phenomenon that crossed the society and standard value (Thio, 2010). This will consist various and most related events happened in the play as further main analysis role in this research.

### 5. Binary Opposition

Among the impact of certain character dynamics of facing two opposing state in a play, binary opposition is the term used in elaborating further the related context in the systematic relationship pair of the opposing elements (Levi-Strauss, 1963).

### 6. Primary Deviance

The term of primary deviance would furtherly represent the specific act of violating the standard's norm and value, and only put the highlight on the specific related act (Lemert, 1967). This became the minor aspect from the huge topic of deviances to be furtherly discussed.

### 7. Labelling

Labelling became the reaction of related society towards the deviant, and not naturally appeared from the main individual, but rather the form of consequences along the committed deviant act (Lemert, 1967). This also appear as sanction towards certain deviant act committed in the play and this research.

#### 8. Secondary Deviance

The manner of secondary deviance would appear as how the related deviant does continue to keep committing another deviant act further in the play (Becker, 1963).

#### 9. Structural Role

In the context of a narrative, structural role refers to certain a position or function of a character that holds a relation to oppose (Levi-Straus, 1963). This would emphasise an individual state in certain context of the play.

#### 10. Function Within The Narrative

In the concept of binary opposition, function within narrative would elaborate further by advancing the narratives of related character (Levi-Straus, 1963). This also emphasising further explanation on the opposing reasoning of a relating case.

