CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this section, the researcher explains the background of research, research question, research objective, research significance and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

In the 1970s, the United States experienced a period of significant social, political, and cultural change. This era was marked by various challenges, from political scandals to changes in social values. One of the dramatic texts that reflected the social realities of the time was *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard. This play captured the nature of instability and dysfunction that plagued the American family, while also criticizing the myth of the American dream.

In the 1970s, America experienced severe political unrest. The prolonged Vietnam War caused widespread discontent, especially among younger generations. Many questioned government policy and the morality of the war, sparking mass protests and an anti-war movement. The Watergate scandal, which came to light in the early 1970s, further undermined public confidence in the government, leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974. The scandal exposed corruption and abuse of power at the highest levels of government, thereby reinforcing public sentiment, cynicism and distrust of government.

Economically, the United States also fell on hard times with the oil crises of 1973 and 1979 causing high inflation and economic recession. This led to rising unemployment and widespread economic insecurity. Many families felt overwhelmed by financial pressures, affecting family dynamics and everyday life. Socially, the 1970s were also a time of great upheaval. The civil rights movement reached its peak in the 1960s, continuing the fight for equal rights for blacks.

However, racial discrimination remained a serious problem. In addition, the feminist movement was on the rise, with women demanding equal rights to employment, education, and control over their own bodies. Popular culture and art were also undergoing changes, with the dominance of rock and disco music, as well as the growth of a counterculture that challenged traditional norms.

Existence of a society refers to the way in which form, function and development of individuals within it are determined. Society can be shaped by a number of factors, including it's history, structure, norms and behavior. The presence of literature allows us to understand it's role and impact in the daily life lived and believed by society. In this regard, this phenomenon is studied and becomes a science called Sociology.

According to Sapardi Djoko Damono (1979 : 6), Sociology is a branch of science that scientifically and objectively studies people in society, institutions and social processes. The sociological aspect, by its nature, focuses more on the relationships between individuals in society.

Sociology seeks to understand how society sustains life and how it continues to exist. By studying the institutions and economic, religious, political and other issues that make up every social structure, we gain insight into how humans adapt to their environment. Their social mechanisms and cultural evolution place the members of society in their respective positions (Damono, 1979 : 7).

Concerning the relationship between sociology and literature, Swingewood (1972) presents a positive view. He does not support the view that literature is just an auxiliary material. He emphasizes that when conducting sociological analysis of literary works, critics must be careful in interpreting the slogan "literature is a mirror of society."
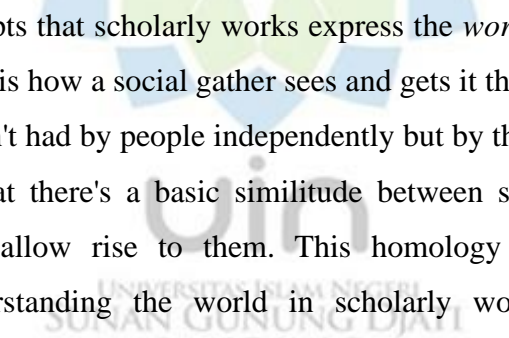
Furthermore, he adds that this slogan overlooks the author, consciousness, and purpose. Swingewood realizes that authors are created with specific toolsFocalization alludes to the viewpoint through which a story is displayed, basically centering on who sees the occasions of the story. It decides the sum of data the peruser gets around characters' contemplations, sentiments, and discernments. There are three primary sorts of focalization are zero focalization, internal focalization and eksternal focalization.

Moreover known as all-knowing portrayal, where the storyteller knows everything around all characters and occasions. The storyteller has boundless information and can give experiences into the considerations and sentiments of all characters. The story is displayed from the viewpoint of a specific character, giving get to to their inward considerations and sentiments.

The story is restricted to what this character knows and sees. The storyteller depicts characters and occasions from an outside perspective, without get to to the inside considerations and sentiments of the characters. The center is on discernible activities and discoursed. Understanding focalization makes a difference in analyzing how stories are told and how the viewpoints of diverse characters impact the reader's elucidation of the story.

Structuralism genetic points to get it scholarly works as items of bigger social structures. This approach sees scholarly writings not as standalone objects but as comes about of the social, financial, and chronicled flow impacting the creator. In other words, Goldmann emphasizes that scholarly works reflect the mental andocial structures of particular social bunches at particular times.

Goldmann accepts that scholarly works express the *worldview* of a specific social lesson. This worldview is how a social gather sees and gets it the world around them. This collective awareness isn't had by people independently but by the social gather as a entire. This concept posits that there's a basic similitude between scholarly writings and the social structures that allow rise to them. This homology shows that the way of considering and understanding the world in scholarly works reflects the way of considering and understanding the world of a particular social gather.

Structuralism genetic employments a persuasive approach to get it the relationship between people, scholarly works, and social structures. Goldmann sees scholarly works as the result of a argumentative handle between the creator (as a part of a social bunch) and the existing socio-historical conditions. This approach emphasizes the significance of understanding scholarly works inside their whole socio-historical setting. Goldmann accepts that as it were by understanding this totality can we get a handle on the genuine meaning of the work.

In hone, structuralism genetic includes in-depth examination of scholarly writings by considering exploring the verifiable foundation and social conditions at the time the work was composed, analyzing the author's social gather and how their worldview is

reflected within the work and watching how components inside the content (characters, plot, topic) reflect bigger social structures.

Today's society, madness is still interpreted and treated with the same understanding as it was in the early 17th century, characterized by chaos, alienation, torture, sadism and humor. This is a structural definition that modern society can understand, it is impossible to classify madness within the framework of a healthy, multicultural, inclusive, democratic and civilized social order.

Insanity itself refers to a condition in which an individual experiences extreme madness or irrationality, which can change their behavior both behaviorally and mentally (psychologically). This can impact social judgment as it is perceived as a threat to the well-being of the community.

According to Michel Foucault (1967 : 46) , in social behavior, there are three types of relationships : *individual to individual, individual to group and group to group.* Different relationships in social behavior are called relationships. Relationships formed from these social relationships can establish power or authority. Power relations are often considered a stigma against society due to their negative effects such as pressure, biased laws or constraints that cause people to face difficulties.

Madness and power relation often become central themes in literary works. During the economic stagnation of the 1970s in the United States, many writers emerged with stories surrounding these themes. These stories grew out of the dynamics of that period. It is often said that literature is not born in a cultural vacuum. Based on this foundation, the theme of madness and power relation that writers explored reflected the social reality of the time. Literature is considered an expression of the era in which it appeared and a testimony to what happened.

Great writers loved and created works of literature while grappling with the pressing social issues of their time. Their work reflects and shapes society's attitudes towards contemporary issues related to madness. These authors especially emphasize the madness that occurs during periods of economic stagnation. There are many works of literature that document the struggle of individuals and groups to maintain sanity under the pressure of values, morality, and a culture that views society as submissive and oppressed. Society is constrained by harsh conditions, whether in the lower, middle or upper classes.

The connection between society and mental illness, common among Americans, can be clarified by the French philosopher Michel Foucault's definition of madness. In his book *Madness and Civilization : History of Madness in the Age of Reason (1989)*, Foucault studied the history of madness in Western society. Foucault's investigation revealed that different types of behavior were considered crazy at different times and in different societies. Foucault also emphasized the important role of power, social or ideological configurations in determining madness at a given time.

In other words, madness is a social construct. Thus, in American society that emphasizes power, they can define madness in a general sense to establish their sovereignty. In his book *The Archeology of Knowledge (1969)*, Michel Foucault's theory is concerned with the nature of power in society, his more specific concern is the relationship between power and the formation of discourse in society create possible knowledge.

From this phenomenon, the researcher will connect with the current research to reconstruct the plot of the play *Buried Child*. Indeed, in the script of the play *Buried Child*, there are four types of madness mentioned by Michel Foucault : *madness , epistemology, knowledge and power.*

Buried Child tells the story of an Illinois family consisting of Halie, Dodge and their two sons, Tilden and Bradley. It was a family immersed in poverty and suffering, like endless rain. Over time, this family becomes increasingly helpless in the face of suffering, until one day Vince arrives with Shelly, a mysterious character claiming to be the child of a family member. His appearance reveals many mysteries behind all the suffering that has occurred. There is also the character of Father Dewis, a priest from Illinois. Tilden, as one of the characters in the drama script *Buried Child*, displays a madness out of step with the times.

Additionally, we will see how this family pieces together their family history with limited memories. It is a dark, absurd, contemplative meditation on family, degradation, division, secrets and growth.

1.2 Research Question

From the description of the problem context, there arise issues that need to be researched. However, due to research limitations, the issues to be investigated are also limited. Based on the research context, the following questions are related to the main research topic, which is the theoretical analysis of madness and power relations in the drama script *Buried Child.* The following questions are addressed in this research :

1. How focalization focus in drama script *Buried Child* used to understand the social situation at that time?
2. How can power relations represent madness all characters in drama script *Buried Child*?

1.2 Research Objective

Characters and the plot of the script are important pieces of information in this research. Therefore, based on the issues above, the researcher considers several factors that underlie the research objectives discussed below:

1. Understanding how the focalization focus in drama script *Buried Child* used to comprehend the social situation at that time.
2. Understanding the role of power relations and madness all characters in the drama script *Buried Child.*

1.4 Research Significance

Diverse perspectives on madness and power relations often appear in literary works from different regions of the world. This phenomenon is important because it can contribute to an overall understanding of insecurity and the fight against existing discrimination in society. On that basis, the researcher chooses to consider the factors that determine the existence of these factors. Additionally, it allows us to understand how power relationships influence society.

This study is beneficial in an academic context, where readers can view it as an appreciation of literature, both in terms of theory, subject matter, and object of study. For

researchers, this study can enrich their knowledge of literary analysis. Meanwhile, for readers without a college education, many may assume that literature is only concerned with aesthetics, idealism, and other considerations.

However, this study can be something new and fresh for them, providing information that literature also has interesting aspects, including the characters and settings that the author wants explain. This can encourage readers to explore and appreciate literature more, both in terms of theory, themes, and the stories themselves.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoiding misunderstanding and misinterpretation of words in this research, the researcher explains essentials terms which are used in this research, there are :

a. **Focalization :** Essential center on how a particular point of view from which the story is described can impact how the group of onlookers or peruser gets it franticness and control elements inside the show script *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard. Focalization alludes to the way the story is displayed through the perspective of characters or storytellers, and how this influences the understanding of central subjects within the show script.

b. **Power Relation** : Investigation of how power relation are shaped, challenged, or showed inside the dramatization script. This incorporates examining how characters interact with each other in terms of control, control, specialist, and resistance. Within the setting of this proposal, control can be caught on as a nearness and impact that amplifies past people to influence social and mental elements inside the show script.

c. **Madness :** Understanding franticness within the context of this proposal includes how characters within the dramatization script encounter, see, or are spoken to as "frantic". This incorporates investigation of representations of franticness, how franticness is seen or managed with by characters inside the story's setting, and its impact on the plot and topics of the show.