

**A STUDY OF TRAGEDY AND ITS MORAL VALUES
IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *MACBETH*:
A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS**

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This research is aimed to find out the structural elements and its moral values on the play. The analysis covers some structural elements which consist of the theme, the character and characterization, the setting, the plot, the point of view, language and symbolism. The play *Macbeth* is tragedy and full of conflicts and moral values on the story. And also, it belongs to one of famous plays written by Shakespeare about 1606.

The subject of the research is play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare and the object of research is the intrinsic elements of the play and the moral values of it. To analyze the structural elements of the play *Macbeth*, the writer uses the objective approach that anatomizes the work of art itself without relating to external factors such as universe, artists, audience. It focuses on the elements of literary work.

The findings of the research show that 1)The theme of the play is a blind ambition. Macbeth is goaded by his more ambitious wife, Lady Macbeth, to be king by evil way. He uses 'the goal justifies the means' to obtain it. But it causes the downfall. 2)There are two main characters namely Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and seven minor characters namely King Duncan, Banquo, Three Witches, Macduff, Malcolm, Fleance, Lady Macduff. 3)The setting of time happens in eleventh century ; Meanwhile, the setting of place happens in Scotland and in England, Though, Shakespeare uses the setting of place in beginning of every act. 4)The plot of the play starts from exposition, then it moves to rising action and reaches the climax or turning point. Later, it goes to falling action and the resolution. 5)Shakespeare as author always uses the third person point of view such as He, She, and the name of the character.6)The language that is used is dialog language in the stage and it is old classic English.7)The symbolisms of play which are standing out are blood and darkness. 8)The moral values are divided into positive moral values such as bravery, loyalty, affection, modesty and honesty. and negative moral values such as ambition, atrocity, temptation, vengeance.

Keyword: Tragedy, Moral Values, Structural Analysis.

Literature contains the universal ideas of human interest. Also, literature can be the imitation of human life. It can also be called that literature is an author's reflection upon the reality of life. What the writer normally comprehends about literature is any writing that has power to move the reader's hearts or to stir his/her emotions. Some people define literature as the expression of beautiful thoughts or ideas in the beautiful language. In some books that are definitely classified as literature, there are found the thoughts that by means of the normal, the conventional standards are not beautiful at all. Moreover, it is in the language. Many examples can be quoted from William Shakespeare's great literary works. The point of literature appeals to the emotion and to the imagination. Also, it gives the readers the certain pleasure or the certain satisfaction. The strongest emotional appeal is found in the poetry ; but,

novels or plays (drama) also have the emotional appeal. In the poetry, the effect is reached through the use of words such as their meanings, sound, position, connotations, etc. In the literary works like novel or play, the representation of events and persons also contribute to the emotional effect.

Like any other form of art, literature is an artistic expression of the life or an artistic expression of the truth. In painting, the expression takes the form of lines and colors. So, in literature, the mode can be taken from the words and sounds. The setting of the story may be confined to the particular place and period. The problem of the particular individual, the underlying theme is one that is not limited by time and space. For instance, William Shakespeare's plays or drama, though written nearly for hundred years ago, are still read and enjoyed by many readers around the world. Because, William Shakespeare is known as the greatest dramatist that creates many masterpieces in his work. The plays that become his masterpieces are like Romeo and Juliet, King Henry, Macbeth, etc. In brief, it can be stated that literature is artistic, permanent, and universal.

By learning the literary works like the play from other nations, our understanding of the world deepens. Also our sense of humanity and interrelationship increases. People study that other people living in distant place under different climatic and cultural conditions may have the human problems, human aspirations similar to others. On the other hand, the new emotions and value may also be learnt that the writer of this paper would never have realized if he had remained out of touch with the foreign literature.

Taking about literature, the writer must be familiar with English literature. In English literature, there are many periods such as Old English period, Anglo Norman period, Elizabethan Age, etc. Among the eras in English, the writer of the paper wants to take one of the famous works entitled the play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. The writer thinks that William Shakespeare is the great English man of letters in Elizabethan era. Then, the research about him and his works especially in term of tragedy point of view is seldom done. The play *Macbeth* is his masterpiece and interesting to research from structural approach. Moreover, William Shakespeare is famous for dramatic instinct, a deep knowledge of human nature. He is able to develop the story base on the love and ambition. This research is aimed to reveal the ambition the protagonist Macbeth has. But it causes the downfall and it becomes the tragic story of the play. In doing the research, he is interested in taking the topic related with tragedy. He wants to discuss deeply about the structural elements including the major character, Macbeth as a tragic hero in the play and analyze the moral values from the play. We can learn and take the moral values after comprehending the play *Macbeth*. Also, William Shakespeare is well-known poet and greatest dramatist in England who has ever been known. He certainly had the capacity and intelligence to read the works of the great masters of the past that can be seen from his wide variety of topics in his plays. One of his famous plays is Macbeth that is most valuable and great tragedy written by him.

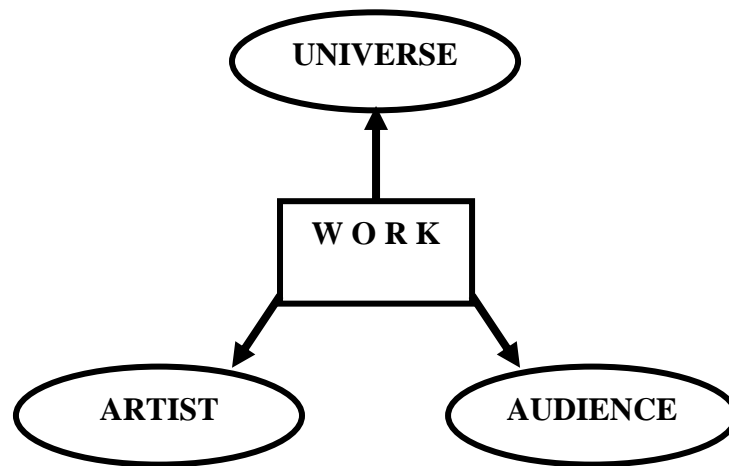
THEORETICAL REVIEW

The approach can be a basic principle or base used to appreciate the literary works. Also, It is regarded as a point of view how we appreciate them. 'An approach is a set of correlative assumptions dealing with the nature of language teaching and

learning. An approach is axiomatic. It describes the nature of the subject matter to be taught..’ (Anthony, 1963: 63).

He reveals that, approach is the level at which assumptions and beliefs about language and language learning are specified; method is the level at which theory is put into practice and at which choices are made about the particular skills to be taught, the content to be taught, and the order in which the content will be presented. Approach refers to theories that serve as the source of practices and principles.

M.H. Abrams in his book ‘*The Mirror and The Lamp*’ proposes one theory that is called ‘*Some Co-ordinates of Art Criticism*’. That is the conformity of literary criticism (Abrams, 1981:06). According to Abrams, there are four approaches that can be visualized to study the literary works. Those approaches can be drawn as the following diagram:



It is necessary for us before comprehending the Abrams’ theory that in one literary criticism, there are four elements we should be aware and understand. They are; 1) the work or *karya* or the artistic product itself; 2) the artist or *seniman* or the artificer; 3) the universe or *alam semesta* or nature or society; 4) the audience or *hadirin, penanggap, pemirsa* or the reader, the spectator, or the listener.

According to Abrams in Subhan’s *A Guide to Literary Criticism* (1981:06), A literary criticism tends to come from one of the four approaches for defining, classifying and analyzing a work of art. Abrams’ theory can be explained as follows:

Mimetic Approach

This approach focuses to the work of art in conjunction with the universe. The mimetic approach or orientation principally believes that the work of art is principally an imitation of the universe. The mimetic approach originated from the Ancient Greek theory that was stated by the great philosophers. According to Socrates, the arts of painting, poetry, music, dancing and sculptures are all imitations of the universe. Therefore, a good work of art is the one that becomes the reflector of the universe. The more a work of art resembles or reflects the universe, the better the work of art will be. In modern times, the mimetic approach is often used to look for the relationship between the work of art and the society. The mimetic theory

possesses the basic assumption that the literary text basically is the representative or the description of the reality ;So that, the reader firstly must have the understanding about the reality itself to be able to comprehend the drawn reality in the literary texts.

Pragmatic Approach

This approach focuses the study of the work of art in correlation with the audience or reader. A literary work may be accepted by readers in a certain place but it may be rejected in another place. Though this approach, a reader or a researcher can search the response of the reader towards a literary work. Abram (1971:14) in detail explains the formulation how to apply the pragmatic approach. He dabbles to explicate the pragmatic approach concept from Philip Sidney and Richar McKeon. Sidney sets forward that the pragmatic literary concept must teach (give thought) and delight (give enjoyment). Meanwhile, McKeon formulates that the pragmatic concept can arouse cheers (satisfaction) and applause (admiration) of the audience.

By using the pragmatic approach, a reader can search ideas and moral values in the literary work such prose. A good novel is one that has two functions: to amuse and to educate the readers. It should be understood that the term to amuse does not necessarily mean to make people laugh, but it appeals or touches the heart of the reader with feelings, for example: happiness, sadness, curiosity, fear, pity, religiosity, nationalism, etc.

Expressive Approach / Romantic Approach

The expressive approach is one that studies the relationship between a literary work and the writer (the author, novelist) as to find whether the literary facts in the novel portray or reflect the life of the author. This approach is often called the Romantic approach. It can be denied that an author often inserts his/her past impression that represented the world view, experience, and norms which came from the society where he or she lived.

The expressive approach is the approach to accentuate the role of writer as the expression subject. This theory holds basically that the literary text is the spontaneous expression of writer's emotional depth.

Objective Approach or Intrinsic Approach

The objective approach focuses the study on the work of art itself (without relating to the external factors such as Universe, Artist, and Audience). The objective approach is often called the Intrinsic Approach because it studies the literary work intrinsically by analyzing the elements of the literary work. This approach has similarities with the structural approach and the American New Criticism. This approach follows the idea that a literary work forms an independent entity or a structure with intrinsic elements in it.

In relation to the intrinsic approach, the structuralists usually regard that the relationship between the elements are more important than the entities themselves. Teew (1984) gives comment that the objective or intrinsic approach is fundamental in literary criticism because only through intrinsic analysis the other approaches can be applied by the scholars to search deeper meanings from the analyzed literary works. It has been stated above that the objective approach or intrinsic method has a view that a literary work has intrinsic elements (some critics call them literary facts

and literary devices) such as theme, character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, techniques of narration and language that becomes objects of analysis. By using the objective approach or the intrinsic method, a reader should focus his study on those intrinsic elements. Through critical reading and analysis, he will find the theme, the plot, the main character and their characterization, the setting, the points of view, the techniques of narration and figurative language.

Subhan (2005 :63) states that this approach has similarities with the structural approach and the American New Criticism. He explains the structural approach has a view that a literary work contains intrinsic elements that make or build up a structure. A reader who analyzes a work of art by *using the structural* approach should **not stop** focusing at the intrinsic elements but he or she should go on analyzing the relationship between (among) the intrinsic elements so that they build up a structure. A literary work is like a house (a structure) that contains intrinsic elements (foundation, pillars, walls, roof-wood, tiles, etc.). The structural approach suggests that the analysis should not only be focused on the intrinsic elements but also on the relationship between the elements so that they make up into a coherent structure (strong house or building)

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Intrinsic Elements of Play *Macbeth*

It has been stated above in theoretical review that the objective or intrinsic approach is fundamental in literary criticism because only through intrinsic analysis the other approaches can be applied by the researchers to search a deeper meanings from the analyzed literary works. Also, It has been known above that the objective approach or intrinsic method has a view that a literary work has intrinsic elements (some critics call them literary facts and literary devices) such as theme, character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, techniques of narration and language.

Theme

The writer of the paper concludes that the theme of play *Macbeth* is about *the blind ambition*. Appositely, It is the ambition of Macbeth to be the king of Scotland by the clout of evil prophecy and his devilish wife to kill the king Duncan. That ambition causes the downfall. It is real bad and horrified ambition. The play is a variety of underlying motifs, such as the supernatural, the temptation of evil, etc. The tragedy of *Macbeth* is a story of power and destruction. The two main character, Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, are driven by ambition to commit the evil actions. Lady Macbeth, a more ambitious person than her husband, plots to have her husband murder the king of Scotland, so that he can take the throne of Scotland. Ambition pushes Macbeth to see all that has come before as merely prologue; the crown is his goal.

Character and Characterization

Character is an important element of building the play. Characterization is a way of making clear about the character, as character is a creation of the author. To know character, we have to use the characterization. Characterization is the important part in embodying the good story that will give both mental and physical

feature of individuals or figures involved in the story, for it gives both mental and physical features of individual or figure.

After reading and analyzing the play *Macbeth*, the author of the paper presents the characters into two groups. They are major or main characters and minor characters. He finds out that there are two major characters in the play namely Macbeth, and Lady Macbeth. Meanwhile, there are minor characters namely: King Duncan, Banquo, Macduff, Three Witches, Malcolm.

Plot

Perrine, (1974: 43) says that plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which the story is composed. It may include what a character says or thinks as well as what he does. However, a plot only analyzes major events or happening. The events are interrelated, so they do not stand in isolation. Plot can be reflected as the framework that becomes an orientation in developing the whole matter in story. The step of plot is arranged by every event, every moment is always done by the performer in certain characterization. In this analysis, the writer of the paper presents the plot of play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare into five stages or parts namely : Exposition, rising action, climax or turning point, falling action and resolution. Most good stories start with a fundamental list of ingredients: the initial situation, conflict, complication, climax, suspense, denouement, and conclusion. 1) **Exposition.** Macbeth has been mostly responsible for the crown's victory over the rebel Scots and Irish invaders. Before we even meet him, his own King and the men that fight under him have prepared us to encounter a noble, courageous, and loyal man; 2) **Rising Actions.** After meeting the weird sisters, it seems fate has assigned Macbeth a great role. But in order to take up that role, he has to take some unnatural actions, namely murdering his own cousin, whom he is also supposed to protect as his King. To win the titles promised, he must take fate into his own hands, which is contrary to what fate is all about. Macbeth would go home a hero, be reunited with his wife, and get back to being Glamis's thane, except he meets some ladies on a hill who have beards and promises. Looks aside, they know just what to say to Macbeth and his traveling companion, Banquo, to stir the boys up. Macbeth is promised to be Thane of Cawdor and eventually King, and Banquo will sire heirs to the throne; 3) **Climax.** The very night Macbeth is meant to celebrate his new crown, the ghost of Banquo visits him and ruins the party. Macbeth has a fit in front of all of his new subjects. It seems he isn't of sound mind to run himself, never mind the kingdom. He begins to unravel, and suspicions arise; 4) **Falling Actions.** Macbeth visits the weird sisters to hear more of his complex fate. Where his silent conscience seemed like it was going to be his undoing, new intelligence from the sisters convinces him that he can stay King. He is drunk with power and now immune to sense. It seems good might not prevail. At the same time, forces are gathering in England to fight his tyranny; 5) **Resolution.** The noblemen of Scotland have joined forces with the English army, and all stand together in Scotland to fight Macbeth. Lady Macbeth kills herself, and as Birnam Wood marches on Dunsinane, part of the prophecy is fulfilled. Macbeth resigns himself to fate, but he's going to fight it, even though he knows it's futile. There's not much else he can do.

Point of View

Point of view is known as the position from which the story or the play is told. Each author or writer has different points of view in telling the story. In the play *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare constructs a play where every scene or act and characters are described with as much as detail as possible. It needs many times to read for the common reader in comprehending the play. So, when the researcher of the thesis reads the play *Macbeth*, he could catch his the perception about those characters of the play. In addition, he finds out that William Shakespeare as the author uses the third person point of view. William Shakespeare uses the words “ He, She, We and the name character of the play”.

Setting

The setting is environment of its events, the immediate world in which they occur. Usually, the setting is presented through descriptive passage, and many readers are impatient with these because, understandably enough, they want to get on with the narrative. The story always happens in a place and in a time. Setting is usually divided into two namely setting of place and setting of time. In the William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the setting of time happens in eleventh century ; Meanwhile, the setting of place happens in Scotland and in England.

Symbolism

The symbolism is a representation of ideas by the use of, literary and artistic movement that used artistic invention to express sensually ideas, emotions, abstractions in place or realism, and system used to represent a particular group of idea. (1974: 876). Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts. William Shakespeare is master in symbolism. Although there are many elements of symbolism of this play, two symbolisms of them stand out. They are blood and darkness; 1) **Blood**. Blood is the main symbol in play *Macbeth*. Blood is beginning with the opening battle between the Scots and the Norwegian invaders, which is described in harrowing terms by the wounded captain. Once Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embark upon their murderous journey, blood comes to symbolize their guilt, and they begin to feel that their crimes have stained them in a way that cannot be washed clean; 2) **Darkness**. Light is typically a symbolic image of goodness, hope, and purity while night and the darkness it ushers, is associated with despair, wickedness and hidden terrors. Shakespeare employs the use of 'night' as a tool to frame the ill-conceived plot of the *Macbeth*, providing an atmosphere of darkness in which evil can thrive.

Language

A language plays an important role in the play or drama. Sumardjo (1992) states that basically the play is the the reflection of daily life. By and large, the used language by William Shakespeare is the dialog language in the stage. It is communicative and full of philosophy. Language which is used in dialog is an old English in eleventh century. It is so classic. We need so many times to comprehend it before analyzing his literary work ; because, Shakespeare's language structures is not suitable with rules of grammar structures. Moreover, Shakespeare often uses subjects of person in his

play by replacing with anomalous subject in rules of language. For example : you becomes 'thou' or 'thee', I becomes 'ay' or 'eye'. Yourself becomes 'thysself'.

Moral Values of the play *Macbeth*

Moral is concerning principles of right and wrong, the power of distinguishing right and wrong, the ability to understand the difference between right and wrong (Hornby, 1974: 548). Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. Reading and Analyzing the play *Macbeth*, the writer of the paper divides the moral values on the play into two parts namely positive moral values and negative moral values.

Positive Moral Values

1) Bravery.

Bravery means the principle in willing to face danger, pain, or trouble, not afraid, having courage. It implies fearlessness in meeting danger or difficulty. Macbeth is a brave and good general in battlefield. It can be seen when he has won the battle with his friend, Banquo. Macbeth is introduced as the brave man who led King Duncan's forces to victory against the traitorous Thane of Cawdor, Macdonwald and The King of Norway, in a battle that could have gone either way were it not for Macbeth's leadership. We learn that Macbeth killed Macdonwald himself in battle. King Duncan, overjoyed, decides to make Macbeth his new Thane of Cawdor; 2) **Loyalty or Obedience.** Loyalty or obedience means doing or willing to do what one is told. It suggests a giving in to the orders or instructions of one in authority or control. Loyalty is one of moral values on play *Macbeth*. Macduff, the thane of Fife, is portrait of loyal and patriotic person. He puts country above home and family when he flees to England and leaves his castle a the mercy of the tyrannous usurper; 3) **Affection and Love;** Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth love each other. Although they are blinded by the evil ambition, they are a good couple. Macbeth loves his wife and so does she. Macbeth accepts her guidance and advice and consults her concerning his plans. He shares his joy with his wife. Moreover, he is affectionate in his action toward her and uses terms of endearment when speaking to her; 4) **Modesty.** Modesty means the principle in having or showing a moderate opinion of one's own value, abilities, achievements, etc.; not vain or boastful. In the play *Macbeth*, Banquo has the portrait of modest person. He and Macbeth won the battle. And the king Duncan gives the honor and praises Banquet; 5) **Honesty.** Honesty means the principle is held in respect, honorable. It is respectable, creditable, commendable. Banquo is not only the modest person but the honest one as well. His honesty is shown in his struggles against temptation and the evil thoughts that beset him. Only in sleep does his power of resistance weaken.

Negative Moral Values

Ambition

Ambition means the strong desire to gain a particular objective. Actually, Ambition has good moral values if it is used in right and proper aim. For example, if

we are teachers, then we want to reach the higher level in a position such as headmaster or headmistress, we should work hard to reach the best achievement in gaining the position by struggling and praying. But, when we reach the position by a bad or evil ambition with short cut like bribing, the result will be bad; even, it will be a downfall for us. In play *Macbeth*, the main character, Macbeth is the ambitious person; indeed, his wife, Lady Macbeth is more ambitious. She is a prompter to do evil ambition to Macbeth. She motivates him to kill the king Duncan and the story of the play becomes the tragedy. Macbeth does a tragic event by being killed by Macduff in the end of story. He does downfall in his life.

Lady Macbeth.

Atrocity

The cruelty or tyranny is a best description for Lady Macbeth. She is the main role in motivating Macbeth to kill the king Duncan. In his hesitation, she whispers that the king would be us. Finally, Macbeth is killing Duncan.

Temptation

The big temptation is encountered by Macbeth. As his wife, Lady Macbeth has the evil ambition to tempt Macbeth. By his goading, Macbeth finally is crushed and does in killing Duncan. Lady Macbeth holds him to his vow to kill Duncan, telling him. This is the great temptation for Macbeth

Vengeance

Vengeance can be shown by the Macduff, the thane of Fife. He loves his wife and family. Macduff's love of his family propels him to vengeance to Macbeth.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CONCLUSION

William Shakespeare is one of the well-known English authors whose popularity spreads through out the whole world. So, there are many writings dealing with him such as critics about him, his writings or articles and also his biography. Additionally, many actual facts about him can be proved so far. William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. His birth was April 23, 1564. The play *Macbeth* is a tragedy by William Shakespeare written around 1606 and Macbeth, the main character, is the tragic hero of the play. The play follows the story of General Macbeth, a nobleman who hears a prophecy that he will become king and is tempted to evil. Finally, he goes through the downfall for his devilish ambition. The play *Macbeth* gives many lessons for us as the readers. The writer of the paper draws the conclusion through the intrinsic elements of the play. And he takes some moral values that can be revealed from the play. In addition, the researcher can illustrate the play *Macbeth* that is regarded as a tragic story for: 1. Macbeth as a victim of supernatural conspiracy. 2. Macbeth as a victim of human soliciting. 3. Macbeth as a tyrant. 4. Death of Macbeth by being killed by Macduff.

Learning the literary works such as a play or drama is interesting and advantageous. It gives the profitable lessons, knowledge, pleasure, experience and enjoyment for us. Literary works help us to comprehend human interest, human

sentiment, and human problem in order that we will be wise and better in facing a real life. Besides that, it also gives many things to us such as language, culture, human characteristics from the other countries, their habits, the way of life, religion, and so on. The researcher realizes that this study gives a little knowledge. This is caused by the researcher's limited ability; therefore, further studies are required. The researcher hopes that the result of this study can stimulate other researcher to conduct study on William Shakespeare and his literary works. Truthfully, the writer of the paper suggests to the English students who are interested in the work of arts such as prose of play to always enrich the knowledge by reading or comprehending those literary works especially the foreign literature. By doing so, he or she will obtain the advantages and profitable lessons besides the pleasure and interest. Foreign play or drama such as English play in Elizabethan era will fondle us with many interests. For English learners, comprehending English play will give some contributions. It enriches their English ability in mastering vocabulary, broadening English structures, developing their recognition of a new varieties of a language in use. It also develops the positive behavior of learners to have good reading habit. For the teachers, it will lead them the way an experience to teach their learners as well as for those who are interested in literary works, beside it will enlarge their view and understanding of the play or drama.

Implementation

Actually, we can take many lessons from the story of *Macbeth* especially about the moral values. The writer of the paper thinks that the implementation of the story can be brought out for everybody who wants to gain his or her goal in a life.

For example in the life of housewifery, a portrait of wife sometimes becomes "a honey" for her husband and sometimes becomes "a poison" for him. If she is good, she will motivate her husband for everything of life in kindness and she becomes a good wife; otherwise, if she is worse or evil, she will give color of a bad life to her husband. The kindness of her husband so far will be varying because of his wife. Perhaps she whispers, speaks, and invites her husband to get something though she uses 'the goal justifies the means' to obtain the direction. Damnably, it causes the downfall in life. Also, there is a Javanese term for woman that says '**Syurgo nunut, Neroko katu!**'. So, be obedient to her husband and don't be a poison for him.

The implementation of the story can also be carried out for someone who wants to get the position. For example, as a teacher, it is normal for us to get the higher level like headmaster or leader or department. To get the position, we do the examinations, submit the certifications, follow seminar, and have to try hard as possible as we can. It is normal way to get the position. But, if we do 'the goal justifies the means' to obtain the direction, the result will be bad. For instance, we do the short cut like bribery. The action is not good, Moreover it causes downfalls for our career.

SUGGESTION

To achieve good English, one should not only have in mind what sort of activities he should do but more importantly how much effort he should have as well. He should enlarge his knowledge of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The writer researcher hopes that the readers especially the English student will understand the types, functions, positions and meanings of the sentence connectors and internalize them when particularly writing paragraphs and/or essays. By doing so, they will be capable to cope with difficulties in comprehending and in using them.

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