

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Theoretical Framework

This chapter is written to explain the theory which is used in order to analyze the novel. To analyze it and answer the statement of the problem, the writer uses New Criticism as the main theory, and in the end of the study, the writer will find the theme of the novel.

New Criticism is a theory of literature which appeared since World War II. New Criticism becomes a dominated and most influential literary criticism in the United States during the 1940s until 1960s (Tyson 135). This theory introduces that in analyzing the text, the researcher only needs to take a look at the work itself. It is stated in Bressler: “New Criticism, this approach to literary analysis provides readers with a formula for arriving at the correct interpretation of a text using--for the most part--only the text itself” (55). Kennedy and Gioia state in their book entitled *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Writing* that the analysis and the meaning of the text can be found in the intrinsic literary features which stated in the text itself (1508). New Critics believe that the information and the evidence, which the readers are looking for, are provided consist in the text. Those information and evidence will support the reader’s interpretation when reading the text. In this theory, the background of the author, the historical background of the text, are useless and do not important. In New Criticism the methodology which is used is “Close reading”. In close reading

methodology, the text should be read step by step, one by one and explicitly. When reading the text, the researcher should take notes and mark the important thing from the text. It can help the researcher in analyzing the text because the information is only based on the text itself. “The purpose of close reading is to understand how various elements in literary text work together to shape its effects on the reader” (Kennedy and Gioia 1508).

As New Criticism says that the meaning and evidence of the text lay on the text itself, to find the theme of the novel as the aim of this study, the writer will analyze the formal elements such as the characterization, point of view and irony. Like what Tyson say in his book that when reading the text the reader should understand the form and that form is only lay in the formal elements (141). Those elements work together to make an organic unity which becomes the theme of the novel.

2.1.1. Formal Elements

In analyzing a novel the researcher should know about the formal elements. Novels are an artistic unity which has elements related to each other to build the story of the novel itself (Nurgiyantoro 22). If the researcher does not pay attention to the formal elements, it is impossible to know the meaning of the text and it brings some difficulties when the researcher analyzes the text. Formal elements become the most important part in New Criticism because it can be used to formulate the theme as the aim of New Criticism. As Tyson states in his book,

what is called as formal elements are symbol, irony, metaphor, setting, characterization, point of view, plot and so forth (137).

Those formal elements develop and work together to make an inseparable whole and it is called an organic unity. If a text has an organic unity, the formal elements which contained in organic unity will work together and build the theme of the text (Tyson 138). To analyze the text, the writer intends to focus on characterization, point of view and irony. To find the theme of the novel the writer only focuses on several formal elements to get the central meaning.

Theme is the central idea of the work such as the novel, poetry or drama and it is become the answer of the reader's question about the work. The answers which appear in theme deliver the reader about the point meaning of the work in a complete word and sentence (Griffith 36). "Theme also the abstraction from a story's complex uses of language to describe and chart action, depict setting, and portray character" (DiYanni 70).

In New Criticism, theme is the conclusion of the study. The formal elements which work together in the text will be the theme of the novel. According to Griffith, theme has special characterization, such as, the theme of the work is not always the same as the subject of the work, and the working of the theme must apply to the reader or in other word the people outside the work (36). The readers, when they read a text can reveal the theme by themselves. The way to reveal the theme is pay attention to elements on the work (Kennedy 105).

2.1.1.1. Characterization

“Character in literature generally, and in fiction specifically, is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inner self that determines thought, speech and behavior” (Roberts and Jacobs 143). In fiction, the character is divided into two such such as major and minor characters. The major character which appear in fiction is usually called as a protagonist. It is a character whose always having conflict with an antagonist. The conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist is the sense of the novel because it can live the conflict (DiYanni 55).

The major character or protagonist is the center of the story and become an attention (Roberts and Jacobs 145). Protagonist, according to Griffith is a character that fights for something. On the other hand, the antagonist is the opposite of protagonist. Antagonist always related to cruel, evil and self-destruction (55). Minor character is a character supporting the major character and the function is to illuminate the major character. Minor character is often static or in the other word, unchanging. It means that from the beginning until the end of the story, the minor character is remaining the same (DiYanni 55).

Character can also be divided into two which are round and flat characters. Round character is the same with the major character or the protagonist. This character always changes and develops because, in the novel, he or she has some experiences (Roberts and Jacobs 145). There are multiple personalities of the round character which resemble real people. This multiple personality makes round character difficult to understand and describe. On the other hand, flat characters have one or two personalities which are considered as stereotypes

(Griffith 61). The meaning of flat character itself is the characters which have static personalities.

Meanwhile, “Characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal characterization” (DiYanni 55). In characterization, the author of the story gives their personal judgment to the character and it makes the character live. According to Griffith, in order to develop the characterization, there are two ways which are done by the author: directly and indirectly. In direct method, the author gives the readers the explanation about the character by telling them what exactly the character is like. On the other hand, indirect method means that the author gives the explanation about the character by showing them, not by telling them to the reader. The author shows the character’s personality through external details such as appearances and through the character’s thoughts such as speech (61-62). Analyzing characterization makes the writer know how hard the character makes effort in her life to reach a better life. Characterization gives the writer explanation that the character have a strong characterization which can make them reach what they want.

2.1.1.2. Point of view

Point of view is “An author’s decision about who is to tell the story and how it is to be told are among the most important he or she makes” (DiYanni 72). It can be said that point of view is the relationship between the author and the character’s mind in the work. From point of view, the reader can know the position

from which the story is told. (Griffith 45). Identifying point of view means that the researcher identifies the narrator, too (Potter 28).

As Roberts and Jacobs state, there are three kinds of point of view which are usually used by the author to tell the story to the reader. They are: first person point of view, second person point of view and third person point of view. There are three variants of third person point of view: dramatic or objective point of view, omniscient point of view and limited omniscient point of view (Roberts and Jacobs 198-199). First person point of view is when the author is more restricted. It means that one of the characters is telling the story to the reader and this character does not include the author as the narrator. In this point of view the one who tells the story is the character, maybe the major character that is at the center of event or a minor character that does not participate but know all of the actions (Griffith 46). On other words, the character also becomes the narrator of the story. First person point of view uses "I" to tell the story (Roberts and Jacobs 197).

"In second-person narration, the narrator tells a listener, using the personal pronoun "you," what the listener has done and said at some time in the past" (Roberts and Jacobs 197). In this point of view, the narrator of the story has more authority over character's actions than the character himself or herself.

Third person point of view is when everything in the work is described by using "he", "she", "it", "they". There are three kinds of third person point of view: Objective or dramatic point of view is when the author of the story becomes the narrator, but he or she does not enter to the characters mind. The narrator or the

author lets the reader to see the character's mind as the people would do in real life. In order to know the character's mind, the reader can learn from what they do and say, how they look and what other characters say about them (Griffith 46). Omniscient point of view is when the narrator sees, reports, knows and explains all about the character's mind until the deepest one. On the other hand, limited omniscient point of view is the when the narrator of the story only focuses to the major character, such as in their mind, thoughts, feeling and responses. The narrator will report all of this to the reader (Roberts and Jacobs 201). Analyzing the point of view makes the writer know the background of the character. How hard the character makes some effort in her life to reach her dream and a better life. Analyzing the point of view makes the writer know that effort which do by the character is hard to do and the character should face many problems during her effort in reach a better life.

2.1.1.3. Irony

Irony is a part of linguistic devices. In New Criticism, especially in organic unity, the complexity of the text is important. This complexity is created by multiple and conflicting meanings which are produced by linguistic devices such as paradox, irony, ambiguity and tension (Tyson 138). In this study, the writer will analyze the irony which makes *We Need New Names* more complex. As Griffith says, irony is a complex form and cannot be defined in short sentences. In general, irony is the statement which occurs in the text containing an opposite meaning between appearance and reality (73). It means that when there is a statement in the

text, the thing that actually happened is the opposite from its statement or the contrast. The contrasts which can be concluded as irony are “between what is and what seems to be, between what is and what ought to be, between what is and what one wishes to be and between what is and what one expects to be” (Griffith 73).

There are several kinds of irony according to Griffith; the first one is verbal irony. This irony shows the contrast between what people say and what they mean. In this kind of irony, there is a term called sarcasm when the verbal irony becomes more destructive. Sarcasm occurs when people pretend saying a positive thing to other people like they praise them, but the actual meaning of their words are to criticizing them. The second irony is situational irony. This irony occurs when the people think that the situation is different from what the common sense indicates it is, will be, or ought to be. Usually this kind of irony is used to represent an injustice. The third is attitudinal irony. This irony occurs in one person, when they think about reality in one way but the fact is in different ways. The last irony is dramatic irony. It is an irony which occurs in plays when the character in the play expects something to be true but the audience knows that what the character expect is false (73). Analyzing the irony makes the writer know that it is one of the problem that the character should face in order to reach a better life. To solve this problem the character should make extra effort.

2.2. Review of Related Studies

There are five studies which have similarities such as using the same novel and also using the same concept as this study, which is about making some efforts

to reach a better life. But those studies also have differences from this study. Those similarities and differences can support and also can be compared with this study. The first two studies are journal articles which using the same novel and two of those studies written by students from English Department of Universitas

Airlangga to examine the way of the character making some effort or struggle to make their life better, and the other is a senior honors thesis written by Jessica Del Cid from Honors Program of Liberty University.

The first study is a journal article written by Theresia Mdlongwa from Department of Curriculum Studies, James Hlongwana from Department of History and Development Studies and Thamsanga Moyo from Department of English and Media Studies. All of the authors are from Great Zimbabwe University. The study conducted by those writers is entitled *Look East or Look Least? The Zimbabwean Experience of Chinese Economic Investment in Selected Texts and Examples*. This is a research article discussing about the relationship between Zimbabwe and China after the decision made by Robert Mugabe, the president of Zimbabwe. Those researchers argue that the relationship between China and Zimbabwe is such a modern day colonialism. They analyze some of selected texts such as *We Need New Names* by NoViolet Bulawayo, *Gappah's An Elegy for Easterly*, *Eppel's White man Crawling and his poem "Ghostly Galleon"* (Mdlongwa, Hlongwana and Moyo). The writers of this journal article choose *We Need New Names* because in this novel there is a part when Darling tell about Chinese people who becomes the worker in Budapest and build a mall.

The second study is a journal article entitled *New Names, Translational subjectivities: (Dis)location and (Re) naming in NoViolet Bulawayo's We Need New Names* written by Polo Belina Moji from Department of Modern European Languages, University of Pretoria, South Africa. The author states that Darling's journey from Zimbabwe to America "As a linear progression from an original (located) to a translated (dislocated) subjectivity" (Moji). She also argues that *We Need New Names* brings an idea about 'transparent translation'. In the end of this article the author concludes that "the novel's leitmotif of (re)naming as a call for new hermeneutic code through which translational subjectives can be understood" (Moji 2015).

The third study is a thesis written by Raden Rizky Narendra entitled *Antonia's Struggle for Life in Dario Fo's We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! Drama: A New Criticism Study*. In this study, Narendra analyzes the struggle which is done by Antonia as the major character in the drama. Antonia makes some struggles against poverty to make her life better. Narendra analyzes the formal elements such as characterization, plot and linguistic devices such as paradox and irony to support the analysis and to find the theme as the conclusion (Narendra 2012).

Although what Narendra wrote in his thesis is about a struggle to reach a better life which is done by the major character, and it uses New Criticism as the theory, it is different from the writer's study. In this study the writer uses a novel as an object, it is different from Narendra's thesis which uses drama as the object.

The other difference is, in Narendra's thesis he does not analyze the formal elements beside characterization and plot. It is different from the writer's which also analyzing point of view.

The fourth study is a thesis written by Irfan Roshadi from English Department of Universitas Airlangga entitled *The Struggle of Jurgis Rudkus as an Immigrant Worker to Realize the American Dream in Upton Sinclair's the Jungle*. In this thesis, Roshadi wrote about Jurgis Rudkus, a character who comes from Lithuania (a country in Northern Europe) and moves to America. He and his family decide to move from his country to America because of the American Dream that he has. They move to America because they want to have a better life. In Lithuania, Jurgis and family feel that it is no longer possible to have a proper socio-economic condition. They believe that by moving to America, they will get a better economic condition. In analyzing the text, Roshadi uses the concept of Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses by Louis Althusser. In this study Roshadi analyzes the American Dream and its influences toward people especially they who come from developed country. Roshadi also analyzes the class struggle which is done by Jurgis (Roshadi 2011). Both of the thesis and this study have similarity, it is comes from the topic of discussion which is about moving from a country which has bad socio-economic condition to America in order to reach a better life. The difference is from the theory used. Roshadi's thesis uses Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus by Louis Althusser and is supported by Marxism theory about class struggle. It is different from this study which uses New Criticism as the theory to analyze the text.

The last studies is a senior honors thesis entitled *The American Dream: An Illusion or Reality for Latinos Immigrant* written by Jessica Del Cid from Liberty Universities. This thesis discusses about the American Dream issues which appear in Latino Immigrant and in the American citizen itself. This study attempts to find the truth about American Dream. The author of the thesis makes an interview to the first-generation of Latino immigrant and American Citizens in local Hispanic church in Virginia.

From those five related studies, the writer can find that those studies have the same issue about American Dream and reach a better life which is different from the writer's research. This research tries to reveal Darling's effort to reach a better life because of the American Dream that she has and the condition in her society through *We Need New Names* Novel written by NoViolet Bulawayo. Although have some differences, those studies give a contribution in this research because the same issue that this study and those studies have which is make effort to reach a better life because of the improper socio-economic condition in the society. From those studies the writer know that in order to reach a better life the character make some effort. It makes the writer know about the effort that a character in a novel do in order to reach a better life in any other way. Especially to reach a better life by moving to other country.