

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter explains the theories which are used by the writer to analyze the novel, *Bringing down the House* by Ben Mezrich. This section is divided into two parts, which are intrinsic approach, and Review of related studies. The writer uses intrinsic approach by Edgar V Roberts. Analyzing and Interpretation a literary work become part of applying intrinsic approach which based on the internal elements of the novel. In this case, there are three elements that will be used as the tool. They are plot, characterization, and setting. The writer of the study also uses *Theoretical Framework for Conflict Resolution* by William Cunningham as the supporting theory. While Related Studies consists of research papers which are connected to the writer's research concerning Kevin's Conflict.

2. 1. Intrinsic Approach

2.1.1. Plot

Plot is the groundwork for a story, based on conflicting human motivations, with the actions resulting from believable and realistic human response. According to Roberts, plot is built by some elements. They are exposition, complication, crisis, climax and resolution. Those elements are arrangement which explains the whole story in good order.

Exposition is the laying out, the putting forth, of the materials in the story, the main characters, their backgrounds, their characteristics, interests, goals, limitations, potentials, and basic assumptions.

Complication is the onset of the major conflict of the plot, such as good versus evil. Crisis is the separation between what has gone before and what will come after, usually a decision or action undertaken to resolve the conflict.

Climax is a consequence of the crisis, it is the story's high point, which may take the shape of a decision, an action, an affirmation or denial, or an illumination or realization. Resolution is the finishing of things after the climax (Roberts, 97).

In addition, plot is the way of the author explains several occurrences that suffered by the main character among other characters. As stated in *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, a plot is a series of carefully devised and interrelated actions that progress through a struggle of opposing forces (conflict) to a climax and a denouement. (Shaw, 289)

2.1.2. Characterization

In lyric, essay, and autobiography the author reveal aspects of his or her own characters of actual person. In fiction (drama, novel, short story, and narrative poem), the author reveals the characters of imaginary person. The creation of these imaginary person so that they exist for the readers as lifelike is called characterization (Holman, 81) Characterization cannot be separated from character. Through characterization the readers are able to understand about the content of literary work.

According to Kennedy, characterization refers to the way in which the author makes the characteristic and motives of each person in the story evident to the readers (20). It is generally agreed that in most good stories the events follow logically from the natures of the persons involved. Characters are fictitious creations and thus the author may be judged with regard to his ability in the art of characterization.

Character itself is one of intrinsic elements of a novel and it is also the central element of novel. Character is absolutely needed because through character the readers can decide which characters give and support the idea for elaborating the analysis. According to Abrams, character is a person in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and disposition qualities that are expressed in the way they say through dialog and what they do through the actions (65).

Character is fiction. It is an extended verbal representation of human being and also the complex combination of both the inner and the outer self. Through action speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters that are worth caring about, rooting form and even loving. (Roberts, 137)

2.1.3. Setting

Setting is the places where the character (main character) experiences several occurrences such as conflict with other characters. It can be said that the conflict taken place. The chronological and society circumstance of the characters are included in setting. It also represents the expression of the main character towards other characters. Setting may be presented in one set piece occurring at specific times in the discourse or be presented more or less continuously. According to Kenney,

setting is everything that happens somewhere at sometime. (38) In other words, the term “setting” refers to the point of time and space at which the events of the plot occur. Setting refers to the time and place of the story; is when and where the action occurs. In addition, Abrams says that setting is the general locate and the historical time which the action occur in a novel. Setting refers to place, time and social environment where there are events in a story occur. (157)

According to Roberts, setting is the natural, manufactured, and cultural environments in which authors make their characters live and move, including all the things and all the knowledge they use in their lives. (241) Moreover, according to Connolly, setting is in a sense “the time, place, and concrete situation of the narrative, the web of environment in which characters spin out their destinies” (Koesnosobroto,78) In this case, the writer of the study will describe the place where Kevin experiences the conflict as his involvement in MIT Blackjack team. It also tells about general condition of casino in Las Vegas.

2.2. Conflict

Conflict is the way author describes the problem which is faced by the character. According to Roberts, conflict is the major element of plot because opposing forces arouse curiosity, cause doubt, create tension and produce interest (95) It is placed on plot arrangement. It means that a good plot should have elements of fiction, such as exposition, crisis, conflict and resolution because with no conflict, the plot is not interesting (Roberts, 95) In addition, still in his book, *Writing Theme about Literature* he adds, plot is concerned with the conflict. (96)

Conflict is an opposition of the main character which probably makes the readers feel the true story. A conflict is the opposition of two people. Their conflict may take the shape of envy, hatred, anger, argument, avoidance, gossip, lies, lighting and many other forms and actions (Roberts, 94)

Conflict is necessary to every story. In short stories, there is usually one major conflict. In longer stories, there could be several conflicts. Conflict adds excitement and suspense to a story. The conflict usually becomes clear to the beginning of a story. As the plot unfolds, the reader starts to wonder what will happen next and how the characters will handle the situation. Many readers enjoy trying to predict the final outcome. The excitement usually builds to a high point, or climax. The climax is the turning point of the story. Something has happened to resolve the conflict. The plots of most stories centers around conflict. A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. There are two main kinds of conflict in stories: internal and external.

2.2.1. Internal Conflict

A struggle that takes place in a character's mind is called internal conflict. For example, a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two solutions to a problem. Sometimes, a character must deal with his or her own mixed feelings or emotions. According to Cunningham, in human struggle, it is person himself or herself who decides whether he or she wants to overcome the pain, control their temper and resist an urge to burst out in anger (68) Man against himself.

2.2.2. External Conflict

A struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. Characters may face several types of outside forces. The outside force may be another character. It may be the character and the community. The outside force may also be forces of nature. For example, a story might be the main character struggling against the arctic cold. It can be man against man or man against nature. As taken from Cunningham, an outside force is external conflicts which can be organized into; social conflict (man versus environment) and the second is physical conflict (man versus man) (105) In this study, the physical conflict is used to describe the external conflict of the main character of Ben Mezrich's *Bringing down the House*.

2.3. Related Studies

The writer could not find any research which makes *Bringing down The House* as the discussion. He relates his study to two research papers which used intrinsic approach as the theory. Therefore, he uses one unpublished thesis, which is:

1. *The Struggles for survival faced by a father in the journey to south beach: an internal and external conflict study on Cormac McCarthy's Road*, 2009, an unpublished thesis written by Paulus D. Rori. He analyzes the two characters in the novel, a father and a young boy, who were against the power of apocalyptic in the United States of America. As survival who had to move from winter zone to the warm zone facing many trials on the road the father and the boy had different opinion in looking into problems on the road. This

thesis is concerned on conflicts that faced by the father and son during his moving.

Thus, the analysis will be focused on the conflicts which are appeared in the novel, *Bringing Down the House*. The writer of the study concentrates on Kevin as the main character who faces some conflicts during his involvement in MIT blackjack team. The related studies above are expected to help analyzing the thesis by providing knowledge about conflicts either internal or external one.