

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Review of related theories

2.1.1 Narrative Theory

Narrative theory is the most proper theory for the discussion of an analysis of Labovian narrative structure of the widow life story. Narrative theory will be applied in this study as the investigative resource, while the analysis of Labovian narrative structure of widow discussion is included to facilitate the writer in discussing and investigating the findings. This incorporated discussion is necessary to discover the narrative structure of the widow life story in an analysis of Labovian theory.

Everything can be narrated, whether the history of a nation, the conduct of war, or our everyday life stories. Stories are universal phenomena and they may even share universal structures. The term narrative itself, narration and to narrate, have Latin roots: “narrate”, “narratum” and “narro” was derived from the term “gharus”, which has the meaning ‘knowing’ or ‘wise’. These roots indicate the intimate connection between narrative and knowledge. From our childhood, stories are principal sources of knowledge about the world, and important ways of making sense of experiences. So, there is one reason why narrative analysis is important because it helps us understand how knowledge, meanings, and values are reproduced and circulated in society (Gillespie, 2006).

In addition, narrative is claimed as a thought to be universal genre, because all cultures have their own story telling tradition (Hatch, 1992 in Toolan

2001). This statement is served as the highlight of the issues of the universality and variety of narrative at the same time. It become universal since every culture is supposed to have narrative tradition which makes narrative that is also appealing and also applicable to interdisciplinary fields of studies. Hatch (1992, in Toolan 2001) added that narrative has been analyzed in many different languages and claims that it has been made for the University of this Particular Genre. Unfortunately, each culture has its own stressed on its story in the action, and some in the evaluations or messages of the story. In doing so, in narrative field, each culture will have their own ways on stressing or delivering the point of the story. In this way, it is possible that we will find out the different structure of narrative. As has been mentioned above by Riesman, (1993) studying narrative is strongly useful and can be a good way in revealing a social structure through an individual story.

2.1.2 Personal Narrative

Personal narrative can be regarded as the presentation of what is on our mind because it occurs to transform an experience from one person to another through storytelling. Personal Narrative reveals how one makes sense of his life in terms of self-defining life stories (Mc. Adams, 2006). In other words, personal narrative is a cultural product because of its belonging to certain groups or categories and they could construct a series of the story as their representation themselves. The activity of telling stories itself told about the past events that becomes a universal human activity (Riessman, 1993). Moreover Riessman also defines that the personal narratives as the process of individual construct past

events and actions in personal narratives to claim identities and constructs their life. From the statement above, we know that stories are the series of experiences of logically and chronologically related events that are caused experienced by the narrator.

Life story is one description of someone's life course. (i.e., the story of someone's life). Therefore, life story seems to be a personal narrative and related to the story of personal experiences. Furthermore, life stories are also called narrative accounts which delivered orally by the individual himself or herself which appear to be "an internalized and evolving narrative of the self experiences that incorporate the reconstructed past, perceived present and anticipated future". Life story can be used as a way to collect the personal experiences of the interviewee because life story is sequenced by several events that is reported. The interviewee directly chooses some past events that they want to be told to the interviewer. In the personal narrative, individuals become the autobiographical narratives by which they tell about their lives.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In this research, the writer will use Labov's narrative theory. The writer aims to see how the life story of a widow that is structured based on Labov narrative structure. The writer uses Labov narative structure analysis because Labov narrative structure allows us to analyze each segment of narrative form based on its function. By using narrative theory, we can identify a purpose of an oral narrative and it also can provide direct access to people's identities and personalities.

Labov defined narrative as one method of recapitulating experiences by matching verbal sequences of clauses to the sequence of narrative events (Labov, 1972). It is inferred that narrative is in oral or written composition where the events are arranged in a proper order, it has beginning, middle, and the end. In a simple statement, relations in narrative can be described in the following: event B appears because or after event A, event C appear after event B, etc. So, it can be understood that the events happen in a proper order and of course makes some connections each other.

Labov (1972) mentioned six important aspects that become the major parts of narrative. According to Labov, oral narratives can be segmented depend on their informational function, that is, abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution, and coda. Each of the elements has its function to construct the core meaning of the narrative.

1. Abstract

The abstract is considered as the summary of a story. It is used to prepare the listener, to inform that a story will be told and what the story is about (Berman, 2003). Sometimes the abstract is also used to attract the listener attention, and might ask permission to tell a story.

2. Orientation

The orientation is used to identify the time, place, persons, and situation (when, where, who, and what) of the story. It is used to show the background information before the main part of the story is told. This section shows the identities of the participants and their initial behaviour. On the other hands, it also functioned as the direction to what will happen in the next events.

3. Complicating action

The complicating action is the detail of sequence of events in the narrative. Complicating action noted as the body or core of the story that describes the intention of the story itself. This section describes what finally happened in the story through a proper order

4. Evaluation

The evaluation elements are the marks that show the significance of the story. The evaluation is also defined as the part of narrative that reveals the speaker's attitude or purpose in telling the story by emphasizing the relative importance of certain events.

5. Resolution

The resolution is the final event of a story, it told about "what finally happened" element. This section brings the story to the final climax of the story, so the result can be obtained from the problem.

6. Coda

Coda is the last section of the story. It shows the signal that the story has finished and sometimes its function as a bridge that links the past in the story with the present time. Therefore, coda falls at the end of a narrative and makes concluding explanation.

This study mostly focusses on the narrative structure of an oral narrative of personal experienced shared by the interviewee. Therefore, the writer used those six structural features of narrative proposed by William Labov in the analysis of this study. Those six features are abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution, and coda. Those six features may not be all

presented since the data was orally shared. It means, the writer only stress on finding out the presence and the absence of those six structural features and how those features are constructed in the story. Next, the writer will attempt to analyze the context of occurrence of the structural features.

Labov's theory gives a good guidance in understanding other people's narratives. With these structures, a teller constructs a story from a primary experience and interprets the significance of events in clauses and embedded evaluation. Labov's theory reveals certain structure of narrative by its composition that we can not find in the other theories.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

The first related study was conducted by Laine Berman (1998) entitled "*Speaking through Silence: Narrative, Social Convention, and Power in Java*". In her study, she used the stories as a guidance of how Javanese speakers construct and reflect social identity and their own Javanese culture. She also conducted the research by being directly involved in the society itself in Yogyakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. She lived together and experienced every event in their daily life. The Javanese women's stories were used as an index of how these Javanese speakers constructed and reflected social identity and their own culture of Javanese.

The second related study was conducted by Bati (2009) entitled "*An analysis of the narrative structure of chinese homemaker's life story through Labov's narrative structure*". The study was a way to find the effect of Islamic values that is seen from Chinese homemakers' life story. From the Chinese

homemakers' life story, it would show that the Islamic values influenced Chinese women. In addition, the Islamic values would influence the position and self system of Chinese women in their family. In his study, Yosua Bati argued that there was a Chinese homemaker's life story that could be influenced by the Islamic values in case of the position in the environment and the self system in the family. Further, he argued that the ways people told their stories would be different within people from different culture.

The third related study was conducted by Maghfiroh (2009) entitled "*The narrative structure of Javanese man life story*". The study was about how Javanese man adapted to maintain his status due to the changes between ideology and practice. Further, her study was about how a Javanese man structures his narrative and in what way the narrative structure is either similar or different from Labovian narrative structure. Thus, she argued that narrative is not only by linguistically and socially situated, but also culturally bounded.

The fourth related study was conducted by Sonya Kumala (2009) entitled "*An analysis of narrative structure of a career woman's life story*". The study was about how the career woman's life story followed Labov's narrative structure theory. As a result, she found that in general the career woman life story followed Labov's narrative structure theory. However, some features were present or absent in the sub stories of career woman's life story.

This study basically shared same opinion with the four studies about how narrative could serve as a method to analyze a system of self that existed in a community. Through narrative, the four studies tried to find and create of the system of self from certain communities. Furthermore, narrative was used to

construct and reflect social identity of the communities. Therefore, the focus of this study was to find and construct the system of self of a widow. This was also not to be focused on culture role in producing narrative structure. But, this study wanted to focus on the narrative structure of a widow's life story to show up the past into the present day consciousness.