CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter aims to explain about the theory that is applied in this research as a tool to analyze the novel. Intrinsic theory is used to help the writer in solving the Father's internal and external conflicts in the novel. According to Barry, the word *Conflict* is taken from Latin word *Contra* meaning against and *figure* meaning to strike (1966:23). Specifically, the writer uses William G. Cunningham, *Theoretical Framework for Conflict Resolution*, Richelle Putnam's, *Ins and Outs* and Dowling Felix conflict theory, Study Guide, *The Theory of Conflicts*. According to their theory, there are two kinds of conflicts; intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic conflict is Man vs. Himself that is related to the struggles within oneself. Secondly, the extrinsic conflicts are Man vs. Man and Man vs. Environment. Man vs. man talks about the conflict between the characters in a novel, while man vs. environment talks about the conflicts between that character and the setting. These theories are applied since the writer believes that in describing the father's conflicts in this study is not simple. The writer of this study also uses other supporting information on conflict of nature that consists of the sources of conflict, the basis and dynamic conflict and the characteristics of conflict to help support the analysis deeper.

This chapter is divided into two parts, which are Theoretical Framework and Review of Relates Studies. Theoretical Framework consists of External and Internal conflict, while Related Studies consists of research paper which is related

to the writer's research concerning Father's conflict. The first part discusses about Father's external conflicts that are categorized into Man versus Man (physical conflict) and Man versus Environment (social conflict) and the second Father's internal conflicts that are categorized as Man versus Himself (psychological conflict).

2.1. Theoretical Framework

2.1.1. External Conflict

According to Putnam, the external conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force. The outside force can be another character, besides it can be the character and the community (50). Cunningham also argues that 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). Additionally, according to Felix, a struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. Characters may face several types of outside forces like as man vs. man and man vs. environment. For example, a story might be the main character struggling against the arctic cold. Man versus Environment is a kind of conflict that includes weather, objects, and activities. Environment is defined as anything surrounding a person and basically anything external except people. For example, father and son have to move to other place because of cool or freezing weather and there is no food in the place where they stay. This is an external conflict Man versus Environment (social conflicts). While, Man versus Man (physical conflicts) is mostly seen in the form of two characters against each

other or face to face conflict. It does not have to be a physical confrontation but it can be a battle between two ideas. For example, the argument between the father and son are about the dog and other character beside the son, such as the cannibals, the thieves and the old man.

Man versus Man and Man versus Environment cannot be separated from character and plot. In the Man versus Man, the conflict mostly describes the character. Whereas in Man versus Environment, the conflicts are found to be related with plot and setting. According to Graham Little in, *Approach to Literature*, conflict is essential to plot. Without conflict there is no plot. It is the opposition of forces which ties one incident to another and makes the plot move. Conflict is not merely limited to open arguments; rather it is any form of opposition that faces the main character (1966:82). From the statement above it can be explained that a character has a strong relationship with the plot and the conflict. Those aspects become one and cannot be separated. For example, setting, plot, character are a unity from intrinsic study or intrinsic approach.

2.1.2. Internal Conflict

According to Cunningham, in human struggle, it is the 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. (98). Furthermore, according to Putnam, everyone has the ability to control his or her conflicts depend on his or her ability to overcome the external situation and condition (59). Additionally, 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. Thus, it can be explained that an external conflict is related with an internal conflict and internal conflict can be influenced by an external conflict. Emotion, love, anger, jealously, fear, hurt, phobias and rejection are internal and they can cause external conflicts. For example, Father's wife compiles father to let her go away because she does not want to see the cannibals and watch them caught and tortured the father and the son. Finally, the father had to let her go even though he still loved her so much.

2.2. Review of Related Studies

As studied in this thesis, there is also a research paper which has a close relation with this paper on the conflict between father and a son. The research paper is written by Chris Pearson in Word Press entitled *Cutline*. In this research paper Pearson explains that the father and the son as a team do not against the roving cannibals or even against time, although these two challenges give the story its forward propulsion. Here, the real conflict lies between the father and the son as they negotiate their disparate visions of existence. With all the fear, kindness, compassion, sapience, rage – how much each person is needed for survival then what a "good" behavior and why actually means it is still important in this new world. Finally what the future means to each of the character.

The differences between Pearson's research papers with this research paper are the theory used and the problems studied in the research. He focuses on

good survival of the father and the son. Thus, he analyzes the father and the son using the extrinsic theory and it did not study conflicts faced by the father and the son.

So far, the thesis writer could not find any research on *The Road*. However, there are many articles and comments regarding the novel. The writer only selects two comments concerning *The Road*. Stephen Lansing, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and the Santa Fe Institute argues about Man versus Nature: Coevolution of Social and Ecological Networks in McCarthy's *The Road*. He comments that

> In *The Road*, McCarthy does not dwell on the scientific details of these catastrophes. Instead, he imagines a world that represents their logical outcome and asks us to imagine what that might feel like. What if there was a near complete breakdown of the complex networks joining humans with one another and with other species? It's a question that stirs and troubles our sense of who we are.

Jon Wilkins Professor, Santa Fe Institute, writes his article on *The Road*, Like father, Like son: conflict, Negotiation and Shared Fate.

> In *The Road*, the father and son must negotiate many decisions. When will they stop for the night? Should they open that door? Eat something questionable? Offer help to another traveler? They are two individuals with separate wills, but their paths and their fates are inseparable.