

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to make a scientific analysis, the usage of the theories and approaches are very important. Theories and approaches help the writer in doing the analysis by affording an underlying foundation.

To analyze the study of Portrayal of *White and Black People in The House Gun* By Nadine Gordimer, the writer uses New Criticism. According to Tyson in *Critical Theory Today*, new criticism is the theory which takes the text itself as the source and it does not have relation with the author (118). Besides, we can not look to the reader's personal response to find the meaning of the source. Any given reader may or may not respond to what is actually provided by the text itself. Reader's feeling or opinion about a text may be produced by some personal association from past experience rather than by the text (Tyson 119).

The importance of the formal elements of a literary text is a product of the nature of literary language, which, for New Criticism, is very different from scientific and from everyday language. For New Criticism, the complexity of the text is created by the multiple and often conflicting meanings woven through it. And these meanings are a product primarily of four kinds of linguistic devices: paradox, irony, ambiguity, and tension (Tyson 121).

The study is focused on the intrinsic elements of the novel *The House Gun*. The aim of the analysis is to explore the intrinsic elements of the novel. Intrinsic approach is the way to identify the elements within the text itself. The

use of intrinsic approach is based solely on the context created by the text and the language used in the text. This approach uses close reading method in analyzing *The House Gun* novel. “Close reading, the scrupulous examination of the complex relationship between a text’s formal elements and its theme, is how the text organic unity was established by the new critic” (Tyson 124). By this approach, it means that the work itself, without necessarily studying the life of its author, or the age in which it was written, or its possible effect on its reader. Intrinsic elements of the novel consist of the plot, characters, setting, point of view, theme, symbolism and other elements inside of the novel. Thus, it is limited to the character, setting and plot of the novel.

## **A. Intrinsic Approach**

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses intrinsic elements. According to Encyclopedia Britannica 2007, there are several intrinsic elements of a fiction, but in this study, it will be limited in character, setting, plot and conflict of the novel.

### **A.1. Character**

According to Roberts and Jacobs in *Literature: An introduction to Reading and Writing*, character is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the soul that determines, thought, speech, and behavior (143). The character can be people (or animal, thing presented as people), spirits, automatons, pieces of furniture, and other animated objects appearing in a literary work.

The importance of a character to the story determines how the character is developed. Character development is the change that a character undergoes from the beginning of a story to the end. Characters can be primary, secondary, minor or main.

Characters are developed by actions, speech, and physical appearance, own thought, other character's comment, and author comments. According to X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia in book *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, And Writing*, flat characters tend to stay the same throughout a story, but round character is character that shows the readers know well by its trait. Afterward, the change of round character was called dynamic character. Dynamic character undergoes some types of change in story (75).

In studying character in literature, we may understand the qualities of a literary character only by interpreting what the author has written about him. All the character's actions, plus what he says and what he said about him, provide us with the only material from which we can make inferences, and we can expect no more than what the author has chosen to disclose (Roberts 10-11).

In describing the characters, authors usually use certain methods in presenting a character. These two methods are direct presentation and indirect presentation. Direct presentation means the author has to tell what a character looks like through his description. In direct presentation, the author tell the readers straight out, by exposition or analysis, what a character is like, or has someone else in the story tell the readers what he or she like (Perrine

84). In other words, the author shows and gives direct comment on the character. Thus, the readers see and learn primarily from what the author explicit tells. The method of direct presentation has to advantages of being clear and economical, but it can never be used alone. It will not give the readers a character but only an explanation. The reader must be shown as well as told (Perrine 85). The direct method therefore, to be emotionally convincing, must be supported by the second method, the indirect presentation. Here the author shows the readers the character in action and the readers themselves who should infer what he or she is like from what she thinks, says or does (84). In this case, the author invites the readers to see from his or her description through the character's speech, thought, action, or what other characters say about the character.

## **A.2. Plot**

Based on the Encyclopedia 2007, Plot is the organized pattern or sequence of events that make up story. Every plot is made up of series incidents that are related to one another. Plot is literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story. Plot is the order in which things move and happen in a story.

### **Plot components:**

#### **A.2.1. Conflict**

Conflicts occur when the protagonist struggles against an antagonist (villain that goes against the protagonist), or opposing force. While Chronological order is when a story relates events in the order in which they happened. Conflict and order make plot.

The author creates the conflict by describing one of the following types of interactions.

1. Person-against-self: In this type of conflict, the main character experiences some kind of inner conflict.
2. Person-against-person: This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with another character, human or not human.
3. Person-against-society: This type of conflict has the main character in conflict with a larger group: a community, society, culture, etc.
4. Person-against-nature: This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with the forces of nature, which serve as the antagonist.

### **A.2.2. Patterns of Action**

1. Exposition: This usually occurs at the beginning of a short story. Here the characters are introduced. We also learn about the setting of the story. Most importantly, we are introduced to the main conflict (main problem).
2. Rising action: The part of the story begins to develop the conflicts, a building of interest or suspense occurs.

3. Climax: This is the turning point of the story. Usually the main character comes face to face with a conflict. The main character will change in some way.
4. Falling action: All loose ends of the plot are tied up. The conflict and climax are taken care of.
5. Resolution: The story comes to a reasonable ending.

### **A.3. Setting**

Setting is the time and place in which a story takes place. Setting includes time, place and period in which the action takes place.

#### **A.3.1. Three Elements of Setting Development:**

1. Place: It might include such thing as a city, state, country, castle, cottage, playground, ship, mountain or stadium.
2. Time: It might include clues that let us know it is the afternoon, evening, the future, colonial, times, or clock time.
3. Environment: It might include details that describe the weather, the noise level, or darkness.

#### **A.3.2. The Purposes of Setting Are:**

1. To create problems for the characters to provide a background for the events and characters.

2. To help understand the characters and their conflict time could be past, present, future, season, time of day.

### **A.3.3. The Variety of Setting:**

- a. Backdrop setting is when setting is unimportant for the story could take place in any setting.
- b. Integral setting is when the action, character, or themes are influenced by the time and place, setting. Controlling setting controlling characters. If you confine a character to a certain setting it defines the character. Characters, given these circumstances, in this time and place, behave in this way.
- c. Functions of setting
- d. Setting as antagonist: characters must resolve conflict created by the setting.  
Setting that illuminates character
- e. Setting as symbolism: a symbol is a person, place, object, situation, or action which operates on two levels of meaning, the literal and the figurative, or suggestive.

## **B. Related Study**

Many of people make an analyzing of characterization in literary work. Because it is interesting to make analysis about characterization in a novel. One of people who make analysis based on the characterization in the novel is Widjayanti Listyo Panudji with the title *Dong-Mei's Process in Accepting her Chinese Identity Ting-Xing Ye's Throwaway Daughter*. In this analysis, she writes about

the character of Dong-Mei in process of accepting her Chinese identity. Here, Dong-Mei is portrayed as a Chinese who is adopted by a Canadian family. Along with her physical development, she realizes that she was different from her white family. Ironically, she rejects her Chinese identity which is attributed to her. Dong-Mei thinks that she is an unwanted daughter of her biological Chinese parents who had thrown her away to the orphanage because they disliked her. However, her opinion turns to be a curiosity after she learns much about China and its culture. She is eager to know more about her origin and especially about her biological parents.

Another research which analyzes characterization is Yudo Pratikno with the title *Nature Versus Materialistic World in Johanna Spyri's Heidi*. In this research, Pratikno takes the main character of Clara and Heidi in relation with their character and characteristic and the factors that make Heidi and Clara become good friend through their nature and materialistic world. Nature and simple life represented by Heidi and materialistic world is represented by Clara, work as two different ends of magnet which actually attracting each other. With the beauty and the good of nature as well as Heidi's love and support, encourage Clara to walk again and get confidence with her again. Heidi learns about life in wealth in the city. Though she does not like it, she cannot deny that money does bring comfort and goodness.

Those above are only a few illustrations of many other researches which take the characterization of character in novel. In this study, the writer focuses to study the characterization of white and black people in *The House Gun* novel by Nadine



Gordimer. The writer has not found yet the study of characterization of white and black people in *The House Gun*.