

Abstract

The study was designed to learn more about the formal elements that are within a literary work. It is previously known as formal elements of literary work. Consisting of the plot, characters, setting, conflict, characterization, and so on. In this case I will try to analyze the formal elements by using the theory of New Criticism by some leading experts working in the field of literary criticism such as Richard Gill and Renee Wellek and several other experts and its research methods will be adopted to analyze the author's novel follows. Novel *In the Heart of the Country* written by JM Coetzee generally tells the story of an old spinster named Magda and talk about every day life in their home environment in a location in South Africa during the British occupation. This novel appears to be more to a personal record book and readers are invited to understand the story of the first-person perspective. New research method of the theory of criticism is mostly referring to the method of close reading. The reader will be served various conflicts which involving the internal conflict and external conflict between Magda and her father, also with someone else outside. These are the conflict the writer presents to the reader to be enjoyed to and what will be tested for in the analysis by the authors of this paper. Which then also been identified that these conflicts affect the change in character and story are very, very drastic and dramatic from the main character is and from the analysis we can find that conflicts play the major role in affecting the developing character of Magda through process of learning from the past experience and collision with the conflicts she faced with.

Key Terms: *formal elements, new criticism, conflict, character, characterization.*