

Chapter II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Background: New Criticism and the Formal Elements

Every scientific writings must have a theory as a base to prove the main hypothesis of the writer in order to make the writing become more scientific, not only just a simple, free and meaningless writing. That also occurs in the field of Literary criticism which require the most fit theory in order to make the literary criticism works well. This requires a base foundation and also as an instrument to help the writer accomplish the main point to complete the analysis.

Now move on to the definition of theory itself. According to Jonathan Culler in his book entitled *Literary Theory, A Very Short Introduction*, a theory is some kind of speculation signal uttered by a person to guess the truth meaning behind one particular issue, but not a kind of simple guess, it is more a little bit complicated and need to be proven as a real truth (Culler 2).

In this case, the writer of this study tries to suit all the analysis of the text using the theory of new criticism. It is the kind of theory of literary criticism that has been dominated American literary criticism in 1930's to 1960's, the theory is based on the view that a work of art or a text is a concrete object that can, like any other concrete object, be analyzed to discover its meaning independent of its author's intention or the emotional state or values of either its author or reader (Bressler 350).

New Criticism is clearly characterized in premise and practice: it is not concerned with *context* – historical, biographical, intellectual and so on; it is not interested in the ‘fallacies’ of ‘intention’ or ‘affect’; it is concerned solely with the ‘text in itself’, with its language and organization; it does not seek a text’s ‘meaning’, but how it ‘speaks itself’ (Selden, Widdowson, Brooker 19).

Through this analysis using New criticism theory, the writer wants to analyze more and describing about the formal elements of literature which has so many features like plot, characterization, and conflict in one kind of particular literary work. In this case the writer will apply the New criticism theory into the work of J.M Coetzee *In The Heart Of The Country* which involving the analysis of conflict that being faced by the main character, Magda, through the story.

Before analyzing the whole material of the novel, the writer will try to describe the definition of those who claimed as the “member” of formal elements in literature.

2.1.1 Conflict

Before moving on to the next understanding of this study in the whole part of New criticism, now let’s try to find out what are the real definition of conflict by some experts who already mastering the elements of literature.

First, we have the definition from Holman C. Hugh from his book *A Handbook To Literature* which describe conflicts of literature in this way, conflict

is the struggle or some kind of opposing situation which grows out of the interaction between the two major opposing forces in a plot. It means that a two different person or some kind of character which confront each other in a different way in a particular plot, brings about conflict (Holman 48). Their relationship and their interaction can be described as a conflict. We can find it out through the description on the situation within the story, or maybe the way the author of the story describing it into a fight, arguing, and something else. But a conflict is not merely between a real person depicted in the story, even the most doubtful mind from the main character in determining his or her choice could also categorize as a conflict, as it mentioned earlier that conflict is an interaction between two major “forces”.

Second, the writer decides to take some of the definition of conflict from the book by Cuddon, *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* that conflicts can be described as The tension in a situation between characters, or the actual opposition of characters. Conflicts usually can be found in drama and fiction but also in narrative poetry. (Cuddon 175). In here Cuddon try to give some understanding to the readers that some kind of tension happened between every character during the story can be mentioned as a conflict, the tension here usually refers to the bad tensions between the characters in the story. We can take an example like in the story of this novel. Between Magda and her relationship with her father, and her father’s servants around the house which can be described as the bad tension one, her arguments with Hendrik, the house gardener, and the

tension with Klein Anna, her servant who choose to do an infamous affair with Magda's father.

Another description about conflict from Abrams which tell that a conflict usually happen when there is a good character fighting against bad character in some kind of literary work especially in a novel or a poetry. When someone is able doing something bad and turn the circumstances into a chaos inside the story and there also someone shows up to fix all the things and repel every bad thing that can affect the story and turns it into some quite heroic situations, then conflicts are already happening in them (Abrams 265). The point to give about description of it is just the same with Cuddon's but here Abrams choose to give small guidance in determining and finding the conflicts in the story using the categorization of the characters characterization they are Hero or the good character who try to save everything from every defile action and the Villain who always try to make everything gone bad in the story, and of course it is the Hero's job to fight them. After the readers can categorize all of the characters according to their act in the story and find the confrontations between them that is when the readers are already finding the conflicts inside the story.

Conflicts can be categorized into two types depending on the way it influences the characters feeling and maybe personality. According to Cuddon there are two types of conflicts they are external conflicts or outer conflicts and the internal conflicts or inner conflicts. The external or the outer conflicts usually come from the outside of the character and commonly affects the physical aspect of the main character. While internal or the inner conflicts come from the inside of

the main character, and usually can be related as the psychological problem which can affect the personality of the character.

In this chapter of the thesis, the writer will try to define both internal and external conflicts according to the short comprehension from some experts and short dictionary of literary elements.

2.1.2 Internal conflict

Internal conflict is the conflict that goes on inside the character itself. It is more likely a battle against the self standard to accomplish his or her main goal in the life depicted in the story plot of some particular literary works.

According to Abrams (265) that internal conflicts are just a battle between a person and his or her self minds or temperaments or individual conflict without any interference from outside; to accomplish or maybe to overpass his or her own standards in everything.

Another understanding from Cuddon that mentions internal conflict is about to choosing something bad and against the moral values but in the deepest mind and heart the character really want it so bad to do and choose the bad decision one.

For example like in everyday life of a person, they are being faced with some kind of various problems and obstacles in order to pursue the final goal, some of the obstacles could be the guilty feelings, anxiety or another factor which

is so called as conscience or probably dilemma which can result in facing themselves in a battle of self individual mind. Like a businessman who start his own business in the field of wood and home furnishing, but in order to cut the production cost his advisor give some illegal advice in smuggling the natural resources through the country, but the businessman only wants some legitimate business without violating any government rules but in other side the businessman knows that he will get enormous profit if he do the advisor's advice.

In this situation usually the character forced to make some hard decisions. Their moral choice is playing the main role in determining their decision. Internal conflicts tend to appear in matters of good or bad decision in the real life.

2.1.3 External conflict

According to Cuddon (256), conflicts can come from other factor outside the character like the surroundings environment or some other forces like human or inhuman factors and usually this external conflict conclude in the winning of the Hero and the loss of the other group.

According to the statement from NicollAllardyce in his book entitled *A History of English Drama* which says that the external conflict is mostly found in the Greek and modern tragedy. In Greek tragedies, the heroes usually faced with the conflicts by the power like faith and destiny that push the strong force onto their life. While in the modern tragedies usually the heroes faced with the conflict

in their struggle to confront old ages customs, convention, and some other society rules. The external conflicts can come from any aspects and can form into anything (48), after understanding the terms about the external conflict by NicollAllardyce above then the writer can assume that the external conflict in these ways since it can come in various forms:

1. The conflict between character and another character or can be mentioned as man versus man conflict
2. The conflict between character and the surrounding society
3. The conflict between character and nature

Here we can see that man versus man conflict is involving the main character conflict between his or herself against another character which is usually can be mentioned as the hero versus villains. Second is the conflict between man versus society, this is a conflict between a single character and the social force such as community, traditional codes, church, school, neighborhood, etc. And the conflict between a man and natural forces, this is when the main character struggle against the urges of the body (hunger, sexual desire, illness, etc.) Or maybe another natural cause which can inflict some damages to the main character.

However there is one another description about the external conflict which has something to do with the categorizing and the naming of the conflict according by the way it clashed with the characters inside the novel, this description by Jones said that external conflict itself also can be divided into

two more parts of sub-branch of external conflicts: they are physical conflict and social conflict (Jones 30). Physical conflict can be said as Elemental conflict, it is more involving about the struggle between the characters against the nature, for example the disaster caused by the nature as we have seen it in the real life like fire, floods, landslide, volcano eruption, earthquake, and much else. While in the other definition of social conflict tells us that it is about the disagreement or we can say it is a “contest” between the other characters or the society surrounding the character, so the writer can conclude that this is similar to the conflict between man versus man and conflict between man versus society's understanding by Nicoll Allardyce before, here Jones only compact it into one compressed form which compile the understanding between man versus man and man versus society into one understanding, that is the social conflict.

Apart from the fact that the two experts' definitions in defining the external conflicts, we still can find the similarity between them and the writer will use both of these definitions of external conflicts as the main instrument to support the analysis.

2.1.4 Characterization

The characters, especially in the novels are much can be said as the reflection of the author's experience whether it is his/her personal experience or just watching some other people experience.

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work,

Who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular Moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it. (Abrams 32)

They can form into one single person or one group of mob or family according into what are they experienced in their real life and pour it in the story they made. In order to make the reader clear enough what is actually the role of the characters in the novel, the novel author usually used some method in describing the characters that are usually called as characterization.

Usually characterization can be described using words, but sometimes words only limited in the way their description by their physical appearance only. To accomplish the full and complete characterization of the characters in the novel of course the novel author has to describe the character full and completely clear to the reader so they can understand and read the character aspect and role successfully, the novel author will then try to find a way to describe it by the way the characters behave or by the action the character take in one particular situation in the story.

Characterization is also can be mentioned as one process to accomplish in reading some kind of literary work, which means it has several ways in the method in executing it. According to Richard Gill in his book, there are two ways in how characters are described inside one literary text, they are telling and showing (97). Telling a character, is the way describing the characters by their physical factors and appearance, such as how the character dressed, their age,

body height, weight, hair color, and some other kind of the character's physical appearance (98).

Meanwhile, although the literal description is only different in a slight way with telling, but according to Gill, the meaning of showing the character is completely different from telling. The difference between these two terms can be spotted on the way depicting the character characterization in the novel. As it was explained before that telling a character is describing only the physical appearance of the characters like the way character dressed and some other physical appearance which can be seen by the naked eye if that character somehow become into the real human.

Here, showing the characters is slight a little bit complicated in describing the characters because, the author will describe the characters indirectly, by the actions taken by the characters through the events occur in the story, from the characters action and the result that come out after that the reader will found what they want to know from their character and then the reader will be able to pull the conclusion in determining the characterization for the character, whether they are the bad character or the good ones, some characters trait will be revealed indirectly, and it is also can be the standard in determining how will the character will solve their problem as it depicted in the novel (Gill 98)

According to Gill, a character is divided into two types: round and flat character. Round character is full and complex, whereas the flat character is a simple one (94). The flat character is usually the lack of the ability to change

during the story from the beginning to the end, they tend to be a simple, not interesting, or even can be categorized as the Dull character. They are the kind of character which doesn't have any specific details about them, and one simple word or sentence is enough to describe who they are. While round character is a kind of quite complex character, they have so many branch in their detail in their life and they're likely to develop in each sequence in the novel from the beginning of the story until the end of it, they're tend to be temperamental and highly motivated character, and the most important things can be remembered as their main nature character is they have the capability to surprise the readers (Abrams 33).

The development of the characters determined by how the plot will take them, the conflicts inside the plot is considered as the main source of the main character characterization development in the novel. The more complicated the conflict in the story goes, and of course it will affect the changing characterization of the characters drastically and dramatically, especially for the round-type character one.

2.2. Character Development

In the real life, people seem to change either it is on their appearance or their other aspects such as psychological, traits, behavior, or maybe the customs. For example, we can see one person who has so many fortunes and properties in their life for one day but surprisingly they may become very poor because of

unexpected cause which then came to their life and affect their lives drastically. The first example above is as we know it is the change in their physical factors. There is also a change in the other aspects which cannot be seen by our eyes directly but more involving the inner self of the person, for example the change in the person's life pattern and habit because of some factors which affect the person's life just like a person who love us suddenly turn to hate us because of some factors that could be coming from our side or from their personal side.

In literature, we can also find out that a character can also change. Just like a real person, because as we know that a literature character is one simple kind of the depiction from the author's real life experience (Abrams 32). Character change is also can be mentioned as the character development. Development itself has the similar meaning with a change. The development word has several meanings, according to *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* the meaning of development word is the process of developing or being developed (1), the second definition of this development word is an event constituting a new state in a changing situation (2). So, if we put a simple conclusion, Character development is the process of a particular character to change in a particular way either they are changing in their physical factors or just in their inner psychological factors.

In this study the writer will try to apply the theory of character development by Orson Scott Card. In his book he stated that there are so many factors that change the characters. He mentioned it also there is several ways to tell it to the readers how the author will present it.

1. You can tell stories in which characters are who they are from beginning to end, working out their destinies along the same relentless lines. Some might criticize your stories because your characters never change, but many readers will be grateful to live in your fictional world, where some people, at least, can be counted on to stand firm.

2. You can tell stories about people who seem to change, but then reveal that this was their true nature all along. They were only pretending to be what you thought they were; or perhaps they simply hadn't had the power or opportunity to reveal themselves.

3. Tell stories about people who want to change, but can't until they discover their own true nature; then, when they change the outward pattern of their lives, they are only becoming true to their newfound self. (Card 120)

In those quotations above we can find out about the way the author present may in a various way in order to make the readers clear. Quotations above showed that according to the Card's book it is the way to present the stories where the characters are simply doesn't change by a lot of significant factors, those quotations above only shows that the author are only just unmasking the nature of the characters in the novel. So in the very beginning the characters in the story already have the nature to do such difference and developments in their habit not

in their whole body features. Card explains that there is a lot different between a transformation and the developments in the character's body.

Card states that Transformations is about how the characters transform into a whole different figure, for example when a man turns into a woman, or from a very skinny man turns into a very muscular and solid figure of a man like we can find in some literary works while developing is a way the characters evolve by their own nature characteristics which they cannot deny in the first place (Card 122). Card also states that there are some factors that could affect the changes of the characters such as the contact with the other character or even an act of a will from the inside of the character itself may lead into a development in them (Card 121).

Development of the characters involving several steps before the characters fully changed and developed. According to the source the writer found it from the internet about writing the good character, good character writing must pay attention to the most detail facts and factors that are going to be presented to the readers. In this case, all novel authors have to follow these steps in building the character. First, the authors need to get to know their characters in order to make them more vivid by sorting their characterizations first before they make it happen and create the characters in the story. Second, they have to master all the techniques to present their characters they create for the readers. In this thesis the writer is trying to describe the characterizations only so the writer will not go further on that.

The first step, the characterization process encompasses the various elements, which have been used to build the character in the novel they are: Physical Appearance, Favorites, Habits, Background, Family, Attitude, Personality, Traits, Self-Perception, Interrelation with others, Goals, Problems/Crisis, and General aspects (online). From those understanding the writer can judge that the development of the characters, in this case the intention of describing the meaning of development refers to the change of the characters characteristics through the story starts from the aspects of physical appearance, in this case what the writer means is the development of the characters can be seen in their physical factors because judging from the reality we can found that physical appearance is the first factor influenced in the process of development. After that, the following features that become the important factors in creating characters change gradually, in other word we can say that the steps of development of the characters starts from their depiction and characterization through the story.

The writer here trying to sum up several concepts of character development that have been found from the source, mainly from the internet because the writer thinks that this concept of character development only describes from the factors and aspects which can be found the difference through the story, not the steps of the development by the characters itself.

As the writer states in the first section of this concept explanation that the character developments start to emerge and can be found by the readers or in other words that is the most significant or prominent which occurs first in the steps of the development process is from the physical characteristics first. The writer can

sum up this concept because the writer already found several characters from any literary objects whether it is popular literature like movies that came from Hollywood or other Indie movies. So does a novel, the writer can also spot these distinctive factors from reading it through the story. The writer also finds the kind of factors from the comic book stories or another children story.

The first example we can find as the slight evidences to support this concept is about the story of *GI Jane*, The American female soldier being played by the Hollywood famous actress, Demi Moore. The reason why I try to use this example is just because that there are so many conflicts that she had been through during the army training. The conflicts mainly came from the outside or we can call it as the external conflicts aspects because they are coming from the outside of the main character. The conflict between her and the military training instructor that occurs every day makes her change and developing her characteristics as the female figure turns into some kind of a little bit masculine girl. In that movie she is first depicted as the ordinary woman who enrolled by the government to join the special operation task forces. She enrolled in the military, especially on that operation among the men and also receiving the same portion of the training.

The factor of development which can be found by the writer here is where she has finally changed and develops herself into some kind of different person on the outside and inside. The concept that the writer tries to find out in order to apply it as the supportive idea in analyzing this novel is that the characteristic development which mainly caused by the conflict from the other forces inflicted to the main character is commonly starts from the physical aspects of the

character. In this example of *the GI Jane story*, she changed her characteristic first especially on her physical aspect. She then shaves her hair off until nothing has left on her head which means that she already made some slight changes in her physical characteristics, the wound on her body caused by the rough situation of the training also made some changes in her body shape, her body build looks like a man than a woman after the training and the mission engagement in the middle east to save the stranded members of the United States Army.

Then move to the next aspects which also being affected by her development which is the mental or psychological characteristics; mental characteristics mainly can be found next after the physical characteristics shown in the first place. The factors which made this development in this mental aspect occurs usually came from the internal conflicts. In this *GI Jane* story, she also turns her attitude and behavior when she enrolled the military and joined in the training for the preparations in doing the special mission. As we know that the military training is well known in using rough methods to discipline the soldiers using some harsh words to scold the private and other soldier candidates which sometimes affect the psychological and mental of the soldier candidates. She develops in some distinctive ways in her mental aspects, like her more manly attitudes and her capability in leading the squad more than another man who joins her in one team during the mission for instance (*Source came from Online search and Web site about the movie review and plot overview*) (IMDb.com). This concept of character development is created based on the latter theory about the round character in the type of characters in the literary works. As we know that

the round character is more often to develop into different forms and characterization.

From there we can see that the developmental steps of the character can be concluded that the physical characteristics are the first one which likely to change due to the character resolving effort in solving their problem which also involve the conflict as the main instrument in helping the progress, then for the latter stages the mental characteristic is next on the list of development which likely to change during the story.

2.3 Reviews of Related Studies

In order to search for related studies in this field of study, the writer goes for a mini library research and internet browsing, in the internet. Then the writer decides to use two related studies by Alia Bahalwan entitled *Typical Settings and Their Influences toward The Qualities of Characters*. The writer finds that the previous author of this study was so sophisticated in language, probably for some people this is quite amazing, an exceptional work of art. But, the problem is even though the description about the exact objective of the studies which is so hard to understand it. The writer himself spends most of his skimming only for a chapter one. Not only once but many times until the writer finally found what is the point of her subject. But however, every work has its own strength and weakness. Alia's work maybe looks amazing if we observed it in the aspects of data collection, and describes in the matters of the problem, and also the method that she used to

analyze the study is can be categorized as a work of beyond the standard. And we must not forget that not every person can understand one particular matter in only a blink of an eye with that kind of language and explanations.

The second one is also from the Airlangga University student undergraduate thesis entitled *An Analysis Of Conflicts As Depicted In The Pianist. Written By WladyslawSzpilman* by Syahrir Ego Fahrizy. This thesis also quite good enough thesis and the most important is the relation to my own work is quite match and have some linear way in describing the character against the inner and external conflicts during the World War 2 era.