

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. Theoretical Framework**

This study attempts to analyze Angier's ambition in his life. In analyzing this subject, the writer will use the new criticism theory. The analysis comes from the literary work itself and will be supported by Abrams' theory. The analysis will concentrate on the novel itself, which is seen from intrinsic approach. New criticism is the method that popularly used in the year 1940s until 1960s. New criticism is the way we understanding the text by the text itself without any interference from other sources. Therefore, the explanation from new criticism approach comes from the elements in the text itself. In analyzing text from new criticism theory, we have to pass several procedures to get the main data or the main thing that we want to understand.

In new criticism, before deciding the theme, we have to see the all the evidences that appeared in the text; images, symbols, metaphor, rhyme, mater, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so on that will shaped the formal elements in the text itself. Then, it comes to the theme that will be chosen from close reading technique. The text's theme is different from the topic. It concludes the main thing that appears in the novel, also it is surrounded the topic as the bigger circle above it. Then, the close reading is seeking for the relationship between the text formal elements with the theme, as the formal elements the writer already chose the characterization, plot and setting, and the theme that concluded in the text is about ambition.

One of the famous new criticism thinker, Wellek and Warren, stated in *Theory of Literature* that the natural and sensible starting-point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves (139). As it will be the writer's main subject, the new criticism will be the appropriate theory to analyze the issue that has been chosen by the writer. The analysis and understanding will be limited on the intrinsic elements of the literary work such as plot, setting, and characterization and so on. As it is appear in Tyson book, *Critical Theory Today*, new criticism asked us to look closely at the formal elements of the text to help us discover the poem's theme, also other literary work such as novel or short story, and to explain the ways in which those formal elements establish it (130). The writer has decided which main literary work that will be used, and furthermore it will be isolated from another source that comes from extrinsic elements.

Related to this statement, Abrams also states in *The Mirror and The Lamp*:

The objective orientation which in principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyze it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own works of being (Abrams, 26).

From this theory, the writer do not necessary to look other things outside the text; the main subject is the text itself with some major explanations that have already been selected by its importance, which can make the explanation become clearer and focused.

### **2.1.1. New Criticism Theory**

As it is stated on the previous explanation, the writer will use the new criticism theory to analyze the main character on the novel. The focus will be divided into several parts that contain the explanation of each formal elements part; plot, characterization and setting. Without any references that come from another thought or idea, the writer will find any valuable data or source only from the novel.

#### **2.1.1.1 Plot**

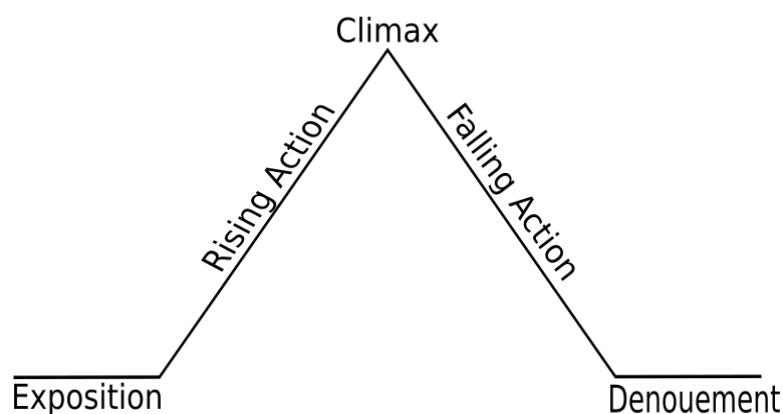
Plot is the rail or movement which controls the entire whole story, from beginning until the end of the story. All the actions or reactions that come from the main character are created from the plot itself. It has a big contribution for the novel. Roberts states in his book *Writing about Literature* that in a story, the characters must go through a series of actions or incidents, which in total, make up the story. The interrelationship of incidents and character within a total design is the plot of the story (57).

In a plot, we will find three part of a story: the beginning, the middle and the end or closing. At the beginning, we can find the introduction of the main character or the problem that will appear in the middle and the end of the story. The portion of introduction usually will be given up a little bit, to make the reader curious about the main character. It can also tell the reader what will happen in the story or provide any information that will make the reader understand what the story is about.

Next, in the middle section, the tension usually rises up, the problem will be clearer and also we can find more information about the main character. This

section will bring us to the deeper conflict or understanding of main character, what the main character does or has done until he gets the problem and so on. Also, it is followed with the introduction of the end of the story.

In the last section, the end of the story, we will see the conclusion idea that appears to solve the problem or to explain what happened in the beginning and the middle. In this type of work, this novel is a kind of flash-back story. Even though this study focuses on the main character, still the plot is understandable points that can be used for deeper exploration. Therefore, the plot and the character are related to each other. If we want to know more about the character, we have to know about the plot and vice-versa. We can see about the diagram that shows the plot in a story below:



**Figure 1. Plot Transition**

Explanation:

1. Exposition : First part of the story, also known as introduction. Usually contains the introduction of character, the intention and so on.

2. Rising Action: Second part of plot, where the problem is rising, but still the introduction of the story.
3. Climax : The highest part of the story, as it is the main problem or a clear explanation about the character. Usually in this stage, we can find any revealed truth that does not appear in the Exposition and Rising Action part.
4. Falling Action: The resolution becomes clear, but still the main problem is not solved yet. It is the beginning of resolution that leads to the end of the story.
5. Denouement : The last part of the plot, also known as Resolution where the problem completely resolved, and also become the end of the story. There are so many types of ending part, such as sad part, happy, or even hanging (the main character not shown in the end of the story)

### **2.1.1.2 Character**

There are several ways of author to give the details for conclusions about character. As it is stated by Roberts in his book *Literature, an Introduction to Reading and Writing*, character in literature generally, and in fiction specifically, is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inner self that determines thought, speech and behavior (143). The readers can see the personality of the character from descriptions of character's appearance, clothes, speech, and the opinions of others, etc.

Roberts also stated that in studying a literary character, we should determine the character's traits or major traits. A trait is a typical or habitual made

of behavior (144). From the study of a character's traits, we can develop our understanding of the character. Therefore, we can see that the main character here is an ambitious person, such as the character Rupert Angier in Christopher Priest's novel.

In the study of character, the writer focuses on the behavior that may lead to the clue of ambition of the character that is enough to represent the cause that may lead by it. The way the characters act also become importance to see more about what is going on, and also it can be a guidance for the writer to understand more about what the conflict that the main character deal with is. Therefore, the character is also become the important point to find out more about the whole story.

### **2.1.1.3 Setting**

The last method that the writer uses is setting analysis that is used to complete the whole understanding of the text. The setting also contains much information about the main character's behavior and thought, as Gill states in his book, *Mastering English Literature* that:

Setting covers the places in which characters are presented, the social context of characters, such as their families, friends and class, the customs, beliefs and rules of behavior of their society, the scenes that are the background or the situation for the events of the novel, and total atmosphere, mood or feel that is created by these (106).

By the explanation above, we should pay attention to the setting because it can give a contribution about the story. It can reveal mood and the emotions of the characters, the situation of the characters, and also the personality of the characters. In this study, the writer needs to analyze the setting since the setting in Christopher Priest's novel has a great effect upon the personalities, actions, and way of thinking of Angier, the main character.

## 2.2. Working Definition

Ambition is the main topic of this research. Ambition itself is a drive, an inner energy that pushes someone to fulfill something that they want. This kind of inner motive has been recorded by Cohen in his book, *The Science of Evil*, anxiety is a drive. It was proposed that individuals who are characteristically anxious and tense must ordinarily experience bigger drive level called ambition (300). This kind of inner motive is the main reason that come since we were born in this world.

Ambition always come with a specific thing or thought that want to be fulfilled. It is stated by Charles G. Morris in his book *Psychology: An Introduction (Tenth Edition)* a motive is an inner directing force—a specific want or need—that arouses the organism and directs its behavior toward a goal (346). The result may vary because it depends on the personality itself. Because there are various ways to get the motive or specific things, the result will come with such method to fulfill it. For example; when we see a good man tries to get a car, he will work until his account is enough to buy the car that he wants.

The result will be different if we see a bad person trying to get a car. He will take a 'shortcut' way like stealing, robbing, and many more which uses a bad way too. The result is what we will get just nothing, like stated by Roy F. Baumeister in his book *Meaning of Life* that suffering and unhappiness tend to be characterized by a loss or lack of meaning (232). It will just bring any lack of meaning, or what we can see as a meaningless action.

In the final stage, the ambition will occur to influence the life of someone who has such a tremendous ambition. Therefore, as the writer already mention in the previous section, the influence of ambition itself will lead someone to do anything to get the things that they want. This kind of drive sometimes makes people change their habit, and it can also affect all things in their life such as personality, the way they think, and the way they treat people. When people have such of ambition in their life, the determination will become stronger than usual. As it is stated by Maslow in his book *Motivation and Personality* that at the next level, more conflict will lead people to struggle harder in order to overcome the problems and survive from the challenge (37).

### **2.3 Review of Related Studies**

*The Prestige* is not classical novel. The novel was published on 1995. The writer has tried to find out thesis and academic paper that analyze this novel. However, the writer cannot find any. There is no academic paper that analyzes this novel, especially in English department of Airlangga University.

Because there is no academic analysis about the novel, the writer tries to find information about the same issue of ambition. Although the text being



analyzed is differently, but there is a relation between the issue. These are several related studies that were done before this study. One of them is a thesis by Dewi Meyrasyawati entitled *Frankenstein Tremendous Ambition in Searching for the Meaning of Life in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. This study aims to examine the tremendous ambition that comes out in Frankenstein's life, using the objective theory to analyze the ambition itself but supported with the psychological explanation. This research also supports the writer's thought about the character that has a huge ambition, and lead into the conclusion where the main character, Frankenstein, realized about what he has already done. Related to the work that the writer already did, it has a relationship between the texts in ambition issue. Therefore, this work can be one of the reviews that enrich the writer analysis.

Another study is a thesis by Minerva M. entitled *An Analysis of Skeeter's Character Development in James Street's Weep No More, My Lady*. This study aims to analyze the development of the main character, Skeeter, which has dramatically changed in order to survive in his life.

Some reviews also appear after the novel was published. One of it is the review by Simon and Schuster that tries to explain the twin identity in the novel. Although it has different subject with the writer's subject but it can be information that can be used to know more about the main character.