

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter contains a theoretical explanation about the concept and other related materials that are applicable in analyzing the topic. The study will focus on the influences of Nina's character to the conflicts in the novel. The writer uses New Criticism to analyze the novel. According to *Critical Theory Today*, New Criticism also called their approach as objective criticism because it is focused on each text's own formal elements ensured. The approaches are used so that the analysis will get close to the topic the writer wants to write because they also serve the limitation for the writer's problem. The writer needs to analyze the characterization and the conflicts of Nina Frost because these both are the most interesting things and the difficult modern issue of the novel.

2.1.1 New Criticism Theory

The term "New Criticism" comes from the title of a book published by John Crowe Ransom in 1941, *The New Criticism* (Norfolk,

CT: New Direction) (Griffith 134). New Criticism is a theory that focuses mainly on a particularly close and analytical reading of the text. The main point of New critics is a close reading in which literary text is treated as the source text. In New Criticism theory, the text must be considered as an object of literature. The novel is part of literary work. Therefore, the novel becomes the object that can be analyzed using New criticism which is focused on the text itself.

New critics tried to provide verbal or textual evidences for their claim, their approach is objective. They believe that the text provides a way to be interpreted, and formal elements help this to be done. That is why new criticism is sometimes called objective criticism. It is also called an intrinsic criticism, because it is just concerned about the text itself (Tyson, 135).

The statement above shows that close reading is the main point in the New criticism. The readers have their own interpretation when they read the text and novel. Their own interpretation is considered as objective criticism. This theory is dealing to find formal elements as intrinsic elements in the novel.

There are two points that new criticism avoids, they are intentional fallacy and affective fallacy. Tyson states in the fundamental principles of new criticism, in order to find the universal theme of the text, a critic should avoid personal interpretations, and it is called affective fallacy (Tyson 137). Sometimes a literary text doesn't live up to the author's intention. Sometimes it is even more meaningful, rich, and complex than the author realized. And sometimes the text's

meaning is simply different from the meaning the author wanted it to have, it is called intentional fallacy (Tyson 136).

In Critical Theory Today, it is stated that New Criticism success in focusing our attention on the formal elements of the text and on their relationship to its meaning of evident in the way we study literature today, regardless of our theoretical perspective (Tyson 149). There is a structural approach that is used as the basic means to analyze the novel through its intrinsic elements or internal structures. Literary works consists of intrinsic elements: plot, setting, character, theme, etc. In this study, the analysis is limited to the plot which includes conflicts, setting, and character. These formal elements will establish theme as the central idea. According to *Hunter College Reading and Writing Center*, theme is the general idea or meaning of a literary work. A theme may not always be explicit or easy to state, and a work of literature may contain more than one theme. Theme is generally the most important part of any literary interpretation (online). Thus, it is necessary to describe the elements of the novel also to find organic unity as the aim of New criticism. Organic unity consist of character, plot which is including the conflicts, and the setting.

2.1.1.1 Characterization

A character is the person in the story. The author wants to convey her ideas and messages through the character's personality and conflict. Therefore, characters always have a relation to the conflicts of the story. In other words,

characters may be presented mainly through description, speeches, dialogue, feelings, attitudes, action, thoughts of the main character and what others character say in the story.

According to *Understanding Fiction*, when we will summarize traits or events, on when to describe directly, and on when to allow the character to express feelings through dialogue and action, we will depend upon the general end of the story and upon the way in which the action of the story is to be developed from a beginning, through a complicating middle, to an inevitable end (Warren 109).” One of the most important modes for character revelation is speech; the ways a character talks. Characters have close relations to conflicts, both of them have close relations to each other. Characterization becomes the aspect that support the plot and it has relation to the conflicts. The kind of Nina’s character brings to the internal conflict. There are some kinds of characters such as flat, stock, round, static, dynamic and foil characters.

The first is a flat character, a psychologically simple and easy to understand. It may be described in detail and be present throughout a story, but the reader tends to learn little about them beyond their function in advancing the plot. The second is stock characters, similar to flat characters in operation, although they may not occupy as much space. It may be useful to think of stock characters as assisting both the plot and setting of a text, or contributing to the background. The stock or typed character is a familiar stereotype often serving to aid the plot. The third is

round characters who have psychological depth and complexity. They are more like real people often difficult to predict and figure out; therefore, they tend to interest us and command our attention more than flat character. Whereas, a static character is one who remains essentially the same from beginning to end. The last is dynamic character. A dynamic character undergoes change. In general, flat characters tend to be static and round characters tend to be dynamic.

2.1.1.2 Plot

Plot is one of the formal elements that has an important role in the novel. It is the pattern of incidents or events with emphasis falling on causality as its fundamental quality. In *Understanding Fiction*, Parkman states that when we speak about “the action of the story” we mean the string of events that constitute the story. In other words, “action“ serves as a rough equivalent of what we commonly think of as “plot. “ When we talk in this fashion we are thinking of the string of events as somehow separable from the characters involved in the events and separable from the main theme-even though we know that, in fact, we can not really separate an act from the person who commits it, or an act from its meaning (Warren 33).”

It means that plot is the chronology of the story that being sequences of the events or actions that have cause and effects relationship. A story in novel is composed of interesting events or incidents experiencing characters that are connected to events which follow. *Hunter College Reading and Writing Center*

stated that plot is an account of the action and all of the motivations lying behind the action in a literary work. A plot may include such elements as the "exposition," where the setting is established, the characters are introduced, and background information is provided; the "conflict"; the "climax," where the action comes to its moment of greatest tension; and the "denouement," where the action finally resolves (online).

Then the plot has some important elements such as : exposition (introduction to the situation), rising action (conflict), climax (turning point), and falling action as the ending or the last part of the story. Exposition is the beginning of the story that introduces characters and the relation between character and the environment. Conflict is the essence.

In general meaning, conflict is a struggle that takes place in a character's mind or a struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. Conflict refers to the opposition of persons or a clash of different forces upon which the action in a plot is constructed. The central of a conflict can be called a climax. The conflicts here maybe physical, social, or psychological. The physical and social conflicts are the external conflicts. While psychological conflicts or a struggle between desires, mind, heart within a person is an internal conflicts. When a person face two difficult choices, the person must get dilemmas.

As *Understanding Fiction* states that the beginning of an action always presents us with a situation in which there are some elements of instability, some conflict or contrast (which may be specified or implied, or even, for the moment,

ignored). The middle of an action exhibits the development of conflict and the readjustment of forces as they struggle to settle into a new kind of stability. The end of an action shows that some point of stability has been reached (however temporarily); the conflicts among forces that have been brought into play have been resolved” (Warren 34).

Based on that statement above, it is clear that conflict has three important parts. They are the beginning of action which has some conflict or contrast, the middle of action that conflict develop into climax as the central of the plot, and the end of action as the solution of the conflict. Then, the plot is the structure of the events as presented in a piece of fiction. Plot has good deal to say about conflict in fiction. In this study, It may be the conflict between a woman against other man and other characters. It is called the external conflicts. On the other hand, there is internal conflict as the main conflict like the focus of this study. It is about the woman’s dilemmatic conflicts in her mind, heart, and moral that can be called as woman against herself.

2.1.1.3 Setting

The general meaning of setting is the environment. Whereas, in the literary term setting refers to the time and place, to the physical and sometimes spiritual background against which the incidents, events, or the conflict of a story take place. In other words, setting is the locale, time, and context in which the action of a literary work takes place (online). In this part, the setting is included in the

analysis of character and plot. It is not analyzed separately as the other two elements, character and plot.

2.2 Review of Related Studies

Jodi Picoult wrote *Perfect Match* in 2002. She shows how a mother is in dilemma and in conflicts when she finds that her son has been sexually abused from the priest, that finally she has to choose between love and justice. The writer of this study has not discovered out the other thesis which analyzed *Perfect Match*. Maybe the writer is the first writer who analyze *Perfect Match* novel for her study that focuses on character and dilemmatic conflicts. The writer of this study has found another thesis which analyzes character and conflicts in *The Devil Wears Prada*. That thesis focuses on indication that exploitation and alienation happen in the society. She also explains the intrinsic aspects of the novel and shows how exploitation and alienation is represented by Andrea Sach. The thesis is from English Department of Faculty of Humanities of Diponegoro University entitled *Andrea Sach's Struggles Against Exploitation and Alienation in Lauren Weisberger's The Devil Wears Prada* written by Nora Rohwani Surahman. Although both of the writer's study and Nora's study that analyzes conflicts and characters but they both have different statements of the problem. While Nora examines the conflict of alienation and exploitation between staff and the superior in the society, this thesis intends to examine the main character's dilemmatic conflicts between love and justice.

Another work is found by the writer of this study is one of Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law that analyzed *The Lovely Bones* written by Samuel H. Pillsbury. In his essay entitled *A Different Kind of Courage, A different Kind of Peace*. Pillsbury examines what the law of sexual assault should look like or how such cases should be adjudicated. Pillsbury analyzes how we should intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually conceive of the offenses and their human consequences (Pillsbury Vol 1 : 357). Although both the writer's thesis and Pillsbury's journal are different, but both of the novels tell about child sexual abuse and the legal system. In this case, the focus of the writer's study is different. Pillsbury analyzes the law legal system. He shows how the law works out for the people and the society. Pillsbury explains about the justice and judgments. Evidences are needed in the court to decide a decision. Pillsbury's study also gives the knowledge for people who do not know about the legal system of child sexual abuse cases in the United States.

Pillsbury focus on the American law system and the writer of this thesis focuses on character, plot, and the conflicts of the novel. Both of them have same cause of conflicts. Child sexual abuse becomes the cause of the conflicts in the novel which makes the novel more interesting. There are many sexual abuses happening to children and teenagers.

Pillsbury also tells about *Competency hearing* as the part of the trial of child sexual abuse case. It is considered as the requirement to prove the truth. Children must be competent for *Competency hearing*. Children must tell the truth all the chronology that happen. If there is not any witness and the children do not

competent, the abuser will free from the jail. *Competency hearing* is a thing that is mentioned in *Perfect Match*. On the other hand, *Perfect Match* is also dealing with crime and American legal system.

Thus, the results and conclusions of both theses will be different from each other. It has also becomes evident that the ideas contained in this thesis are original. Accordingly, these previous studies will be used as comparative studies in conducting the analysis. They will also be used as additional knowledge to enrich the writer's knowledge about the American legal system and *Competency hearing* ; how the legal system works when dealing with child sexual abuse. *Perfect Match* deals with justice and the American legal system that becomes part of the solution how Nina is freed from jail. She is found not guilty although she kills an abuser. That is why the writer can learn Pillsbury's thesis as a comparison.