

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter explains the theory which will be used in this thesis and also the necessary concept taken to gather insight concerning the ideas found in the text as well as related studies used in analyzing *Walk Two Moons*. According to the theory of new criticism, the writer uses close reading method in order to elaborate the research problem. Formal elements focusing on characterization, plot, and setting will be used in analyzing the text.

##### 2.1.1 New Criticism Theory

The theory that will be used in analyzing the text is New Criticism. As stated by Tyson, New Criticism's purpose in an analysis is to reveal the true meaning of the text based on the text itself. New Criticism is a theory that focuses mainly on a particularly close and analytical reading of the text. The main point of New Criticism is a close reading in which literary text is treated as the source text. In New Criticism theory, the must be considered as an object of literature. The Novel is part of literary work. Since the theory is based on the text itself, New Criticism's main focus is toward the formal elements of the text which forms the organic unity of the text (135).

. ...New Criticism 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 term New Criticism comes to be applied to a particular group of critics and theorists in the 1920s and 1930s after the publication of John Crowe Ransom's book titled *The New Criticism* (Buchbinder 12). This theory is focused on the formal elements which build the text as an organic unity. New criticism is really connected with the term close reading, which means a careful analysis of a text with paying attention to its structure, syntax, figures of speech, etc in order to examine the formal elements of the text, such as characterization, plot, and setting of time and place. New Criticism attempts to make the elements of fiction as an organic unity. Both of the previous theories have the same way in analyzing the text but New Criticism adds its focus on the ways elements form as the organic unity which cannot be separated. Thus, in order to support the theme of the text, New Criticism is suitable to use because of its function while Intrinsic Approach focuses on one or more elements as a single interpretation.

### **2.1.2 Close Reading**

New criticism searches for meaning within the structure of the text, finds it by examining the text through the close reading and analyzing the formal elements within the text, "Because of new criticism's belief that the literary text can be understood primarily by understanding its form (which is why you'll sometimes hear it referred to as a type of formalism), a clear understanding of the definitions of specific formal elements is important (Tyson 141)." New criticism believes that

there is such a single complete interpretation, which is timeless and is not related to individual readers or social events.

In general, “close reading” simply means analyzing a literary text quite carefully, realizing main ideas, and then making conclusions based on your analysis. In other words, close reading a text closely: looking at the details and discussing how those details lead you to make conclusions about the text. The idea is to look at the little pieces and see how they connect to the whole (Tyson 135). Close reading of a text is introduced by new criticism and it is a fundamental tool in today’s modern literary criticism. Some of the new criticism’s “new critics believed that a single best, or most accurate, interpretation of each text could be discovered that best represents the text itself; that best explains what the means and the text produces that meaning, in how other words, that best explains its organic unity (Tyson 148).” Tyson also explains that even today, close reading is the predominant and standard method of instruction in high schools and colleges for students of English literature (135).

In short, close reading is important, because it is the basic construction for larger analysis. The reader’s thoughts develop not from someone else’s truth about the text, but from the reader own observations. The more closely the reader can observe the more original and exact the ideas of the analysis will be. The formal elements and the organic unity of the text that are focused to analyze in this will be including characterization, plot, and setting in *Walk Two Moons*, because those three are the elements needed in a story so that it can form an organic unity.

### 2.1.2.1 Characterization

Characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal character ( DiYanni 56). Characters are imaginary people by the author. It can be classified into major and minor, static and dynamic. Major character is essential to the literary text since s/he is the centre of the story's action. Major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. Minor character's appearance is aimed to support major character. Dynamic character experiences changes of attitude, purpose, or behaviors during the progress of the story, while static character stays the same from the beginning until the end (DiYanni 55-56).

Since characterization is a process, it means that there are ways in how character is depicted in a literary work. According to Gill there are two ways in how characters are illustrated in a text, they are called telling and showing (97). In telling a character, the character is described by its appearance such as what the character wears, how old s/he is, the color of hair, height, or any other kind of his or her physical appearance portrayed (98). Showing is a whole different thing than telling. Telling is more like depicting the character directly about his or her appearance, while showing pictures a character indirectly through his or her actions. From these characters' actions, ideas can be taken in order to recognize the character whether the character is good, bad, or having any other traits and it also create an expectation in how the character deals with an event to solve it (98).

Gill states that characterization can be seen in how characters speak, since it represents an expression of a character. Every character is depicted differently one after another, so that is why characters sometimes say things with colorful

language or speak with very few words. These differences will point out how a character behaves and react to a certain situation (99). Another way how characterization can be seen is through how the character appears in a story as Gill argues that the way a character appears is able to show the inner world of a character's personality (100).

Characterization can also be established from how a character dress as Gill stated. It means that how a character dress enables the reader to understand a character's social standing (101). From a character social standing, characterization then also can be made known from how important a character is (102). Lastly, a character's deed or what a character does determines his or her characterization. Gill explains that not every character react the same in every situation they are in (103). As Nurgiyantoro in his *Theory Pengkajian Fiksi* mentions the possible variations of doing the indirect characterization, that is to derive it from: 1. *the character's dialogue* (direct conversation). 2. *The character's action* (nonverbal or more physical). 3. *The Character's thoughts and feelings* (nonverbal and non-physical; it tends to pose as descriptions). 4. *The character's stream of consciousness* (the narrator's monologue). 5. *The character's reaction* (as a respond of something which is done before). 6. *Other character's reaction* (as judgment towards certain character). 7. *Setting's descriptions* (illustration of the story's time, and place). 8. *Physical descriptions* (appearance).

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). Another way of distinguishing between characters of a wide and those of a narrow range is to call one open and the other closed (Gill 94). Gill also explains that these terms are more concerned with the capacity of characters to change; an open character or round character can grow and developed, whereas a closed one is fixed and unchanging (94).

By applying showing and telling, writers in their own distinctive manner is creating a way to communicate or send information about their characters to readers. Characterization using the telling and showing is completed by paying attention to the things surrounding a character to get an idea about the character itself.

#### **2.1.2.2 Plot**

Plot is also the formal element that helps readers to face a sequence of events. Plot engages the readers' interest in a number of ways and makes them to be aware, guess, and think what will happen in the next. "The experiences and plot is of reading book page by page and allowing the events to work upon us" (Gill 160). A plot can be defined as the order of events in which the reader learners of them. In the detective story and mystery, plot is also the most important part. The point about such mysterious is that they depend upon the idea of plot as a sequence of events connected by a set of causes. Gill states that the plot is based upon mystery works by allowing the readers to see that there must be a cause behind the events while keeping the cause concealed. The formula is: there must be a cause but it is mysteriously hidden (Gill 179).

The plot has some structures or elements that construct the formula. Gill states that the best thing to do is to think about the way a plot is put together as elements or parts and to see in what ways the readers are engaged (Gill 166). The first element in plot is exposition. Exposition is the first stage of the story and background information that need to be introduced to the readers. Exposition is opening portion that sets the scene, introduces the main characters, tells us that happens before the story is opened, and provides any other information that need in order to understand and care about the events to follow ( Kennedy 12).

After the exposition as the opening, the story will run and start to find the serious of problems and this stage is called Complication. Because this part presents conflicts which become the cause of the action later. Complication cannot be separated with conflicts which start to happen in this part. "Conflict is a struggle between opposing force that is usually resolved in the end of the story" (Kennedy 12). According to Diyanni, there are two types conflict, which happens between the characters in the story. The conflict of man against man can happen in many ways like arguing, fighting, accusing or anything that each other do in opposite. The second type is internal conflict, which happens between characters and their own internal problem. The characters usually have something with their own felling like adoring or guilty (40-41).

The next stage of plot is climax, which is the turning point or a moment of greatest tension that fixes the outcome. According to Kennedy, "Climax is the turning point in which the action reaches its acme and one oppressing force wins the other loses, in mystery or detective fiction the crime is solved" (12). The

climax is such the highest peak of the story line. In this stage the readers have release their feeling.

The last stage of plot is resolution, which is the cooling down process during the reading the novel. This stage contains of the problem. Kennedy states that in resolution, the author shows the result of whatever was de idea or revealed at the climax before (12). The resolution in detective story can be explanation of the crime as only the chronological of the events from the earlier, every detail problems until the last result of the story.

### **2.1.2.3 Setting**

Setting is usually called as the point of novel by many readers because it is depicted where or when the scene of the story is being told. It can also be the important thing of a literary work. The author has to make the setting clear so the reader will not be confused by the scene changing. According to Gill, setting can be used to cover several things such as the places where the character appear; the social context of the character including families, friend, class; the beliefs, and rules of behavior that bring an identify to a society; the particular places of events; and the atmosphere, mood, and feel that can be influenced the elements of the literary works (148). Kelly Griffith also stated that there are four aspects which connected by the setting. Those are setting is the physical, the time in which the action of a literary work takes place, the social environment of the characters, and atmosphere that can be describe as the effect of setting (40).

By looking at description, a conclusion can be showed that setting cannot work alone because it usually appears to reflect other elements of a literary work.



Setting can reflect the mood of a character or it can also reveal how the situation and how the personality of the character (149).

Not only with character, some author can also use setting as the tool to share his or her thought about the discussion of his literary work, in this case is the topic discuss, to the reader. The try to show how is they thought about the world or life by showing the atmosphere and feeling literary about those things. Gill stated that “Setting are not incidental but are a significant part of the novel as a whole” (157).

Robert DiYanni expands Abrahams’ understanding of setting into a primary that other elements cannot stand without’, one of which is ‘character’, and that setting is complex enough to able to explain other than its own building factors namely ‘ locale, time and social circumstances’; by saying that “setting is essential to meaning. Functioning as more than a simple backdrop for action, it enhances our understanding of the characters’ (61).

## **2.2 Related Studies**

In his research, the writer found a thesis which also discussed about a thesis which also discussed about the analysis of formal elements. The first related studies is done by Dyah Ayu Maharani titled *The Impact of Parents Nurture on a Child’s Behavior in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Here Maharani discussed about the impact of family nurture and she uses descriptive analysis, she also relates the notion of family nurture with the process of personality change which is strongly related to the psychoanalytic theory. She also mentions the stage of the growth of the childhood personality through behavior.

It's different with the writer discussion because the writer discussion is more focus on the character and setting.

The second studies is done by Firendra Dian Megasari titled *Dave's Journey in search of family unity* This study analyzes Dave Plazer's autobiography during his life to search his son. But something that makes different here is the writer is more focus on the searching of her missing mother.

The third related study is done by Adi Purwanto titled *The Absence of Mother's Love in Chick's Character in Albom's For One More Day*. Here Adi more focused on how the mother's love affects in Chick's personality and how he finally realized his mother's love. However, the character in Adi's thesis lost his mother when he has become an adult, unlike Salamanca who lost her mother since she was a child. Therefore there must be some significance differences in the impacts which are experienced by the two characters.

All those previous studies show the importance of family in one's life. Actually there are a lot more novels that talk about similar issues, however only the writer believes that three examples are enough to be comparative and supporting elements in doing the analysis. Furthermore, it is important to give certain studies that applies New Criticism theory so that it can be agreed that New Criticism theory is applicable in doing the analysis