

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Dealing with the subject matter that lies within the story itself, the first thing to do is to understand the story through its intrinsic elements. Therefore, the intrinsic approach is used as the main device to analyze the work. The approach is also a way to restrict the analysis of the story from its extrinsic elements. Next, working on the idea to observe the shift of personality in the character of Carie, the sociocultural theory of personality is applied. The theory serves as the supporting tool in the analysis and focuses the discussion on the intended scope. Since the major attention of this thesis is a female character, who is a wife and mother, Karen Horney's feminine psychology is used to analyze the character and her actions in dealing with the conflicts.

A. Intrinsic Approach

To analyze a novel as a pure fictional story requires a good understanding towards the internal elements that build up the story. The aim of using the intrinsic approach is to give access to the internal elements of the story. These are used to discover what a story expresses and means from the important and valuable information that can be derived from the story itself. Thus, as what Rene Wellek stated in his *Theory of Literature*, that studying a literary work should be based on the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself. The first and

the most prominent concentration of the study should be directed toward the work (139). This study is made possible by applying intrinsic approach, which is the approach used to analyze and interpret a literary work through its intrinsic element. The discussion will cover the analysis of character, sequence of events, and setting and is intended to reveal the conflicts the character must deal.

Robert states that character in literature generally, and in fiction specifically, is an extended verbal representation of human being. The inner self that determines thought, speech, and behavior. Through dialogues, actions, commentaries, the author captures some of the interactions of the character and circumstances (143). There are several ways applied by the author to enable the readers to obtain details for valid conclusion. The readers may find out the personality of the character through the character's speech, the opinions of the other characters toward the character, and so on.

In his book *Literature; An Introduction to Reading and Writing*, Robert states that in studying a literary character, it is expected to determine the character's major traits. A trait is a typical or habitual mode of behavior (144). Robert also confirms that it is necessary to not only regard physical description but also to be sure to relate the physical to psychological or mental, when the characters reaction, thought, and manner toward various situations and events.

The author puts the character on such a characterization to make the audiences, the readers understand the story and to get the idea(s). By analyzing characters, hopefully closer understanding of the character Carie will be reached.

It is possible to study her words, feelings, thoughts, and actions by focusing our attention to the characterization of Carie.

Plot is a carefully thought out of plan in which all events, actions and reactions of the characters altogether contribute toward movement of the story. In a story the characters must go through series of actions or incidents, in which everything makes up the story. The interrelationship of incidents and characters within a total design is the plot of the story (Robert 57). In a plot, there are always sequential events that consist of the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story. The beginning of the story means the opening portion that sets the scene to introduce the main character. In addition, it may notify the readers as well about what happens before. Afterward, in the middle of the story some conflicts will appear. The movement of tension up to the highest level is called climax of the story. It is the continued by the denouement as the ending of the story.

Conflicts are the elements that build up the plot of a story. According to Pickering, conflict is the basic opposition, or tension, that sets the plot of a story in motion; it engages the reader, builds the suspense or mystery of the work, and arouses expectation for the event that are to follow (178). The reason that conflict is the major ingredient in plot is that once two forces are in opposition, there may be doubt about the outcome. The doubt, if the reader becomes interested and engaged with the characters, produces curiosity and tension.

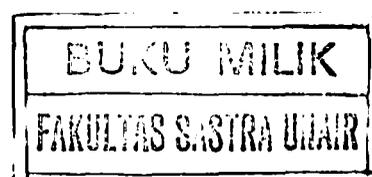
Conflicts may be internal or external. Internal conflict is the opposition within one's personality, for instance the dilemma Carie had when she is faced to choose between her husband's duty and her children's' safety. This kind of conflict often

occurs in Carie's mind. When she has lost four out of seven children she has, she doubts whether she must follow her husband moving here and there with the result of losing children or stay put in one nice place which enables her to take care of her family. External conflict is the opposition between a character and another one, or his or her surrounding such as nature and society. For example, when Boxer Rebellion took place in 1900, she must deal with the society because at that time white people should be expelled.

Setting, as stated by Gill in his book entitled *Mastering English Literature*, covers the places in which characters are presented; the social context of the 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 the total atmosphere, mood of feel that is created by these (106)

In his book entitled *Literature*, Pickering defined the functions of setting as follows:

1. **Setting as background for actions.** It means that fiction needs a setting to place its events. Nothing can happen anywhere. There is no event without place.
2. **Setting as antagonist.** The settings that are forces of nature often function as casual agents helping to establish conflicts and to determine the outcome of events.



3. **Setting as a device of creating appropriate atmosphere.** The author uses setting to create atmosphere. Atmosphere is the psychological appearance of circumstances.
4. **Setting as a device of revealing character.** Setting is used to reveal the mood and the personalities of the characters.

B. Sociocultural Theory of Personality

Horney's sociocultural view of personality was prompted by three major considerations. First, she rejected Freud's pronouncements regarding women, in particular his notion that 'penis envy' is preordained by their biological nature. Second, her exchanging ideas with Erich Fromm, Margaret Mead, and Harry Stack Sullivan reinforced her conviction that sociocultural conditions exert a profound impact on the individual's development and functioning. Third, she confirmed the powerful influence of cultural forces on personality dynamics (Hjelle and Ziegler).

Horney's theory is related to her personal life and how she was able to deal with her problems. She addresses the idea of personality in conjunction with psychoanalysis. Her theoretical approach to this is describing it towards people's personality.

1. Personality Development

Karen Horney stated that childhood experience is important in shaping adult personality. She argued that the social relationship between the child and the

parents is the decisive factor in determining personality growth. According to Horney, childhood is characterized by two needs; the need for satisfaction and the need for safety. If the parents demonstrate genuine affection and warmth toward the child, thereby satisfying the need for safety, healthy personality development will likely ensue. Conversely, if the parents act in ways that obstruct the child's need for safety, abnormal personality development is likely to occur.

This is also suitable to be applied to adult behavior. If the insecurity is repressed, it will be manifested in all the relationship she had with other people. At this point, she is experiencing *Basic Anxiety*. Hjelle and Ziegler defined basic anxiety as an intense and pervasive feeling of insecurity and represent one of Horney's most primary concepts. Horney establishes her own perception on the idea of conflict when looking at psychoanalysis and neuroses that involve inner conflicts. She stated that the conflicts were between contradictory neurotic trends and the attitudes toward self, qualities, and set of values. Horney believed that each of us has the capability and potential to become a decent person. This comes from the relationship with ourselves as well as with others which is disturbed with problems (Langenderfer). However, 'man can change and go on changing as long as he lives' (Inner conflicts, 19)

In dealing with behavior, she emphasized social rather than biological or instinctual determinants of personality motivation, and believed that anxiety and conflict result from the social conditions in which people find themselves rather than from the preordained unfolding of biological needs (Darley et al, 450). How the anxiety conflict is managed is the key to adult personality. To cope with the

feeling of insecurity, helplessness, and hostility that accompany basic anxiety, one often resorts to the use of certain defensive strategies. Horney identified 10 such strategies for coping with basic anxiety, which she called *Neurotic Trends or Neurotic Needs*.

In her book *Our Inner Conflicts*, Horney clustered her list of 10 neurotic needs into 3 general categories. Each of the three categories represents an interpersonal coping strategy aimed at making the person feel safe and secure. It functions to reduce anxiety and to make life more bearable. In addition, Horney felt that each strategy reveals the general orientation the person is likely to take in relating to other people.

a. Moving Toward People (Compliance Becomes Goodness)

Moving toward people involves a style of interaction characterized by dependence, unassertiveness, and helplessness. Horney labeled this person as the compliant type. Compliant types need to be wanted, loved, protected, and guided by others. They enter into relationships only to avoid feeling lonely, helpless, or unwanted. (Hjelle and Ziegler 227).

The person who feels a great deal of anxiety and helplessness move toward people in order to seek help and acceptance. They are striving to feel worthy and can believe the only way to gain this is through the acceptance of others. These people have an intense need to be liked, involved, important, and appreciated. So much so, that they will often fall in love quickly or feel an artificial but very strong attachment to people they may not know well. Their

attempts to make that person love them create a clinginess and neediness that much more often results in the other person leaving the relationship.

b. Moving Against People (Aggression Becomes Strength)

Moving against people is a coping style characterized by dominance, hostility, and exploitation. Horney called these persons the hostile type. The hostile type assumes that others are aggressive and that life is a struggle against all. Horney noted that the hostile type is capable of acting politely and friendly, but the person's behavior is always a means to the end of attaining control and power over others.

In this stage, insecurities and anxiety are dealt by trying to force power onto others in hopes of feeling good about oneself. Those with this personality style come across as bossy, demanding, selfish, and even cruel.

c. Moving Away From People

Hjelle and Ziegler in *Personality Theory* stated that moving away from people as an interpersonal coping strategy is evidenced by those individuals who adopt a protective 'I don't care about anything' attitude. Horney labeled the individual as detached type. The final possible consequence of a neurotic household is a personality style filled with asocial behavior and an almost indifference to others. If they do not get involved with others, they cannot be hurt by them. While it protects them from emotional pain of relationship, it also keeps away all positive aspects of relationships. All these conflicts are avoidable or

resolvable if the individual is surrounded by security, trust, love, respect, tolerance, and warmth. Horney does not feel that the conflict is built into nature of man and is therefore inevitable. Conflict arises out of social conditions (Hall and Lindzey 137). "The person who is likely to become neurotic is one who has experienced the culturally determined difficulties in accentuated form, mostly through the medium of childhood experience" (1937, p.290).

According to Horney, a mal-adjusted individual copes with anxiety by utilizing irrational and artificial solutions due to her greater basic anxiety. She consciously recognizes only one of the trends and denies or represses the other two. But a well-adjusted individual copes with anxiety by choosing whichever of the three modes is appropriate to the situation. For the healthy person, the conflict is not as emotionally charged as it is for the neurotic person. She has much greater flexibility, being able to pass from one strategy to another as circumstances warrant.

2. Feminine Psychology

Horney emphasis on social determinants also led her to take issue with Freud's view of female personality development. Freud believed that penis envy during the resolution of the Oedipus complex was responsible for female's lack of ability to achieve much in society (Santrock). He held that women failed to achieve much in society and become strong leaders because they did not develop mature superegos. Horney totally rejected Freud's view that women literally envy the male penis and blame their mothers for their not having a penis. She also

believed that Freud was wrong in concluding that women unconsciously desire to have a male baby as a way of symbolically obtaining a penis. Horney countered these views of women with the concept of womb envy, suggesting that men may unconsciously be jealous of women's ability to bear and nurse children.

Horney set forth her own theory of feminine psychology, one that recast the differences between men and women in terms of sociocultural influences. Horney insisted that women often feel inferior to men because their lives are based on economics, political, and psychological dependency on men. Historically, women have been treated as second-class citizens, denied equal rights, and socialized to overvalue their perceptions 'superior' men. Likewise, they have been enmeshed in male-dominated social systems that constantly make them feel dependent and inadequate. It was not the inevitable workings of the Oedipus complex, but rather the ways in which society defines women's dependency, the ways women are taught to cope with dependency, and particularly men's stereotyped attitudes toward women that explain women's lower performance.



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS