

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. The Intrinsic Approach

The intrinsic approach is applied on this study because the writer wants to concentrate or focus on the work itself as Wellek and Warren mentioned in their book *Theory of Literature* that a study of literary work should had been based on the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself (Wellek and Warren 139). This study is made possibly through the analysis on the intrinsic elements of literary work: plot, setting, and character.

Moreover, the focus of this study is just on the main character that is the character of Yin Ling in Catherine Lim's *Following The Wrong God Home*. By applying this approach the writer hopes to gain a brief description about the character of Yin Ling and her attempt in pursuing her self-actualization.

1. The Plot

In literature, plot refers to the sequence of events or the arrangement of events to achieve an intended effect. A plot is a series of carefully devised and interrelated actions that progresses through a struggle of opposing forces (conflict) to a climax and a denouement.

Brooks and Purses stated in their book, *An Approach to Literature*, that plot stands for a natural development of a particular writer's interpretation of the action (Brooks and Purses 12). Plot also consists of sequences of events which are

interconnected in a cause and effect relationship. It means that there always be a change(s) in the story. The story goes from the beginning to the end consist of many changes.

2. The Setting

Setting is the environment or surrounding of anything. The term is usually applied in literature to the locale or period in which the action of a play, novel, motion picture, etc takes place. In theatrical terminology, setting may also refer to scenery or properties. Setting is the place where the story exists or occurs. By reading the description of the setting, the readers can get the understanding or feeling that the author wanted. Setting is one of elements of fiction that built the story to get a very close connection to the reality. By using a good description of both physical and mental setting, the author is able to make the readers to see and even feel the atmosphere of the story (Brooks and Purses 24).

Connected to the study, the setting of time and place in the novel are given an attention. It is because Catherine Lim's *Following The Wrong God Home* (2001) happened to be occurred in 1980s Singapore. It spans the eighties and the beginning of the nineties mapping the changes in Singapore's society, locating conservative politics in the past, and reflecting conflicts between modernization and tradition as well as its landscape to indicate the passing of time.

It is obvious that the time and place can bring such a characteristic influence(s) to the people live in. Brooks and Purses noted that there is a

transference of the sense of reality in scene to a sense of reality in the character. (Brooks and Purses 24).

3. The Character

Character is one of the important elements of fiction. The character is a person or non-person presented by the author in their literary work whether it is a novel, a narrative poetry or a play. They are the actors or actress of the story presented by the author in their works.

Characterization is the way the author of a literary work presents their characters. From their conversations, their actions, and thoughts the readers will comprehend the essence of the story. Shaw in *Dictionary of Literary Terms* stated that the way in which or the way that an author presents his or her characters in a story is called characterization. In other words, characterization can be understood as the creation of image of imagery persons in drama, narrative poetry, novel and short story (Shaw 71).

The author put the characters on such a characterization to make the audiences or the readers understand the story and get the idea(s). Richard Guches in his book, *A Handbook for the Critical Analysis of Literature*, said, "First, we come to know character by what the other think of them, second we make judgments about them based upon what they look like. Third, we learn about them by how they speak in the dialogues, and fourth, we learn a good deal about them based upon what they do or what they do not to do. We also learn about characters based upon what they themselves think" (Guches 69).

Based upon the quotation above, a character of a novel can be studied based on what the other characters say or think about him or her and from what the character say or think about him or herself. The writer analysis focuses on the character of Ying Ling. By analyzing Yin Ling's character, the writer hopefully wants to get the closest understanding of her character. It is possible to study her words, feeling, thought and actions by focusing our attention to the characterization of Yin Ling.

B. The Extrinsic Approach

Since literary work concerned to be the real life portrayed by the author in their works, sometimes the matter that happened in a literary work, especially a novel, is as complex as in the real world. The writer considers that it is important to get information outside the work itself to achieve a better understanding in analyzing a literary work. In order to analyzing Yin Ling's struggles in fulfilling her self-actualization need, the writer attempts to apply the extrinsic approach to help the writer revealing the information that is uncovered and left by the intrinsic approach.

1. The Psychological Approach

The extrinsic approach views the literary work beyond the work itself. The extrinsic approach applied in this study is the psychological approach due to the fact that the analysis of Yin Ling's struggle in fulfilling her need of self-actualization is viewed from the psychological point of view. Wellek and Warren

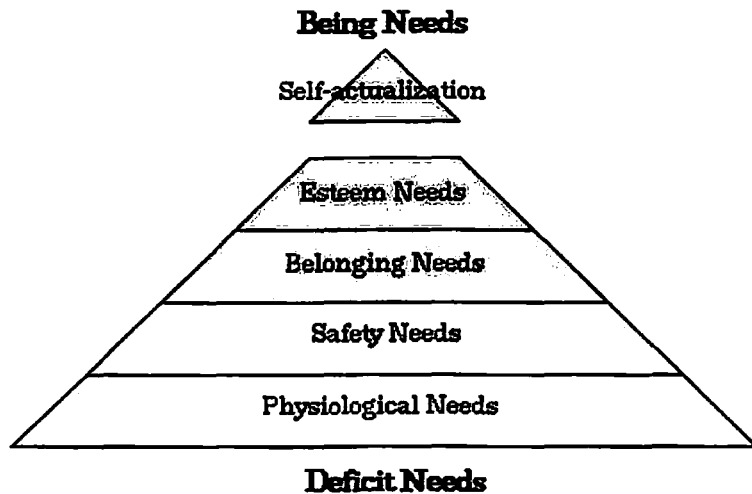
stated in their book *Theory of Literature* that there remains the question of psychology in the work of literature, that character, setting, and plot are can be judged to be psychologically true (Wellek and Warren 81).

In this analysis, the writer finds it necessary to apply the psychological approach to have a better understanding about Yin Ling's struggle. In this psychological approach, related to the subject matter in this study, the writer attempts to apply the personality development theory from Abraham Maslow. It is due to the fact that this theory helps the writer in understanding the concept and value(s) of self-actualization need.

a. Personality Development Theory

As stated above, this study is intended to analyze how the major character of the novel *Following the Wrong God Home*, Yin Ling, struggles in fulfilling her need of self-actualization. In analyzing it the writer applies the personality development theory from Abraham Maslow.

Maslow's theory of personality development is based on his theory of needs. Maslow, in his theory of needs, noticed that some needs take precedence over others and created his hierarchy of needs. Maslow illustrates the hierarchy of needs starting from the basic individual needs to the highest individual needs as follow:



Picture 1 Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (<http://www.ship.edu>).

Beyond the details of air, water, food, and sex, Maslow laid out five broader layers: the physiological needs, the needs for safety and security, the needs for love and belonging, the needs for esteem, and the need to actualize the self, in that order.

The physiological needs include the needs a person have for oxygen, water, protein, salt, sugar, calcium, and other minerals and vitamins. They also include the need to maintain a pH balance (getting too acidic or base will harmful) and temperature (98.6 or near to it). Also, there are the needs to be active, to rest, to sleep, to get rid of wastes (CO₂, sweat, urine, and feces), to avoid pain, and to have sex. Maslow believed, and research supports him, that these are in fact individual needs, and that a lack of it will lead to a very specific hunger for things that have provided in the past.

When the physiological needs are largely taken care of, the second layer of needs comes into play. A person will become increasingly interested in finding

safe circumstances, stability, and protection. One might develop a need for structure, order, law, and limits. Looking at it negatively, one becomes concerned, not with needs like hunger and thirst, but with fears and anxieties.

The next layer is the love and belonging needs. When physiological needs and safety needs are, by and large, taken care of, a third layer starts to show up. One begins to feel the need for friends, a sweetheart, children, affectionate relationships in general, even a sense of community. Looked at negatively, one becomes increasingly susceptible to loneliness and social anxieties. In day-to-day life, a person will exhibit these needs in his desires to marry, have a family, be a part of a community, a member of a church, a brother in the fraternity, a part of a gang or a bowling club. It is also a part of what a person looks for in a career.

Next, a person begins to look for a little self-esteem. Maslow noted two versions of esteem needs, a lower one and a higher one. The lower one is the need for the respect of others, the need for status, fame, glory, recognition, attention, reputation, appreciation, and dignity, even dominance. The higher form involves the need for self-respect, including such feelings as confidence, competence, achievement, mastery, independence, and freedom. Maslow notes that this is the "higher" form because, unlike the respect of others, once a person has self-respect, it is a lot harder to lose. The negative version of these needs is low self-esteem and inferiority complexes. In modern countries, most of people have what they need in regard to their physiological and safety needs. People, more often than not, have quite a bit of love and belonging, too.

All of the preceding four levels Maslow calls deficit needs or D-needs. If a person doesn't have enough of something -- that is to say he or she has a deficit -- he feels the need. On the contrary, if a person gets all he need, he feels nothing at all. In other words, they stop to be motivating. Maslow sees all these needs as essentially survival needs. Even love and esteem are needed for the maintenance of health. He said that all people have these needs built in genetically, like instincts. In fact, he calls them instinctoid -- instinct-like -- needs.

The last level is a bit different. Maslow has used a variety of terms to refer to this level: He has called it growth motivation (in contrast to deficit motivation), being needs (or B-needs, in contrast to D-needs), and self-actualization. These are needs that once engaged, they continue to be felt. In fact, when these needs had been satisfied, they are likely to become stronger. They involve the continuous human desire to fulfill potentials, to "be all that human can be." They are a matter of becoming the most complete, the fullest, "human" -- hence the term, self-actualization.

In keeping with Maslow's theory up to this point, if one wants to be truly self-actualizing, one needs to have his lower needs taken care of, at least to a considerable extent. When lower needs are unmet, one cannot fully dedicate himself to fulfilling his potentials (<http://www.ship.edu>).

CHAPTER :III
ANALYSIS