

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

AND RELATED STUDIES

In this thesis, the writer tries to analyze psychological and sociological conflicts of Hjalmar Ekdal as the main male character in *The Wild Duck*. In analyzing the social and psychological conflicts, the writer will use the intrinsic approach. It means that the writer makes an elaborate explanation, explores and interprets it through the intrinsic elements of literary work respectively – character, plot, and setting-. The writer hopes that it will be understandable especially to the writer as well as the reader generally.

To have a further explanation, the writer also uses extrinsic approach such as sociological and psychological approaches. In this case, the sociological approach describes the environment where the main character lives in, the people around him, and the relationship he makes with them, whereas psychological approach will be used to analyze the responses of the main character toward the situation he faces. Considering that the thesis is to study on literature, the usage of the theory is limited, to keep the work in the proportional usage, so it does not turn into conclusion of another subject of study.

A. Intrinsic Theory

To make a better analysis and interpretation, the writer will focus on the literary work itself, so the intrinsic approach is needed. It is mentioned in Rene

Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature* that "...the study of literature should, first and foremost, concentrate on the actual work of art themselves."(1979: 139)

It means that the application of the intrinsic elements in the process of analyzing and interpreting literary work is very important. In this context, the elements that will be appropriate are character, plot, and setting in connection with the analysis of social and psychological conflicts of the main character.

A.1. Character

A character in a play is a person created by a playwright to carry the action, language, ideas, and emotions of the play (Roberts, 1989: 1011). In Gill's *Mastering English Literature*, it is said that character is created through four ways, they are:

"...the way characters speak, what they say about themselves, what one character says about another, and they way characters are contrasted with each other." (1985: 172)

From these definitions the writer concludes that a character is a representation of human being who is created by the playwright with all the good and bad traits of human being. He/she usually has major problem that involves him/her into the interaction with other characters that force action.

There are many types of characters. Some are appropriate to be used in the analysis. In relation with the plot, the best plot arises naturally from character's action. In *An Introduction to Reading & Writing* is stated that:

“ Characters in drama can also be considered either static-that is, fixed and unchanging-or dynamic-that is, growing and developing. Flat characters are usually static; round characters are often dynamic”(Robert, 1989: 1011).

These kinds of characters have different role in story. “Flat characterization (which commonly overlap ”static”) presents a single trait, seen as the dominant or socially most obvious trait. It may be caricature or may be abstractive idealization.”(Wellek,1978: 219). Therefore, the flat character is not an individual but representative or usually described as caricature or abstractive idealization.

“Round character like “dynamic”, requires space and emphasis; is obviously usable for characters focal for point of view or interest; hence in ordinary combined with “flat” treatment of background figure-the “chorus”.(Wellek,1978: 219).

From the quotation above, it can be said that round character is one of major figure in story that profits from many experiences and undergoes some changes. It has many realistic traits and is fully developed. Many major characters acted as the protagonist -- main person in a play or real event -- moved against the antagonist --the opponent of the main person--. “The protagonist is usually the character we identify with and cheer on. ...The antagonist opposes the protagonist and is often the villain of the piece”(Robert,1989: 1011).

A.2. Plot

Plot is narrative structure of play, tale or novel that consists of sequence of events in chronological order, as Roberts stated in *An Introduction to Reading & Writing* that:

“ Plot in drama as in fiction, is an ordered chain of physical, emotional, or intellectual events that ties the action together. It is planned sequence of interrelated actions that begins in a state of imbalance, grows out of conflict, reach the peak of complication, and resolves into some new situations” (1989: 1009).

In a story there are series of events. The first event affects the middle and the end of the story. The beginning is started when the reader is introduced to the story, the background of the story which deals with the main character. The middle of the story talks about the conflict in the story. It is the most significant element where the conflict starts to appear. The highest level delivers the climax of the story. The end of the story takes the reader to the conclusion which contains how the problems are solved.

According to Robert and Jacobs, in conflict, human responses are brought out to their highest degree. It is confirmed in theory that “The establishment of these contrasting or conflicting situation and responses is the element that produces interest of the story,”(Robert,1989: 99). Simply, conflict is opposition of two people. It may happen between individual, individual and small group, smaller group and larger group or between individual and the larger forces such as nature, ideas, norms, and public opinion.

The usage of plot is important to consider the problems in a story. By observing this element, the writer traces how the conflict happens, analyze the conflict faced by the main character and take conclusion from this event.

A.3. Setting

Setting plays an important part in the analysis. It may describe many aspects of human life. The mood and the emotions, the situation, the personality of character even the place where the character survive. "The setting may be given verbally within the play (as in Shakespeare) or indicated by stage directions to scene designers and carpenters." (Wellek, 1978: 220). It means that in applying, setting is arranged through stage direction.

Setting is closely related to the events in the story. "Setting is environment: and environments, especially domestic interiors."(Wellek,1978: 221). It is obviously that setting is a place where the characters contact others, apply their emotion and the way of thinking.

There are two types of setting, realistic or nonrealistic. Realistic setting requires extensive scenery and stage furniture; the idea is to create as a real environment as possible. On the other hand nonrealistic setting is symbolic or representational that is produced as unit sets of a single series of platforms, and playing areas that serve for all scenery and the setting (1989: 1013).

B. Approaches

Besides using the intrinsic approach, the writer tries to analyze the play through the extrinsic approaches.

“Through the extrinsic approach study may merely attempt to interpret literature in the light of its social contact and its antecedents, in most cases it becomes a causal explanation, professing to account for literature, to explain it, and finally to reduce to its origins.”(Wellek, 1978: 73)

It means that to study literature it may not look through one viewpoint but it should give attention to the condition of society and its antecedents to reach wider usage. Obviously writer intends to use the extrinsic approaches that are sociological and psychological approach.

B.1. Psychological Approach

Psychological approach is needed to analyze the play, as Guches stated that:

“Psychological has certain important values to authors and critics of literature. Even if characters in the story are a fictional individual, but these character behavior is human behavior who has in it certain forces, drives or needs that are significant motivators of human nature.”(1980: 114)

According to the statement above in which character behavior is reflection of a human behavior, means that literary work represents life through its

setting, characterization, and contents of the story. Obviously literary work can't be interpreted as these elements, the character must be considered as real person. From this, the psychological approach is needed to get closer study about the character.

In this part the writer intends to use Abraham H. Maslow's the concept of hierarchy's needs to complete Personality Theory. In this case, Maslow believes that people are motivated to seek a personal goal that makes their lives rewarding and meaningful. However, Maslow depicts human being as "wanting organism" who rarely reaches a state and completes total satisfaction. (Hjelle, 1992: 448) It means that people always tries to fulfill his needs for satisfaction. Obviously it is characteristic of human life who always desires something.

According to Maslow, all human needs are *innate* or *instinctoid*. What they needs are systematically arranged in ascending hierarchy of priority or prepotency. The needs of their priority are:

1. psychological needs
2. safety and security needs
3. belongingness and love needs
4. self esteem needs
5. self -actualization needs. (1992: 448)

In this case the lower order needs must be relatively satisfied well before another higher order needs emerges and becomes operative. All the categories which have mentioned above can be deeply understood below:

- (1) Psychological needs are concerned with the biological maintenance of the person and must be gratified at the minimal level for the next higher needs. A person who cannot satisfy the basic level of need will not be strong enough to concern to the higher level in the hierarchy. "The most basic, powerful, and urgent of all human needs are those that are essential to physical survival. Included in this group are the needs for food, drink, oxygen, exercises, sleep, protection from extreme temperature, and sensory stimulation."(1992: 450)
- (2) Safety and security needs concerns about long-term survival. "Included here are the needs for structure, stability, low and order, predictability, and freedom from such threatening forces as illness, fear and chaos."(1992: 450)
- (3) Belongingness and love needs become prominent when the psychological and safety/security needs have been met. The person at this level tries for affectionate relationship with others, her family or reference group. Group affiliation becomes a dominant goal for the person.(1992: 451)
- (4) Self-esteem needs is divided into two basic type, self respect and respect from others. Self respect concerns as "desire for competence, confidence, achievement, independence, and freedom. A person needs to know that she or he is worthwhile capable of mastering tasks and challenges in life. Respect from others entails such concerns as desire for prestige, recognition, reputation, status, appreciation, and acceptance. In this case the person needs to know that what he/she can do is recognized and valued by significant others." (1992: 453)

(5) Self-actualization needs is the highest level of all the categories. If all the foregoing needs are sufficiently satisfied, the needs for self-actualization come to the fore. The person at this level “desire to become everything that she/he is capable of becoming. The persons who have achieved this highest level presses toward the full use and exploitation of his or her talents, capacities, and potentialities. In short, to self actualize is to become the kind of person we are capable of becoming-to reach the peak of our potentialities.”(1992:454)

In accordance with the self-actualization, Maslow explains that person always takes responsibility to whatever he/she is becoming. She or he is fundamentally free to decide what kind of life he or she wants. This personal freedom is actually manifest to reach peak potentialities and actualize himself or herself. (1992: 444)

Moreover the concept of self-actualization is exciting and refreshing because it makes a person looks up what he or she can be, and thus life with zest and purpose. This is why the writer thinks that this theory is appropriate in the analysis of the main character.

B.2. Sociological Approach

Beside the psychological approach, the writer tries to use sociological approach in this analysis. Talking to sociological approach, it concerns to the society. In literary work characters live in society in which they have relationship

with others. So the usage of sociological approach in the analysis will include the influence of society in which the characters live in.

George Herbert Mead is one of American thinkers who have help to shape the character of modern social science. The most famous, *Mind, Self, and Society*, will be one of chief sources for the basic components of his theory. (1991: 244)

Mead viewed that the self involves a unity; it is a *social process*. It is the center about which the individual is organized, and the body is an integral of the self. This process does not exist for itself, but is simply a phase of the whole social organization.(Baldwin,1990: 107) Mead explained that “communication is the process whereby each person take the role of the other,” that is, each person assumes the attitude of the other individual as well as calling it out in the other, which would be impossible without self-interaction.”(1991: 246)

To Mead, selves could only emerge after human evolved to the point of using significant symbols that allow a person to take the role of the listener and thereby get the objective, outsider’s view of his or her own self as a social object.(1990: 108)

Mead believed that lower animals do not have self. It appears late in the vertebrate evolution. However, the self arises slowly in childhood through symbolic social interaction. It is a process of social experience and activity, develops as a result of his relation to that process as a whole and to other individual within the process.(1990: 108)

Mead divided the self into two distinctive parts: the “I” and the “me.” The “I” is seen as unorganized response of the organism to the attitudes of others, the spontaneous disposition or impulse to act. The “me” is a composite view of the self as seen from the perspective of the people and the generalized other.(1990: 116) The “I” allows for a certain degree of innovation and creativity as well as a degree of freedom from control by others. On the other hand the “me” represents the behavior of the socialized person, and the aspect of the self brings the influence of others into the individual consciousness.(1991: 144) In the relation of “I” and “me”, Mead viewed that “I” only reveals as a “me.” Therefore, the self cannot appear in consciousness as an “I”, that it is always object, a “me.”(1990: 116) With this concepts Mead emphasized that the self is essentially a social process consists of the acting “I” when the self is subject and of the acted upon “me” when the self is an object.(1991: 244)

B. Related Studies

Studies on conflicts have long been conducted so that they can give the writer a great amount of information from different view of point. Conflicts viewed from psychological and sociological approaches were studied by Yeane Prahianingdiah. On her thesis she informs that human beings have relationship with others that influence them to respond positively and negatively. They are appeared in a plot and carried by characters through dialogues, events or actions.

Another study of conflicts had been done by Njoo Bie Sian 's *The Search For Truth And Its Consequences*. According to Sian the conflicts in *The Wild*

Duck occurs when "Gregers discloses the true state of affair because he wants Hjalmar to face reality in order to gain dignity which is presumed to follow upon that disagreeable confrontation."(Sian,2000: 5) She focused on reality to reflect personal conflicts that is mainly strengthened by the experience of one's view toward life.

Meanwhile conflicts viewed from psychological and sociological approaches were also studied by Betty Yunita who covered that family pressure is a source of conflicts. "Yet Anne's problem of the rule of the family which demand her not to make a relationship with anyone from different class or position, relatively establishes the case of social stratification." (Yunita, 1999: 50) It is clearly shown that that conflicts may appear in a society which divides the class according to wealth, power, and heredity.

Conflicts studied in *The Wild Duck* are also focused on the main character which are conveyed through intrinsic theory supported extrinsic approaches. The aspects of conflicts which have not been studied or need to be further studied are the effects of conflicts that change the main character's attitude and behavior that is discussed in the thesis.

However there are more studies of conflicts in which the writer finds quite difficult to get other sources completely. Hopefully, the study of conflicts on this play will enrich the researcher of the play since it is based on different point of view.



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF HJALMAR EKDAL'S CONFLICTS VIEWED FROM INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ASPECTS