

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Intrinsic Approach

According to Wellek and Warren, the study of a literary work should be based on the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself. Therefore, the most prominent concentration which is taken as the first step in doing the analysis should be directed towards the work, (Theory of Literature, 1956 : 139).

In consequence of the related theory above, this study is made possible by applying the intrinsic approach which is focused at character and setting, one that is used to analyze a literary work through its intrinsic elements. Based on this focus, Wellek and Warren give the term intrinsic analysis as the one which refers to the analysis of the work in question. The intrinsic element itself is a view in which literary works are considered as a whole system of signs, or structure of signs, serving a specific aesthetic purpose (1956 : 141).

By applying the intrinsic theory as defined above, the writer tries to seek the character of Agnes Grey and the setting which influence the character. From these intrinsic elements, the writer search for the role of a governess as portrayed in those intrinsic elements.

In the character, the writer views Agnes Grey as a representative agent of the author to express her feelings and thoughts. Agnes's relationship with the society becomes the prominent concern in the analysis since the writer needs to see the improper bearing she has to keep as a case of the effect of social stratification.

To support the character, the analysis of the social setting is applied in order to see how the social context influence the character.

A.1. Character

Roberts and Jacobs in Literature : An Introduction to Reading and Writing state that character in literature generally, and in fiction specifically, is an extended verbal representation of a human being, the inner-self that determines thought, speech, and behaviour. Through dialogue, action, and commentary, authors capture some of the interactions of character and circumstances, (1989 : 143). These statements then reveal the understanding that characters are imaginative persons who inhabit a story which usually bear human personalities that are familiar to the real people.

Characters in fiction are mostly created by the author to act as what the author wants them to do to bring her idea to the readers. As Gill states in his Mastering of English Literature that the author, of course, is the important element; the events of the novel and the reactions of the reader depend upon what he or she chooses to do.

Thus we cannot discuss how the story is written in isolation from the novelist's attitude, what are the attitude and how does the novelist put them over, (1985 : 93).

A.2. Setting

The definition of setting according to Richard Gill in his Mastering of English Literature is a broad one. It covers places in which characters are presented; the social context of characters, such as their families, friends and class; the customs, beliefs and rules of behaviour of their society; the scenes that background or the situation for the events of the novel; and the total atmosphere, mood or feel that is created by these. Thus we may find ourselves having to talk about, for instance, the social setting of a novel, or the way in which landscapes used as a setting within the book, (p.106).

B. Extrinsic Approach

On the contrary, the extrinsic approach is used to see the literary work from the influenced aspects outside the work. Wellek and Warren then accomplishes their theory of this extrinsic approach. They share their view that it is understandable that the external causes are proved to determine the evaluation of the work of art since in the institutional life of man there are determining factors of literary creation – such as social and political conditionns, (1978 : 73-74).

In her attempt to analyze a literary work extrinsically, the writer then employs related theory and approach on her study. On the first reason that Anne Bronte writes her work as an expression of her disagreement with the social context she lives in, the writer uses the expressive theory. Then, the writer steps further by using sociological approach in her attempt to view the problem of the interrelationship occurred in a society.

B.1. Expressive Theory

Literature is one of human creative activities in order to express his feelings and opinions. Literature is very important because it is a culmination, a genuine means of realizing the major issues of its time. Through literature, the author describes and illustrates his receptions and impressions taken from life and society.

In doing her thesis, the writer chooses expressive theory as the means to analyse the novel. Abram states in his The Mirror and the Lamp that the expressive theory of art regards the work as essentially the internal makes external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulse of feeling, embodying the combined product of the author's perceptions, thoughts, and feelings (1979 : 22) Thus, we may assume that the literary work is the author's expression where his soul, fantasy, and imagination are reflected.

Since a work of art is also the visualization of the author's mind, meaning that the novel Agnes Grey is one of the representation of the author's expression in dealing with society she examines through the main character.

Besides, the novel uses first person point of view by using "I" that inevitably represents and overall thought and feelings of hers. Richard Gill states in relating to this fact that when a novel is written in the first person, it is as the novelist is the character telling the story, because the verbs will be in the form of: *I saw...I thought...I did*. In fact, the character telling the story is not the novelist but a person whom the novelist has created to tell the story from his or her point of view. Thus we may not ignore the author's existence in making a study of his or her work.

B.2. Sociological Approach

When the intrinsic analysis functions as the basic means to analyse the novel through its intrinsic elements; the extrinsic analysis is used to interpret literature in the light of its social context and its antecedents, (Wellek and Warren, 1956 : 73). This statement leads the writer to employ sociological approach in order to draw near the work.

The writer attempts to reveal the author's expression of the subservient role of a governess by viewing the distinction of social

class . Thus the wrier needs to use the social stratification term and the social class of the writer as well as her creator.

In analysing the work of Anne Brontë which particularly lays its intention on the social problem, particularly in social class, the writer of this thesis needs to use a supported theory. It is applied to help the writer to make judgement over the problem.

The writer then applies Max Weber theory of social stratification where he states that all known societies have clasified their members into categories above or below another on a scale of superiority or inferiority. This process of stratification involves the allocation of individuals to different levels enjoying unequal amounts of status wealth, power, and prestige. The contrast between higher and lower, rich and poor, powerful and powerless, between those who expect difference and those who give it, provide the substance of social stratification. Unequal rewards, privileges and immunities, as well as unequal distributions of right and duties, characterize all stratification system, (The Iron Gate,1993 : 04).

Further, Weber explains that a stratified society is, by definition, a society of unequals. While stratification is an omnipresent fact in human society, the basis upon which it is established varies considerably. When the system of stratification is primarily based on position in economic order and there exist the possibility of social mobility, one is in the presence of a class system

of stratification. When no such movements are possible and membership in a stratum is based on heredity, we are in the presence of a caste system of stratification. When life styles, deference, honor and prestige are the central criteria for ranking people in a social order, we are in the system based on status, (1993 : 06).

The social stratification is searched to explain the position of a person according to his class. Thus, Weber's theory is expected to be the tools in positing Agnes in her class as well as her employers. This stratification is aimed to grasp the ideas of the author which uses a problem of social class to render the position of a governess in society. Anne Brontë uses her novel to express her feelings and thoughts about the position of a governess corresponds to her position in social class.

The author as a part of the society cannot be separated from her environment because the author's environment will influence the author's life and also her thought. Supportingly, Wellek ad Waren states in Theory of Literature that since every wrier is a member of society, he can be studied as a social being. Though his biography is the main source, such a study can easily widen into one of the whole millieu from which he lived. It will be possible to accumulate information about the social provenance, the family background, the economic position of writers, (1978 : 96).

As the author was the member of middle class society, the analysis will be focused on the middle class society specifically in Victorian times.

According to Perkin, rank of middle class is from a group which ranged from wealthy business people at the top, down to shopkeepers, farmers, school teachers and clerks at the bottom. Either Anne or her character are placed in this class because on further explanation about the middle class, Perkin states that the position of a governess is included in the choice of profesion by middle class women, (1993 : 164).

CHAPTER III

SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR