

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATED STUDIES

Literature is one of many ways we can experience the world around us through our imagination. In broadest sense, literature includes all written materials such as novel, poems, philosophical works, plays, et cetera.

In comprehending and giving some judgements about literary works there are some aspects to be analysed. Many theories have been developed to help us judge the literary works.

As a literary work, *Madame Bovary* which depicts bourgeoisie society in general, can be properly analysed by the use of some theories and approaches. One of many theories that is appropriate for the literary analysis here is the **Mimetic Theory**. In the analysis of this study, mimetic theory is employed to analyse the novel as the imitation of real life - the mirror of reality - at the time Flaubert wrote the story.

To support the analysis of this study, **intrinsic approach** is needed to help the writer in analysing the aspects of the novel itself. The intrinsic approach is able to uncover the scene inside the novel and to help the development of the analysis. Instead, the **psychological approach** is also much of help. From the help of this approach, the aspects of Emma's personality will be revealed. Along with the approaches above, **sociological approach** will give many contributions

towards the analysis. It will help to comprehend in what kind of society does Emma Bovary live and also will lead to a comprehension about the aspects that caused Emma to commit her adultery and suicide.

Finally, before doing the thesis, the writer must admit that she is not the one who doing the same kind of works. With all her respects, she will include the related studies from some critics in order to make a deeper understanding of Flaubert and his work, especially Madame Bovary.

A. Theoretical Frame Work

A.1. Mimetic Theory

Literature is a representative of life, and life is social reality; thus literature in a sense is a representative of social reality; it can be said as the imitation of reality. Madame Bovary is a novel that portray the social reality of a bourgeoisie society which is considered as middle-class society .

Madame Bovary is a novel with its realistic description of the dullness bourgeoisie society. The mediocrity of its people, and environment of France at 19th century are well-described here. M.H Abrams in *The Mirror and The Lamp* states the basic definition of mimetic theory as “the explanation of art as essentially an imitation of aspect of universe”. It still have to be emphasised by : “Art, is an imitation - but imitation which is only instrumental toward producing effects upon an audience” (p.14-18). Thus, it is likely underlined that

the people or characters may differ, but the essence is of the same value and have some correlation's with the reality. Such as Emma Bovary's boredom of living in bourgeoisie society, indeed it was what happened in France at 19th century. The middle-class society at that time was very flat and boring so that many people from middle-class -that is bourgeoisie- imagined themselves to be in higher position, a more noble status in society.

In Madame Bovary it can be seen that everything represented the French society at Flaubert's time. There are speeches of Agricultural Shows that is precisely the same as the speech that is given by the Prefect a moment around the publication of the book. There is also the description of social stratification which in French at that time plays an important rule for its people's way of life. It is known that people who come from noble class gain a highest respectable manner compared to the bourgeoisie or the peasants. The reality of stratification become the subject of Flaubert's Madame Bovary. Truly that the denial of the reality living in bourgeoisie society for Emma Bovary is caused by the jealousy of seeing people from the noble men. It is supported by her personality who always wants a romantic life.

What happen in Madame Bovary also happened in real life. Flaubert got the idea from the real life of Eugene Delamare. He was an interneer at the hospital at Rouen, and he had a practice in a small town nearby. On the death of his first wife, a widow much older than himself, he married the pretty young

daughter of a neighbouring farmer. She was a woman with a very extra ordinary desire. She soon grew bored with her dull husband and took a series of lovers. She spent on clothes money she could not afford and ran hopelessly unto debt. Finally she took poison, and eventually Delamare killed himself. As everybody knows, Flaubert followed this mean story very closely.

Though, as a realistic novel, Madame Bovary is not just a copy of life. Richard Gill in his Mastering of Literature states that “novel, and many other works of art have been constructed or crafted. Novel are not merely direct records of real events “ (p.77). It has to be understood that only the essential points are given; as mentioned earlier that literature is imitation which is only instrumental in producing effects upon the readers. Irrelevant incidents must be omitted. The novelist can not give a literal transcript of life; he just can draw a picture and as a realist he tries to make it life-like.

Basically, Madame Bovary gives an impression of intense reality, and this arises because Flaubert’s characters are life-like and because he has described detail with accuracy. Flaubert introduces his characters in action, and we learn of their appearance, their mode of living, their setting, as in fact, the people in real life.

A.2 Intrinsic Approach

In the **Theory of Literature**, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren states that “the natural and sensible starting point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves” (p.139). The using of intrinsic approach is much more aimed to help the writer to interpret the novel deeper and better. It will do much help in analysing the character and setting of Emma Bovary and French society at the time. Finally, the analysis of intrinsic aspects could reveal the personality she had so that she came to her adultery and suicide.

Character and setting points that are largely being discussed as the two terms are the intrinsic elements that give many contributions in analysing the problem.

A.2.1. Character

The process of creating the characters in novel are mostly by selecting some aspects of ordinary people, develop some of those aspects and put them together as they please. The results is not an ordinary person but a fictional character who only exists in the words of the novel (Gill 90). There are some characters that have many sides; they have inner life and capable of

growing and changing; they undergo many experiences, including their own death.

There are two kinds of characters, flat and round characters. Round characters are those that full, complex, and rich. Flat characters are those that simple minded. Based on the capacity of the characters to change, there are open and close characters. Open characters are those that can grow and develop, whereas the close characters are those that fixed and unchanging (Gill 94). Emma Bovary was round and open characters at once. She had a complex personality and a person who easy changing mind.

The name of the characters commonly symbolise the personality and the nature of the character. (Gill 102). For instance, Charles Bovary was indeed bovine. Thus the name of the character is important for the meaning of the characters.

If an author is interested in the relation between the different classes within society, he is likely to stress the social standing of characters (Gill 101). So does Flaubert. He stands for the bourgeoisie society, no wonder if he wrote the same background for his novel. He wanted to show Emma's jealousy towards the upper-class, and her boredom in living in bourgeoisie society. In his entire novel, he completely contrasted the social position of the characters and how they behave.

A. 2.2 Setting

Setting covers the 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 are the background or the situation for the events of the novel; and the total atmosphere, mood or feel that is created by these (Gill 106). The setting in Madame Bovary makes a contribution to the analysis of the problem. It can reveal the situation surrounding Emma Bovary, and her personality. The setting of Tostes and Yonville, a small rural village in the novel, is very flat and boring, so that from her childhood Emma grew to be a child who needed a constant change and wanted something extraordinary happen to her. She keep on comparing herself with her schoolmates who had married with gentlemen in Paris, a living town with its ball, dances, and mode of life.

A.3. Psychological Approach

The study of literature is not limited on the artistic value of it, its more on the capability to integrate with other field of sciences. The truth in literature is the truth of life. The study of literature must have a correlation with other fields. The uses of psychological analysis restricted to the description of psychology exist in this literary work. It is expected that psychological approach

can derive a general conclusion about Emma Bovary's state of mind psychologically which has lead her to commit adultery and suicide.

It is depicted that Emma Bovary commits adultery and suicide because she has a neurotic pattern. In term of psychology, neurotic is stated in Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry as “ a quantitative decreasing in the capacity for adaptation to the external and intraphysic world without gross alteration or loss the capacity to relate the environment and the maintenance of reality testing” (Kernberg 621). In other words, neuroses is the incapability to accept the real world. One who has a neurotic pattern tends to begin the project and drop it after, he/she always wants something more than what they got at the time.

Emma Bovary was such a woman with that condition. She was jealous to those who were in noble position; she longed to be one of them, and finally she tried hard to be there whatever it takes and whatever it cost. To fulfil her desire to live in romantic world as in the novel, she took a series of lovers, got into the adultery, took a large number of debt, and finally she commit suicide for her despair.

In terms of the suicide she committed, there is a theory states that “suicide is commonly associated by the loss of affectional relationships - such as divorce or separation from a spouse, death of a spouse or another relatives-

friction with spouse or lover, physical illness, heavy drinking, job troubles, feelings of disgrace, and financial difficulties” (Robins 1311).

Separation from a lover , feelings of disgrace, and financial difficulties are faced by Emma Bovary has to face before she commits suicide. Before she took her own life, she had a difficult relationship with her lover, Leon. When she needed some help regarding her financial trouble, he could not do much help, so did Rudolphe, her first lover. The rejection of giving some helps she needed hurt her as much as the first betrayal that he did. It reminded her of a disgraceful feeling at the past. Those aspects accumulated so that she thought that only death could end the misery she had.

A.4. Sociological Approach

In analysing **Madame Bovary**, an understanding of French society is needed since the book contains a problem of social class in France. The understanding of French sociology extremely plays such an important roles in comprehending the novel. *“Literature as the art of expressing one's thoughts in writing, on the one hand, and as the whole of the works thus produced and published in a definite community, on the other, they never separated the literary phenomenon from its social environment in time or space (International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences, p.417).*

Madame Bovary is the portrait of the situation of bourgeoisie society at 19th century. It deals with the social class in France, the noble class, middle class (so-called bourgeoisie), and the labourer or farmer; so it makes sense to gain some information about social condition in France. The social status plays an important role for French people. The lower classes always tried hard to be in upper class. The boredom of living in a bourgeoisie society is commonly happen in France. The reality in France is depicted well in the novel.

Madame Bovary is a social picture of France, it can be such a document that France had undergone a differentiation of class. It is known that *“the most common approach to the relations of literature and society is the study of works of literature as social documents, as assumed pictures of social reality”* (Wellek and Warren 102).

But of course, it is too naive if the novel is assumed only as a social document or mirror of life. What is pure fancy, what is realistic observation, and what is only an expression of the desires of the author must be separated in each case in a subtle manner. The integration degree of literature and society varies from society to society (Wellek and Warren 102). But for Flaubert, he was capable to mix the realistic observation and his expression well.

B. Related Studies

Before analysing the thesis, the writer realise that she is not the first writer who analyse Flaubert's work on Madame Bovary. Due to the respects for those well-known critics, there are some critics regarding Madame Bovary that will be presented here. There was a quotation of Flaubert's letter to Louise Colet as well.

B.1 William Sommerset Maugham

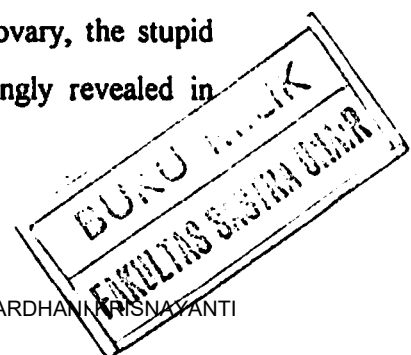
William Somerset Maugham, in *The Art of Fiction : An Introduction to Ten Novels and Their Authors* states that Flaubert was at once "a realist and romantic"(p.163). For the romanticism, he hated the reality and tried hard to escape from it. He searched for the extraordinary, the fantastic, and strange things happened. Even he hated the stupidity of the bourgeoisie, he was fascinated by it because there was something in his nature that horribly attracted him to what he most hated. On the other hand, the realist in him cause him to make any effort to show the public that it all were very human nature. The bourgeoisie, the commonplace, and the ordinary caused him to irritate. He had no pity and charity for his adult life was a sick man and oppressed by humiliation. As a romanticist and realist, he united himself to Emma Bovary's figure. He imagined it as his revenge because life has not met the demands of his passion to the ideal (p.163).

B.2 Henry James

While in *Selected Literary Criticism*, Henry James, states that "Madame Bovary is one of the glories of France. It is the sign of Flaubert's pessimism. For him, literature and life were a single business. The perfection of Madame Bovary is one of the commonplaces of criticism. Flaubert's declaration of literature makes him a writers' writer as Shelley was a poets' poet. In literature, the best chance one has is by following out one's temperament and exaggerating it. So, it is what he did in Madame Bovary. He followed his pessimism of bourgeoisie society and the made it flowed" (p.94).

B.3 René Wellek

René Wellek, in *Realism and Naturalism* (1965), stated that Flaubert's novel, Madame Bovary is deservedly considered as the piece of France realism. He said that it would be impossible to find a novel before Flaubert, in which humble persons in a humble setting (as the story concerns adulteries and suicide of a wife of a simple country doctor) are treated with such seriousness and imaginative plots. The topography of Tostes and Yonville, the interior of the houses, great scenes such as the agricultural show, the dances at the ball, the operation for clubfoot, opera at Rouen, and the arsenic poisoning leave a great impression to the readers. One will be aware of the author's savage satiric attitude toward the romantic illusions of Emma Bovary, his hatred for the freethinking of Homais, his humiliation to Charles Bovary, the stupid husband, and the weak lovers. Indeed, those are very strongly revealed in Madame Bovary (p. 651).



B.4 Flaubert's Letter to Louise Colet

Finally, in order to honour the author and to make a more distinct explanation of the novel, the writer need to quote a letter from Flaubert to Louise Colet (taken from *Novelist on The Novel* by Miriam Allott, 1959). She was a woman whom Flaubert regularly corresponded to discuss about Madame Bovary. He said that he had never in his life writing anything more difficult than these conversations full of trivialities. The scene at the inn may took three months for all his know. Sometimes he would weep, and felt so helpless. He was glad when finally he read the *Journal de Rouen* in which the mayor's sentence in the prefect's speech at the agricultural show was precisely the same. Not only the words and the idea were the same, but also the assonance were identical. It gave him real pleasure.