

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

AND

RELATED STUDIES

This study is an attempt to analyze moral problem of the character as a main cause, which results in the chaotic situations in the story. According to Rene Wellek, a study of literary work should be based on intrinsic interpretation and analysis of the literary works itself (1978: 139). This statement then leads the writer to use an intrinsic approach to get closer to the intrinsic elements of the novel. The intrinsic approach is used since the study focuses on the elements of the novel; those are setting, character, and plot.

To deepen the analysis of the characters that are greedy on wealth and power, the psychological approach supported by Adler's theory is applied. And to know more about the background of the society where the characters belong to, the sociological approach supported by Collin and Puritan society will also be used. By applying this own story and the approaches, it is hoped

that a vivid description of greediness as a main cause of the chaotic situation in the Pyncheons can be achieved.

A. Intrinsic Approach

In doing the analysis, the writer will concentrate on the Nathaniel Hawthorne's. Therefore, the appropriate approach of the analysis is the intrinsic approach. Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* stated that the natural and sensible starting-point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves (1978: 139). This statement then leads to the understanding that the emphasizing of literary works is the analysis of the intrinsic elements such as setting, character and plot. The intrinsic approach is then used to focus that greediness as the main cause of the chaotic situations happens in the Pyncheon family.

A.1. Setting

Richard Gill has explained in his *Mastering English Literature* that setting is a broad word. It covers the places in which characters are presented, friends, classes, customs, believes and rules of behavior of the society; the scenes that become the background or the situation of the novel; and the total atmosphere,

mood and feeling that is created by the author. Thus, we may find ourselves having to talk about, for instance, the social setting of a novel or the way in which landscape is used as a setting within the book (1985: 106).

In analyzing this story, the writer considers the setting as one of the most important elements because it gives a contribution to the development of the story. Through the description of setting, such as: the family conditions, their occupations, their daily manner and also their religiousness, the writer tries to observe the factors that cause the greediness. Setting can also reveal the mood and emotion of the characters through the atmosphere described.

In this study, the thesis writer needs to analyze the setting since the setting in this Hawthorne's novel has a certain great effect upon the personalities and action of the story.

A.2. Characterization

Robert 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 behavior. Through dialogue, action and commentary, authors capture some of the interaction of characters and circumstances

(1989: 143). These statements then reveal the understanding that the characters are imaginative people who inhabit a story which usually bear human personalities that are familiar to real people.

According to Roberts in *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*, in studying a literary character, an analysis should determine the character's major trait or traits. A trait is a typical or habitual mode of behavior (1989: 144). Based on the study of character's trait, we can develop our understanding of the character. Sometimes the particular trait may cause a primary characteristic of a person. Thus, a character in this story may be seen as an ambitious person that will do many things due to his obsession on wealth and power.

According to Roberts when we study characters, we have to be sure not only to consider a physical description, but also its relationship to the psychological description. We can see from the characters' reactions, thinking and manners toward various situations and events.

In the study of characters, the thesis writer will focus on the behavior of the characters in the story since they are representative enough to support the behavior due to greediness. The way the characters act and react is one of the best ways in which the analysis is able to learn the characters' personalities.

A.3. Plot

In fiction, Roberts V. Edgar explains that the plot of the story is the interrelationship of incidents and character within a total design (1989: 57). So, plot is a carefully thought-out plan in which all the events, all the actions and reactions of the characters contribute toward the movement of the story. In a plot, we will find the beginning, the middle and the end of the story. In this novel the beginning of the story is the opening portion by introducing the main characters to the reader what has happened before the story, or also to give the reader the background information that is needed to understand and care about to follow the events.

Hawthorne in this novel uses the kind of flashback story. He shares his plot with the past events until the present time. Even though this study focuses on the development of the characters in the story, the writer also needs to see the plot especially the characters' conflicts since they help in understanding the greediness that happens there.

The conflict that the writer focuses is the conflict based on greediness that is done by Gervayse and Judge Jeffrey Pyncheon. Those conflict is kind of special conflict because it happens among two persons which each of them have an obsession on wealth.

Eventhough this analysis focuses on the greediness that happens in the story, the writer will also needs to see the plot of the story especially the conflict based on greediness since it help the writer to prove the bad impact of greediness. So, the plot here is used to show the conflict between two people who are greedy.

B. Sociological Approach

The writer uses sociological approach as the basic idea to analyze the setting of the story. As described in the story that the condition of the society as part of the setting consist of classes; the upper and lower class and the condition of the society, of course, give a great contribution to the characters that belong to the community.

The association between literature and society is divided into three sections: the first is the relation between the author and the society, the second is between the readers and literature, and the third is the society in literature (Wellek and Warren, 1949: 94). In this analysis, the study will be brought into the third relationship.

When the setting is directed to the society that occurs in the novel, the analysis must interpret the social aspect within. It is substantial to explain which society belongs to the rich and which belongs to the poor; and who is rising in the society while who is

falling. A social approach will accommodate the understanding of the institutions and its consequences arising in the society.

B.1. Theory of Class

According to *Collin*, class can be visualized as how the distribution of power affects social relation among people and accompanying forms of reality construction (Jonathan, 1982: 427). The distribution to the community is based on the stratification, and the one who gets so much advantages is the upper class.

The power of the upper class can influence the running of the government administration or other important events in that certain society where they belong. The view the world and will act toward the human rights from different strata.

B.2. The Puritan Society

Puritanism is a reform movement within English Protestans that emerged in the 16th century. The movement proposes to purify the Church of England and invigorate the daily practice of religion. The development of Puritan in United States achieves its greatest influence.

The Puritan comes from the middle and the lower classes. Below them there comes the smaller merchants, store keepers,

farmers, artisans, mechanics, fishermen, laborers, and indentured servants and slaves. A fussy concerns for social distinctive is well illustrated by the setting arrangements in church, which is based upon the class, age, and special qualification.

Puritans also have certain characteristics as stated by G.M Traveyan in *Image of America* written by Foerster (2). He says that "the desire for free land and economic opportunity" becomes some factors that influence their motivation. Those motivations based on their historical background during their lifetime in England. Than lead some person on that society to be greedy on material advantages.

As a matter of fact, the greedy character of the analysis is Colonel Pyncheon. According to this concept the character's greediness is influenced by the special behavior of Puritan.

C. Psychological Approach

Psychological has been recognized as having a certain important values to writers and critics of literature. Although characters in the story are after all nothing but a fictional individual, it is unavoidable that these characters are human behavior which has certain forces, drives, or needs inside that are significant motivator of human nature.

The writer notices that psychology can be used to interpret and evaluate the literary works. The characters in literary works can be judged psychologically. However when the writer uses psychological approach to observe the characters, it does not mean then that this study tends to turn into other field of the study. It is used only to support the analysis of moral problem of the characters due to greediness.

In this analysis the personality of the characters is analyzed by using psychological background. According to Adler, in the *Personality Theories*, people are striving toward superiority or perfection (Maddi, 1976: 102). When we are thinking of striving toward superiority or perfection, we are always led into remembering the time when we were dissatisfied with our talent or capabilities and actively tried to transcend them to a higher level of functioning.

In describing the striving for perfect completion, Adler states through *Personality Theories* that:

I began to see clearly in every psychological phenomenon the striving for superiority. It runs parallel to physical growth and is an intrinsic necessity of life itself. It lies at the root of all solutions of life's problems and manifested in the way in which we meet these problems. All our functions follow its direction. They strive for conquest, security, increase, either in

right or in the wrong direction. The impetus from minus to plus never ends. The urge from below to above never ceases. Whatever premises all our philosophers and psychologist dream of – self-preservation, pleasure principle, equalization – all these are but vague representations, pleasure principle, equalization – attempts to express the great upward drive (Maddi, 1976: 103).

Adler's emphasis is clearly seen in his concept of *fictional finalism*, which expresses the goal tendencies. The word "finalism" refers to the reaching of an end or goal estate. The word "fictional" indicates that what a person is striving to reach is an ideal, it is something abstract things. It means that there is no standard about that ideal. It depends on each person.

Based on Alder's idea, the writer recognizes that what happens on the characters are forced by their drive to achieve material success. The "perfect" term here in the story is to become rich and powerful among others.

D. Related Studies

In *Encyclopedia of Literature* it is written there that *The House of the Seven Gables* is set in the middle of the 18th century Salem, Massachusetts. The work is a somber study in hereditary sin. The greed and arrogant pride of the novel's Pyncheon family

through the generations is mirrored in the gloomy decay of their seven gabled mansions, in which the family's enfeebled and improvised relations live.

F.O. Matthiesen on his book *Hawthorne: A Collection of Critical Essays*, said that in *The House of the Seven Gables* the most element that always takes place in the story is as one of the elements of human nature. He saw it, in the *Seven Gables* "as something deeply within us, not as something infinitely disconnected from us" (Kaul 143).

Matthiesen also observes in one of his early sketches of Salem that influences of wealth and sways of class had held firmer dominion here than in any other New England towns. The original power of the Pyncheon had been founded on great wrong: the very land on which the house built was built on the other man hut (Kaul 145).

Arlin Turner in his book *An Introduction and Interpretation* says that *The House of Seven Gables* dictates a consistent view of human nature, of man in relation to his fellow man, God and the universe which assume the sort of unalterable necessity that governs the characters in his work. Also Randal has said that most of Hawthorne's works concern with the moral problem, which are also personality problems (1963: 50).

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF GREEDINESS IN THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES