

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

II.1. Related Theories

This chapter is made separately containing the reasons of her using the theories in this thesis. To get description her thesis clearly, the writer chooses Literary Approach to dig up Puritanism through the analyzing of the plot, the characterization, the setting and the theme as the elements of the novel.

II.1.A.Literary Approach

The theory is used as the frame of thought to achieve the objective of research. Since the focus of interest is only directed to phenomena found in the work itself, the use of literary approach is considered convenient to the fixed aim.

A novel is like the other kind of fiction has its elements. They are plot, character, setting, style, point of view, and theme. Those elements belong to the intrinsic elements. A lack of one of those elements can not build a good novel (Holman, 1980).

In this research, the writer limits the scope of study on plot, characters, setting, and the theme of the novel. To describe Puritanism in this novel, she uses

the method of descriptive. In doing so, it is necessary to describe the elements of a novel as the basic of analysis.

II.1.A.1. Plot

A plot may be understood simply as a chronological order of events of a story. Plot is an integrity of elements which make up a story, so that it becomes the main frame of the story. The main frame is the place in which sequences of events pass through in cause and effect relationship. The sequences of events in the story are created by the character of the protagonist and the setting. The events are only physical behaviour which are mobilized by nonphysical changes of the protagonist such as the changes of thought, attitude, and mood. (Little, 1966)

Plot has two elements; they are conflict and climax. The conflict consists of internal which means the conflict between two different desires in the inner life of a hero. And external which means the conflict between the hero and the other characters or the surrounding. Then, plot is a sequence of actions that embodies some sort of conflicts.

Related to those explanation, the analysis will be only concerned with the sequence of events reflecting

Puritanism; not all the events in the novel. The events, therefore, which does not reflect Puritanism will not be analyzed.

II.1.A.2. Character And Characterization

Characterization can simply be understood as the portrayal or the description of the story's characters. A character is an imagined person who inhabits a story which usually bears human personalities that is familiar to the real life and real people. They are created by the author to act as what the author wants them to bring the important message to the readers. That's why, the presentation of characters is an important aspect in a novel. And the character can not be separated from the totality of the characterization. Each of the main action and attitude is logically interrelated so that they form a maintain of unified wholeness.

Characterization will give a detail depiction about the relationships between the characters in a story; their conflicts, their contrasts, and also their friendships. In describing the character in a story, an author may use either descriptive or dramatic method, but it may be also the combination of the two.

To analyze Puritanism through the characters, it will be concerned with the characters reflecting

Puritanism way of life. Therefore, the analysis will be focused on the characters that reflect of Puritanism type.

II.1.A.3. Setting

Setting in fiction refers to the place and time of age of action. It refers to the points in time and space which the events of the plot occur. The function of setting is, certainly, a more important than merely telling the places and the times of the story's events. Guches stated that setting is closely related to other important elements of the story itself as plot, character, and even to the ideas on symbolic level. On the other hand, the setting establishes the atmosphere which helps to create the mood. It may also reveal emotional mood of the fictional character in the story. The detail of setting reveal their personal trait, social status, and interest. Often the philosophical nature of the story is symbolized by the setting.

Setting was distinguished by Hudson into two types, namely social and material seting (1963 :158). Material setting is to mean to real description of the happening in places. Whereas, the social setting is to mean the values embodied in or by the physical setting.

Since the analysis focused on Puritanism in this

novel, the time and the place which will be analyzed, of course, will be concentrated on the time and the place having Puritanism idea or Puritanism sense. Related to Hudson's concept about setting, the time and the place in this novel will be analyzed through Puritanism concept or Puritanism insight. The time and the place in this novel reflect Puritanism way of life, so it is the reason why the setting is also important to analyze.

II.1.A.4. Theme

A theme in literature, as stated by X.J. Kennedy, is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. In literary fiction, a theme is seldom so obvious. That is, a theme need not be a moral or a message; it may be what the happenings add up to, what the story is about (Kennedy, 1983 :103). Guches wrote an almost similar idea with Kennedy's opinion that theme in fiction is the generalization that is either stated or implied and holds a story together (1980 : 71). While, Kenney stated by concluding that "theme is the meaning of the story." (1966 :88).

With arguing of those various views concerning the definition of the theme, we may come to a conclusion that theme in a story is an important matter. Graham Little even came to a conclusion that there will be no other

elements in a literary work more important than theme.

"There are many aspects of writing worthy of consideration : none is more important than theme. If writer or reader, in considering this or that aspects of a work lose sight of what it is all about, what its point is, then we may well say that all effort has been wasted". (1966 : 27).

Then , a literary analysis will be a meaningless one without the discussion on the theme. But discussing about theme of a literary work will not be easy to do because it needs a thorough understanding about the story itself.

A theme functions as both structural and mental form of a literary work. As the mental form of the literary work, a theme here becomes the central idea by which a literary work has its basis or starting point. As the structural form, actually, a theme is associated with the elements building the work and how they are inspired by the theme. Therefore, to analyze the theme of the story, it is important to use the plot, the characters, and the setting to determine that Puritanism as the basic idea or the theme of the story.

II.1.B. Historical Background Of Puritanism

To be able in analysing Puritanism in this novel, it is very important to understand firstly the concepts or the idea of Puritan. We, therefore, must refer to

historical books. Puritanism, originally, was a reform movement within English Protestantism that emerged in the 16th century. The movement proposed to purify the church of England and to invigorate the daily practice of religion. For their reformation, the Puritans were indebted to John Calvin and the example of the Calvinist tradition (Encyclopedia Americana, 1977: 28). For the founder of Puritan faith, John Calvin, condemned sex as the root of all evil (Alfred, 1992 :54). Good works won't save you, according to Calvin; only God's grace will do that. Calvin's Five Points have a certain relevance to the human condition at any time, and this relevance is rediscovered from age to age. The Five Points include election or predestination, limited atonement, total depravity, irresistibility of grace, and the perseverance of the saints. Calvinism especially emphasizes the sovereignty of God in the bestowal of grace (Bradley, Beatty and Long, 1962: 344). Another source of Puritanism was the Bible, considered the sole author in matters of faith.

Then, the movement remained frustrated until the reign of Charles I (1625-1649), when a political crisis led to civil war and Puritans took control of the English Government. Meanwhile, Puritan emigrants had colonized New England, America. Leaving England when Charles I

seemed completely in control, they wanted freedom to practice their religion belief (Encyclopedia Americana, 1977, 28-30).

The Puritan's communal ideal was expressed chiefly in the doctrine of the covenant. They believed God made a covenant - that is, an agreement or contact- with them, He chose them for the special mission to America. In America they built a city upon a hill that the eyes of all people are upon them (Norton, 1982 :23).

In the New England colonies, the founders of Puritan began by enacting the basic program of the reform movement, eliminating bishops, ceremonies, and much else. Besides, they also took more radical steps, limiting church membership to visible saints, and choosing democratic Congregationalism as the form of church government. Another step was to make the Government a theocracy. In such a government the political leaders are supposed to protect the church from harm. Puritans believed that church and state should cooperate in serving God. Governor John Winthrop feared that unless the saints held political power, the wrong kind of person would get elected to office and divert the colonists from their mission (Encyclopedia Americana, 1977 : 29-30).

From the 17th - century point of view Puritan's interest in theology was practical. Puritan New England

was a noble experiment in applied theology. In short, the doctrines of the Fall of Men, of Sin, of Salvation, perdestination, Election, and conversion were as if Puritan's meats and drinks. The pessimism about the vivid sense of evil, which was so intimate a part of Puritanism discouraged daydreams (Boorstin, 1958 :29). Sermon for Puritan, as Miller explains was more like lawyer's brief than a work of art. Its characteristic plan had three parts : doctrines, reasons, and uses. The doctrine was that the preacher discovered by opening a Biblical text, which was always the starting point; the reason supported the doctrine and the use was the application of the doctrine to the lives of the listeners, the instruction which came out of the sermon. In New England, the sermon was a institution, perhaps the characteristic institution of Puritanism here. It was the ritual application of theology to community - building and to the tacks and trials of everyday life (Boorstin, 1958 : 11-12).

In Puritan of New England, there was a memorial recieved and signed by many clergymen. Among such laws were two against Adultery and Poligamy. The guilty of adultery were to sit an hour on the gallows, with ropes about their neck, be severely whipt not above 40 stripes; and forever after wear a capital A, two inches long, cut out of cloth colored differently from their clothes, and

sewed on the arms, or back parts of their garments so as always to be seen when they were about (Bradley, Beatty, and Long, 1962 : 196).

To make more clearly about Puritanism In New England, historically Susman stated that Puritanism centered around four issues, sometimes discussed individually, sometimes examined as a complex of related ideas. Each of issue which assumed to represent what did in fact exist in 17th century New England. Therefore, when something or someone was labeled "Puritan", the image called into focus was supposedly a historical one.

1. Puritanism has been hailed as creed that highlighted self - restraint and control over appetites and emotions.
2. Puritanism has meant community, a strong sense of earthly order and law, cooperation in establishing a social system, subordinating individual will to social welfare, the planting of a city on the hill that might become somehow the City of God itself. For other, however, this sense of community meant little more than intolerance, persecution, and frustration of individual liberty and freedom of self - expression-, a theocracy, despotism ruled by an elite, a vicious totalitarian state.

3. Puritanism has meant morality, a stern and demanding code of ethics, that bent men not merely to the law of the state but to the higher, ideal, and just law of God.

4. Puritanism has become identified with a particular set of attitudes toward success in a material sense, a sign of salvation (the Protestant ethic) stressing industry, thrift, achievement of wealth.

II.2. Related Studies

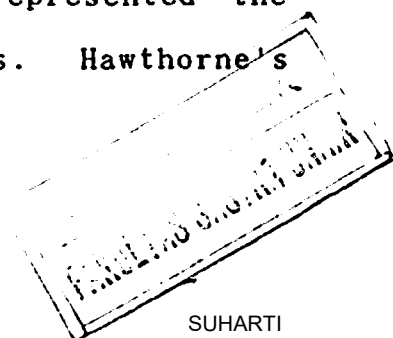
Interpretations of The Scarlet Letter have been almost startlingly various. Nathaniel was the chief inheritor in literature of the New England Puritan tradition, and The Scarlet Letter is the epitome of that inheritance. It is more than that, they state that The Scarlet Letter embodies Puritan ideals and the Puritan way of life. (Stewart and Bethurum, 1954 : 55).

Through historical point of view, Donald J.G. states that The Scarlet Letter is more than a novel, that it is a classic document of American social and religious thought. The American Protestant obsession with sex, sin and salvation is no less frantic now than it was in the Puritan milieu of The Scarlet Letter (Journal of Modern Literature, 1991 :488-495). About Puritanism aspect in The Scarlet Letter, Arlin Turner stated that, "Christian

doctrine, the lore of witchcraft and black magic and alchemy, the nature and history of Puritan New England - they are given in The Scarlet Letter." (1978 : 203). While Alfred Kazin said that, "In The Scarlet Letter: however was not just beautifully (and often defensively) invoking the Old Puritan world in bits and pieces. Now there surfaced the long interior conflict between natural respect for the past and his equal abhorrence of its theological cruelty." (1992 : 53).

While Nicolous Mills states that the decription of society in The Scarlet Letter is in many respects traditional one that concerns itself with matters of class and status. To be sure, status makes it all the more difficult for Dimmesdale, who is at "the head of the social system" to aknowledge his involvement with Hester (Mills, 1974; p:54). The important of society in The Scarlet Letter is that it has a restrictiveness that so distorts human relationship and human error that it paves the way for the tragedies that follow from Hester's actions. It is logical that the Puritans should regard it as a sign of "their great mercy and tenderness of heart" to place Hester on the pillory and require her to wear the scarlet letter for the rest of her natural life.

In The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne represented the theological moral aspect of Puritans. Hawthorne's



morality is based upon his belief that; in so far as we sin, we are compelled to acknowledge a supernatural, moral presence. In The Scarlet Letter, the images of the forest, with its moral licence, versus the Christian community of the town, or of the varying fall of light and shadow, are crude indications of possible moral responses to natural phenomena (T.E. Apter, 1982 p:23-24).

Hawthorne is generally credited with having caught the mood and spirit of early American Puritanism (Robert, 1960). Hawthorne makes any real attempt to illuminate the life of the period. He gives a detailed description of Governor Bellingham's mansion and its furnishing; and he also gives the readers some details of the Puritans dress, general facial expression and some indication of their public recreation. In The Scarlet Letter, Hawthorne has used the scaffold, the forest, Mistress Hibbins, Governor Bellingham, The Election Sermon, the drab and solemn towns people, and even the period itself (Robert, 1960 : 55). On the other hand, nearly a hundred and fifty times throughout the book does Hawthorne, in one way or another refer to the letter A as a punishment for adulterer in Puritan era (Nathaniel Hawthorne : The Scarlet Letter, 1962 : 196 and 278).

From religious point of view, Richard H.F. stated that the imagery of hell-fire which occurs throughout The

Scarlet Letter is dramatically proper to the Puritan background (Criticism Some Major American Writers , 1971 : 89). And the major characters in The Scarlet Letter are described as a people amongs whom religion and law were almost identical.

On the other hand, Hawthorne also brought the witchcraft into his fictional works. As a young bachelor in Salem Hawthorne, according to his sister -in-law, Elizabeth Peabody, " made himself thoroughly acquainted with the ancient history of Salem, and especially with the witchcraft era (Nathaniel Hawthorne : The Scarlet Letter, 1962; p :206). In The Scarlet Letter , He presented Mistress Hibbins, a historical figure who in 1656 was hanged in Boston as a witch (Turner, 1980: 67).

CHAPTER III

THE AUTHOR AND HIS WORK