

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Adam Bede describes the way of life of the Victorian society. Here, the author meant to present the actual condition of the 18th century, which is reflected in her novel. She revealed the reality mainly through her characters. For this reason, the writer has to analyze the elements of the novel which deal with the objective of the study. In this case, the writer applies a literary theory of Rene Wellek and Austin Warren that advocates the internal aspect of literary work. To see the Victorian society itself, the writer uses a sociology of literary theory of conformity.

#### 2.1 Literary Theory

Rene Wellek and Austin 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. In other words, the emphasis of literary works is the analysis of the intrinsic elements such as plot, setting and character (p. 41-42).

In recent years, a healthy reaction has taken place which recognizes that the study of literature should, first and foremost, concentrate on the actual works of art themselves. It seems that there is close relationship between intrinsic elements of literary works, especially for three constituents; plot, setting, and character.

### 2.1.1 Plot

Wellek and Warren defined that plot is the narrative structure of the play, drama or novel. It is composed of smaller narrative structures (episodes, incidents) (1958:217).

Jones in Outline of Literature confirms that plot is the plot is the action of the story. It is the sequence of events involving the character or characters (1968:83).

Stanton in An Introduction to Fiction explains that the plot of a story is its entire sequence of events. These events may include not only physical occurrences, like speech or action, but also characters's change of attitude, a flash of insight, a decision - anything that alters the course of affairs (1964:14).

Through the definitions the term plot has numerous information. In short, plot is a chain of causality

events. Plot is the author's arrangement of a single incident to form a unified whole.

A well constructed plot usually has a definite beginning, middle and ending. Good plot consists of exposition, complication, climax and finally denouement or resolution. Exposition provides the reader with some sort of background or explanation and sets the scene for future events. Complication introduce the problems or conflicts.

Conflict may be internal or psychological within the main character himself, or between the character and outside forces, including others individuals, nature, society, fate or any combination of these; there may be a double conflict, just as there may be a double plot, or there may be one major conflict and several minor ones. Climax is the point at which a crisis is reached, resolution, which decides the outcome of the crisis and finally denouement, which ties all previous events together and which relates the result of the resolution (Hurtik, 1971:7).

In fact, plot is of the highest importance in expressing the meaning of a work of fiction. We may conclude, then, that an understanding of plot is the most important factor in the understanding of fiction.

Plot, says Aristotle, is the soul of tragedy. It may well be the soul of fiction too.

### 2.1.2 Setting

According to Wellek and Warren, setting is environment; environment especially domestic interiors, may be viewed as an expression of character. Again, setting may be the massive determinant environment viewed as physical or social causation (1956:221).

The element of fiction which reveals to us the where and when of events we call setting. In other words, the term setting refers to the point in time and space at which the events of the plot occur.

Setting may affect events until it seems to assume the role of a major character. Like character, setting may be the element of primary importance in particular story or even in the work of a particular author. Plot and character seem to exist primarily as a means of revealing the effects of setting on human life.

Reaske said that in discussing the relationship between character and their environment we have really been approaching the subject of setting, a time and place in history and not, really in terms of particular setting when writing about setting of a work of fiction a student should mention the specific characteristics of

the period in which the story is taking places. He should also describe some of the particulars of the setting and bearing which they have on the plot and character. However, the period of time which the work of fiction covers is a large consideration (1970:174-175).

### 2.1.3 Character

According to Shaw, character means the aggregate of traits and features that form the nature of some person or animal (1972:70-71).

Any discussion of character in fiction, then, must attend to the relationship between character and the other elements of the story, and between character and the story as a whole. That is, character must be considered as part of the story's internal structure.

Simon and Schuster said that we may refer character to the real human beings who inhabit the world. More to the point than the standart of life likeness is the standart of relevance. According to this standart, the question is not whether the fictional character is like me. Rather, the question is, what has he to do with me. In other words, what is the character's relevance to me (1972:26).

Stevick, 1967 stated that author attempts to make his character understandable to, and comes alive for his readers through 1) Personal description. The author can describe a person's appearance and clothes, 2) Character as seen by another. The author can describe the character through the eyes and opinion another. 3) Speech, the author can give us an insight into the character of one of the persons in the book through what that person says, 4) Past life. By letting the reader learns something about a person's past life the author can give us a clue to events that have helped to shape a person's character, 5) Conversation of others. The author can also give us a clue to a person's character through conversations of other people and the thing they say about him, 6) Thought. The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. (p. 161-171).

The foundation of good fiction is character creating and nothing else. It is generally agreed that in most good stories the events follow logically from the natures of the persons involved and characters, no mere by product, is an essential part of plot.

Character dwell in particularity fictional words which are usually modeled on reality. Because of this we may write about characters " as products of their age

and environment " (p.171). It is important to write about characters in the content of their age and surroundings, because these explanation in them in very basic ways. In longer fictional works authors have time to develop with considerable care the relationship between character and their environment.

Reaske added that there are certain basic considerations of character which we should make, and these considerations can perhaps best be approached through the formation of general questions. For example, Is a character major or minor? Is he a product of his age and his environment?. Does his behaviour reflect on a place and moment in time? (1970:169).

## 2.2 Sociological Approach

The sociological approach is applied as the supporting theory due to the fact that the novel deals with social reality aspect, that is the Victorian age in the 18th century.

Levin said that "There is no way social life could go on without a minimal amount of conformity from group members"(1970:91). It means that if we don't know how to act in various situations, or if others do not possess of the same information, we can't count on others to act appropriately and they on us.

We are social beings, so we have to be with others. We can't live in an isolated life. No matter how little we need them, we can't be completely independent. Other people are important to us since they can influence us. These relationship and interdependency are social factors which much of what we do and thing. These relationship, interdependency and influence among people affect their behaviour and thought. As Clifford T. Morgan said as below :

We human being do not live in a vacuum, and human social behaviour must be seen as reflecting an on going process of interdependence (1979:418).

Robert A. Nisbeth stated that "No form of constitutionalized relationship whatever could exist without the process of interaction we call conformity". From it comes all the uniformities of human society. By conforming we receive a reward : approval, esteem, success (1970:69-71).

So, someone will be accepted as a useful member of social order if he shapes his lifestyle of his group, the group in which he lives, to which he belongs.

The above theory is applied in relation to the Victorian society in the 18th. There was a tendency of the Victorian society in the 18th century to act the

same way or having the same way of life in order to be recognized as the useful members.

### 2.3 Psychological Approach

As the writer said in previous chapter that psychology can be used to explain fictitious character. This statement closely concerning with psychological conflicts of fictitious characters of the novel. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in Theory of Literature, what is meant by psychology of literature is:

The psychological study of the writer, as type and individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally the effect of literature upon its readers (audience psychology) (1978:p.81).

To describe the structure of personality, Freud developed a comprehensive theory, i.e psychoanalytic theory which held that personality consisted of three separate but interacting parts : the id, the ego and superego. The id is the raw, unorganized, inherited part of personality whose sole purpose is to reduce tension created by primitive drives related to hunger,

sex, aggression, and irrational impulses. The ego provides a buffer between the id and the realities of the objective, outside world. The superego, the final personality structure to develop, represents the rights and wrongs of society as handed down by a person's parents, teachers, and other important figures. (Fieldman: 1992, p.35).

Based on the explanation above, Freud also defined an ego defense mechanism as a mental strategy used individual to defend against open expression of id impulses and opposing superego pressures. All defense mechanism share two common characteristics : (1) they operate at an unconscious level and therefore self-deceptive and (2) they distort, deny or falsify perception to the individual. (Fieldman: 1992,p.104). For example, the father who refuses to believe that his daughter has been brutally raped and murdered and acts as though she is still alive.

In this thesis, because of the problems which will be discussed deals with the defense mechanism, such as the self deception of Arthur Donnithorne; so the use of psychological approach is applied as the supporting theory.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**