

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

II.1. Intrinsic Approach

In Pengantar Ilmu Sastra, Dick Hartoko has translated the statement of Jan van Luxemburg, Mieke Bal and Willem G. Weststeijn in their book Inleiding in de Literatuurwetenschap which says that the relation between literature and the society can be examined either about its extrinsic factors, such as the social status of the author or the readers, about publishing matters, etc.; or its intrinsic factors, which examines the relation between the aspects of a literary text and the society. Literature is used as a source to analyze a social system. The basic matter to examine the intrinsic factors is how far the social system and its changes can be described in literature (Hartoko 23-24).

Due to the fact that the relation between literature and the society to be analyzed in this thesis is only its intrinsic factors by focusing on the society that Edith Wharton has described in the story, for the analysis the writer needs to get to know better about the intrinsic elements of the novel first. The intrinsic elements to be used to support the analysis are setting and character.

II.1.1. Setting

According to Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs, *setting* refers to the natural and artificial scenery or environment in which characters in literature live and move, together with the things they use. Times of day, conditions of sun and clouds, weather, hills and valleys, trees and animals, and so on may be the setting of a work. Setting may also include artifacts like walking sticks, paper windmills, birdhouses, necklaces, and many other items. The setting of a work may also extend to references to clothing, descriptions of physical appearance, and spatial relationships. In short, the setting of a work is the total of references to physical and temporal objects and artifacts (229).

Richard Gill in his Mastering English Literature states that *setting* is a broad word. It 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 behavior 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. 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 (106). Based on this definition,

what is meant by *social setting* may be concluded as the total references about the social condition of the time and place where the story takes place of which the emphasis is on the society's traditions and customs.

Basically, the explanations and descriptions about *setting* that is given by Richard Gill is the source of idea in analyzing Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence. The society in this novel is so unique, because of its strong old traditions and customs. This is why it is interesting to find as complete picture of the society as possible, in order to get reason or explanation about the character's conflicts which are caused by the relation between the society and the character.

II.1.2. Character

Richard Gill in his book Mastering English Literature stated that characters in novel have been specially created by authors. When authors create characters, they select some aspects of ordinary people, develop some of those aspects whilst playing down others, and put them together as they please (90).

In other words, as stated by Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs, they conclude that *character* is a reasonable facsimile of a human being, with all the good and bad traits of being human. A story is usually concerned with a major problem that a character must face.

This may involve interaction with another character, with a difficult situation, or with an idea or general circumstances that force action. The character may win or lose; he or she may experience changes in spite of the experience that they learn, or may miss the point and remain unchanged despite what has happened (56).

In analysing the character, connected with the analysis of the society that has been created by Edith Wharton, the writer focuses on the importance of relationships between characters. It is said that much interest is created when characters have different ideas about another character, or false idea about themselves. Conflict, contrast and misunderstanding are a few obvious relationships between characters. Among the most generally interesting human relationships as the basis of a work of literature, are those of love, in all its aspects, and of power: leader and follower, influence and influenced. Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs also add that in fiction we may expect characters from every area of life, and, because we all share the same human capacities for concern, involvement, sympathy, happiness, sorrow, exhilaration, and disappointment, we should be able to become interested in the problems of characters and in how they try to handle the world around them (56-57).

II.2. Sociological Approach

In Pengantar Ilmu Sastra Dick Hartoko has also translated the statement of van Luxemburg, Bal and Weststeijn that literature can be seen as a social symptom. A literary work written in one particular time has a direct relation to the norms and culture of that particular time (23). Based on George Eliot's statement about her goal: "to give a faithful account of men and things as they have mirrored themselves in my mind" (qtd. in Langland 6); it can be concluded that in certain ways literature has some truth about real life.

In Society in the Novel Elizabeth Langland has stated that society is a concept and a construct in fiction (4). Furthermore she states that: "If society is a concept and construct in art, it is also a concept and construct in life. Based on these statements we can conclude that in a certain way society in the novel must have some truth about real life. This is why some sociology theories will be used to support the analysis about society that Edith Wharton has created in The Age of Innocence, which includes questions about the relation between its member, the relation between an individual with the social group (society) and the impacts that could emerge as the result of these relations. We may get scientific explanation about relation between an

individual with his society and also conflicts which are caused by that relation that has been created by Edith Wharton in The Age of Innocence..

