

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

II.1. Related Theories

This study is an attempt to analyze the injustice treatment of whites to blacks and the the influence of Southern Heritage to that injustice treatment. Since in analyzing this study, the writer will focus on the work itself, the Objective Theory of Abrams is employed. In analyzing the study, the writer will apply Intrinsic approach and Sociological Approach. The intrinsic approach is used because the writer will analyze the study through the intrinsic elements of plot , character and setting. While, the sociological approach is needed because the study also deals with the problem of society, racial prejudice and discrimination.

II.1.1. Objective Theory

The Objective Theory of M.H. Abrams stated that :

"...the objective orientation regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being ..." (Abrams, 1980 : 26).

Since this study analyze the work as self sufficient object or integer, or as a world in itself regardless of the author, audience, and the environmental world, thus this theory is applied. Hence, the writer will only concentrate on the work itself with its internal elements to make the analysis of the stated problems.

II.1.2. Intrinsic Approach

A study of literary work should have been based on the interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself. The first and most prominent concentration on this study should be directed toward the work (Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature*. 1977 : 157-158). In analyzing this study, the writer will apply intrinsic approach which is used to analyze and interpret a literary work through its intrinsic elements, which are plot , character and setting of the story.

II.1.2.1 Plot

Plot is the sequence of incidents or events that embodies the sort of conflict - a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills- of which a story is composed.

The plot is constituted by some elements, i.e. : exposition, conflict, complication, climax, and resolution.

Exposition serves as presentation of the information necessary for the plot to get under way. It functions to stimulate curiosity and interest in what is to develop out of the situation presented, and to set a mood or atmosphere appropriate to the tale as a whole (Little, 1966 : 82).

Conflict is the essence of all stories. It may be physical, mental, emotional or moral. A person may be in conflict with other persons, with society or nature , and with himself. All at the same time, and sometimes he may be involved in conflict without being aware of it.

The movement from the conflict to the climax is often referred to as complication. It serves to increase the intensity of the story, thus preparing the readers to receive the full impact of the climax.

The climax is reached when the complication attains its highest point of intensity, from which point the outcome of the story is inevitable. Whereas, the resolution is the rounding-off of the action and the conclusion of the conflict.

In analyzing the plot, the writer attempts to trace out the development of the characters, especially of how Beauchamp is treated unjusticely.

II.1.2.2 Character

Character is a representation of real living people in a fiction. According to E.M. Forster in his book *Aspect of the Novel*, it can be divided into flat and round. The flat character is less than a representation of a human personality than the embodiment of a single attitude or obsession in character. Forster calls this kind of character flat, because we see only one side of him. It includes all the familiar types or stereotype of fiction. Whereas the round character is obviously more lifelike than the flat. It is complex and we see all sides of him. (1959 : 39)

Futhermore, all fictional characters may be classified as static or developing. The static character is a person who is at the end of the story as he was at the beginning; while, the developing character undergoes a permanent change in some aspects of his character, personality or outlook. The change may be a large or a small one; it may be for better or for worse, but it is something important and basic; it is more than a change in condition or a minor change in opinion. Lucas Beauchamp and Chick Mallison, in this case, belong to the later category since they perform some changes in his outlook and character in the end of the story. Lucas Beauchamp changes from a guilty man to a free man. While, Chick Mallison changes from the boy who hold his

racial code become the man who rejects his racial code.

The analysis of character will later be made through his basic characteristic {such as social relationship and mental qualities } and how he develops during the course of the story.

II.1.2.3 Setting

A fiction element which reveals to us the where and when the events are is called setting. This term refers to the point in time and space at which the event of the plot occur. It may include the religious, moral, intellectual, social, and emotional environment of the character (William, 1966 : 40).

The circumstances of the central character -in this case Lucas Beauchamp's life depicted in the setting may influence his conducts and reactions and also his development to the good or bad.

II.1.3. Sociological Approach

Intruder in the Dust exposes the social problem of blacks minority in whites ruled community. Whites majority isolates blacks by performing social, political and economical barriers. Whites' law creates social stratification in which power, wealth are distributed unequally among the member of different social status. The status of blacks minority is certainly lower than

whites. Whites perform social oppression toward minority. The relationship among them is covered up with prejudice. Whites in short do not let blacks take part in social life.

Because the study deals with the social problem, racial prejudice and discrimination, a sociological approach will be very relevant. This approach is meant for clarifying that social problem.

The most popular opinion which explains why some minorities are more victimized by prejudice than others is Paul Keeskemeti's opinion. People are deemed good or bad, superior or inferior, according to the rank they occupy in the institutional order. Certain groups are vulnerable to prejudice and discrimination in our society because they are the descendants of groups that had occupied a markedly inferior position in the pre-democratic social order of the past. (Green, 1960 : 232-234)

By this approach, we understand why Lucas Beauchamp, as black minority treated unjusticely.

II.2. Related Studies about other writing about *Intruder in the Dust*

There are many critiques and studies conducted on William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*. Those studies and critiques are made through various approaches and point of views. One of the

critiques, written by Edmund Wilson in Robert Penn Warren's book entitled *Faulkner, A Collection of Critical Essays* (1966 : 270) is an attempt to capture the involvement of the author in his work. Edmund Wilson, commenting on *Intruder in the Dust*, wrote that he do not sympathized with the line of criticism which deplores Faulkner's obstinate persistence in submerging himself in the mentality of the community where Faulkner was born. For his chivalry, which constitutes his morality, is a part of his Southern heritage, and it appears in Faulkner's work as a force more humane and more positive than almost anything one can find in the work even those writers of our more mechanized society who have set out to defend human right.

Another critique written by Irving Home in Volpe's book entitled *William Faulkner* (1966 : 101) is about the main character of *Intruder in the Dust*. Irving Home raises one of the critical issue of *Intruder in the Dust*; when he said that no novel which has Lucas Beauchamp as a major character can be dismissed as a failure; no novel with Gavin Steven as its intellectual spokesman can be considered an unqualified success. A serious question is whether or not Steven is actually an intellectual spokesman; for his is not a flattering portrait and he is only nominally in charge of Lucas's case. The real issue of the novel is contained within the struggle of Lucas and Chick

in re-evaluate the negro's status to go from label and cliché to humanity. Faulkner would certainly be expected to point out the distinction between words and acts; and there are so many words and the acts are undertaken so quietly and with such unostentatious courage that the contrast between the two need not be emphasized.

Another critique written by Robert Penn Warren in his book entitled *Faulkner, A collection of critical essays* (1966 : 260) is about the theme of *Intruder in the Dust*. In *Intruder in the Dust*, the theme of the definition of race is constantly implicit; for instance, when Lucas refuses his pay, Charles thinks : "We got to make him be a nigger first. He's got to admit he's a nigger". If the "nigger" is social definition, a creation of white society, what Quentin calls "a form of behavior", merely an "observe reflection of the white people he lives among," then there is the problem of what is reality behind the mask of such a definition.

Another critique written by Malcolm Cowley in Utley's *Seven Approaches to William Faulkner's The Bear, Man and God* (1964 : 234) is about the central theme of that book. The theme of injustice to the black is indeed central in *Intruder in the Dust*, as is that of the destruction of the wilderness. Faulkner here limits himself to an exploration of the soul rending

dilemma of the white southerner who recognized the black as equal human being, but who can not free himself from the racial prejudice of the Southern Heritage.

Although there have already been many critiques and studies on this work. *Intruder in the Dust* is still an interesting object to study. The human characters and problems are represented here, have a lasting and universal significance. They can deepen our knowledge of man's experience. Hence, the prominent aspect found in the story, i.e. the injustice treatment of whites to blacks.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS