

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In analysing a novel as a literary work, the writer here needs to use some approaches in gaining the value of the problems. She intends to analyze Celie's struggle against domestic violence and sexual abuse. In the process of this analysis, the writer will use intrinsic approach. It means that she will have to make some explanation about intrinsic element that is specially focusing on characterization. To support the explanation above, the writer will use an approach of feminist critics, both study on Sexual Politics and Black and Lesbianism.

A. Characterization

Characterization is the technique a writer uses to help someone acquired with a person, or character, in his writing.(Pooley 516) Thus, characterization is a way to develop a character in a story, in which the character is being understandable by its characteristics.

Character is an extended verbal representation of human being, the inner self that determines thought, speech, and behaviour.(Robert 143) Trait as a typical or habitual mode of behaviour has a role in develop a character. There are four methods of characterization, first, Physical appearance, his speech and actions, and the attitudes of other characters toward him, and the last part is the inner thoughts and

feelings. “Depth of characterization means the degree of richness or completeness of representation of character. A deep portrayal of characterization takes into its account the fact that human mind is a complex thing of so many traits, qualities, motives, desires and conflict”.(Little 91) The character and its qualities have an important part for the author in their imaginative work. They must be careful in develop a story to become alive to the reader, in this case there are two types of characters which E. M. Forster calls “round” and “flat”.(Robert 145)

Round character can identified as one of the major figures in the work of who experience and undergoes a change of some sort. ‘Round’ characters, have many realistic traits and are relatively fully developed. They often given the names of protagonist, as a centre of attention and the central of action, not a moral physical giant that moves against an antagonist – that exhibits the human attributes we expect of round character.

“Round characters have many individual and unpredictable human traits, and because they undergo change or growth as a result of their experiences, they can considered as dynamic character,”(Robert 145) The words change and growth in round characters are just as complex and difficult to understand as a living people. It is identifiable within the class, occupation, or circumstances of which she or he is a part.

Contrasted with the round character, the flat character is undistinguishable from other persons in a particular group or class. Therefore, the flat character is not individual, but representative. Flat characters are usually minor, although not all

minor characters are flat. “Flat character is static, not dynamic like round characters” (Robert 146).

In this novel the main character Celie is a round character. The analysis discuss in Celie’s changes, from the previous character, through her process of struggling until she catch her goal by fighting against violence and sexual abuse.

B. Feminist Criticism

The origins of violence are located in the social structure and the complex set of values, traditions, customs, habits and belief, which relate to gender inequality. The victim of the violence is most frequently the women and the perpetrator is the men and the structures of society act to confirm this inequality. Violence against women is an outcome of the belief, fostered in most cultures. Men are superior and the women with whom they live are their procession to be treating as the men consider appropriate. Whatever the causes, individuals must accept responsibility for their own violent actions and societies must confront domestic violence.

Domestic Violence is a violence that uses to describe a variety of actions and omissions that occur in different relationships. It may take the form of physical and sexual violation, such as punching, choking, stabbing, which can range from bruising to killing; what may often start out as apparently minor attacks can escalate in both intensity and frequency. It is include psychological or mental violence, which can consist of repeated verbal abuse, harassment, confinement and deprivation of

physical, financial and personal resources. In which contact with family members and friends may be controlled. (Davies 1-2)

While goes to the family, there is also sexual abuse that happen to the child. Child sexual abuse is doing something sexual with a child. It occurs when an adult uses his or her power or authority over a child, or takes advantage of the child's trust and respect, to involve the child in sexual activity. (Davies 104) The victims of child sexual abuse are mostly girls (over 90 per cent). And most the offenders are men (over 90 per cent). However, it can, and does, happen that victim can be boys and abusers can be women. (Davies 105) Actually, most of children do not tell anyone what is being done to them because of some reasons: Childen can be told by their abusers that if they tell, they will be in big trouble. They are made to fear that he (if it's the father) will be sent to gaol and there will be no one to look after the family; Quite frequently, when a child has threatened to tell his or her mother about what is happening, the abuser tells the child 'your mother knows already and she does not care'. Or, 'if you tell your mother she will think that you are bad and will leave you'; The child does not know who to trust any more, so does not know who to tell. (Davies 106). Thus, women and children most are the victims and most of the perpetrators are men. It happens because patriarchal culture sets women and children are placed below men's position.

A movement when women realize their position on political aspect that women never get their right and their needs proportionally from the government. Then the convention in Seneca Falls in 1848 became the pioneer as Women's Great

Rebellion, which they made a different version of the declaration of America that all men and women are created equal. Besides the political aspect, the religious role of revision has placed women on a lower position than men (Bookman).

The third part that may also affect feminism is a concept of socialism and Marxism, that women are oppressed by another class, which is the men's class. Feminism has a main ideal to place women on the same level as men, which there are no more dependent women. This movement affects many fields of knowledge, especially in literature. Lately, they realize their existence has never been acquired by all people. In every success and great history, women are never revealed. It means that women never have their place in politics, economics, and military. They never get their important position in the country, in which their dedication is improperly written in history. In 1963, *The Feminine Mystique* by Simone De Beauvoir comes into the first wave of feminism in America. It gives so much contribution for many women in America. Gender in the late of 1960, the canon literature of women was never found in America. The feminist critics finally support women and expose their experience, feeling and thinking and their existence. (Selden 204)

This theory applies in this novel, since the main character, Celie is one of the victims of the patriarchal system. That the system has made her subordinated than men in her life, whose are her father and her husband. Celie is a victim either economically or socially. While in her life finally she realizes that she can continue her life without everyone that oppressed her.

1. Black and Lesbianism approach

Black criticism is born from the unsatisfied black women writers, since they have been the subcategory of American literature.(Showalter 170) “Black women were at home in neither the feminist movement, which was dominated by white women, nor the black movement, which was dominated by black men.”(Dandredge 1) Based on Barbara Smith’s critic, there are some principles that a black feminist critic could use. It begins with a primary commitment to exploring how both sexual and racial politics and black and female identity are inextricable elements in black women’s writings. She would also work from the assumption that black women writers constitute an identifiable literary tradition. The breadth of her familiarity with this writer would have shown her that not only is theirs verifiable historical tradition that parallels in time the tradition of black men and white women writing in this country. But this thematically, stylistically, aesthetically, and conceptually black women writers manifest common approaches to the act of creating literature as a direct result of the specific political, social, and economic experience they have been obliged to share. In the other words the writers would think and write out of their identity and not try to graft the ideas or methodology of white or male literary thought upon the precious materials of black women’s art, black feminist criticism would by definition, be highly innovative, embodying the daring spirit of the works themselves. (Showalter 174)

Black feminist applied to a particular work can overturn previous assumption about it and expose for the first time its actual dimensions. Then Smith sees that the works of women's were Lesbian. It is not because they are lovers, but because they are the central figures, are positively portrayed and have pivotal relationships with one another. The form and language of these works are also nothing like what white patriarchal cultures require or expect. (Showalter 175) Then what becomes the definition of lesbian as written on the opening paragraph of the essay 'The woman-Identified woman':

What is lesbian? A lesbian is the rage of all women condensed to the point of explosion. The woman who, often beginning at an extremely early age, acts in accordance with her inner compulsion to be a more complete and freer human being than her society—perhaps then, but certainly later—cares to allow her. These needs and actions, over a period of years, bring her into painful conflict with people, situations, the accepted ways of thinking, feeling and behaving, until she is in state of continual war with everything around her, and usually with herself. She may not be fully conscious of the political implications of what for her began as personal necessity, but on some levels, she has not been able to accept the limitations and oppression laid on her by the most basic role of her society—the female role (Showalter 178).

The limitations of the black female role are even greater in a racist and existent society, as is the amount of courage it takes to challenge them.

As Linda Abandonato found that, 'the color purple' is a multivalent erotic symbol, a sign of indomitable female spirit, a way to encode (a) specifically feminine jouissance. Jouissance is a sheer joy in the pleasure ability of persons and thing, is what makes life worth living. Then it will be associated with Easter and resurrection, and thus with spiritual regeneration, purple may also evoke the female genitalia

(Smith A. 3). Thus, this story of the main character Celie, who represent a character of a young black girl who is securely choose to establish her relation with her female partner and construct a solidarity to build her ideals come true.

CHAPTER III ANALYSIS