

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND OPERATION OF CONCEPT

#### 2.1. Theoretical Framework

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated that a literary work of art is not a simple object but rather a highly complex organization of a stratified character with multiple meanings and relationships (1958:27). Because of the complexity of elements in literary work, so a number of theories and approaches are used in analyzing a literary work.

From the four major theories; the mimetic or imitation theory which describe literature in its relation to the real life, the pragmatic or effect theory which defining literature in relation to its public, the expression theory which sees literature in relation with its creator, and the structure or objective theory which deals with its internal relations, - the writer of this thesis would like to use the objective theory with literary approach as a means in analyzing the object of research.

##### 2.1.1. Objective Theory

The analysis of this thesis is done through the internal structure without see the external reference, as M. H. Abrams said that :

"..... 'the objective orientation' which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyze 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" (1953:26).

So that the writer of this thesis would like to make the intrinsic analysis based on the intrinsic elements of the story itself.

The use of the objective theory here is to see whether the structures of the story are objective or not. It is done because the objective theory itself is the intrinsic way of analysis.

Looking at the objective theory, the focus of the analysis is in the internal elements of the story as a literary work. Based on that reason the analysis uses literary approach as a means of analyzing the internal elements of literary work.

#### **2.1.1.1. Literary Approach**

The writer of this thesis would like to analyze the elements of the short story without any external reference. From the elements of the story: theme, plot, characterization, setting, point of view - the limitation of the analysis on plot, characterization, and setting. Through these three elements of the story, the analysis in finding out the idea of feminism in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" would be done.

##### **2.1.1.1.1. Plot**

Danziger and Johnson stated that plot is a narrative of motivated action, involving some conflicts or question which is finally resolved (1985:19). While according to Robert and Jacobs the plot of the story is the interrelationship of incidents and character within a total design (1989:57). Richard C. Guches in his book, Sequel: A Handbook for the Critical Analysis of Literature, says that on its simplest level, plot may be only a sequence of action that embodies some sort of conflicts (1980:63).

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From those three definitions of plot, the writer of this thesis comes to a conclusion that plot is a sequence of action involving some sort of conflicts which is finally resolved.

#### 2.1.1.1.2. Characterization

Characterization is the way of the author to reveal his characters. While the characters are the people of fiction, the author's cast.

Harry Shaw stated that a characters is revealed by his actions, his speech, his thoughts, his physical appearance and what other characters say or think of him (1972:71). Each character is presented with its characteristics, and it differ him from other. It derives his behaviour, feling and conduct.

Robert Stanton suggested that every speech, every action is not only a step in the plot, but also a menifestation of "character" (1964:18). It means that the readers can distinguish different characteristics of the character by seeing his conversations and actions. Besides that through the readers' knowledge of the character, they understand his actions; and through his actions, they understand him.

#### 2.1.1.1.3. Setting

The term "setting" refers to the point in time and space at which the events of the plot occur. It is generally taken to include not only the geographical place in which the events in a story happen, but also the historical era, the daily lives or customs of the characters, perhaps the season of the year (Kennedy,1983:10).

The setting in fiction is the *place* where the events occur and the *time* or *age* of the action.

But more than that, the setting establishes the atmosphere which helps create the mood. It may also reveal to the readers something about the fictional characters in a story. The details of the setting can reveal their personality traits, their personal habits, their social status, and their interests. The philosophical nature of the story symbolized by the setting. Setting, then, may be simply where a story takes place, or the setting may relate to the characters, plot, or the ideas on symbolic levels (Guches,1980:68).

Setting can be divided into two kinds, as physical setting and psychological setting. Physical setting deals with place and everything in certain environment where the readers can catch the meaning from its appearance. Meanwhile, the psychological or spiritual is the physical setting which has symbolic levels or symbolic value. It means that physical and psychological setting cannot be separated because the meaning of the psychological setting implied by the physical setting. As stated by William Kenney that :

"..... as the physical setting becomes more specific and more vividly rendered, so does the spiritual setting. By the spiritual setting, then, we mean the values embodied in or implied by the physical setting" (1966:39).

## 2.2. Operation of Concept

The writer of this thesis tries to explain the title of her work, The Idea of Feminism in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper", also the elements of the scope of the discussion.

**"Feminism"** is the belief that woman are entitled to the same social, political, and economics, rights as men, or the activity or propaganda that favors the emancipation of women. Other areas in which feminism has been instrumental in forwarding concept of equal

rights for men and women are the family, in which the woman's role has become more nearly equal to that of the man (The American People Encyclopedia, 1962:VIII-385).

*"Idea"* is the thought of, or conscious reference to something not present at the moment in sensation. An idea is a means of knowing and it is studied through the object of which it makes us aware (The Encyclopedia Americana, 1977:XIV-738). Idea is the conception of a thing existing before anything of its kind was created or made; it is product of thinking (Webster's Students Dictionary, 1959:403).

*"The Yellow Wallpaper"* the object for both of the author and the writer of this thesis. For the author it is as the medium in expressing her conception of the equal rights between men and women. While for the writer of this thesis it is as the object of her research. Through this objects, she would like to see the author's conception of feminism from the elements of the story.

*"Plot"* is a sequence of action involving some sort of conflicts which is finally resolved. In analyzing "The Yellow Wallpaper" through plot, the writer of this thesis would like to do the research by separating the work into two parts. The first part will analyze about the main character's thought and attitude that represent her life under her husband's control. While the second one is about her need to be herself. The analysis tries to see the idea of feminism through these parts.

Each part will write in some points, and after that will be analyzed and connected to the text. This way is to avoid the contradictive analysis. There will be some quotations to prove the analysis and to see that the analysis is relevant to the text.

***Characterization*** is the way of author in revealing her characters. The analysis in this part would be concentrated on the main characters only, the unnamed woman and her husband, John. The writer of this thesis would like to make the analysis about the unnamed woman by seeing her from her husband's eyes (through his thought and feeling of her, also his action and attitude toward her), and of course from herself (through hers). And the same way in analyzing John - her husband, through her feeling, thought and action about him, also from himself. The writer of this thesis tries to find the idea of feminism from this point.

***Setting*** is the time and place where the action of the story is shown as happening. In analyzing the setting of "The Yellow Wallpaper", the writer of this thesis concentrates the attention to the place (house, room, furnitures) taken from the story; the time when it written (the nineteenth-century period); and the environment of the character (mental, social, and emotional conditions). Through these parts of the setting in the story, the analysis would like to see the idea of feminism presented by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

In conclusion, the writer of this thesis would like to see Charlotte Perkins Gilman's conception of the equal rights between men and women by analyzing her work "The Yellow Wallpaper".

## **CHAPTER III**

# **THE AUTHOR AND THE WOMEN'S LIFE IN HER TIME**