

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Theoretical Concepts and Definitions

2.1.1. Theories of Character

Character is one of the important elements of the fiction besides title, point of view, plot, setting, theme, atmosphere, and style. Each element of fiction relates one another and each of the elements supports the others. Character can be identified through plot, action, style or events. According to Koesnosoebroto, characters can be distinguished in two types, main or major character and minor character (1988:67). But characters are not only people, in a fable or scientific fiction, for example, the author presents an animal or robot as character that is given the human ability and the human psychology.

In analyzing fictional characters, we need to have a sensitivity to reflect the characters in a novel to what really happen in real life. At this point, Abrams (1988) suggests that a broad distinction is frequently made between alternative methods available to a character in “characterizing” the persons in a narrative, showing and telling (21). When we read a novel, the author only presents the character in dialogues and action and letting the reader to identify what motives and disposition lay over what they say and do.

Based on the theories above, we can conclude that character is the main and absolute element and it cannot be separated from the story. By learning about character, the reader does not just know the behavior of the character, but also can learn their ability and know the character’s psychology.

2.1.2 Main Character

According to Koesnosoebroto (1988:65), main character is the doer of the study which plays the dominant role as a central description in a novel.

Characters can be distinguished in two types, main or major character, and minor character (1988:67) or central character and minor or supporting character. The main character is the most important character in the story. The main character usually dominates the action from the beginning till the end of the story.

Miller says as quoted by Candrawati (2015:16), the main character is a character so central to the action, so continually in his presence, that we expect that the author will explore his make up and motivation most roughly.

Carpenter and Neumeier says as quoted by Azizur (2017: 18). The main character is a central character who acts as the audience surrogate. We experience the story through their eyes. The main character is involved in the story, interacts with the secondary characters, and is personally impacted by the plot's main conflict.

2.1.3 Theories of Characterization

Koesnosoebroto quoting Burroway and Boulton's opinion (1988:111) as follows:

“Characterization is the process of creating characters in fiction. There are two methods of characterization: first is the *indirect method* and the *direct method* is the second. The *indirect method* of presenting a character is authorial interpretation “telling” the reader of the character's background, motives, values, virtues, and the like. Burroway further states that a character may also be presented through the opinion of other characters and this mode of presentation may be considered a second indirect method. The *direct method* is then subdivided into four: appearance, speech, action and thought. Appearance is especially important because our eyes are our most highly developed means of perception and we receive more non-sensuous information by sight than by any other sense. What people wear, what they look like that prompt our first reaction to them. Appearance is the representation of the character' inner self. Features, shape, style, clothing, object, can make statements of internal values that are political, religious, social, intellectual and essential. Speech, however, reveals a character in a way that is different from appearance, because speech represents an effort, mainly voluntarily, to externalize, the internal and to manifest not merely taste or preference but also deliberated thought. Speech tries to combine logic with emotion. People communicate each other with speech; through speech we express their beliefs, fears, and feelings in conversation or dialogue. Thirdly, people can say one thing and do another, it is an action. A character can be revealed in action by showing how he moves and talks. The last, Koesnosoebroto quotes Boulton's opinion (1988:121) that another method of characterization is the use of stream of consciousness in which we are given an attempted representation of what is going through the character's mind or thought.”

Meanwhile, Carpenter and Neumeier (1974:79-80 as quoted by Heny 2017 : 12) state that there are many clues to a person's motivations and personality, but one must tend to rely on five: words, backgrounds, actions, appearance and opinion of others. 1) words. Real and fictional people express their thought, hopes, beliefs, fear and feelings in conversation or dialogue. However, we can not simply listen to the words, we must also interpret them, deciding how much to believe as truth, how much to discredit, 2) background. Modern psychology and sociology have made us acutely aware of the cultural, religious, ethnic, racial and family background that shapes lives. A human being, these sciences tell us, does not exist apart from his or her "setting" anymore than a plant exist apart from the soil that surrounds its roots, we truly want to know someone, then, we must understand how person is a product of the soil that has nourished him or her, 3) actions. Actions speak louder than words. That's why we have to be aware of discrepancies between words and deeds and to be able to discern what both reveal about a character, 4) appearance. Everything about the way a character looks, clothes, posture, make up, hair style contribute to our understanding of him or her. Thus descriptions of appearance must not be slighted for they may contain valuable clues to the author's meaning, and 5). opinion of others. In some stories and in life, we learn much about a person of character from what others have to say about him or her. Then from all these opinions, very partial and we form the total picture for this complicated person. .

Abrams (1972: 84 - 92) believes that characterization must be observed as having at least three principles. *First*, the characters must be consistent in their behavior. Here, they must not behave one way on one action and a different way on another one unless there is a clearly sufficient reason for the change. *Second*, the characters must be clearly motivated in whatever they do especially when there is any change in their behavior. We must be able to understand the reason for what they do, if it cannot be observed immediately, at least, it can be observed in the story. *Third*, the characters must be plausible or

life like, realistic and probable. If the writer can meet the second principle, the third will automatically be realized.

Kenney (1966: 34-36) describes that the author must choose not only what kind of characters he will present, but also by what methods he will present them.. The methods are classified into: discursive method, dramatic method and contextual method. 1. *Discursive method*: this method simply tells about his character and may express approval or disapproval of the story. So, the reader has lack information in illustrating the story. 2. *Dramatic method*: the author allows his characters to reveal themselves to us through their own words and actions. This method should be obvious, more life like and invites the reader's active participation in the story so that it is easy for the readers to understand the characterization of the main character in the novel and to make up the reader's mind in interpreting the character. 3. *Contextual Method*: by the contextual method, we mean the device of suggesting character by the verbal context that surrounds the character. If, for instance, a character is constantly described in terms appropriate to a beast of prey, the reader may well conclude that the author is trying to tell him something. The contextual method can be used effectively only in combination with other methods.

Jones (1968: 54) explains that characterization is the depicting of clear images of a person. There are two methods of characterization: the dramatic and the analytic. In the dramatic, we form our opinions of the characters from what they do and say, from their environment, and from what other characters think of them. In the analytic method, the author comments upon the characters, explaining their motives, their appearance and their thought.

Cohen (1963: 44) describes that characterization is the art of creating fictional characters in words which give them human identity. It is an art of illusion whereby the characters created seem to become people with traits and personalities which a reader can recognize, respond to, and analyze (36). Then he describes that characterization in a novel is presented by the author's

dogmatic assertion that the personage was such, and by an analysis of the personage with generally an account of his/her past (40).

Griffith (1982: 29 - 30) believes that characterization is the author's presentation and development of characters. He defines two methods of characterization: first is the direct method and the indirect method is the second. In the direct method, the author simply tells the reader what the character is like. For example, is Jane Austin telling us in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*, what Br. Bennet is like: She was a woman of mean understanding, little information, and uncertain temper. When she was discontented she fancied herself nervous. The business of her life was to get her daughters married; its solace was visiting and news. When the method of revealing characters is indirect, however, the author shows us, rather than tells us, what the characters are like, through what they say about one another, through external details (dress, bearing, looks etc), through their thoughts, speech, and deeds.

Characterization is the method used by a writer to develop a character. The method includes (1) showing the character's appearance, (2) displaying the character's action, (3) revealing the character's thoughts, (4) letting the character speak, and (5) getting the reactions of others. On the other hand, Rothenberg (1973:293) elaborates that there are three methods of characterization. First, the author explains directly the personality of the characters. Second, the author lets the reader interpret the personality of the characters based on their action. And the last, the writer presents the inner personality of the characters, which show their psychological reaction to uneasy problem.

Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in fiction. Characters are usually presented through their actions, dialect, and thoughts, as well as by description. Characterization can regard a variety of aspects of a character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation or occupation, financial status, marital status, social status, cultural background, hobbies, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ambitions,

motivations, personality, etc. Basically there are two ways an author can convey information about a character: direct or explicit characterization (the author literally tells the audience what a character is like. This may be done via the narrator, another character or by the character him or herself. Indirect or implicit characterization (the audience must deduce for themselves what the character is like through the character's thoughts, actions, speech (choice of words, way of talking), looks and interaction with other characters, including other characters' reactions).

2.2 Theoretical Perspective

I choose some theoretical perspectives considering the studied material is about characterization. Characterization is actually the author's way in characterizing the character in the story or novel.

In this study, I try to apply the characterization of the main characters in *The Secret Life of Bees*. According to Koesnosuebrotu quoting Burroway and Boulton's opinion, characterization is the process of creating characters in fiction. There are two methods of characterization: first is the indirect method and the direct method is the second. The indirect method of presenting a character is authorial interpretation "telling" the reader of the character's background, motives, values, virtues, and the like. And opinion of other characters presentation may be considered a second indirect method. The direct method is then subdivided into four: appearance, speech, action and thought.

2.3 Previous Related Studies

In this thesis, I try to focus his analysis on the characterization of the two main characters of novel *The Secret Life of Bees* which are presented by the me through the methods of characterization. Therefore, the writer takes 4 thesis for references and comparisons.

First, Azizur (2017) who analyzed the characterization of the main characters in her thesis entitled *A Study on the Characters and Characterization in William Shakespeare's All's Well that ends Well* found that there are two

kinds of characters, both of them are round characters, because in the story, their personalities changed.

Second, Primariasari (2017) who analyzed the characterization of the main characters in her thesis entitled *A Literary Analysis on the Characterization of Charles Dickens Barnaby Rudge* found that she used the method of characterization and all the characters are direct method (appearance, speech, action and thought) and indirect method (opinion of others and author's interpretation).

Third, Sulistyowati (2018) who analyzed the characterization of the main characters in her thesis entitled *The Characterization of Main Characters of Thomas Hardy's Far From the Madding Crowd* found that the author gives clear description of each character's characteristic or personality.

Furthermore, fourth related study is Lontokan (2016) who analyzed the characterization of the characters in her thesis entitled *A Literary Analysis on the Characterization in Maria A. Sardjono's Tiga Orang Perempuan* found that she used the method of characterization and all the characters are showing (dramatic) and telling (analytic) method. Fifth, Taryunah (2016) who analyzed the characterization of the characters in her thesis *A Literary Study on the Characterization of Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre*. She focused on the whole character's characterization and she used the method of characterization by dramatic (characters to be revealed indirectly through thoughts dialogues and action) and analytic method (characterized his character by direct statements).

I hope that the results of this study will give a better understanding on characterization, not only for myself, but also for students who are interested in this field. Thus the reader will realize that the main character is important in the story as they play the dominant role of the story.