

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The first method is referred to as the intrinsic approach, while the second is known as the extrinsic approach. Both methods are essential for conducting a comprehensive analysis of the research. The intrinsic approach examines elements such as characterization, setting, plot, and theme, allowing readers to understand the narrative structure and the author's intent. The extrinsic approach, on the other hand, involves applying Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism theory. Through the character of Frances, or Frankie, set in the 1960s in America, the research explores how a woman struggles to define her identity and find meaning in life within a patriarchal system. This chapter will also review previous studies that have utilized de Beauvoir's theory to provide additional context and support for the analysis.

2.1. Intrinsic Approach

This research adopts an intrinsic approach to help the readers comprehend the author's story through characterization, plot, setting, and theme, and further details will be explained in the next chapter. The theory of James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoeper divides the intrinsic approach into several parts:

2.1.1. Characterization

The purpose of characterization is to convey to the reader that the characters portrayed in the novel are actual people or situations that exist in real life. This allows the reader to feel as though they are a part of the story that is being written. In order to describe the characterization that they lived in the storyline, the writer must be able to narrate the character through the point of view, way of thinking, and actions. In their book *Concise Companion to Literature* (1981:27), James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoeper define characterization as the method by which authors build and develop characters within a literary work. Characterization is a technique that authors use to create and develop characters. They emphasize that characterization is an essential component of storytelling, which is utilized to ensure that characters are brought to life and that they are trustworthy. Several significant strategies that authors utilize to accomplish this are outlined by Pickering and Hoeper, including the following:

- a. The first type of direct characterization, also known as expository characterization, is when the author provides the reader with information on the characteristics or personality of a character. The description is typically clear and unambiguous, and it is typically provided by the narrator or another character in the narrative. Without requiring the reader to interpret the acts or language of the character, it gives the reader an immediate understanding of who the character will be.
- b. The second type of character development is known as dramatic or indirect character development. In this approach, the author reveals the personality of the character by observing their actions, speech, thoughts, and interactions with other people. The reader is left to infer the characteristics, motivations, and emotional depth of the character based on these behaviors, which results in a process of comprehension that is more dynamic and engaging.

Pickering and Hooper categorize characters according to their complexity and narrative function:

1. Flat Characters

The characters are simplistic and one-dimensional, exhibiting minimal development. They typically fulfill a singular role in the narrative and are not intended to undergo substantial development.

2. Complex Characters

The characters are complex and multi-dimensional, exhibiting full development. They exhibit a variety of emotions, experience growth or transformation, and more accurately represent real human beings.

3. Static Characters

The characters maintain consistency throughout the narrative. They do not experience substantial growth or internal development.

4. Dynamic Characters

The characters undergo a substantial transformation in their personality, beliefs, or worldview, typically triggered by pivotal events within the narrative.

2.1.2. Setting

The setting of a story in a literary work describes the situation and atmosphere of an important event that the author wants to describe. A writer chooses a story setting, apart from wanting to play on the readers' emotions, they want to criticize an important event. The setting of the story not only includes the time, place, and atmosphere of the story but also contains various other supports such as religion, seasons, morals, and the emotions of the characters or actors. As stated by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoeper (1981:37), setting refers to the time, place, and social environment in which the events of a story or narrative take place. They emphasize that the setting is not just a background element but plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative and influencing characters and events. Pickering and Hoeper break down setting into several components:

1. Physical Setting

This encompasses the geographical setting and the particular physical surroundings of the narrative. It may encompass an entire country or be as specific as a single room within a house. The physical environment can influence the mood, tone, and atmosphere of the narrative and may also mirror the emotional or psychological conditions of the characters.

2. Temporal Setting

This defines the temporal context in which the events transpire. It may refer to a distinct historical era, a certain season, a particular time of day, or even a specific moment in a character's life. The temporal setting establishes the historical, social, and cultural framework of the narrative.

3. Cultural or Social Setting

This includes the social milieu in which the characters reside, including the values, practices, class hierarchies, and cultural conventions of the era and location. This element of setting is crucial in influencing character interactions and the kind of conflicts or obstacles they encounter. It may also indicate wider socioeconomic difficulties.

2.1.3. Plot

As stated by Pickering and Hoeper (1981:14), the plot of a novel or short story is the sequence of events that are purposefully structured in a manner that is interconnected with one another. This sequence serves as the fundamental framework of the narrative. Events invariably involve individuals, making it nearly difficult to explain them without considering character. The plot is frequently structured into five stages, as follows:

1. Exposition

The exposition is the initial segment when the author supplies essential background information, defines the setting, clarifies the situation, and timestamps the action. It may also present the characters and the conflict, or the possibility of conflict.

2. Rising Action

The complication, also known as the rising action, disrupts the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying conflict (if not already established via the exposition). The battle then progresses and intensifies.

3. Climax

The crisis, known as the climax, is the time of peak emotional intensity, serving as the plot's turning point that immediately leads to its conclusion.

4. Falling Action

The falling action occurs after the crisis or turning point has been reached, leading to a reduction in tension as the plot progresses toward its designated end.

5. Denouement (Resolution)

The ending segment of the narrative is its resolution: it documents the conflict's outcome and provides a new equilibrium or stability. It is also known as the finale.

2.1.4. Theme

In a piece of literature, such as a novel, short tale, or other literary work, a literary theme is the central concept or the underlying meaning that the author looks

into. In a story, the theme might be communicated through the characters, the environment, the dialogue, the storyline, or by a mixture of all of these types of aspects.

The definition of 'theme' is a crucial concept that holds varied interpretations among individuals. For others, who perceive literature primarily as a medium for instruction, advocacy, the promotion of a preferred ideology, or the endorsement of appropriate behavior, a theme may refer to the moral or lesson that can be derived from the work, as articulated by Pickering and Hoeper (1981:61).

2.2. Extrinsic Approach

An extrinsic approach was taken in researching the novel "The Women" (2024), using Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism theory. In this chapter, we will find out the history of feminism and the emergence of existentialist feminism.

2.2.1. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of Literature is a field that emerges from the discipline of sociology. Sociology is a social science focused on the study of humans and their societies, whereas literature serves as a discipline that encompasses instructions and guidelines for human actions. The sociology of literature examines literature through a social lens, focusing on society, its environment, and culture. Literary works crafted by authors are shaped by their origins, the society in which they reside, and their own imagination. The sociology of literature can be described as an exploration of the relationship between literature and society, focusing on readers of literary works, the societal context of literary creation, and the public's reception of these works. Research on literary works explores the author's connection to their social life, examining both the form and content aspects of these works. (Alfarhan, 2024)

2.2.2. Feminism

The initial wave of feminism occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, arising from a context of urban industrialism and liberal socialist ideologies. The objective of this movement is to create possibilities for women, emphasizing suffrage. In its formative years, feminism was interconnected

with temperance and abolitionist organizations, amplifying the voices of renowned campaigners, including those of African-American descent. (Rampton, 2015)

The second wave started in the 1960s and persisted into the 1990s. This wave emerged within the framework of the anti-war and civil rights movements, alongside the increasing self-awareness of diverse minority groups globally. The New Left was gaining prominence, and the discourse of the second wave was becoming progressively radicalized. During this era, sexuality and reproductive rights were major concerns, with a significant portion of the movement's efforts directed towards the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, which ensures social equality irrespective of sex. The second wave of feminism was neglected and perceived as less urgent than other social movements, such as Black Power or anti-Vietnam War initiatives, due to its emergence alongside them. (Rampton, 2015)

The initial wave of feminism was predominantly driven by middle-class, Western, white women, whereas the subsequent phase incorporated women of color and those from developing nations, advocating for sisterhood and solidarity, asserting that "Women's struggle is class struggle."

2.2.3. Existentialist Feminist

Existentialism is a philosophical movement that highlights individual autonomy, decision-making, and accountability. It examines the human condition, interrogating the significance of life and the essence of existence. Existentialist philosophers such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir examined concepts of alienation, autonomy, and the absurdity of existence.

Existential feminist thought significantly critiques the constraints imposed by social and cultural frameworks on women's autonomy. It advocates for women to resist oppression and cultivate genuine and significant lives grounded in individual choices.

Despite the fact that existentialism and feminism are philosophical and political movements, their concepts have influenced sociology, particularly in the areas of identity, culture, and gender. Feminist sociologists apply existentialist

concepts to examine the influence of societal structures on individual identities and the ways in which individuals can resist and redefine these systems.

Simone de Beauvoir is a pivotal figure in 20th-century feminist philosophy, particularly due to her renowned publication, "The Second Sex" (Le Deuxième Sexe), released in 1949. In this work, de Beauvoir examines the diverse factors that influence and constrain women's existence under a patriarchal society. Her feminist perspective is profoundly shaped by existentialist philosophy, wherein she asserts that women ought to be regarded as autonomous people rather than objects.

Existential feminism is a feminist concept that emphasizes the notion that women can define their own existence. It highlights that women have the freedom to define their own identities and can choose to align themselves with men (Suhadi et al., 2023). Panza and Gale (2008: 28) describe existentialism as a philosophical concept that enables individuals to lead authentic human lives in a world that may seem absurd and devoid of meaning, as noted by (Martinus & Marsih 2022).

This study focuses on the analysis of the character Frances McGrath or Frankie with the theory of existentialist feminism. There are a few concepts about this theory:

1. Oppression and Objectification

Beauvoir argues in her book "The Second Sex" how women are frequently regarded as "Other," which means that males and patriarchal society perceive them as objects. Consequently, this results in a scenario in which women are not completely acknowledged as independently functioning individuals.

2. Freedom and Choice

It highlights the fact that women, just like other individuals, have the fundamental freedom to make choices and establish the meaning of their own lives that they have the ability to choose. Women, on the other hand, frequently face obstacles in the form of patriarchal social systems that restrict their independence.

3. Self-creation

It is the obligation of women, according to this view, to define who they are and to break free from the traditional roles that have been imposed on them by society. To do this, one must go through a process of self-awareness and acknowledgment of oppression, in addition to a struggle to gain genuine freedom.

4. Existence Precedes Essence

Existential feminist theory, which is in accordance with the broader concepts of existentialism, maintains that there is no permanent essence that defines women; rather, women shape their identities via the experiences and decisions they make throughout their lives.

2.3. Literature Review

There are several references from previous studies that use the same de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism theory. Here is the first research, titled *Existentialist Feminism Reflected in Acevedo's "With the Fire on High,"* which was conducted by Berya Kamayan Adi Martinus and Linusia Marsih in 2022. This first study examines the character of Emoni Santiago, a young girl with dreams and hopes. We learned that Tyrone is Emoni Santiago's lover. They had a serious relationship, and eventually, Emoni became pregnant. However, Emoni was hesitant to marry Tyrone due to her belief that a married woman could potentially impose limitations in their lives. Of course, these limitations depicted the domestic role of women in Emoni Santiago's life, as well as her ability to embrace her conditions and exist in the public sphere through a state of transcendence in *"With the Fire on High."* This study applies Simone de Beauvoir's theory to analyze how societal norms, shaped by patriarchy, confine women to domestic roles rather than allowing them personal choice. Using a descriptive-qualitative approach, the research examines Emoni Santiago's journey from domestic work to a successful culinary career, highlighting her resistance to male dependence. The findings suggest that women can achieve equality by employing four key strategies: acquiring knowledge, becoming transformative agents, and attaining autonomy, ultimately demonstrating their existence beyond patriarchal constraints.

The second research by Putri Anifa Surya Silani's 2023 study explores existentialist feminism in *Because This Is My First Life*, analyzing the character

Yoon Ji Ho and her struggle against societal expectations. In Korean culture, women in their 30s are traditionally pressured to marry, care for their families, and fulfill domestic roles. Despite having a successful career, Yoon Ji Ho experiences an identity crisis due to her unmarried status, highlighting the ongoing tension between personal aspirations and societal norms. The study emphasizes how patriarchal expectations in the 21st century continue to limit women's autonomy, reinforcing the belief that marriage and financial stability are essential to avoid social disgrace. However, Yoon Ji Ho resists these constraints by choosing an unconventional path—cohabiting with Nam Se Hee under a contractual arrangement rather than conforming to traditional marriage norms. Her decision symbolizes a rejection of societal pressures and a pursuit of independence and self-definition. Through this analysis, the research demonstrates that *Because This Is My First Life* is more than just a romantic drama; it serves as a critique of gender roles, shedding light on the struggles women face in contemporary society and their ongoing fight for autonomy, individuality, and equality.

The third research title is “Women Struggle Revealed in Kristin Hannah’s *The Great Alone: Positioning in Legal, Economy and Social Fields*” by Dewi Mustika (2022). The story revolves around thirteen-year-old Lenora Bright (also known as Leni), who lives in Alaska with her parents. Leni was faced with sneers from the environment since her father suffered from post-traumatic syndrome after returning from war. Her father's inability as a male in the household prevents Leni from achieving independence because she needs to assist her mother. This girl gradually learns to live freely and looks for her own distinctive qualities, demonstrating Leni's growth as a woman. Living in Alaska, despite the limits imposed by her surroundings and society, has not prevented Leni from becoming a strong woman. By analyzing this novel through a feminist existentialist lens, we can see how the themes of freedom, identity, and gender relations play a significant role in the journey of the female character and how she deals with the problems that her family confront in a patriarchal world.

The fourth study, entitled "Existentialist Feminism in Andrea Hirata's Novel *Padang Bulan dan Cinta di Dalam Gelas*," was carried out by Muhammad Fatih Suhadi, Pardi, M. Manugeren, T. Thyrhaya Zein, and Devi Pratiwy in 2022. Enong,

a Malay girl, faced significant challenges following the untimely demise of her father in the workplace. As the eldest child, Enong faces the imperative of navigating survival alongside her family; however, the cultural norms and viewpoints prevalent among the people of Belitung Island present significant challenges. There exists a prevailing notion within society that women ought to remain in the domestic sphere, attending to familial responsibilities. Enong faced significant challenges in her quest for suitable employment, ultimately taking on the role of a tin miner, a profession predominantly occupied by men. Concurrently, she dedicated herself to enhancing her English language skills. This research aims to reveal the conventional framework that positions women as cultural objects, suggesting that their autonomy is constrained. This does not align with the fundamental principles of human rights, which assert that every individual possesses equal rights in the pursuit of life. Simone de Beauvoir's theory posits that women not only have the right to procreate but also hold equal rights to those of men. They possess the capacity to engage beyond domestic responsibilities, cultivate their intellectual pursuits, and seek more fulfilling professional opportunities.

The fifth research by Niken Ayu Lestari, Diana Anggraeni, and Tri Arie Bowo was titled "An Analysis of Existential Feminism on Bombshell (2019)". This study by Niken Ayu Lestari, Diana Anggraeni, and Tri Arie Bowo analyzed a film inspired by a true story of three women employed at the American television network Fox News. They are intelligent women in their various domains, yet they were subjected to sexual harassment by the CEO of Fox News himself. Fox News is a news network recognized for its conservative political perspectives. The film depicted male dominance in the workplace, compelling women to endure adverse treatment from their superiors. When individuals publicly address sexual harassment, they must be prepared to face the repercussions. The extraordinary resistance of these women illustrates that they were not merely passive objects within patriarchal work environments. The feminist existentialism theory of Simone de Beauvoir allows us to understand how Bombshell (2019) brought up significant questions of identity, freedom, oppression, and female solidarity. This study employs a descriptive-qualitative research method for data analysis. The

study identified three aspects of women's lives as "the other": (1) the unequal roles of women and men, (2) violence against women, and (3) sexual harassment.

