

Chapter II

Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 New Criticism

New Criticism is a type of Anglo/American criticism that arises in the 1920 until '30s. It became the dominant form of academic criticism until well into the 1960s. "The basic principle of New Criticism is the meaning of the text itself, not from the author's opinion or the reader's experience" (Quinn 284). From this basic statement, New Criticism analyze the literary work just from the text itself without look up from the extrinsic element or writer's view. Quinn also argues that "this explanation is the base. The reader gained critical understanding through a process of "close reading" by such elements as irony, paradox, tension, imagery, and symbol. New Criticism made a major contribution to the vocabulary, understanding, and teaching of literature, particularly in its insistence on the need for a close reading of the literary text"(285). The goal of New Criticism as the close reading of the text can upgrade some elements like vocabulary, understanding and literary.

A very influential English critic, E R. Leavis, " in turning his attention from background, sources, and biography to the detailed analysis of "literary texts themselves," shared some of the concepts of the New Critics and their analytic focus on what he called "the words on the page"(180)." Ransom urges "the emphasis of criticism must move from historical scholarship to aesthetic appreciation and

setting is the place and time frame the story takes place. So the time that appears and the background of the place in literary work is called setting.

In *An Introduction to Literature and Literary Critics* "Setting generally refers to the location of a literary work. The setting is a reference to the placement of a work in both time and place. The locale or environment in which a play is set will determine a lot about it. The setting is often related to the focus or concern of the play" (40). Those statements are appearing that setting is not only talked about place and time but also the environment is the important thing in literary work. And setting is one of the concerns in play.

In other sources Abraham said that setting is the general locale, historical time and also the social circumstance in which the story occurs. Setting also appears the particular physical location that the episode or scene is played. In other terms setting is the signification of director in conception, staging and directing of theatrical performance (285). From this explanation setting includes in three points those are the place, time and also the social circumstance of the literary work.

2.2 Review of the Related Study

The writer reviews some previous studies that are related to the present study. One of them is from Isabella F Dachs, a student from University of Heidelberg entitled *José Saramago's BLINDNESS: Intertwining Form and Content*. Her analysis is about the relationship between the novel stylistic form and content. In *Blindness* found the lack of division in the text such as paragraph, chapter, or quotation mark.

So she takes this lack to be her object of the research and she found the effect of the arrangement of the novel with the reader's engagement with the theme in *Blindness*.

The next reviews, the writer takes from Andreas, a student of university in Universitas Kristen Petra Surabaya entitled *The Effects of the white blindness in Jose Saramago's blindness*. His thesis discusses and find the effect of the white blindness toward the characters in Jose Saramago's *Blindness*. He used conflict theory and characterization. As a result, he found the four effects of the white blindness; they are status and role disruptions, resisting women, marriage betrayal, and stealing and banditry.

From the two previous studies above, the writer concluded that there are many differences between this research with another. In two the previous study, the first is talked about the stylistic especially about the form of the novel and the second previous study talked about the characterization. This research will find the types of setting used by Jose Saramago to depict the situation and condition of the blind city.