

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter is explanation about some theory that will be used by the writer in analyzing novel *Room* by Emma Donoghue. The writer will focus in the life story of Jack and his Ma as the major character. The story are divided into two parts inside and outside the locked room. The writer will use New Criticism as the main theory to analyze the plot line in this study.

2.1.1 New Criticism

Castle stated in his book 'The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory' that the twentieth century is often called an age of criticism, and in the richness and complexity of its systems, the rigor of its application, and the enthusiasm of its espousal of the cause of the literary arts it can wear that title with honor. The New Criticism is an Anglo American variety of Formalism that emerged in the early decades of the twentieth century and dominated teaching and scholarship until the early 1960s. By the end of the First World War, a new generation of poets were experimenting with form and language, and their work could no longer be judged according to the biographical and aesthetic criteria used by traditional critics. Moreover, these poets were publishing their own criticism, and it was this work, especially Eliot's, that created a theoretical foundation for the New Criticism (122).

As the following of Elliot's emphasis I A Richards, with his focus on close textual analysis, inspired the development of the New Criticism in America. (Castle 21)

Leavis in Castle's book is different to Richards, Brooks, and others who wrote extensively about Modernist poetry, Leavis focused on the novel, specifically a closed system of canonical "great" works in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In *The Great Tradition* he notes that the "great novelists" are "very much concerned with 'form'; they are all very original technically, having turned their genius to the working out of their own appropriate methods and procedures" (Castle 126).

In Chumairoh 2015, According to Tyson in *Critical Theory Today*, the New Critics introduced to America and called "close reading". It means that New Critical focus the reader's attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting the text, so that Tyson also called New Criticism as "the text itself" (Tyson 136). The Images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot and so on (137). Richard in Carter's book involved the any consideration of context, historical or social, and of the biography of the author, its scope was limited but it did have one positive effect. It nurtured the close reading of literary texts (Carter 25). Furthermore, in analyzing one of literary text novel, we have to do close reading to understand well about the text. Close reading means the writer analyze some elements which is included in text as character, plot, theme,

George, Ron, and Ginny weasly. Harry Potter is an orphan because of a tragedy. He has two best friends Hermione and Ron. He lives with Ron's family in series which is used by this study. They love Harry Potter as their family, and always caring to him. By using New Criticism, he answer his research questions. He analyze character, characterization, and moral value.

Based on the two previous studies and one article above, there are similarities and differences which is seen in this study. The writer analyze an international novel *Room* by Emma Donoghue. The article and this study focus on Jack and his Ma, but the article only describes their life in the room. The opposing, this study also focuses on Jack and his Ma's life outside the room. The writer puts two thesis that use New Criticism theory. The first and this study are same. It describes about life of a family. But, the differences is that the first study analyze character, characterization, plot, and moral value. And the second previous study also analyze which are in the first previous study, but without plot. It difference to this study that only analyze the plot story without other aspects of close reading in New Criticism. The last, this study does not use Islamic perspective likes in the first and second previous studies.