#### **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,

point of view, symbol, etc. In this study, the writer takes the plot analysis by using New Criticism as the theory.

# 2.1.1.1 Plot

Abrams states that plot in drama or narrative is work based on act and events, because it is given to achieve the effect of certain artistic and emotional (224). Plot has a function as demonstrate the quality of moral and dispositional by the authors. It means story in plot is integral to human experience; the author uses it constantly to make sense out of his experience, to remember and relate events and significant, and to establish the basic patterns of behavior of his lives. (qtd.in Alfisuma 17)

According to Cuddon in dictionary of literary terms and literary theory, plot is the plan, design, scheme or pattern of events in a play, poem or work of fiction; and further, the organization of incident and character in such a way as to induce curiosity and suspense in the spectator or reader. In the space or time continuum of plot the continual question operates in three tenses: why did that happen? Why is this happening? What is going to happen next? (676).

Wellek and Warren state that Narrative structure of novel has traditionally been called the "plot". It is composed of smaller narrative structures, like episodes and incidents. It means, plot includes literary structures. On the other hand, in book 'Fiction', Kennedy and Gioia state that story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. In fact, it is unusual to find a story so clearly displaying the elements of structure that critics have found in many classic works of fiction and drama (12). Its structure are divide into five steps:



1. Exposition

It is the beginning of the fiction. An exposition opening a story by all setting of the scene (if any), introduces the main characters, tells us what happened before the story opened, and provides any other background information that we need in order to understand and care about the events to follow. (12) According to Cuddon, exposition at the beginning of his play the dramatist is often committed to giving a certain amount of essential information about the plot and the events which are to come. He may also have to give information about what has 'already happened'. All this comes under the heading of exposition (296).

2. Complication

Kennedy and Gioia state that complication is the middle section of story begins. This moment introduces the new moment (12). In article Mrs. Welty's Guide to Literary Elements, This part is also called Rising Action. She states that the rising action occurs as you begin to move throughout the story. This is

where conflicts start to build just like when you climb a mountain you are moving further along. (http://edtech2.boisestate.edu)

3. Crisis

Crisis is a moment with high tension. The tension is momentarily resolved (12). It is also known as Conflict. Holman states that conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot. The forces in conflicts are divided into four different kinds as at the first is a struggle against the forces of nature, secondly a struggle against another person, thirdly a struggle against the society, and fourthly a struggle for mastery by two elements within the person. Holman explains the term of conflict not only implies the struggle of a person against someone or something. It also implies the existence of some motivation for the conflict or some goal to be achieved by it. Conflict is the raw material out of which plot is constructed.

4. Climax

Kennedy and Gioia states that climax is the last section of the story. It is the moment of greatest tension at which the outcome is to be decided (12). Holman states climax is the point of highest interest, the point at which the reader makes the greatest emotional response. The term used in this sense is an index of emotional response in the reader. In dramatic structure climax is a term used to designate the turning point in the action, the place at which the rising action reverses and becomes the falling action (84).

#### 5. Resolution

It is the outcome or conclusion. The events which follow the climax in a plot (376). According to Cuddon resolution describes those events which form the outcome of the climax of a play or story. It is also the equivalent of falling action (743). In the same article of Mrs. Welty's Guide to Literary Elements, the Resolution is the solution to the problem as you have reached the bottom of the mountain. The solution might not be what you want, but the conflict has been resolved.

## 2.2 Review of Related Studies

There is no one who analyze novel *Room* in literary thesis, because probably it is included the new novel. But, there is one article from internet that analyze novel *Room*. The writer will put thesis by using plot analysis in New Criticism theory as the previous study in this thesis.

The first previous study is an article *Separation Anxiety* by Aimee Bender on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. In that article, Bender describes room is two different world for Jack and his Ma. Ma feels room is like a prison, it is a room with villain holding the key, and Ma must keep against her will to go outside. The opposite of Jack's feeling that he does not feel trapped in his condition. Jack does not anything about his Ma's will because he is only son. Jack seems happily in doing routine activity where he sees his Ma all day. But, Ma achieves to make the best life for Jack as creating

exercise, singing, and reading. She always understandable her condition with Jack in room.

Secondly, is thesis with the title *A Rejection of Saleem Sinai and His Family to Islamic Sharia' as Reflected in Midnight Children : New Criticism Studies* by Amelia Dewi Novitasari, the student of Islamic State University Sunan Ampel Surabaya on 2016. In her study, Novitasari described New Criticism aspects reflected in *Midnight Children*. She analyzes the form of Saleem Sinai and his family's rejection to Islamic sharia and the effects of that rejection. The characters of Saleem's family are Adam Aziz, Naseem, Saleem Sinai, Amina Sinai, and Ahmed Sinai. The fact, Saleem as the main character was not a biological family members. Unfortunately his father was getting bankrupt and becoming a person with worse attitude. Then, his father was die and Saleem's family disappear one by one because the war between India and Pakistan. Finally, he becomes alone. By using New Criticism, she tries to answer the research questions in her study. She analyze character, characterization, plot, and moral value.

Thirdly, *The Acts of Loving the Orphan in J.K. Rowlings's Harry Potter 'Harry Potter and the order of Phoenix'* by Ahmad Syamsudin on 2014, he also the student of Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. He described the acts of loving based on New Criticism, although he did not mention it in his title. The main character is an orphan Harry Potter in Harry Potter and the order of Phoenix. The acts are done by Ron's family. They are Mr. and Mrs. Weasly, the twin Fred and

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.