

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

This chapter focuses on the discussion of the theory which is going to be used in this study. Conducting with research questions, because this study analyzing the plot, character and characterization, New Criticism is a fixed theory the researcher used to this research.

2.1 New Criticism

The first name of 'New Criticism' was created by John Crowe Ransom, the man well-known as the 'philosopher General of the New Criticism' (Jancovich 11). Ransom's book *The New Criticism* has stated that students of the future must be permitted to study literature (Lodge 230). When studying Literature, students can learn that language can be used for specific and aesthetic purposes.

New Criticism focuses on the close reading or close analysis of a text. It is what New Criticism introduced and it is a fundamental tool in today's modern literary criticism. This theory has the concepts concern to the importance of textual proof to support the reading of literature (Tyson 117). It emphasizes the formal structure of literary works, and there is not involving about author's life and social reaction out of the literary works (Sharma 702). New Criticism has been considered a school of the formalist movement and both are closely associated with modernism of which focused mainly on the literary form of a text. The New Criticism's term of 'close reading' means the carefully analysis of a text with

involved its structure, including syntax, figures of speech, and so on. In this way, a New Critic tries to verify the “formal elements” of the text, such as characterization, setting of time and place, point of view, plot, images, metaphors and symbols to interpret the text and find the theme. New Critics primarily concerned with the language (verbal meaning) and the organization (overall structure) of a text. This theory is searching for meaning in the structure of the text. It can be found by examines the text by the close reading and analyzing the formal elements (elements that form the text) within the text (Sharma 702-703). New Criticism also examine all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself is including its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot and so forth (Tyson 199).

New Criticism claim the text itself is the only source that a critic should focus on, so text as the only reference. It also deals with how a work can be read objectively and accurately by examining the structure and form (Sharma 709). Since New Criticism is concerns to the internal aspect of the text, it is built by intrinsic elements which are interrelated each other to build the structure of the text itself (qtd in Setiawati 4). Analysis the text within intrinsic element is only focus on the text itself without looking out the other aspect (Robert 11).

Within this study, the researcher analyzing the intrinsic elements of novel *The Constant Mistress* is only focused on the plot, character and characterization.

2.1.1 Plot

Plot has an important role in the story because Stanton argued that plot is the backbone of whole the sequence in story (13). To understanding the plot, some theorist explained what is the meaning of plot. In general description, plot is the storyline. Nurgiyantoro stated plot is an important intrinsic element in the fiction. The explication of the plot means the clarity of the story (110). While, Kenny said plot is an event present in a story since the author arranges it by basis of cause and effect (14). According to Froster, plot is an event which has an emphasis on causal relationships (93). Plots in fiction are structures of events, as seen in the sorting and presentation of events to achieve emotional effects (Abrams 13).

The function of plot is to shows the story line and to understanding the reader while reading a literary works such as novel and short story (Qtd in Diaz 14). Plot has its own laws to get its role in the story, it must has a true beginning, middle and end. It also presents the interesting point such as make the readers feel surprise, emotional, curiosity, and fear. Beside that, the movement of plot from the beginning until the end must be logically, rational, and plausible (Murphy 14-15).

A story can be called plausible if the characters and the world depicted in the story can be imagined by the reader (Stanton 13). The plausibility of the plot means can be understood by readers. The plausibility relate to the life reality, its means something exist and happen in real life. If plot is plausible, so it easy to make it sense in the reader's though. If the characters are expressed consistently, and there is no contradiction in attitude in a character itself, for example between

the actions and behavior in accordance with the way of thinking and attitude, it makes the reader easy to imagine. That is what plausible means. But, the plausibility of the story does not mean merely a mere imitation of reality, but rather because it has the coherence of life experience from which it originally appears to be coherent and becomes a make sense experience if intertwined in the plot structure (Kenny 22).

The formula of plot the researcher apply in this study came from Abram. The plot structure is beginning, complication, climax, and ending (Abrams 161).

2.1.1.1 Beginning/ Exposition

Beginning also called exposition of story. It is the first part to make the readers know about the beginning situation or acts present in the story. It is the necessary thing to the readers because it involved a first understanding. This part commonly provide of the introduction of the characters, a sketch of the background and the explanation about situation (Abrams 161).

While, Nurgiyantoro has stated, this section contain introduction of background situation and character. This stage functioned as an initial information giver, and others to compare the story told in the next stage (150).

2.1.1.2 Complication

From the exposition move to continued part called complication or rising action. Based on Abrams, this section usually displays an introduction of some difficult thing and problems that character faced. This situation keeps on complexity and tensions of the problems until it reaches to the climax (161).

Dramatic events increase intensify and become the core of the ever-increasing and tense the story, conflict, clash of interests, problems, and figures leading to climax increasingly unavoidable.

2.1.1.3 Climax

In this part, climax also called the peak of the story problem. The conflicts that occur reach to the peak. Climax in the story experienced by the main character burdened by the main problem. Beside, the highest point from the actions or the greatest expectancy and the climax is the result from cumulative effect of the previous incidents (Robert and Jacob 101).

2.1.1.4 Denouement

The ending of the story in plot structure in Abram is also called resolution and ending. The conflicts that have reached the climax are settled, the tension is relaxed. Other possible conflicts or sub-conflict, or additional conflict if any, are also given a way out and the story is terminated. This stage is the closing stage of the entire plot structure above. According to Jacob and Robert, the ending part of plot is the final part that is in a story. The settlement of the previous conflict has already been addressed (102).

2.1.2 Character and Characterization

2.1.2.1 Character

The term 'character' is refers to the figures that exist in the story. Jones argued, character is a clear description of a person featured in the story (33). A character is a person that displayed in narrative story that can be indicated by expression, acts, and having a moral quality in the way verbally and nonverbally

(Abrams 20). Mason states, character must be believable and consistent. However, character should be imitated to the real person in daily life and also be natural and has the nature of lifelikeness (9).

2.1.2.1.1 Major and Minor Character

Based on the important views, the basic character divided in two types. Those are major and minor. Major character is more known as main character, it plays the biggest role because it more appeared in the whole of the story and much involved in the events presented in the story which appear in directly and indirectly ways. In other hand, minor character is character that is present to be supported the main character. The role of minor character is less than the main character because it is not much involved to the events in the story (Abrams 20).

2.1.2.1.2 Flat and Round Character

The categorization of character divided into flats and round character and it must be preceded by the analysis of characterization. After the description of the attribution is obtained, we can categorize the flat and round (Froster 75).

Flat character is a character which has only one characterization of a certain personality. Flat character usually appear in the story by not much involve the side of flat character's life. It usually expressed with a monotonous character. For example, 'he was a yield toward fate'. While, round character is complex. Round character can display a variety of behaviors. The round character resembles real human life, because in addition to having various possibilities of attitude and action, it also often gives surprises to the readers (Abrams 21).

2.1.2.1.3 Static and Dynamic Character

The criteria for the inclusion of characters in a story can be divided into static character and dynamic character. According to Altenbernd & Lewis, static character essentially person in the story who have not experienced to change or develop as an effect of events that occurred. Static character has less involved and unaffected for the environmental changes that occur because of the influence of human relationships. Also, a static character has a fixed relative character and do not develop from the beginning to the end of a story (58). On the other hand, a dynamic character undergoes the changes and develop of events in the plot. The developing character can be seen by how character has an interaction with the environment that will all influence the attitude and behavior. It can be effected to the psyche and cause the changes and developments in attitude, behavior and characterization (Altenbernd & Lewis 58).

2.1.2.2 Characterization

Beside, the characterization is the author's manner to display the character in the story. The term of characterization is more widely from the meaning of character itself because the characterization involved the problem of the character such as who is the character, how is the character's characterization, and how it can give clearly visualized toward the readers to understanding the story (Altenbernd & Lewis 58).

However, character can make a story reliable and becomes an interesting point to discuss. In order to build a full and clearly portrait of the character becomes alive, an author uses characterization. In other hand, characterization is

very important point since the readers can explore the novel by pay attention on the character's actions, how is character's speech, the action and the comment of the other character to understand well about the idea of the story (Holman2).

There are some methods to define characterization. Altenbern & Lewis presents a characterization of the character in the novel as below.

2.1.2.2.1 Personal Trait

This technique can be described by direct description or explanation. Not convoluted, but the author describes just like that and immediately accompanied by the character's character through attitude, behavior, or even physical characteristics such as the body, the skin color, the thing character like and dislike, big or small, and some else (Altenbern & Lewis 56).

2.1.2.2.2 Speech

Based on Altenbern & Lewis understanding about this speech technique, conversations conducted by the character is usually also intended to describe the character of the person concerned. The form of conversation in a work of fiction, especially novel, generally present too much. But not all conversations reflect the character's stance. What is meant in this speech technique is a good conversation, effective, more functional. That is to shows the development of the plot and also determined the identity of the characters. The readers must pay attention through the conversation of other people or the things they say about the character, because sometimes the author gives a clue to understand character's personality by using other conversation and what they

opinion about the character intended. From this manner, the readers can get information to understanding the characteristic of the character (21).

2.1.2.2.3 Self Reaction

The author gives reaction to the clue what a characteristic character's has by describing how the other character reacts and responds to various situation and condition in the events. Self reaction is the reaction of a character to an event, the problems, the circumstances, the words, the attitude, the behavior of others, and the form of the stimulation of the person's self. How the character's reaction to these things can be viewed as a form of appearance that reflects the nature of his selfhood.

2.1.2.2.4 Other Reaction

Other reaction is the reaction of another character who is intended as a reaction given by other figures to the main character, or figures studied about character's self, in the form of views, opinions, attitudes, comments and others, the reaction of other figures is also a characterization technique to inform the character to the readers.

2.1.2.2.5 Thoughts

In this technique, the person's character can be seen from how the circumstances and the way of their mind and feelings. What goes through their head and what they often thinks, in this case determines who the characteristic of the character is (Altenbern & Lewis 76).

2.1.2.2.6 Behavior

If speech technique is meant to designate verbal behavior in the words of the characters, the technique of behavior refers to nonverbal action. Physical activity includes behavior and in many ways is seen as the nature and attitude that reflects the character's characterization.

2.1.2.2.7 Consciousness

However, consciousness is a narrative technique that seeks to capture the views and streams of the mental processes of the personage, in which the sensory responses are mixed with the consciousness and awareness of the thoughts of feelings, memories, and expectations. This technique reveals the process of inner life. This technique is also often equated with inner monologues. It is useful for knowing character's characterization through thoughts, emotions, passions, responses, past life and memories (Abrams 187).

2.1.2.2.8 Background Description

The background around the character will appropriately support the characterization technique even though the background itself is the outer part of the characterization. However, this technique also serves as a situation against a story that will useful to help to characterized the character (Altenbern & Lewis 79).

2.2 The Relationship between Plot and Character

Plot can be manifested through the acts, behaviors and attitudes of the main characters in the story in way of verbally or nonverbally. Plot itself is a reflection or can be interpreted as a way of behavior of the characters in the act of thinking, feeling and behave in face up the various problems of life. Events, deeds of the behavior of human life in the story can be plot if it is contains elements of conflict, interrelated, and most importantly is interesting to tell and because between the plot and the characters in the story is dramatic (Froster 94). As well as the plot, character also has a important role in the prose. However, plot may seen as the backbone of the story itself, but the question is, who is in the story through the plot, who is do the acts and what happen with the actor in events that described in the plot. But, it does not mean plot can be ignored because clarity about characters and characterizations in many ways depends on the plot (Stanton 17).

Plot is a carefully thought-out plan in which all the event, all the action and reaction of the characters, contribute toward the forward movement of the story (Murphy134). So, it is clear between character and plot are cannot stand alone without support each other. However, plot shows the movement of the events that involved so much roles of the character in the story. The character and every action that done by character created a plot in the story. Therefore, from the plot also, the intrinsic elements in the novel can appeared such as a theme, and does not rule out the possibility find the changing character of the figure in the story (qtd in Diaz 32).

2.3 Review of Related Studies

There are some graduating papers that has similar examining with this study:

The first paper is entitled “An Analysis of Plot and Characterization in Rusli’s *Siti Nurbaya Kasih tak Sampai*” written by Wisnu Maulana Syahrir (2013), the student of English Letters in Wijaya Putra University of Surabaya. He analyzed the characters of Siti Nurbaya and Samsul Bahkri. He also analyzed the plot to know how is the story line presented in the novel. This paper using New Criticism in analyzing this case. However, the researcher only focuses on the finding the most important character involved in *Kasih Tak Sampai* novel by Rusli and how plot develops in the story.

The second paper is came from UIN SunanAmpel Surabaya entitled “*Tris’s Journey To Reveal The Truth Of Divergent Characterization In Veronica Roth’s Insurgent Novel: New Criticism Study*” written by Niyar Andria Risma (2016). The student in English Department.Faculty of Letters and Humanities. In her research, the objectives of the study are to describe the journey of Tris in novel and to know the goals of Tris journey. This study identifies the reasons why Tris did the journey and the process that she had been through in order to find truly Divergent characterization.The method that is used in this study is qualitative descriptive method by analyzing of intrinsic elements by using plot theory to find out the process of Tris journey to reveal the truth of Divergent characterization in new criticism study. It uses library based study to collect

books, journal, and internet sources having related with this analysis. According to New Criticism, the appropriate method that used in this study is close reading.

Both of them have similar with this research because using New Criticism as the primary theory and focuses on the main character as a subject to analyze. Plot also has an important point to analyze because it defines the interesting point in the research. The differential both of them toward this research is they only used plot to know the story lines and to know the journey of the character's life. But, this research use plot to reveal the changing character.

The third graduating paper that relates to the subject of this research is written by Michael Rigel Diaz (2013) with the title of his paper "*Theme Revealed from the Character and Plot in Cormac McCarty's The Road*". He is the student in Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta. Although in his research is concerned to reveal the theme, his paper also examines the main character of the novel, and analyzing the plot develops by seen the structure in the beginning, middle and end. This study also used New Criticism theory to analyze and to finding how plot and character depicted the theme.

Another paper that relates to this case of study is a journal written by WahyuSetiawati (2016). Her paper is to fulfillment of the requirements for the final test of last year in Mataram University. She is student in English Education Program Language and Art Department Faculty Of Teacher Training and Education. This thesis entitled "*The Analysis of Intrinsic Elements in The Little Prince; A Novel by Antoine De Saint Exupery*". This research is aimed at analyzing and finding out the intrinsic elements in novel The Little Prince. This

research use New Criticism to dealing with the finding of plot, character, tone, style, setting and characterization. In addition, the researcher also found the way those intrinsic elements are inter-related to one another.

Actually, this study is similar to the both above that is focuses on finding the intrinsic element. The same thing that makes this study relates each other is using New Criticism theory to analyze the study. What makes this study different from the other above is the involvement of another intrinsic element in the research not only focuses on two intrinsic elements that are about character and plot. However, this study will examine the main changing character from plot develops using New Criticism theory. Therefore, it will be clear how plot and character has interrelates each other to describe how the main character is characterized and to find how person's character can change by the plot in some stage.