

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This part is centered to on discussing some theories which are going to be used as a guide of conducting this research. The writer uses two theories as literary devices. Firstly, the research uses New Criticism to present definition of character and characterization to analyze about the characterization, especially Lena as one of main character in this novel. Secondly, in accordance with the problem the writer uses Existentialism theory. Instead of using other branch theories of Existentialism, this study employs Existentialism theory by Jean Paul Sartre and focuses on Lena's decision.

2.1.1 New Criticism

According to Tyson New Criticism is the main tool in an analysis to reveal the true meaning of a text based on the text itself (136). It means that New Criticism does not need the author's background and intention or the reader response to get the meaning of the text. Because it based on the text itself, New Criticism's main focus is the formal elements that depicted in the text which will work together to build the organic unity text (136).

New Criticism asserts that text of literary works is a complete system or structure. As complete structure of literary work, text of literary

work is constructed by element points that have correlation each other to make a meaning. In the other words, a New Critic attempts to the study of 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 which all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself (Tyson 137). Bressler also stated in his book that New Criticism does not even need to find extra textual information outside of the text, the text itself contains all necessary information to discover the meaning (55). Therefore based on the New Criticism, the writer chooses character and characterization to analyze the novel.

2.1.1.1 Character

In a literary work, a character is depicted through both narrative and dialogue. Characters can be flat, minor characters or round and major. Character in fiction can have many roles and purposes, all of them dictated by the writer’s intent and style (Hoffman 36). Tomlinson states that people like to read literary work because of character emerging in there. In the literary work such as drama, short story and novel, character is an important element which will always be present to build a story in the literary work because it includes one of the elements forming literary works. Characters are another element of fictional vital to the enjoyment of the story (29).

Talking about characters in a fictional story, characters are the people who appear and experience life stories in fictional work, it can be simply said

that characters are people who are included in the story. Character is a brief descriptive sketch of a personage who typifies some definite quality (Holman 74). Just like us in the real world, characters act, speak, think, also face some problems, and so on. Besides, they can be characterized as good, bad, kind, generous and any other types of human quality. In accordance to Holman, Baldick states that character is a personage in a narrative or dramatic work and it is also a kind of prose sketch briefly describing some recognizable type of person (37).

According to Abrams, character is a person in a dramatic or narrative work which naturally processes moral dispositional qualities that are expressed through the dialogue and action (20). It means that character in the story has relevancy with reader response; actually the reader will give interpretation about the character in the story by themselves. Interpreting character's moral qualities can be performed through analyzing the characters' speaking, doing, and thinking. By exploring the characters, readers can get some moral lessons implemented in real life since the character exactly possesses a strategic position to deliver messages, values, and all things that the author wants to give to the readers (Nurgiantoro 167).

In fiction, characters are divided into some types. Based on its significance role in developing a story, characters are separated into major and minor character. Major or main character refers to character which appears in almost all or totally in the whole story. He or she is character which is mostly told and always relates with other characters. Meanwhile, minor character is

character which appears only in some part of the whole story and he or she is told less than major character. Minor character may exist just when they are having correlation with the major character (Nurgiantoro 176).

Altenbern and Lewis, in *A Handbook for the Study of Fiction*, presented another division on character. It hangs on its function that characters are two, protagonist and antagonist character. Protagonist can be plainly said as a hero, a character which presents ideal norms and perfect values based on us. Therefore, readers often identify protagonists as part of who they are, give sympathy and antipathy, and also emotionally connect their own selves with character. Antagonist, in opposite with protagonist, is character that causes conflicts. Antagonist commonly called as a villain that usually against a hero. In some cases, an antagonist may exist within the protagonist that causes inner conflict or a moral conflict inside the story (59).

By knowing about character widely, it helps to make easy to analyze Lena Duchannes. This study focuses on main character named Lena Duchannes. It will help to get more knowledge about Lena Duchannes, so we can know about her character in this story.

2.1.1.2 Characterization

Character is one of the most important elements in a text. There are no other formal elements such as plot, setting, even the theme can work without character. Then, character usually followed by characterization. Richard Gill stated that character is generally known as a person in literary

work while characterization is the way in which a character is created. In this case, character is only the figure of a person that created by the author and characterization completed it with physical description, attitude, and even how they think and act in the text. So, to make the differences between character and characterization is by calling the character as the product while characterization as the method (127).

Characterization refers to the way an author develops the fictional people who populate a novel. Characterization is how an author helps us to get to know all of the character in a book. An author might develop a character through dialogue and action. Commonly, in characterizing the characters, there are two ways that an author usually used. Those are direct and indirect characterization. Using direct manner means that the author describes directly about the character. The author attributes the qualities of characters in direct description. Meanwhile, in indirect manner of characterization the author does not merely tell the characters by showing them to the readers through how the character looks, what the character does, what the character says, what the character thinks, and how the characters affect other characters (Baldick 37). From these five things, the reader can understand and get a clear description of the character's personality.

Furthermore, another distinction of characterization drawn by Abrams and Harpham in *A Glossary of Literature*, they said that there is a broad distinction which is frequently made between alternative methods for characterizing the person in a narrative that are showing and telling. It doesn't

differ so far from direct and indirect way that in showing which is also called the dramatic method, the author simply presents the characters talking and acting, and leaves it entirely up to the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and action, but also a character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events; for a highly developed mode of such inner showing. In telling, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (43-44). Telling methods is a method of characterization in which the author declares directly what and how the is like; beautiful, smart, greedy, ambitious, and so forth.

Holman also states that there are three fundamental methods of characterization in fiction: (1) the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct exposition, either in an introductory block or more often piecemeal throughout the work, illustrated by action; (2) the presentation of the character in action, with little or no explicit comment by author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actor from the action; and (3) the representation from within a character, without comment on the character by the author, of the impact of the action and emotions upon the character's inner self, with the expectation that the reader will come to a clear understanding of the attributes of the character (76).

So character and characterization cannot be separated each other. Also, characters become an important point to analyze in this study. The writer tries

to reveal Lena Duchannes's decision to resist against her family tradition and her want to become a Light Caster, the doing and the thought of characters involved.

2.1.2 Existentialism

Existentialism believed as a lived philosophy that must be understood and explored through how one lives their life rather than a system that must be studied from books, it is not unexpected that much existentialist thought can be found in literary form such as novels and plays, and not just in the traditional philosophical work. Indeed, some of the most important examples of existentialist writing are literary rather than purely philosophical (Cline 7). Stanley Cavell quoted in Endaswara states that philosophy and literature are influential mutually that is the most dominant influence between philosophy and literature can be found messages and contents in works (12). It means that literature and philosophy are two knowledges which have close each other. Thus literature can express a variety of ideas about life through the view of character or theme work itself.

The term existentialism refers to a literary movement of the mid-twentieth century which focuses on human being including individual existence and individual freedom based on consciousness to their self. Existentialists believe that a particular individual is not the way he is because God made him that way, or because he is part of a great human community with common characteristics. He is the way he is because that's how he is. He is an individual; he is unique and independent. His destiny is his own, his

choices are his own to make, and he should make the choices that are right for him (Lannone 207). In addition, Lannone said that existentialism can be said to emphasize the question “who am I?” instead of the questions “what am I?” or “what is it to be human?” (207)

Existentialism is a philosophical movement that analyses the concept of human existence in the world taking into accounts the subjective states of human, freedom and choice. The main problem is what the differences between human and things are, and the basic different between human and thing is human realize its existence in the world and always ask about the meaning of existence while thing does not. So, that is only human who is able to show its existence and thing will has a meaning because of human’s existence itself (Anhari 150).

Thomas Flynn also states that existentialism is a philosophy concerned with finding self and the meaning of life through free will, choice, and personal responsibility. The belief is that people are searching to find out who and what they are throughout life as they make choices based on their experiences, beliefs, and outlook. And personal choices become unique without the necessity of an objective form of truth. An existentialist believes that a person should be forced to choose and be responsible without the help of laws, ethnic rules, or traditions (34).

There are many figures who poured thought of existentialism in their works and their thought can be found in the literature. One of the most well-known among the figures of Existentialism is Jean Paul Sartre.

2.1.2.1.1 Freedom

According to Sartre, human first of all exist, encounter himself, rushes up in the world and defines himself afterwards. A person can choose to act in different way, and to be a good person instead a cruel person. It is also clear that since humans can choose to be either cruel or good, they are, in the fact, neither of these things essentially. The being-for-itself uses despair to embrace freedom and take meaningful action in full acceptance of whatever consequences may arise as a result. Besides, people must take responsibility for their behavior, it realize that they are responsible not just for themselves, but for all humanity (Baird & Kaufmann 17-18).

People cannot justify the other actions by appeal to anything outside themselves, and people have no excuses for anything the others do. People are "thrown" into the world as free beings, and insofar as this is a bad thing, they can say that they are "condemned to be free." Whereas earlier philosophers of both the classical and modern eras maintain that passions are human reason and must be subdued if we are to be happy, Sartre considered passions to be a cognitive response to one's environment. They are an attempt to transform the world magically into being the way we would wish it to be (Mattey 23).

2.1.2.1.2 Responsibility

Sartre also mentions that freedom is related with responsibility, both of them are inseparable each other. The freedom – the responsibility - that what everyone wants and a fight is not a pleasant thing. Conversely, freedom often

practically identifies with being human. The source of anguish lies in the claim that in choosing for ourselves, we choose for all of humanity. The resulting deep responsibility is what makes us anguished, and to deny that this is the case is to lie universally, that is, to lie about a matter that has consequences for all of humanity. Anguish bubbles to the surface when we face choices that have to be made without adequate information. One has to act, but one has no proof that the action is right (Kauffman 176).

2.1.2.1.4 Subjectivité (subjectivity)

Quoted in G. J. Mattey book, Sartre considered the subjectivity of the starting-point for what a human is as a key thesis of existentialism. The starting-point is subjective because humans make themselves what they are. Most philosophers consider subjectivity to be a bad thing, particularly when it comes to the motivation for action. The subjectivity of the basis of action is thought to preclude objectivity and universality (34).

Sartre responds by claiming that subjectivity is a dignity of human being, not something that degrades people. One reason is that subjectivity is, in his view, uniquely possessed by humans. It sets us up above the rest of being, which is a brute, inert, in-itself. Moreover, it is precisely because of people subjectivity that they are responsible for their own actions(67).

2.1.2.1.5 Engagement

Someone who takes responsibility must be committed or engaged. People have a responsibility for their actions. By acting, people create a certain essence for society "by choosing for oneself, man chooses for all men" because any action which one takes affects the rest of humanity. From the moment when people make a choice, *he is committed*. One must not renege on one's responsibility, nor must one place the responsibility for one's actions onto the shoulders of someone else. Man should not regret what he has done. An act is an act (Cave 78).

Commitment Man must not be indifferent to his surroundings. He must take a stand, make choices, commit himself to his beliefs, and create meaning, goal, or purpose through action. As with a man shooting a gun in the air or directly at a target, it's better to have a target, a message. In a literary work the readers should feel the responsibilities; the author should incite the readers to action, infuse an energy into them. Sartre is interested in a "historical public" he addresses himself to the public of his times. Ideally, an author should write for a universal audience, but this is possible only in a classless society (Theodore 46).

2.2 Literary Review

In order to enlarge the knowledge about this study, the writer uses some review studies having relation with the topic about *Lena's Decision in Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl* in some aspects.

Firstly, Agus Choerul Jami (2015) is student of Sultan Agung Islamic University (UNISSULA) and his thesis is *Defense Mechanism Of Lena Duchannes As Reflected in Kami Garcia And Margaret Stohl's Novel Beautiful Creatures*. In his thesis, he analyzes about defense mechanism of Lena Duchannes. The thesis aims to analyze the anxiety and defense mechanism of Lena Duchannes through the novel. The result of his thesis analysis found several things. Firstly, Lena Duchannes experiencing three types of anxiety; moral anxiety, neurotic anxiety and real anxiety. Secondly, in the case of eliminating her anxiety, Lena Duchannes uses several defense mechanisms.

Secondly, Shabrina Cintysa P. (2015) is student of Gadjah Mada University and her thesis *Comparative Study On Popular Literature: A Reader Response Critic On Stephenie Meyer's Twilight And Kami Garcia And Margaret Stohl's Beautiful Creatures*. In her discussion of the graduating paper is limited on the analysis of the comparison of the elements in *Twilight* and *Beautiful Creatures* which are related to readers' interest when they read those novels. Her thesis uses a reader response theory as the important tool in pragmatic approach proposed by Tompkins is applied in the research. Besides, the writer tries to reveal from both of the novel which one more interesting for the readers.

Based on the review studies above, the writer knows that the research has similarities with the other review studies about same novel *Beautiful Creatures*, written by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl. The differences

