

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer will discuss about some literary theories to support the description in the next chapter. They are Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis which specifically in personality structure, new criticism that focus on character and characterization and the concept of ambition. This study uses new criticism theory to find out how the character of Amir in the novel. Meanwhile, psychoanalysis theories and concept of ambition also used to analyze how the ambition of Amir's to redeem his guilt is revealed.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

A research needs some important concepts and theories that are related to the problem in order to help the analysis. The usage of theories and concepts are very important to support the analysis. Therefore, actually an analysis cannot be committed without involving related theory. Hence, this study utilizes some related theories and concepts to help in conducting the research. The whole theories will be stated specifically in this chapter. In analyzing Amir's ambition toward his guilt in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, this study uses psychoanalysis as the main theory, new criticism theory and the concept of ambition as supporting theory.

2.1.1. Freudian Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is established by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). As a general theory of individual human behavior and experience, psychoanalysis ideas enrich and are enriched by the study of the biological and social sciences, group behavior, history, philosophy, art, and literature. The psychoanalysis framework stresses the importance of understanding that each individual is unique; there are factors outside of a person's awareness (unconscious thoughts, feelings, and experiences) which influence his or her thoughts and actions, and human beings are always engaged in the process of development throughout their lives. Tyson argues when we look at the world through a psychoanalysis lens, we see that it is comprised of individual human beings, each with a psychological history that begins in childhood experiences in the family and each with pattern of adolescent and adult behavior that are the direct result of that early experience (11).

Tyson states that the goal of psychoanalysis is to help us resolve our psychological problem, often called disorder or dysfunction and none of us is completely free of psychological problems; the focus is on patterns behavior that are destructive (29). It means that psychoanalysis theory can be implemented to analyze literary works. It can help reader to understand human behavior, and then it must be certainly be able to help them understand literary works; especially those are about human behavior.

Hall states that the total personality of human as conceived by Freud consist of three mayor systems. These are called id, ego, and superego (22). Freud's

psychoanalysis theory of personality asserts that human behavior and personalities are the result of the interaction of three component parts of the mind; id, ego and superego. By working together cooperatively they enable the individual to carry out the fulfillment of basic needs and desires (qtd. in Melia 32).

Hence, the three major systems of personalities have their own way to work. Yet, to fulfill human needs, desires included the pleasures and satisfactions, the three-physic areas must be tided in a harmony. Conversely, when the three structure of personality are at odds with one another or in unharmonious condition, the person cannot be said maladjusted when they live in normal society. In this case, normal society is the society that arranged by social norms and they are who obeys to the social values which prevails in that societies.

a. Id

Id is the seat of innate desire and the main source of psychic energy (Miller 112). *Id* is an important part of human personality because it allows them to get the basic needs. It is the most primitive part of the personality and the first part to develop.

Id wants immediate satisfaction, in accordance with the pleasure principle. The energy of id is invested either in action on an object that would satisfy an instinct or in images of an object that would give partial satisfaction (Miller 112). *Id* operates according to the pleasure principle. It aims to fill the pleasurable things and away from painful things. *Id* also aims to satisfy the biological urges and drives, for instance, feelings of hunger, thirst, sex, and other natural body desires that aimed to

deriving pleasure. Basically, *id* does not care about reality and about the needs of anyone else. *Id* only cares about own satisfaction.

In line with statement above, *id* is not governed by laws of reason or logic, and it does not possess values, ethics, or morality. It is driven one consideration only, to obtain satisfaction for instinctual needs in accordance with the pleasure principle (qtd. in Melia 32). It means that *id* is the place of human instinct that must be satisfied in order to make human stay alive. For instance, the need to eat, drink, avoid pains and gain sexual pleasure. In satisfying human desires, *id* does not fit to the norms and values which prevail in society. No matter how the way is, as long as *id*'s needs are fulfilled. Because of that, it can be said that *id* does not recognize logics, values, norms, and morality.

b. Ego

Ego is the second part of the personality to develop. *Ego* has function to filter the encouragement that wants to be satisfied by *id* based on the reality (qtd. in Wigayanti 33). *Ego* acts according to the reality principle. *Ego* understands that people have needs and desires and that sometimes being impulsive or selfish can hurt them in the end.

Ego acts to protect the individual by mediating between the laws of society and the pressures of *id* (Ridgway 7). In the well-adjusted person *the ego* is the executive of the personality, it controls and governs the *id* (Hall 28). *Ego* acts as mediator of *id*'s desire that unorganized with *superego*'s desire that complex human to obey into the norms. It is *ego*'s job to meet the needs of *id*, while taking into

between *id* and *ego*. *Superego* decides whether an action is right or wrong. *The superego* opposes both *the id* and *the ego*. It rewards, punishes, and makes demands. It tries to do away with both the pleasure principle and the reality principle (Miller 116).

This study uses psychoanalysis theory in order to help in analyzing how Amir's guilt makes his ambition in the novel.

2.1.2. New Criticism

New Criticism, emerging in the 1920s and especially dominant in the 1940s and 1950s (Selden, Widdowson, and Brooker 18). The starting place of it is Eliot's essay "Tradition and the Individual Talent," which discusses what was to become a key concept in modern criticism: tradition (Calboun 2). It is a critical theory that stressing the importance of reading a text as an independent and complete work of art. New criticism is not concerned with context, such as historical, biographical, intellectual and so on; it is concerned solely with the text in itself with its language and organization; it does not seek a text's meaning, but how it speaks itself (Selden, Widdowson, and Brooker 19). It means the new criticism does not lock its focus on the context of the author or what external factor that influenced a literary work. It only concern about the text itself, it does not need other factor to analyze a literary work because the text is the most crucial object. The text cannot be seen through the author's intention or reader's personal opinion.

New criticism asserts that the text of literary works is a complete system or structure. As complete structure of literary works, text of literary works is constructed by elements of literary works which correlation each other to make a meaning. There are intrinsic and extrinsic element of literary works. Intrinsic unsure of literary works such as character, plot, setting, conflicts, etc. the extrinsic unsure of literary works such as the political condition in the time the literary works are written, the background of author, the city of the literary works published, and etc. In this way, a New Critic focuses on intrinsic and extrinsic element to interpret the text which all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself in literary works (Tyson 137).

To analyze the ambition of Amir as character in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, this research will use new criticism as supporting theory concerning the character and characterization of Amir. Thus, the explanation of character which is one of intrinsic elements of text in New Criticism theory will be provided.

1. Character

Characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection, and dislike, admiration and condemnation (Bennett and Royle 60). People like to read literary work because of character emerging in there. In the literary works, such as drama, short story and novel, characters are an important element which will always be present to build the story in the literary work because it includes one of the elements forming literary works. Characters are another element of fiction vital to the enjoyment of a story (Tomlinson 29). Besides that, Nurgiyantoro says that character is one of important elements in fiction story (246).

Therefore, the role of character in building a storyline is definitely something important because it is possible in a story without presenting a character that make up the story so it makes the story becoming interesting to be read by the reader.

In addition, the author of the story can select some characters that build the story in his work is through characters that can be played by humans, animals, or other objects. However, usually in a story like a novel always been dominated by human. Card states that character is the nature of one or more of the people in the story (what they do and why they do it) (48).

According to Abrams, characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it (the dialogue) and from what they do (the action) (32). Moreover, Roberts says in fiction, a character may be defined as verbal representation of human being (131). It means that the characters in the novel can be stated as a verbal representative of human being because the characters or human being in fiction who plays action in the novel can do actions like making conversation or doing activities which are found in people in real.

In the story, Dietsch states that there are two types of characters; they are main or major character and minor character (343). They are characters referring to good or bad characterization during the course of events in the story.

Besides that, there were two types of character which are found in the novel, those are flat and round. Round character is complex individual who possesses both

good and bad traits while flat character is a character described in a one-sided or underdeveloped manner (Tomlinson 29). Round character is called as Major character in a work of fiction because it tends to be developed in the sequence of events in the story. Flat character is called as minor character in a work of fiction which does not undertake change in the sequences of the story.

In addition, the existence of the character in a certain literary work is a must due to it is the basic element of literary work itself. Although literary works such as novel always present a character, many people got difficulty in understanding the character. It is stand by Perrine that understanding character is not easy. He said that character is much more complex, anyone can repeat what a person a person is (83). Therefore character becomes one of the topics chosen by the researcher that will be discussed in the next chapter. It is hoped that the writer's analysis toward character will ease other researcher in analyzing a character in a literary work.

2. Characterization

Characterization refers to the way an author develops the fictional people who populate a novel. Characterization is how an author helps us get to know all of the characters in literary works. An author might develop a character through dialogue and action. There are two ways an author can convey information about a character. Those are direct and indirect characterization. Using direct manner means that the author describes directly about the character. Otherwise, indirect manner of characterization the author does not merely tell the characters but showing them to the readers through how the character looks, what the character does, what the

character thinks, and how the character affects other characters from these five things the reader can understand and get clear description of the character's personality (Hughes 3).

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

From the point drawn above, Holman argues that there are three ways that usually done by the author to ease the reader judge the personality of their character. Through the explicit presentation by the author, the action done by the character, and the representation by the character, it is expected that the reader will be able to imagine the fictional character emerged by the author.

In this case, the writer uses characterization analytical approach to analyze Amir's character in order to know about Amir's personality descriptions which further it can help the writer to explain about the psychological condition when he has big ambition to redeem his guilt toward Hassan.

2.1.3 Concept of Ambition

Every human has an ambition and the ambition can be positive or negative. The meaning of the word ambition refers to a positive connotation like what Freud and another author of science explain about that concept. Sasson in *Affirmation- Words With Power (To Make Your Wishes Come True)* described ambitions as a strong desire to achieve something in his life, or getting something for certain reason. Meanwhile, Tatenhove says ambition is energy, expressed in active behavior toward some purpose or aspiration (19). Also Alfred, together with Freud and Jung said that ambition is a natural desire to reach higher levels of completeness and fulfillment (21). From those explanations, it could be said that ambition is the ability that revealed by real action to get some targets with the result that extend to the higher step of perfection in our life. For instance, a leader must have an ambition and great vision for everyone who is at hand. The true meaning of ambition is power boost. An ambition is a source of inspiration and motivation. It makes people survive and keeping their expectation for the purpose. For the future, that makes a person want to be strong.

Subsequently, at about fifteen century, the negative connotation of ambition appeared for the first time, it was used in English Literature in which the word was picked up from the French Language. At the time, ambition means an eager desire for honor, rank, and position (Tatenhove 20). It seems that Warren Bennis also has a negative connotation about the word ambition. He says ambition is the death of thinking (25). It means that if ambition has dominated people's way of thinking, the

will be able to think wisely. For example, they want to be legislative candidates, they do not have many supporters, but they do not want to strive and hard work to get support, with the result that they use money politics.

In Freudian theory, based on id, ego and superego concept, the ambition is in the id structural. Id is the only component of personality that is present from birth. This aspect of personality is entirely unconscious and includes of the instinctive and primitive behaviors. Pervin and John states that conscious means those thought, experience, and feelings, which we are aware. The preconscious is for thought, experiences, and feelings. The unconscious is those thought, experiences, and feelings of which we are aware (107). In the process of *the id, ego, and superego* to reach the ambition, someone will through the different process and different effect. The first process, it will emerge the negative effect. In this case, the *Id* is more dominant. When *ego* succumb or surrender too much power to the *id* and the *superego* or to the outside world, there will be irregularities and irregular condition (Berger 86).

When an ambition people with a big spirit can control their way and find the purpose so they will become success person. Ambition will be motivator of success if people are able to control of it or it will be the instrument that drives people to destruction if they become the selves of ambition. Thus, ambition can give a good

effect to someone if they can control. It deals when someone get a big ambition with uncontrollable will become an ambitious person.

However, the human's ambition can be influenced by the background of life, family, even the social condition where they live (Wiliam 29). Sometimes, someone who has an ambition is ready to do everything to reach it. They do not care about the effect of the ambition toward their life. Therefore, ambition can be good is not only make someone has a certain purpose in their life but also can be bad thing if someone become very selfish in reaching the ambition. This concept is needed to expound Amir's ambition to redeem his guilt toward Hassan in Khaled Hossaini's *The Kite Runner*.

2.2 Review of Related Study

To deepen this study, some previous studies from graduating papers and journal publications are taken as a comparative study that have relevant point in order to get some important to help this research, those study are:

Firstly, from journal publication entitled "*The Issue of Cultural Identity in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner*" written by Nina Farlina in 2008. She is student of State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. This journal is focused on the character analysis and cultural identity of Amir and Hasan. The writer uses qualitative descriptive method, the theory of character and the concept of cultural identity by Stuart Hall. The result of this study shows that there are two main characters, Amir and Hassan. They come from the same background, Afghanistan, but present

different ethnic and religion sects. The first character, Amir is a Pashtun ethnic, the majority ethnic group in Afghanistan, who believes he is a better class than the Hazara and who follows the Sunni sect of Islam. The second character is Hassan. Hassan is a Hazara ethnic, a minority ethnic group of Afghans who follow Islamic beliefs called Shi'a. The different ethnics and inter-religions create civil war, ethnic conflict, and inter-religion conflict.

Secondly, Sentot Joko Mulyono (2004) is student of University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta entitle "*Amir's Personality Development in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner*". The analysis of the study is focused on the major character "Amir", based on structural elements and psychosocial approach. In doing this study, the writer used psychosocial theory by Erik Homburger Erikson. It is a theory which analyzes personality development related to internal and social factors. This theory indicated by eight stages which every stages has own specific development that frames individual with a crisis that must be faced. From the result of the study, the writer gets conclusion that Amir's personality development is influenced by two factors, internal and external. Internal means the crisis he faced in stages form from infancy period to adulthood period. External factors means family, ethnic and culture, gender and intimacy.

Thirdly, Robertus Vembry Mahartantyo (2010) is student of Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta, entitle "*A Study of Amir's Disloyalty to Friendship with Hassan as seen in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner*". This study used library reasearch and provided psychological approach and the sociocultural-historical

approach because they deal with Amir's disloyalty which is related to the psychological concepts and sociocultural-historical background. The result of this research shows that the relationship among Amir and Hassan can be categorized into three types. They are relationship between a master and a servant, a Pashtun and a Hazara, and friends. These three types of relationship do not work well among them. There are factors which trigger Amir to be disloyal. Those are family and social factors. The family factors reveal Hassan's true position in Amir's family and Baba's treatment to Amir and Hassan. The social factors discuss how the general traits of the Pashtuns and the Hazaras are, how Sunni and Shia in Afghanistan like, and how the socialization among the Pashtuns and the Hazaras happen.

Based on the review studies above, the whole papers above discusses about a bad relationship between the master and his assistant causing conflicts which is describe the conditions of Afghanistan at the time. They add those conflicts happen because of several factors, such as family, religion, ethnic and culture, gender and intimacy. Different from all papers above, this study tries to analyze Amir's ambition to redeem his guilt toward Hasan that drives him anxious in his life. Therefore, before analyzing amir's ambition, the elements of new criticism, such as character and characterization, is needed as a supporting theory to know Amir's characterization in the novel.