

## Chapter 2

### Review of Related Literature

#### 2.1 Literary theories

The writer explains intrinsic element related to the novel using a New Criticism theory (conflict and theme). The New Criticism theory is used to understand the text of the novel. The concept of conflict is used to analyze conflicts occur in the novel. The concept of the theme is used to analyze the theme in the novel.

##### 2.1.1 New Criticism

New Criticism was known as formalism. It was dominated American literary Decades in the middle of the 20th century between 1920 to 1960 years. New Criticism emphasized the formal structure of literary works, isolating the work from the author's personality and social influences (Sharma 2). In other words, It was a focus on the text itself and ignore any historical context like author biography, psychology of author, political issue.

New Criticism is quite well connected with the term "close reading" for the only way we can know if a given author's intention or a given reader's interpretation actually represents the text's meaning is to carefully examine. In this way, a New Criticism tries to examine all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself: its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so forth, which, because they form, or shape, the literary work are called its "formal elements" (Tyson 137), to find their

relationship with the theme, in a way that confirms the single best interpretation of the text, Because New Criticism believes that there is such a complete single interpretation, the which is timeless and is not related to individual readers or social events (Sharma 2).

New Criticism believe that a single best, or most accurate, interpretation of each text could be discovered that best represents the text itself: that best explains what the text means and how the text produces that meaning, in other words, that best explains its organic unity (Tyson 148). Therefore, New Criticism saw the text itself as the sole source of evidence to interpret a piece of literature.

New Criticism methods can work with any work of literature, but they are especially effective at explaining works like short poems and short stories, the more of its formal elements could be analyzed. When longer works were examined, such as long poems, novels, and plays, New Criticism readings usually confined themselves to the analysis of some aspect of the work, for example, its imagery, the role of the narrator or of the minor characters, the function of time in the work, the pattern of light and dark created by settings, or some other formal element. Of course, whatever the formal element was analyzed, it had to be shown to play an important role in the text's advancement of its theme and thus contribute to the unity of the work as a whole (Tyson 149).

### **2.1.2 Conflict**

Conflict in fiction works used to support the plot and make it into an interesting story. In the literature of conflict is regarded as an important element for developing the plot. According to Brooks and Warren state that conflict in the

story shares some contribution in making the story interesting and powerful (11). It means that conflict is an important element in developing the plot to make the story more interesting.

Conflict is a social process between two people or more (can also group) where one party trying to get rid of the other party to destroy it or make it powerless (Bardis 149). Conflict is referred to as a social process because it is always present in everyday life. Therefore, the conflict is regarded as a reasonable situation in the community and none of the people who have never experienced the conflict (Haniati 5). Someone who in life without conflict will become saturated due to undergo the same routine every day. But it would be different if someone is experiencing conflict in their lives. Conflict itself not only in everyday life but also in works of fiction.

While Okunoye conflict is the struggle between the protagonists and antagonists of the play (27). In Addition of Diez and Pia (3) Conflict is a struggle or contest between people with opposing needs, ideas, beliefs, values, or goals. Based on the statement of conflict is the struggle between the characters of the stories due to differences such as needs, ideas, beliefs, values, or goals.

In his book, Perrine (59) says that the conflict is divided into four kinds; physical conflict, mental conflict, emotional conflict or moral conflict. Physical conflict emerges when the main character pitted against some other person or group of persons or in other words, it is man against man. Mental conflict is conflicted figure to determine a good choice based on various considerations bad. Emotional conflict arises due to feelings of anger, mistrust, resentment, and fear

experienced leaders. Moral conflict that refers to moral contest between protagonist and opposed force such as fate, environment, and institution.

Being different from Perrine, Holman mentions that there are four kinds of conflict; The first is the conflict of the struggle of a man against nature. The second is the struggle of a man against man. The third is the struggle of a man against society. The fourth is the struggle for mastery by two elements within the person (98). In simple terms the four sorts of conflicts can be subdivided into two, namely external conflict and internal conflict. External conflict consists of man against man, man against nature, and man against social. While that included internal conflict is the struggle for mastery by two elements within the person.

From the above explanation, the authors focus on the external conflict (man against man) and the internal conflict by Holman to analyze the conflicts shown in the *Prodigal Son* novel.

### **2.1.3 Theme**

Theme is very important in the short story and other fictions, therefore it must exist in every good literary work. To obtain a good understanding on the term theme it is better know the definition of it first. According to Perrine, a theme of a piece of fiction is the controlling idea, its central insight (117). Other statement, the theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight reveals the entire story (Kennedy 189).

Kenny and Stanton (in Nurgiyantoro) state that the theme is the meaning contained in a story (67). Meanwhile, according to Onyekalwuchukwu theme is the abstract concept which is made concrete through its representation in person,

action and image (63). In addition, the theme is the subject of the novel and can usually be expressed in one word, or at least in one sentence (Doubtfire, 1).

From the explanation above, the theme is the main idea or major insights presented with a word or a phrase in which there are the overall meaning of the story is revealed through the person, action and image.

The theme for literary works including short stories are always dealing with problems of life. Author chooses the problems of life based on the experiences and observations of events or problems that exist in the environment. Through his work that the author offers a specific meaning in life by way of looking at the problem as he looked at it.

The function of a theme is to give feedback to the other elements of fiction, such as plot, character, and setting. Functions important theme in literature is to be the unifying element of last the whole story

(<http://infodanpengertian.blogspot.co.id/2015/04/pengertian-dan-jenis-tema.html>). It means that the selection of the intrinsic elements that support a story always follow the theme that had been predetermined by the author.

In works of fiction, the theme of the story may be stated explicitly or implicitly. According Perrine, sometimes the theme of a story is explicitly stated somewhere in the story, either by the author or by one of the characters (119). Sometimes there is also a new theme can be found after the whole content of the story is understood by the reader, not only based on a certain story elements, such as the theme is stated implicitly by the author (Nurgiyantoro 69). This is why the theme in the literature is not always easy to find. Therefore, the meaning

contained in works of literature are not always the same as what is meant by the author. <http://adeku-bahasaku.blogspot.co.id/2011/10/cerpen-cerita-pendek-atau-sering.html>.

Based on the explanation above that the interpretation of different themes considered reasonable, but endeavored not too many differences in interpretation. In interpreting the theme as much as possible are the principal and additional themes. The main theme is stated implicitly in a story. To be able to find the main theme the reader should understand the whole story, not just based on certain elements of the story, as told by Nurgiyantoro, principal themes implicit in most of the story, not just on certain elements of the story (83). Different again with additional themes expressed explicitly in a story. Additional theme is only found in certain parts of the story (Nurgiyantoro 83). Additional themes in a story supports and reflects the central theme of the story. Perrine says (121-123) in the determining the theme, there is no prescribed methods. Sometimes the best we can get it by asking in what way the main character has changed in the course of the story and what, if anything, he has learned before the end. Sometimes the best approach is to explore the nature of conflict and the results center. Sometimes the title will provide vital clues. Every time we have to keep in mind the following principles:

1. Theme must be expressive in the form of a statement with a subject and a predicate.
2. The theme must be stated as a generalization about life, the use of the names of the characters must be avoided.

3. One must be careful not to make the generalization larger than is justified by the terms of the story. Terms like *some*, *sometimes*, *may* are often more accurate.
4. Theme is the central and unifying concept of the story. hence, must not be contradicted by any detail of the story, and it must not depend on supposed facts.
5. There is no one way of stating the theme of a story. It only presents a view of life that may surely be stated in more than one way.
6. One should avoid any statement that reduces the theme to some familiar saying that he has heard all his life.

## 2.2 Review of Related Studies

During the process of this study, the writer did not find any students who use the *Prodigal Son* novel for their analysis. But the writer found some students with the same object of analysis is about conflict and theme.

First, the thesis belong to Kartika Sari a student of the University of North Sumatra, entitled *An Analysis of Conflict in Alexandre Dumas' The Count of Monte Cristo*. The researcher focused her research on the conflicts portrayed and the conflicts resolved in the novel. In her thesis, the researcher use theory of character, of plot theory, and theory of conflict.

Second, the thesis belong to Indah Rachmawati a student Wijaya Putra University entitled *An Aanalysis of theme and characterization in the novel Heart of Peace by Nh Dini*. The researcher focused her research on the theme and

