

**Sexual Orientation** : Whom we are sexually attracted to and also have potential for loving (Hyde and Delamater 334).

**Gender** : One's personal, social, and legal status as male or female (Rathus, et al 4).

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Theoretical Framework

This chapter aims to explain some theories which be applied to analyze the novel *Weetzie Bat* by Francesca Lia Block. The focus of study is to find out the factors that cause Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck, decide to do threesome and also to know the effect of their threesome to Weetzie's life depicted in the novel. Therefore, this study decides that queer theory would be appropriate theory while new criticism and psychoanalysis would be supporting theory providing the academic support for the analysis.

#### 1. Queer Theory

Queer forces the one to talk about oddness, divergence, and homosexuality. As Charter said that the term 'queer' used to be a pejorative term for homosexual or perverse behaviour (127). Furthermore, 'queer' also can be an inclusive term to code and codings of male and female, or masculinity and femininity, or bisexuality, heterosexuality, and homosexuality, or another terms of nonstraight people as the result of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender) movement in 1970s. As Eve Kosofsky Sedwick said that 'queer' refers to 'the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonances and resonances, lapses and excesses of meaning when the constituent elements of anyone's gender, of anyone's sexuality are not made (or

cannot be made) to signify monolithically (Sedwick 8). Therefore, the term 'queer' can be said as an umbrella term for all gender and all sexuality.

Gender and sexuality defined as an essential part of human being. It is part of being male or female and role to behave as male or female (masculine or feminine). As Rathus said that our gender refer to state being female or male, and our awareness of ourselves as females or males is part of our sexuality, then our sexuality is an essential part of ourselves (5). Since literature is one of media which retells human's life, queer theory provides to reveal problematic of human's life which concern on human sexuality. As Tyson explains that queer theory reads text to reveal the problematic of representations of the dynamic range of human sexuality (336).

Building on deconstruction's insight into human subjectivity, queer theory defines human sexuality as a fluid, fragmented, dynamic collectivity of possible sexualities (Tyson 335). The continuum of sexual possibilities are such as homosexuality, bisexuality, and heterosexuality. Homosexuality is an erotic attraction and desire to romantic relationships toward members of the same gender. While bisexuality is an erotic attraction and desire to romantic relationships with both males and females. Furthermore, heterosexuality is an erotic attraction and desire with members of other gender (Rathus 262). In line with explanation above, human sexuality is unstable and may be different at different times along of their lives because sexuality is a dynamic range of desire.

Moreover, there are factors that make up human sexual desire. According to Sigmund Freud in his text *On Sexuality: Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*

tends to see the precise structure of desire as determined by socialization in which the child is brought up. He adds that desire is essentially unstable (Bennett and Royle 178). Furthermore, Michael Foucault in his book *History of Sexuality* makes particularly clear that desire is bound up with all sorts of social and institutional practice and discourse with questions of law, gender and sexuality, with the discourses of medicine, theology, economics and so on (Bennet and Royle 179). In result, thinking about representations of desire, inevitably opens on the questions of gender and sexuality, social, cultural, economic, religion, health, law, and so on.

If some theories above demonstrate that desire is unstable, another theory demonstrates that desire is ‘mediated’, it is produced through imitation and simulation. As Eve Kosofsky Sedwick developing the ideas of the French post structuralist critic René Girard, she argues that desire is everywhere mediated (Bennet and Royle 184). It means, someone’s desire is produced by copying another one’s desire as response to the desire of another.

Furthermore, Sedwick as one of founder of queer theory which follows Michael Foucault’s work on sexuality also argues that there is another thought to understand human sexual desire particularly in Western culture. It is cannot be completely understood in terms of such limited concepts as homosexual and heterosexual. As she said in her book *Epistimology of the Closet* that:

“an understanding of virtually any aspect of modern Western culture must be, not merely incomplete, but damaged in its central substance to the degree that it does not incorporate a critical analysis of modern homo/heterosexual definition”(Sedgwick 1).

From statement above, then she demonstrates that homo/heterosexual distinction is affected by two reasons. Those are “minoritizing view” and “universalizing view” (Bristow 208). Minoritizing view is how sexuality is viewed as a matter of inborn essential identity. It emphasizes on fixing sexual desire in terms of either heterosexual or homosexual definition. Hence, minoritizing view is called as an immutable essence. While universalizing view is how desire is seen as part of a continuum that allows for choice. It emphasizes sexual desire as the whole broad range of heterosexual and homosexual by locating bisexual at the centre of a broad range of sexual preferences. Hence, universalizing view is called as formable construction.

From those points of view, Sedwick argues that the intricacies of human sexuality can be understood just as well, or better, in terms of any number of paired opposites other than same-sex or different-sex object choice. Because sexuality is seen as one’s sexual desire (Tyson 324) thus the definition of one’s sexuality may be based on one’s preference for someone older or younger, for human or animal, for a single partner or a group activity, for oneself alone (masturbation) or for a variety of different partners, for particular acts and sensations or physical types, and so on (Tyson 335). In result, through queer theory, sexuality extends multi dimensions which are not described in terms of gender of object choice at all. In other word, queer theory refers to any piece of literary criticism that interprets a text from a nonstraight perspective.

Supporting with explanation above, threesome can be categorized as nonstraight behaviour. Threesome is three people that do sexual activity at the same time. Therefore, threesome is belongs to queer scope. In result, queer theory as the main theory is used to analyze problematic of threesome which done by Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck. Furthermore, this study wants to reveal the factors that cause Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck decide to do threesome as sexual preference and the effect of their threesome to Weetzie's life depicted in Francesca Lia Block's *Weetzie Bat*.

## **2. New Criticism**

New critic evaluates literary text based only on the text itself. As Tyson said that new critical effort to focus our attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it (136). The origin of new critic comes from Richards, an academic at Cambridge, with a background in aesthetics, psychology and semantics (Charter 23). In 1924, following Elliot's emphasis on the poem text, he publishes influential book, *Principles of literary Criticism* which nurtured the close reading of literary texts (24).

Furthermore, W K Wimsatt and Monroe C Beardsley writes two highly influential essays which advocated the importance of giving prime attention to the text. They isolate two common fallacies in literary interpretation. Those are "intentional fallacy" and "affective fallacy" (27). Intentional fallacy refers to mistaken belief that the text's meaning is the same as the author's intention. The text's meaning may be simply different or even more meaningful, rich, and complex

than the author realized. While affective fallacy claims to ignore with reader's response. Reader's feeling and opinion is not affect what is provided by the literary text itself. Besides authors and readers, New critic also argues that a text's historical and cultural context are also irrelevant. In result, new criticism is a literary criticism which dealing with the text only without worrying the authors, readers, historical and cultural context. Hence, new criticism is called as close reading.

Moreover, because it closely reads on the text itself, all the evidences is provided by the literary language. For new criticism, literary language is very different from scientific language and everyday language. If scientific language and everyday language depends on denotation, the one-to-one correspondence between words and the object or the ideas they represent. While literary language, in contrast, depends on conotation : on the implication, association, suggestion, and evocation of meanings and of shades of meanings. (Tyson 138). In line with explanation above, scientific language and everyday language describes a true meaning of the object or idea while literary language describes a figure meaning or hidden meaning of the object or idea. Unlike scientific and everyday language, the form of literary language is the word choice and arrangement that create aesthetic experience.

Furthermore, literary language is formed by formal elements of literary work. The formal elements are consist of images, symbols, methapors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, character, plot, and so on (Tyson 137). Meanwhile, this study emphasizes on the discussion about the character of literary work.

Character plays an important role in the story. Through the characters, the readers can understand the plot of story in the literary work. As Bennet and Royle also said that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation (60). Since literary work is one of media which retells human's life, characters are emerged by the author to represent the real people who live in the real life through the literary work. Hence, character is not only viewed as an element which make the story alive, but also as a conveyance of message from the author.

Generally, characters can be divided into two kinds; those are major or main character, and minor character, depending on how important they are for the plot (Dinurriyah 114). A major character is a vital character which plays major development and resolution of the conflict. Usually, major characters present frequently in the story. While a minor character is a supporting character which serves to complement the major characters and help the plot events forward. They present rarely.

Furthermore, character needs characterization to build the story. It is technique of the authors to make the story become alive. As Kennedy and Dana Gioia says that characterization is a technique of a writer which is used to create, reveal, or develop the characters in a narrative. The way how the author characterizes the character in the story has a big influence to the reader (qtd in Wigayanti 12). The reader will drift away into the story as if the authors success to characterize the



character. It is measured with how the reader can imagine the character's feel, thought, and experience in the story.

According to Josip Novakovich, there are six methods which is used by the author to reveal the personality of the character (qtd in Wigayanti 25):

a. Summary of the story

By telling the summary of the story, the author can describe the fictional person and its personality. The reader can focus to the main conflict which happens to the character and it can give the background that the reader must know. It will also make the reader understands the personality of the character easily if the writer can write the summary well.

b. The repetition or habitual action

This is the common concept that what the person has done for many times, it is possible that is the person's habit.

c. Self-delineation

It is also possible that the writer tries to explain the character through the character itself. This method is simple enough because the characters can portray themselves by introducing directly.

d. Appearance

It is almost same with the self-delineation method, but here the author describes the character through the character's appearance, so the reader can guess the personality of it.

e. Action

In the scene, the author can make the character moves. Here, the author can show the character from the voice, appearance, and its action without make the summary or depict them as general. However, it is possible for the writer to complete it with the summary too.

f. Combination of some techniques

This method covers all the previous methods. The author has many chances and different style in describing the characters by combining some methods. Absolutely, it will also make the reader feels no bored in reading the story.

From explanation above, this study uses new criticism as supporting theory to identify the major characters, Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck. It will be a guidance to understand their gender and sexuality through their characterization. It will help the researcher in identifying the factors that cause three of characters to do threesome in Francesca Lia Block's *Weetzie Bat* and the effect of their threesome to Weetzie's life.

### **3. Psychoanalysis**

Psychology is a branch of knowledge which learn about human mind and behavior. As Gillespie said that psychology is the endlessly fascinating of human mind and behavior, and it can be rewarding tool for enhancing our understanding and appreciation of literature and of ourselves (43). Since literature is the product of human's mind that retells human's life, psychology helps people to understand

human's psychological that affect human's behavior which is described in the literature. Therefore, psychology does not only help people to understand human's thought, feeling, or behavior as human being in the real life but also as fictional character in the literary work.

Furthermore, there is a concept to understand human's mind and behavior which established by Sigmund Freud. This concept is called psychoanalysis. It is a theory which implemented to analyze human's mind and behavior in literary work. As Tyson stated that the goal of psychoanalysis is to help us resolve our psychological problems. It is the way to get better understanding of human mind and behavior. Then, it must certainly be able to help us understanding literary texts, which are about human behavior. Through Freud's psychoanalysis, individual human beings is seen with psychological history that begins in childhood experiences in the family and each with patterns of adolescent and adult behavior that are the direct result of that early experiences (Tyson 11). Hence, thinking about psychological problems of human beings, inevitably opens on the questions of psychological history in which they grow up.

Moreover, as founding father of psychoanalysis, Freud introduces three new terms: *id*, *ego*, and *superego* to understand human's mind that affect human behavior. Those three elements of personality have their own way to work. They work together to create complex human behavior. As Freud stated in Roedinger that Human being behaviors are motivated by conscious or subconscious desire. The subconscious is caused by conflict among three components. Those are the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. The

id is said to operate on the pleasure principal, the ego operate the reality principles in contrast to the id's pleasure principles, and the superego is concerned with what is 'right' what is 'wrong' (qtd in Wigayanti 31).

Moreover, Freud in storey stated the id is the most primitive part of our being. It is part of our nature which is impersonal. It is filled with energy reaching it from instinct, but it has no organization, produces no collective will, but only a striving to bring about the satisfication of the instinctual needs subject to observence of the pleasure principle (92). In line with statements above, id is the first part of the personality to develop. Id is the only component of our personality which is present in our life since we are born. It consists of all the biological components of personality, including hunger, thirst, sexual, and other natural body desires that aimed to deriving pleasure. It purposes to fill the pleasurable things and avoid painful things. In result, Id does not care about the needs of anyone else. It only cares about own satisfaction.

While ego is the second part of the personality to develop. It is the part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world. It endeavours to substitute the reality principle for the pleasure principle which reign unrestrictedly in the id. The ego represents what may be called reason and common sense, in control the id which contact the passions (Storey 92). Like the id, ego seeks pleasure and avoid pain but unlike the id, the ego is concerned with devising a realistic strategy to obtain pleasure.

Furthermore, superego integrates the values and morals of society which are learned from the family. It consists of two systems: the conscience and the idea self (Miller 116). The conscience can punish the ego through causing feeling of guilt while the idea self is an imaginary picture of how you ought to be, and represents career aspirations, how to threat other people, and how to behave as a member of society. It tries to do away with both the pleasure principle and the reality principle (132). In result, superego tries to balance between id and ego. Clearly, it decides whether an action is right or wrong.

From the explanation above, Freud's psychoanalysis theory as supporting theory is used to analyze psychological problems that affect threesome which done by Weetzie, Dirk, and Duck in Francesca Lia Block's *Weetzie Bat*. Because moral personality of the characters is unfounded, therefore this study only implemented *id* and *ego* to reveal their psychological problems.

## **B. Review of Related Study**

A review on related studies is needed in order to justify that a literary work has not been used before by applying a close-fitting approach comparable with another research and eventhough it has been used, a review of literature is very significant. It is intended to distinguish a previous research with a new one in order to assure its originality.

The first literary review is book review of *Weetzie Bat* by Barbara Nosanchuk. This review focusses on the moral value of the story. In this case, Nosanchuk

criticizes Weetzie's character who inappropriate as a good role model because she does threesome with Dirk and Duck as the effort to get a baby. Nosanchuk also argues that Weetzie's character is irresponsible. Not only in her parenthood but also in her sexuality. Both of them are quite distorted.

The second review is written by Jessica Gross. This review focusses on the theme of the story. Gross takes love and acceptance as the theme of the story. In this case, she criticizes how Weetzie's character embraces Dirk when he comes out as a gay, helps him to find a boy friend and how Weetzie's character builds a new family with three dads through threesome. Gross also argues although some darks threat the characters in the story, but the end of the story is happy because of love and acceptance.

Those literary reviews and this study are not completely same in the some aspects. For the first literary review focusses on the moral value of the novel. It tries to criticize the Weetzie's character who inappropriate as a good role model. While the second review focusses on the theme of the novel. It tries to observe the content of the novel especially about love and acceptance among of Weetzie, Dirk, Duck, and My Secret Agent Lover Man. Then, this study focusses on the sexual orientation issue. It tries to reveal the backgrounds and the effect of those three of characters decide to do threesome in the novel. This study will be analyzed by using queer theory.

Furthermore, there are some similarities between those literary reviews and this study. Both of those literary reviews and this study discuss about Weetzie's character and her threesome case in the novel.