# CHAPTER 2

# LITERARY REVIEW

## 2.1 Theoretical Framework

In analyzing literary work, the writer uses some theories to support the analysis. The writer uses theory of new criticism, theory of hierarchy of need by Abraham Maslow, and struggle concept. The writer uses these theories to know the character, especially the main character's family in more detailed way, also to know the need of their dream, and to describe their effort to pursue the dream. For those purpose, this chapter will discuss all those theories in short:

### 2.1.1   Theory of New Criticism

Theory of new criticism is the critics of American Literature which develop between 1920-1960. New Criticism firstly was created by John Crowe Ranson in his book *The New Criticism* (1940). This theory appears as the literary criticism which focuses to the aspects of life and psychlogical of the writer and also the history of literature (68). Besides, New Criticism is clearly characterized in premise and practice: it is not concerned with context-historical, biographical, intellectual, and so on (Seldan et.al 19). Therefore, the New Criticism perform a close reading text, and believe the structure and meaning of the text.

Moreover, the only way to know the author's intention or the reader's interpretation is the evidence provided by the language of the text itself, it is contain of the images, symbols, metaphos, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so on. It is because the form of the literary work are called its *formal element* (Tyson 137). In addition, the New Criticism also loooked for paradox, ambiguity, irony, and tension to help establish the single best interpretation of the text (qtd in Otilia 2).

This study is focuses on the characters. As in many other literary works, the existence of character is very important to support the story in the literary work. Abrams in his book "A Glossary and Literary Terms" defines character as the persons repesented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intelectual, and emotional qualites by inferences from what the person say and their distinctive ways of sying it –the dialogue-and from what they do-the action (33). From Abrams' statement above the writer can conclude that character can be known by the readers through the dialogue and the action.

Besides the statement above, according to Kennedy character divides in to flat and round character. Flat character is the character has only outstanding trait or feature, or at most a few distinguishing marks, while round character is the character has the greater depth and in more generous detail (63). Dinurriyah also states that characters in

plays are divided into major characters and minor characters. Major characters have a lot to say and always appear on the stage, while minor characters marginally have less appear on the stage. Therefore, a good indicator to know wether a character is major or minor is the count of the time and speech as well as presence on the stage (144).

In addition, Dinurriyah explains about the type of characters can be analyzed. There are four types of characters can be analyzed, they are physical, social, psychological, and moral (115).

### 2.1.1.1 Physical

The character can be identified the facts of the character such as age, sexual category, size, race and color. It deals with external attributes which may be imagined from the description of the playwright or deduced from what other characters say or what other characters say about his experience (115).

### 2.1.1.2 Social

The character can be seen from all aspects that can be collected from the character's world or environment. For example from the economic status, occupation or trade, creed, familial affiliation of the characters (115).

### 2.1.1.3 Psychological

The inner mechanism of the character's mind can be revealed as exemplified by his habitual responses, attitudes, longing, purposes, like and dislike. It is considered as the most important level of

character categorization because routines and emotion, thought, attitudes and behaviour enable the readers to know the character instrically (116).

2.1.1.4 Moral

This is seen from the decision of the characters, either socially acceptable or not, exposing their intentions, thus projecting what is upright or not (116).

Based on those methods of characterizing the character, the writer will be able to get an idea about what kind of characters that the writer is going to analyze. Therefore, the writer will discuss the characters' physical, social, psychological, and moral to find out the characterizations.

## 2.1.2 Hierarchy of Need Theory by Abraham Maslow

Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of need theory has point of view that an action or a basic of need will have more than one motivation. Maslow stated that when a basic need has to be satisfied, then all parts of a human body will try to satisfy it without any exception. When a human feels hungry then all parts of the human will feel hungry, not only their stomach or their mouth. Maslow assumes that almost all passion and motivation of someone is interrelated to one another (Supratinya 69).

The fundamental concept of Maslow theory is that human is motivated by the same characterstic of basic needs for every species, it

is unchangeable, and it derives from genetic or instinctive source.

Beside those needs are physical need aspect, it also contains

psychological aspect that become the core of human nature. Thise

needs are basically weak that sometimes they are distorted, conquered

by the learning process, habit or wrong manner of tradition. Maslow

argues that those need can be easily ignored or pressed and most

importantly that they have no malicious impacts, even some are

neutral and have good impacts. Maslow point of view was contrary to

the old belief that instincts have a strong characteristic, malicious

impact and can not be changed (Supratinya 70).

Maslow assumes that human has five hierarchies of needs from

the most important to the less and the easiest to the hardest one to

achieve. In Maslow theory, one must fulfil the most important need

than move to the next level of need hierarchy.

As can be seen in above that the most important need is

located in the lowest level followed by the less important above.

2.1.2.1 Physiological Needs

The category of the physiological need is classified based
on the very basic of human need. The need of food, drink, shelter,
sex, and sleep is categorized as the physiological need. Maslow
categorizes need as the lowest level because he assumes that human
will tend to satisfy them before they satisfy the higher needs. Even
though the needs of physiology are easy to be identified than the
other higher needs, the presence of the phenomenon is not able to
be treated as a partial phenomenon but connected with one another.
For example, if someone feels hungry that endangers his live, he
might also feels lack of love or safety. In the other hand, if
someone feels hungry, he may also tries to satisfy their hungry by
smoking or drinking water (Supratinya 71).

2.1.2.2 Safety and Security Needs

Soon after the need of physiological is fulfilled, the higher
level of need emerges that Maslow calls as the need of safety and
security. Free from occupation, free from the threat, free from pain
and free from terror can be categorized as the safety and security
needs. When someone feels unsafe, he will need an over protection
and stability of a condition. Usually he will prevent strange and
unexpected condition (Supratinya 73).

2.1.2.3 Belonging Needs

Maslow place the need of belonging after the need of
safety. He explains that human will crave a full of love relationship

with someone else in generally, and especially a need of being

accepted in their community. In this level of need, the instinct to

satisfy the need of belonging will be even stronger than in the

lowest level. Maslow also differ the meaning of love relation in this

(Supratinya 74).

2.1.2.4 Self-Esteem Needs

Maslow distinguishes the need of appreciation into two

categories, Self-esteem and esteem from other people. The need

self confidence, competency, domination, and achievement are

categorized as Self-esteem. Meanwhile prestige, recognition,

attention, and award are categorized as the form of esteem from

others. Someone with good Self-esteem will have more confidence

and will be more productive. On the other hand, someone with lack

of Self-esteem will feel inferior, incapable, which is will cause

desperation (Supratinya 76-77).

2.1.2.5 Self-Actualization Needs

Everybody deserves to grow with full ability. Maslow calls

the need to develop, grow, and prove their skill as Self-

actualization needs. These needs will emerge soon after the need of

love and appreciation is satisfied (Supratinya 77).

As maslow states, the movement to reach self actualization

does not happen automatically. It requires the condition that all

basic needs at lower levels to be fulfilled completely. Even for who

already satisfied their needs at lower levels, it is not easy to reach

the peak of Maslow hierarchy of human motivation. They must

struggle hard in order to achieve the highest level of human

motivation (sobur 279). Thus, Moslow also states that people who

try to reach the goal in their lives will do anything and it can bring

effects to behaviour and personality. The effect of their motivation

toward their personality can be seen either positive or negative (qtd

in Sari's thesis 38).

By Aplying the Theory  of hierarchy of needs by Abraham

Maslow, the writer draw the dream of each character in the family.

Each character has different dream in the play which Their dreams

stay on the highest need of the human being.

### 2.1.3  Struggle Concept

According to Frederick Douglas as mentioned by Leanne

Hongland-Smith in her article entitled *Personal Motivation:* Without

struggle there is no proggress; struggle can be defined as mental,

physiological, and psychological attempt of human beings in process to

overcome difficulty in life to motivate them toward progress and

achievement of their goals (1). Struggle is and element in human

beings' life that makes them survive. It requires people to confront the

hard situation, overcome the obstacles, and manage the pain as well as

hardship of the difficult road. It makes people improve the sense of

courage, tolerance, and patience. Struggle gives us an opportunity to

grow and move ahead in life. Most famous people have though tales of struggle beneath their success. Success hold high value because it requires toil, perseverance, conviction and ambition to achieve it. Struggle empowers a person to work harder to achieve the goals and dreams of life. Struggle is needed to stimulate any kind of progress. Their struggle may be moral one, or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle.

## 2.2 Review of Related Studies

In this study, the writer will analyze August Wilson's play *Fences.* This part contains the related studies that deal with August Wilson's *Fenes*. There some previous studies will be presented in order to enrich the writer's knowledge in understanding the play.

From the thesis entitled *The Meaning of "Fence" as the Main Symbol in August Wilson's Fences* by Maria Rosetha Simblon shows about the meaning of the main symbolical in the play. The writer found some meanings of the symbolic, as it state :

> the result of the analysis show that the symbolical meaning of the word *"Fence"* is revealed by the characters of this play. The symbolical meaning is seen from the situations and conversation of the characters. The meaning are devided into two parts: literal meaning and symbolical meaning (Simbolon 2011).

Different focus make this theis and the writer's thesis became different. Simbolon focus on the symbol of the play, and the writer focus on the theme of the play, especially on the American Dream of the character.

The other thesis entitled *Troy's Failure in Establishing an Ideal Family in August Wilson's Fences* by Fanni Margaret shows about the failure of Troy Maxson establishing ideal family. it states that:

> At the end, the thesis writer concludes that there are several causes Troy fails in establishing an ideal family. It happens because he being a rude person, forcing his own ideal to his sons and being unrespectful to his wife. the result makes Troy fails in having a harmony family (dewey.petra.ac.id 2008).

The differences between this thesis and the writer's thesis is different focus, this thesis is focus on the failure of the main character.

These review will help the writer in collecting the information about the issues that appears in the play and the conflict inside the play. In answering the question in problem formulation and analyzing the conflict in *Fences* and the main topic of this thesis the writer is supported and helped by these review to reveal the American Dream in *Fences*.

In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze August Wilson's *Fences* which focuses on the American Dream toward the Black character in the story. This topic will be revealed through the desire of the main character.