

CHAPTER 2

LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Wellek and Warren state that there are two kinds of approach in analyzing a literary work. They are, first, intrinsic approach is an approach which emphasize on the element of literature itself, such characters, theme, point of view, plot and others. Second, extrinsic approach, is an approach which relates to the literary works and the other subjects such as psychology, society, thought and biography. (Wellek and Warren 50). For this thesis the writer tries to analyze *House Made of Down* novel through extrinsic aspect. The writer pays attention on the cultural conflict that represented by the Abel on Momaday's *House Made of Down* that portray the problem of Indian American Society. To analyze the novel, the writer is going to use theories dealing with sociology devices. Those theories will be explained as follows:

2.1.1 Sociology Theory

Because society is the main concern of sociology, it is much better to take a look what actually sociology is. According to Selo Soemardjan and Soemardi, sociology or science is a science that learns social structure and social process including social change (Soekanto 20). Also, sociology is the topic discussion about relationship between individual and group among society which is mainly

discussed (1) social institution, (2) pattern of socialize, (3) change of structural dynamic and group habit, (4) rites and passages (Heath 189-190). From the two meaning above can be said that sociology is knowledge of socialization that is being studied in order to know the whole system of human societies and power that unify them in establishing societal life.

By assigning to the meanings and the purposes of sociology above assiduously, below this, the writer is going to apply some theories of social change and its factors from several scientists to solve this study accurately and understandable.

2.1.2 Social Change

Basically, everything on this earth changes whether mentally or spiritually, one thing that one should know is that changes are very uneasy and uncomfortable to be felt in the first time. Whereas, a change is a sign that every creatures including nature does evolution. Another word, the changes are to adjust self with environmental condition. Every society and culture must change too (Soekanto 73). Based on that opinion, Max Weber states that all social changes are started from change of human's actions and change from human's conducts in conducting society (Rakhmat 105).

The New Encyclopedia Britannica defines a social is a general characteristic of human societies: custom and norms change, invention are made and applied, environmental changes lead to adaptations, conflicts result in redistribution of power (Norton and Esposito 367). Furthermore, a social change

is a change that relates to change of social structure and system of a certain group of society (Ahmadi 113). In addition, every change that occurs in societal structure or change within social organization of society is called social change (Cohen 453).

The statement above is the same with Soerjono Soekanto's. He expounds societal change can be social values, social norms, organizational pattern of behavior, socialization of institutional formation, stratification within society, power, authority, and many other thing (453). From those all definitions about social change, so the social changes above are merely dealt with morals, values, social system, and behavior as the main focus on occurred a change within a society. Absolutely with those statements previously, social change in society very primarily is begun with change of human's manner in doing everything. Simply, mankind's manner is the major contribution in making a change, which later; the change can involve change in structure and other social formation. Because members of society are agent of change and they are the door of social life.

Based on the causality law, social change existence is not released from its factors that support social change appearance. Here, the factors are taken from different sources from various scientists. They are Talizuduhu, Bruce J. Cohen, Abu Ahmadi, and Soerjono Soekanto whom all of them share factors that cause social change into (1) empathy, (the ability to see his/herself into someone else's situation), (2) authority and social pressure, (3) relation of evolution and progress, (4) inhabitant, (5) innovation, and , (6) ideology. Mostly, that six elements are part

happens when the problem get wider. It usually happens between civilizations, ethnics, races and culture. The consequence of conflict is war, depression, and be under pressure.

According to Perrine (44) describes conflict as a clash of action, ideas, desires, or the wills. He added that the main character may be pitted against some other persons or group of person (man against man); he may be in conflict some external force-physical nature, society, or fate (man against environments); or he may be in conflict with some element in his own nature (man against himself) (Perrine 44).

This theory is also followed by Roy Ed Eidelson and Judy Eidelson (182-192) investigated that there are five factors why conflict of group can happen. Those factors are:

2.1.3.1 Superiority

The main factor of conflict in group is usually about superiority. In this case, there are inequality between one groups and the other. So, a group which feel majority will be more dominant and magisterial, furthermore, moral superiority will emerge when the major group has control in one area and to be a leader.

According to Judy and Roy Eidelson (184) there are some element encompass shared-convictions of moral superiority, chosenness, entitlement, and special destiny. Ethnically, chosenness, is usually related with identity of groups. It may be caused by ethnic diversity. In this case is marginal group. Even, the

Eidelson (185) stated that the injustice worldwide reflects the in-group's conviction that it has significant and legitimate grievances against another group. From that statement, it is explained that grievances happen because there is one more powerful group than the others. So, they afford to rein political system in government and it makes the benefit among disproportional groups.

Besides that, injustice can happen too because of history or last experience. It means that there is an event in the past such as mistreatment and exploitation. In that case, Volkan (46) said that mental representation of an event that has caused a large group to face drastic loss feel helpless and victimized by another group and shares a humiliating injuries.

In this case, injustice happens when Indian are not considered as citizen in Walatowa. Even, one of the duties of BIA is to support the assimilation program toward the young Indian American people through education. The education program, unfortunately, also bring negative impact to the Indian people, in term of identity and culture. In the schools, Indian people cannot do anything like White people. Indian schools are like jails and run along military lines. They are forbidden to talk their language or to sing their songs (Velie 182).

Besides that, Injustice happens when Indian are not considered as citizen in Walatowa. White people also try to destroy culture and belief of Indian and White people think that the best way to teach Indian people was to stop from being Indians in order to drive out all of Indian from Walatowa.

2.1.3.3 Vulnerability

The third factor which brings conflict in groups is vulnerability. It usually happens among ethnic group. In this case, the problem will emphasize to minority or marginal groups. It is caused by situation of that group's live and it also give them injury and violence. Besides that, it can make the minority group always feels worries, fears, and unsecured.

According to Roy and Judy Eidelson (186) one particularly problematic aspect of the collective vulnerability worldview is the impetus it can provide for a group to act aggressively in an effort to preemptively ensure its own safety. From that statement it can be concluded that marginal group try to survive in all situation and keep their live secure.

In addition, an important manifestation of the vulnerability worldview is catastrophic thinking in which a group's imagined worst case scenario take on the inexorable logic of inevitability (186). In this case marginal group will perceive that the big events will happen in the future and it cannot be avoided by them. Sometimes, it is also because of experience in the past when there is threat from the other group. It must be underlined that vulnerability is more than expressive of fear in their life because the group thinks about how to be surviving and omit fears of subjugation and annihilation.

Indian people only can try to accept what White people are doing to them although White people want to hurt and destroy them with a lot of trick. It is because Indian people only want to live in Walatowa with peaceful and they are still survive with theirs believe and their culture. Hence, Indian people live in

harmony with their surrounding nature. They always keep the nature preserve because, in their think, their live depends on the nature.

2.1.3.4 Distrust

Distrust is also one of cause of conflict in groups happen. In a territory, trust is one of keys in order to make one group with the other group have a good relation. Furthermore, trust is one basic to build relationship among group. Trust will change into distrust when one of groups perceives that they have been lying. So, it will build a mindset that it is untrustworthy. Besides that distrust also happen when one group feel paranoid toward the others group's act in which they likely injure physically or mentally. Kramer and Messick (239) have defined it is collectively held beliefs, either false or exaggerated, that cluster around ideas of being harassed, threatened, subjugated, persecuted, accused, mistreated, wronged, tormented, disparaged, or vilified by a malevolent out groups.

In *House made of Down's* novel, distrust can be seen when Abel is returning to the reservation after armed service in World War II as one of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) program. Around midday, the drunken Abel stumbles off the Bus into his grandfather's arms. Possibly as a result of this affair, Abel realizes that his return to the reservation has been unsuccessful. He no longer feels at home and he is confused. He feels distrust to himself about what he want to do and what the problem is. Hence, he feels alienation even in his own homeland.

2.1.3.5 Helplessness

The last factor of conflict in group is helplessness. Helplessness happens because a group feels powerless. Judy and Roy Eidelson (187) said that the helplessness worldview describes a collective mindset of powerlessness and dependency. Based on that statement, it can be concluded that one of groups feels helpless in their ability and their opportunity to make their group has progress in environment. It makes that group becomes pessimistic to do something and they only get negative appraisal.

Horowitz (289) has highlighted the sense of being weak and helpless that characteristic complaint groups that see themselves as being at a competitive disadvantage in relation to other groups they perceive as better along various dimensions. In this case, marginal group must be silence and agree to do what the majority group wants.

In this novel, helpless can be seen when Abel's entrance into modern-day America through the symbol of the helpless and vain smelt fish that throw themselves on the beach in the moonlight, only to be casually captured by fishermen. After Abel kills the albino he is sent to prison and then to Los Angeles, where he spirals down from a productive member of society to a helpless drunkard.

In this thesis, the writer wants to emphasize the factors of conflict in Abel between White People and Indian which happen in *House made of down's* novel. Hence, the study of conflict in *House Made of Down* is observed from the conflict of Perrine's, Roy Ed Eidelson and Judy Eidelson views. The study includes the

case of the conflict, ideology, physical appearance. This element of a story is overviewed to approve the significance problem toward external aspects.

Furthermore, the writer can know the factors that cause the cultural conflict and also the effect of cultural conflict on Abel in *House Made of Down*.

2.1.4 The Effect of Conflict

According to Soejono Soekanto (115), The effect of a conflict has two different sides, namely in terms of positive and negative terms.

2.1.4.1 The positive aspect of the conflict is as follows:

- 1) Conflicts can clarify aspects of life are not clear or are still unresolved in the study.
- 2) Conflicts allow for readjustment of the norms, values of, and social relations within the group concerned with the needs of individuals or groups.
- 3) Conflict improve solidarity among members of a group that was having a conflict with another group.
- 4) conflict is a way to reduce dependence between individuals and groups.
- 5) conflicts can help revive the old norms and creating new norms.
- 6) Conflicts can serve as a means to achieve a balance between the forces that exist in society.
- 7) conflict spawns a new compromise when conflicting parties are in a balanced force.

Lamp described the concept of literature as the mirror of society. It closely relates to the definition of literature as a social product, meaning, that a literary work is written by human, about human, and made for human. He explains this mirror concept as mimetic theory whereas according to this theory, art can be explained as "essentially an imitation of aspect of the universe," (Abrams 87). In writing literary work, an author often takes the social phenomenon happening in the real life into his imagination. This is why, as Indian American people, Momaday reflects the life of their society in the cultural changing from traditional into modern life in the context of American life. He gives a powerful portrayal of the cultural conflict because he is "insider"; consequently, he is able to depict the phenomenon in a sharp outlook.

Marc Howard Ross sees the cultural in the perspective of the institutions and practices initiated in society. He assert : Perspective of the culture is a worldwide that includes cognitive an affective beliefs about social reality and assumptions about when, where, why, and how people in one's culture and those in order cultures are likely to act in particular circumstances (Ross 18). Cultural conflict happens when someone or people experienced unexpected changes surrounding them. Ross explains: Cultural conflict the intensity of emotions surrounding cultural expressions and enactment as well as their meaning often shift (Ross 19).

To support the analysis, the writer also uses a historical approach in order to explain the historical background the life of Indian American people in the

changing of modernization. Therefore, history books are used to give a clearer analysis why Indian American people faced the cultural conflict problem.

Historically, the problems of cultural conflict among Indian American people can be traced from the policy of the U.S. government in the 1800s to make them "civilized" through the policy of assimilation. Unfortunately, the White people did the oppression to ruin the policy by removing and replacing the Indian American people from their own homeland. David E. Wilkins in his book entitled *American Indian Policy and the American Political System* noted:

By the 1880s the federal government's effort to assimilate Indians had become quite coercive. Beginning in this era, a U.S. assimilation policy, as Wilmer shows, developed in several stages. These included replacing the traditional communal economic base with a system of private property, intensified education, primarily through boarding schools; the regulation of every aspects of Indian social life, including marriage, dispute settlement, and religious practice (110).

It can be learned from the above information that U.S. Government tried to assimilate Indian American people through their policy, and in many cases, it produced the loss of identity of the Indian American people. Fortunately, the spirit of the Indian American people to hold their tradition beliefs and practices is strong to keep their culture identities.

Hirscheelder explains:

Native North America is home to hundreds of religious traditions that have endured despite the long history of forced removals, sacred-site destruction, jailing of Native religious practitioners, and pressure to assimilate by missionaries and government. Many of these sacred beliefs, ceremonies, and rituals, and much knowledge continue to live on as the hearth of Native cultural identity (23).

The above explanation shows the continual fight of Indian American people to keep their cultural identity although they faced pressure from the U.S. government.

2.2 Review of Related Study

To be able to analyze the literary work, the writer has found related references which are useful to produce literary analysis. As the main resource of data and information the writer use some previous study and books.

The writer is taken from a Journal's article entitled *Abel's Identity Crisis and his Journey to his Native Self in 'House Made of Down': A Critical Analysis Perspective* written in 2014 by Irem Seklem from North American Studies Department Philipps-Marburg University Germany. In that Journal's article, the study aims at investigating and critically discussing the problem of identity search of Native American protagonist of the novel- Abel focusing on the reasons of the detachment from culture and alienation from the heritage faced by him. The writer of that Journal's article uses some theories such as psychoanalysis, identity crisis with the Native Americans Heritage approach.

However, in this research the writer wants to analysis *House Made of Down's* novel from portrait of what are factors that cause the cultural conflict and What is the effect of cultural conflict on Abel in Momaday's *House Made of Down* through theory of social change, conflict, cultural conflict.