

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

Literary criticism is the study, evaluation, and interpretation of literature. The word “criticism” comes from the ancient Greek noun “krites”, which have meaning “judge” (Habib 10). On other hand, Tim Gillespie explains that literary criticism is the discipline of interpreting, analyzing and evaluating works of literature (4).

Literary criticism has important functions in the study about literature. It improves the reader general reading skill, and has functioned as tools to help solve problems of understanding what we read too (Gillespie 2). However, literary criticism supports the developments of critical thinking skills. Through literary criticism, the reader knows how to classify a given writer as Romantic, classical, or modern. Through literary criticism too the reader will knows which tradition a given writer was working in and how she was trying to subvert it in certain ways. Besides that, the reader will be able to arrive at any comparative assessment of writers in terms of literary merit, even be able to interpret the meanings of individual lines or words in any appropriate context through literary criticism (Habib 11).

There are many theories in literary criticism study. A theory is the specific method, approach, or viewpoint a critic or reader has staked out from which he or she interprets, analyzes, and evaluates works of literature and often the world (Gillespie 3). Some theories in literary criticism are biographical criticism, historical criticism, psychological criticism, and others.

In this study, the writer will analyze about the reflection of the Russian Revolution in *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. In order to investigate about the Russian Revolution and its relation with the novel, the writer uses the sociology of literature and new historicism theory to analyze this novel. In the sociology of literature's perspective, literary work is considered as the representation of reality that happens in society (Wiyatmi 10). The sociology of literature approach is used to investigate about the connection between the novel and the society where the event happens. And New Historicism is used to learn a history of an era through literary text.

2.1. Sociology and Literature

The sociology of literature is derivative from the word sociology and literature. Sociology stands for the scientific study of human social life, groups, and societies. It is a dazzling and compelling enterprise because its subject matter is our own behaviour as social beings (Giddens 3). Alan Swingewood in his book *The Sociology of Literature* explains that sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions, and a social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists (3).

As for literature is considered as permanent expressions in words (written or spoken), specially arranged in pleasing accepted patterns or forms. Literature expresses thoughts, feelings, ideas or other special aspects of human experiences (Ade 19). On the other hand, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren explain in the book

the work's presentation support or condemn the event, what social concern established in the literary text, and is there a broad social structure that is flatter or blame in the text (3). Those relevant matters are able to dig up the problems in analysing literary work by using New Historicism theory.

New Historicism theory is not separated both literary and non-literary text which have historical background, they lay the historical context as an important aspect in studying the text. Moreover, according to M. H. Abrams, New historicist conceive of a literary text as 'situated' within the institutions, social practices, and discourses that constitute the overall culture of a particular time and place, and which the literary text interacts as both product and producer of cultural energies and code (183). For them, literary text is a media that provide a historical event which they able to analyze.

Peter Barry in her book *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Study*, defines that New Historicism is a method based on the *parallel* reading of literary and non-literary text, which usually of the same historical period (201). New historicist gives the same attention between literary and non-literary text, then analyzes it based on the historical background depicts within it. They refuse to give a privilege to the literary text, instead of use the historical background as the main element to analyze text.

In addition to evaluate the time or the social condition during the writing of literary text, new historicist also examine the social sphere where the authors move during their lives, the books and theories which influences them in writing literary text, because they look at literary text as a representation from the

historical events from an era. According to Greenblatt itself, New Historicism is reading and learning the historical events represented through the literary text, so that the historical context is needed in interpreting the literary work (Abrams 184). This method is focused on the text and its content. By using this method, we can learn a history of an era through literary text.

2.3. Related Study

Animal Farm is a popular novel by George Orwell. There are many articles which talk about how great this novel as a critical novel. But, the study which explore deeply about this novel is still difficult to found.

The related study of this research is thesis by Nadzifussy'a under the title "The Idea of Class Struggle Depicted in Orwell's *Animal Farm*". The similarities of this research and the previous one is both of them uses the novel *Animal Farm* as the object of study, and the sociology of literature approach to analyze the novel. But, different from the previous research which explains more about the concept of class struggle and the concept of ideology described in *Animal Farm*, in this study the writer will explain about the reflection of The Russian Revolution of 1917 in the novel *Animal Farm*.