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 uses to investigate about the connection between the novel and the society where the event happens. And New Historicism is uses 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 is stand 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 persist (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

Theory of Literature that the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature. The art of literature here is refers to imaginative literature (11).

In convenient with its name, the sociology of literature figures out literary work through the combination of sociology and literature aspects. In this approach, theories that related to literature are being the dominant. As for the theories about sociology have function as the complement theory (Ratna 18). Wiyatmi in her book *Sosiologi Sastra* explains that in literary study, the sociology of literature is defined as an approach which apprehends and criticizes literary work by considering the social aspects (5).

In the sociology of literature approach, literature and society are important element that cannot be separate. The sociology of literature contemplates literary work as the result of interaction between the author and society (Ratna 12). In this theory's perspective, literature has some different functions. The first function, literature can be document of social and culture reality or political event that happened in specific era. The second, literature can be a tool to convey some values or ideology to the reader of society. The last function, literature can be a tool to against savageness or unfairness through humanity values (Wiyatmi 11). These three functions had broke people's assumption that literary work is just for entertainment or adding human knowledge. Aside from that, literary work has some other functions as historical document and to speak out some ideologies.

2.1.1. Literature and Reality

In the connection between literature and reality, A. Teeuw (187) explains that literary work was born from exemplary of reality, but it is become the model

of reality all at once. It is happens when an estimate values that accepted by certain people is those which discovered in the literary work. That values then uses as the measurement of reality in society. In real life, people often compare beautiful thing or scenery that they see with those in literary works. The statement like "the view in this village is beautiful like painting" is one of some examples that literature uses as the measurement of reality.

Based on the aspects and its function, the sociology of literature is considered as the development of mimesis theory by Plato, the Greek philosopher which lives in 4th and 5th centuries, literary work is the imitation of reality.

According to Saraswati (20), Plato in his book *Ion* and *The Republic* which talks about mimesis theory explains that;

- 1. Literature is an imitation of reality. The idea of this theory then becomes the direction for study about relation between literature and reality.
- 2. There are three kinds of artists; they are user, maker, and imitator or author. According to Plato's explanation, the highest level of artist here is user. These three artists classified based on what they have or create. The user is the one who have the idea. The user gives the maker direction to make the idea into reality, and then the imitator or author copy it into imitation.
- 3. The importance of literature for children education. In Plato's era, every kinds of literature are written into poetry (Saraswati 20). Poetry have important role in education world. That is why Plato thinks that every story in the poetry that spread in the society should be censored first.

The stories about fight and battle between Gods should be keeping for the adult, not for children. This is helping the children to have good character and be good adult in the future.

4. In contradictory with the third point, poetry works in different way for adult. For children, poetry has the importance to build good character, but Plato did not think that adult should read more about poetry. Plato explains that the republic of society should use their wit more than feeling to create their ideal country. And they should do more action to get what they want than just dream about it. Poetry which is the result of imitation should be remote from society. Because Plato was sure that poetry will fertilize the feeling and dry out the wit.

In the sociology of literary approach, mimesis theory apprehends literary work by its relation with the reality and social aspect of community (Wiyatmi 8). Literary work is considered not only as a social document, but also as a part of life society (Ratna 6), the existence of literary work should always be understood about how its relations with the social aspects (Wiyatmi 9). Because in writing a literary work, an author usually get influence from the society where he or she live. That is the reason why literary work considered as representative of the reality that happens in the society. In this approach, literature is considered as one of society phenomenon, or in another word we can call it as a society product.

Even though the relations between literature and society has been talking point since Plato and Aristoteles period, but the sociology of literature as an autonomous study is recognized in the 18th century (Ratna 7). That is why the

presence of the sociology of literature is considered late than the other studies about sociology such as the sociology of education, politic, ideology, and religion.

2.2. New-Historicism

The term "New Historicism" was stated by an American critic Stephen Greenblatt through his book, *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: from more to Shakespeare* (Barry 115). In this book, Greenblatt offers a new perspective in the study of Renaissance, which namely by stressing the relevance of literary text with the various social, politic, and economic forces that enclose it (Taum 5). According to Greenblatt, New Historicism involves an intensified willingness to read all of the textual trace of the past with the attention traditionally conferred only on literary text. Greenblatt explains that analyzes the historical context widely becomes the New historicism's method in interpreting literary text.

New Historicism itself is a literary criticism which considered that in studying literary work, it should be studied and interpreted within the historical context that surrounds the text made by the author (Tyson 291). Based on the idea from the theory of New Historicism, it considered that literature could never be interpreted without understanding the existing of the historical context.

According to J. Case Tompkins in his article *New Historicism and Cultural Study states* that Greenblatt provides matters or issue which able to dig up in analysing the literary work by using New Historicism theory, such as: what language or characters or events present in the work reflect the current events of the author's day, how are such events interpreted and presented in the story, does

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 Nadzifussya'an 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*.