

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the researcher will explain more about the theory that will be used in analyzing *The Casual Vacancy* novel. Then, the researcher uses New Criticism theory to analyze it. In analyzing this novel, the researcher focuses on analyzing the character, characterization, and theme in the novel. But the researcher takes only one character from the novel. She is Krystal Weedon. The researcher uses New Criticism to answer all of the statement of the problems. The theory is explained as follows.

2.2 New Criticism

According to David Carter, New Criticism was active from the late 1930s to the late 1950s, also took on most of the ideas of Eliot and Richards, as well as those of Empson (26). Tyson said in his book *Critical Theory Today* that the most important concepts in New Criticism are concerning the nature and importance of textual evidence – the use of concrete, specific examples from the text itself to validate our interpretation (135). So, the analyzer who wants to analyze uses New Criticism theory will go inside the story without taking outside the story.

Moreover, Bennet and Royle also agreed that characters are considered as the life of literature. Characters become the objects of the readers' curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. Indeed, our intense relationship with literary characters makes them to be more than becoming simply objects because in which through the power of identification, through sympathy and antipathy, they can become part of how we conceive ourselves, a part of who we are (60). Sometimes the readers imagine themselves to be one of the characters in the story. By imagining it, the reader can get the real meaning and goal from the story.

In fiction, characters are divided into some types. Based on its significance role in developing a story, characters are separated into major and minor characters. Major or main character refers to character which appears in almost all or totally in the whole story. He or she is character which is mostly told and always relates to other characters. On the other hand, minor character is character which appears only in some parts of the whole story and he or she is told less than major character. Minor characters may exist just when they are having correlation with the major characters (Nurgiyantoro 176-177). In the story, there are some kinds of character. They can have positive and negative side. It is like good and bad character. Sometimes good character can cover whole story. The reader will like the good character then the bad character.

Human comes from the environment. He/she was born by having some talents which can be developed in every way. By passing shaping process, human can be the certain character who has certain behavior (Farozin 74). It can be concluded that human is able to do some actions based on his/her initiative in his/her environment. He/she is known as an active object. So that is way, the environment has the important role to build human's character and behavior.

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The following aspects are personality harmony and conflict resolution.

Personality harmony means the character and behavior between husband and wife do not make negative effect to one of them. The harmony does not depend on the same character and hobby. The differences of them do not become the problem as long as they can take and understand each other (13). If they can take and understand each other, their family life must be happy because there are some problems which come from the differences. Take and give from their character is very needed to create the harmony in the family. Conflict resolution relates with behavior, feeling, and belief toward the solving problem in

2.3.1.2 The Adolescent Life

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