

## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

This chapter discusses related sources dealing with the aspects that the study based on. It helps to understand the answers of the statements of the problem. The researcher arranges the aspect as follow that is conflict of the character which viewed by sociology of literature.

#### 2.1 Sociology of Literature

Goldmann states (1975: 6), the problem of a sociology of the novel has always preoccupied sociologists of literature, though, as yet, no decisive step towards its elucidation has so far been attempted. Basically, the novel, for the first part of its story, was biography and a social chronicle. So that, he means that in sociology of literature, story viewed depends on the author's background although some are not personal history, but there are fiction story used to described similar with the reality events.

According to Escarpit (2005:14) sociology of literature has to pay attention to the special characteristic of social fact. By give the advantages to the professional, it has to give advantages to the reader by helps the traditional studies of literature – the history or critic – in the special duty which have to become the part of the sociology of literature. So, the sociology of literature has its own job as developed or helps the

other studies which relation with the society or social fact. A literary work can be studied by connecting it with sociology. Although between literature with sociology are two different disciplines but it capable of being a new science, sociology of literature.

In Faruk defines (1994: 1), sociology of literature as scientific and objective study of human beings in society, the study of institutions and social processes. Furthermore, it is said that sociology trying to answer questions about how society is possible, how it works, and why the community survives.

The representation of social situation in the specific time which viewed as the relation between society and literature thought mistaken by Wellek and Warren because that is not true if a literary works as the representation of human's life because the author can't tell all of his experience and his own life to his works. It will make his force the reader about a value of social life. Take a look for classification of sociological of literature as Wellek & Warren (1977:111) states:

- a. Sociology of the author: the questioning of social status, political ideology, and others concerning the status of the author.
- b. Sociology of literary works: questioning the essence of a literary work and what purpose or message it wants to give to the reader.
- c. Sociology of literature: questioning the reader and the social influence to society.

Based on the statement above, the literary works can be seen from the sociological aspect. The theory of literary sociology is not merely used to explain the social reality around the author and transfers or copies into a literature work, this theory appears to analyze the author's cultural region relations with his work, the relation of literature and society, and the relation of social indication around the author and his works.

This research is focused on the sociology of literary works, which thoughts that the author is death, or there is no relation with the author when discussed about cultural and any kinds of social instrument inside of the literary works itself. The sociology of literary works questioning the literary works itself, which become the central of the problem. The social issue here viewed as the social fact.

## **2.2 Conflict**

Nurgiyantoro (2012) says, that conflict is something that makes plot feel alive in the story. Conflict in the fiction story has play as the important point to make story become interesting for the reader or viewer or listener. Same as the conflict in the real life, conflict in the fiction story needed because it has positive advantages (122). For real society, conflict can keep the solidarity of people who have one ideology or belief. And for fiction story, conflict can make the reader, viewer, or listener of the story learn something because in every conflict there must be the conclusion for that.

Stanton (2007) argues that conflicts can build a groove when combined with climax. His statement, the two basics elements that build the path are conflict and

climax. Every work of fiction has at least an internal (apparent) conflict that is present through the desire of two characters or the passion of a character with its surroundings. These specific conflicts constitute a subordination of a major external and internal conflict (31). At least the fiction has one or both of the conflict inside the story and that conflict which has climax determine how a story manage the event that happen to interest the reader. Usually, the reader will interest with the process of the end of the story not the end of the story. And beside to make the good plot, conflict also can determine the themes of the story. Stanton (2007: 42) said, the effective way to find out the theme of the story by put a lot of attention to every little piece of the conflict happen.

Jones (in Sayuti, 2000: 41) said that the pattern of conflicts formed by the unbalance elements in the beginning of an event then collectively by itself in the half of story. Means that the event which happen in the beginning of the story and not complicated enough will move to the half of story and raise become more complex and that is the way pattern of conflict formed. Jones (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124) divided conflict into three parts; internal conflict, and physical conflict, social conflict which included to the external conflict.

### **2.2.1 Internal Conflict**

Internal conflict as Jones (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124) states, as psychological conflict, is the conflict which happened in the soul or mind of the characters in the

story. So, that is the conflict of inner if human which relation with the mind, feeling, and emotion. For example, there is a story about a daughter who asked to her father that she want to go to hiking in the weekend and going with her family. Her father thinks that is the good idea, so they planned to go hiking in next weekend. Time passed and it is time for them to go to hiking. Suddenly, there is a thief whom already stole the electronic thing in her house early morning then caught by the neighbor but the thief has a shotgun and shoots the father of that girl. That is the conflict which happened in the story of the little girl and her father, and the internal conflict is the girl may feel disappointed because of canceling their plan, feels sad because of her father got shot, and she feels mad to the thief. That is the general description of internal conflict of the character in a story.

According to Sayuti (2000: 42), internal conflict is where the characters have to fight with theirselves about what he have to do to solve the conflict. As the example above, the girl has to think about what she going to do about the accident, is she will just let the thief caught by the police, or the girl also has feeling to kill the thief.

### **2.2.2 Physical conflict**

The conflict also called as elemental conflict is caused by the impact between the characters and the nature (Jones in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124). This conflict is happened when the character cannot control or handle the nature as it should be. Take

the example of the girl and father as before, the plan is when they are going to hiking on next weekend, then the time has going when they are on the way to hiking. That time, the girl panic because when hiking, she has not bring the rope as tools for helps her when she climb the slope. Everyone focus to help the girl and careless around when there is landslide of the slope. The girl and the other fall down trough the landslide, but the girl hit a big tree and try to reach it to stop herself fall on the landslide. The describing of this conflict is enough to show what is physical conflict and how is the conflict in the story.

### **2.2.3 Social Conflict**

According to Jones (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124) the social conflict is a conflict which happens by the interaction or contact between the characters in the story. It is called as conflict of the character which has relation with the society, and the conflict is very complex and need to have solution for it by one of the character or the other. If the characters in the novel cannot find a best solution quickly for the conflict, it may become serious and complex. This social conflict is grows by the individual habit or attitude to facing the problem in the society, example; differences of belief, the human rights, etc. (Sayuti, 2000: 42).

Nurgiyantoro (2012: 125) states that a conflict can be searched, can be found, can be imagined, and can be developed by the conflict in reality. Most of the author take the social conflict which happen in the reality and put it, describes it in his works

to show to his reader kind of social conflict and how to find the solution for it by the characters of the story. Jones (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124) said that the social conflict in the story might happen between the characters is the form of social conflict in reality; slavery, bully, mocking infamy, wars, and another case which included the characters and society or among the characters itself.

There are functions of social conflict which have a role in the story; first is to build the characterization. It can happen by interaction between the characters who have some conflict. For example, the girl and the thief fight by different reasons. The girl fight him because he stole something in her house and shot her father, she becomes mad and have a feeling to kill the thief, and the thief fight with the girl just for protect himself and also the reason he shot the girl's father is for protecting himself. From the narrative, the author tries to make the reader understand the characteristic of each characters. The girl is someone who bears a grudge and the thief is someone who has big ego. That is the characterization which can found by the social conflict.

The second is social conflict support the existence of the characters, not just the main characters but the other characters whose have role to build the story and interact with the main character. In a story, it cannot be less than one character because the character itself who will build every step of the event. To be a social conflict, a story has to have two or more characters to build some emotions and some messages to the reader. The social conflict which happened, may, between the main

characters or the main characters with the supporting character. The way why it is called the social conflict because the conflict is happen around the society, not just inside of a person but include two or more.

### 2.3 Characterization

According to Stanton (2007: 33), characterization usually refers to two contexts. The first refers to the individuals which appear in the story, and the second context refers to social intercourse of any importance, desire, emotions, moral principal of the individuals. The first context means that the appearance of the character is can explain by the question of ‘how much the characters in the story?’

Viewed from the complicity character in the story, Sayuti (2000:74) divided the character of the fiction into two differences; central character and peripheral character. The first option is usually takes the bigger part from the beginning until the end of the story. There are three ways to determine central character;

- a. The character has implicitly to the theme of the story
- b. The character has more lot of part which contacting with the other character.
- c. The character needs long part or the bigger part than the other just for introduce and describe about himself.

In novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne for example, the object of this research. The central character is Hester Prynne because, first she is has the



implicitly to the theme of the story. Researcher as a reader, has assumption that the theme of the novel is redemption. The evidence is every chapter which tells about the redemption of the characters, and the evidence of Hester Prynne has implicit of the theme is from the beginning until the end of story she known as the woman who has a scarlet letter in her breast as the redemption and reminder that she is the sinful woman.

The second evidence, is she the character who has lot of contact with other character? Absolutely she is. There are many characters in the novel; Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, Roger Chillingworth, Pearl, The Governor, Pastor Wilson, The Puritan's people. As the central character, Hester Prynne makes a contact and has relation to all of the name mention before. The last evidence is Hester Prynne has the big part to describe about herself, and the conflict that she made, also the until the end of the story, she is still describes as the woman who disappear and become the legend in Puritan's land.

The peripheral character is has opposite meaning, it is kind of supporting character which helps the central character to build the plot of the story. Different with the central character, peripheral does not has the big part in the story although they would appear to make a new conflict with the central character. The appearance of peripheral in the whole story is less, not important, and he appears only if there is connection with the main character, directly or indirectly.

## 2.5 Synopsis of The Scarlet Letter

Hester Prynne, the young wife of an older man, is sent on ahead of her husband to Boston. Arriving two years later after being captured by Indians, her husband finds Hester in the public pillory with a baby in her arms, and condemned to wear the red letter A, for adulteress, on her bosom for the rest of her life. Taking a concealed identity her husband then devotes himself single-mindedly and ruthlessly to discovering the identity of his wife's lover. The story unfolds as Hester's husband identifies and then tortures the father of Hester's child with his guilt which not confessed. Hester meanwhile, through good works, has gradually won back the respect of the community. The poignant climax ends in the exposure, public confession, and death of a once revered man, in Hester's arms.

