

Chapter II

Review of related literature

In analyzing the story of the novel, the writer feels that she needs to discuss some related elements, which can support the points she wants to discuss. A novel consists of some aspects such as setting, plot, conflicts, characterization and so on. In this thesis, the writer would like to explain about the theory of conflicts and characterization of the novel. The writer also explains about the definition of adaptation, which also gives contribution to the analysis.

2.1. Literary Theory

The thesis writer uses literary theory to support her analysis. The literary theories that are used in this thesis are conflict and characterization.

2.1.1. Conflict

The word conflict comes from Latin word 'contra' meaning against **and** 'fligere' meaning **to strike** (Barry 25). Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. According to A Handbook of Literature Terms, every story, novel, play develops around a struggle or conflict. There are two kinds of conflicts: first, external conflict, in which the character struggles against another character. For example two men are trying to win the love of a girl. External conflict can also be the struggle between man and nature. For example the difficulties of dangers. Social conflict is also included in external conflict, that is a struggle between man and society. For example racial. The second conflict is internal/psychological conflict, that is the conflict happens in which the character struggles against some elements of his own personality. Bernard Cohen says that internal conflict can be from any forces of the external. conflicts as stated **above**, or from

feelings entirely within a person or from **other** causes that are unknown. Cleanth Brooks states in An Approach to Literature that here are stages which emerge in a conflict. The beginning is the presentation of the situation in which the cause of conflict lies. The middle is the presentation of the real process of conflict. The end shows the summarizing event that leads to the resolution (Brooks 19). To capture the readers' interest, the author creates conflicts in a story. As long as conflict is the essence of a *story*, conflict will arise the readers' interest and make the story more exiting (Holman 108). A story will not be interesting if **the** story has no conflict. Talking about conflict in a **story**, conflict also takes place in each part of human's life. The writer finds many conflicts in the novel but she would only like to discuss about social conflict that happens in Gopher Prairie between Carol and villagers.

2.1.2. Characterization

Sometimes the word character is synonymus with 'persons', 'human being' and 'literature figure', but- more often it is used in reference to an individual's qualities and characteristic (Roberts 10). Character in literature is an author's representation of a human being, specifically of

those inner qualities that determine how an individual reacts to various conditions, or attempts to shape his or her environment (Roberts 54). In a story, there are both major and minor character.

Characterization is the creation of the imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as lifelike. The ability to characterize is a primary attribute of a good writer. In A Handbook to Literature, there are three fundamental methods of characterization: first, the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct exposition, either in an introductory block or more often piecemeal throughout the work, illustrated by action. Second method is the presentation of the character in action, with little or no explicit comment **by** the author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actor from the actions. And the last method is the representation from within a character, without comment on the character by the author, of the impact of actions and emotions on the character's inner self, with the expectation that the reader will come to a clear understanding of the attributes of the character (Holman 81).

In Main Street, the major characters are Carol and Will Kennicott and **the** minor characters are Mrs. Bogart, Vida

Sherwin, Guy Pollock, Miss Villets, Raymie Wytherspoon, Juanita Haydocks and so on. In this novel, Carol reacts to various conditions in Gopher Prairie. At first she rejects villagers' ways of life but in the end she accepts them.

2.2. Important term

Besides literary theory, the thesis writer also uses important term. She only uses the definition of adaptation, which give contribution to her thesis.

2.2.1. Adaptation

Adaptation comes from Latin word 'adaptare' means to fit to. Adaptation is a process of acquiring a fitness for new circumstances or new purposes. This is the way man manages to deal with the contingencies of daily life (Bozman 67).

When somebody lives in a new place, she or he should adapt with this place in order to survive. Like Carol, the heroine in this novel, she undergoes the process of adaptation with a new place, Gopher Prairie, in which she finds that the villagers' opinion are extremely different from hers.