

CHAPTER II

Theoretical Foundation

This chapter concerns the theoretical framework of the present study to analyze the main character as a young adult in a coming-of-age novel entitled “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” (1999) by Stephen Chbosky. This chapter also discusses some theories related to the main character and characterization theory.

2.1 Novel

Novel is a part of literature, every pieces of literature must be a structural that played some roles in order to make the story more alive. That structural must related and supporting to each other. In this case, to find a characterization to built the personality growth of the main character. According to Wicaksono (2014:75):

Istilah novella dan novell mengandung pengertian yang sama dengan istilah dalam istilah Indonesia novellet, yang berarti sebuah karya prosa fiksi yang panjangnya cukupan, tidak terlalu panjang, namun tidak terlalu pendek.” (The terms novella and novell contains the same meaning with the term in Indonesian, novellet, which means a work of prose fiction long enough, not too long and too short).

From the statement above, novel is a literary work that is consist of so many sentences as story, novel is divided in two parts which is fiction novel and nonfiction novel. Fiction novel is about a fictitious thing and never happened in the real life, the story, the character is depend on the author’s creation. Non-fiction novel is a true story novel, all of thing in the novel is a true story and based on the reality. The author can get the inspiration from them, they friends or from people around them.

Sudjiman (1998:53) said that novel is a fictitious process that presents the character and displays a series of events and backgrounds that are arranged.

Sumardjo & Saini (1997:29) said that novel is a story with the prose with a long shape, this long shape means has the complex plot, many characters and various setting. Kurnia (1999:65) said that in the novel, there are two centers of the world that plays an important role in human life (figure). These two worlds control the atmosphere of life on all sides, the first is the gave and the second is the artist's life (painter). Novel is a literary work that has so many genres which are; Romance, Horror, Thriller, Adult, Comedy, Inspiration, and Epistolary novel. Epistolary novel is a novel that written as a series of documents, the usual form is letters, although diary entries, newspaper and other documents are sometimes used. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is an coming-of-age epistolary novel, the main character (Charlie) is used to wrote his everyday experience in the paper, like a diary.

According to Wijaya (2001:41) Novel is a work to upside down the reality. Blurring the limit of imagination and concrete experience. Confound between emotional and thoughts. Ignited the sensitivity of instinct and the brightness of brains. Novel is an inner experience. Describing the real and not real in life with the words. Novel is a work to reveal the hidden meaning in life (2001:39).

2.2 Intrinsic Elements of the Novel

Intrinsic elements is an important part in the novel, Nurgiyantoro (2013: 29) states that as a traditional, there are two elements in the novel, there are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements is elements that built the literary work itself. There are also several elements in the intrinsic elements, here are the details:

2.2.1 Plot

Plot is a fiction, has a mysterious characteristic and intellectual. Plot brings the incidents that is contains with conflict that can make the readers interest to the story. It can make the readers feel curious about what will happend in the next chapter of the story. Forster (1970:94-95) in Nurgiyantoro (2013:169). Plot also can shows the reader how an event grows from the beggining to the end and it can guides the readers to feel a transition from one situation to other situation and also can help the readers to know the next events. Plot is classified by time: progressive plot, flash back plot and mixed plot (Nurgiyantoro 2013: 213).

According to DiYanni (2001:44-46) that plot can be divided into five chapters, here are the explanation below:

- a. Exposition: exposition is the starting point of narrative providing information about the main characters and setting in narrative. As very common fictional plotr that start with exposition including backgroud informtaion necessaryy to know and to understand the action, picture the setting and bring up the main characters.
- b. Conflict: conflict is the problem, considered as clash of desire between the protagonist and antagonist character. A conflict can be internal or external. Internal conflict refers to the main character himself who is experiencing the clash, while the external conflict refers to a clash between two sides, like person and person, person and nature, or between group of people.

- c. Complication: complication is part of story in which a problem gets complicated and a problem between the antagonist and the protagonist get worst. Complication also refers to a development of plot.
- d. Climax: climax is the peak of story that is about something to happen or not, at which situation an effect has to be accepted.
- e. Resolution: resolution is the end of the story where there is no problem anymore.

2.2.2 Character

Character is someone who act or perform in the event or incident in the novel based on the story. According Abrams (1999:76), character is people who are appered in a narrative prose or novel and it is interpreted by the readers as a person who has moral quality and certain tendency such as being expressed in what they say and what they do. If a character experience significant, life-altering events, we, as readers expect that the character will somehow be different as a result of those events.

According to Aminuddin (2002:79), the character is the cast who carried the events in fiction that the story is able to establish a story ,there are three kinds of the characters in the novel or other literary works:

1. The Protagonist: the protagonist is a character who supporting the story of the novel. Usually, the protagonist is the main character and have a good characteristic.
2. The Antagoist: the antagonist is the character who have a bad characteristic, he/she is always opposite with the main character, usually the antagonist always have a bad plan to drop main character.
3. The Tritagonist: the tritagonist is a netral character, usually the tritagonist give some support to the antagonist or protagonist.

2.2.3 Setting

Setting is a something or a situation that cover the character in the story, it can be a place, time and the atmosphere. Setting in this form is only for the place and time of occurence. As Nurgiyantoro (2009:220), setting or “latar” consist of neutral and

typical setting. Neutral setting is not describe clearly, which means is not describe about the places, times and the environment in the story and it does not have a function. Different with the neutral, the typical setting is describing the characteristic, the places and the times in the novel, it can make the reader to imagine the story easily.

2.2.4 Moral Message

Moral Message is the message that the author wants to deliver the readers, based on the whole story in the novel. Moral message can give a knowledge, education and sacrifice to the reader. Kenny (1966:89) state in Nurgiyantoro (2013:430) moral in literary work usually as a suggestion that related to the morality lesson and can be interpreted through the story which is related to the readers.

2.2.5 Point of View

Siswandarti (2009:44) point of view is a author's position in the fiction. Point of view is about how the author of the novel tells about the character, there are two types of point of view, according to Nurgiyantoro (2009:256) point of view is consist of:

1. The first person's point of view : singular (me, me), plural (us,us)
2. The third person's point of view : singular (he/she, person's name), plural (them, their name).

2.3 Characterization

According to the Klarer's statment (1999) that there are two kinds of character:

Flat character and round character. Flat character means a typified character which is dominated by one specifict trait. This character usually lack of psychologicalcomplexity. It is usuallt found in the fables. The last one is round character which refers to a more complex personality trait. This character is owned by a lot of people and closest to the real life. A round character usually plays as the main character, while flat character plays as the additional character.

The author works with his or her own description through comments, feelings, and thoughts of the character. The representation of the character which impacts the action and emotion is also a type of characterization which can be represented from the monologues, the subconscious and unconcious mind of the character. The audience or the reader is also can try to draw the characterization by looking the environment around the character and also how the character interacts with other characters, Aminuddin (2002).

Characterization is theory to show how the characteristic of the character in the novel, the method of characterization is anarrative description of explicit judgement. This theory also can describe in so many ways such as: physical description, name analysis, attitude/apperance, thoughts, reaction of others, dialogue, action or incident and emotional setting. With this theory, the writer will know about the whole characteristic of the character in so many ways. As the statement of Minderop (2011:6), there are two methods of the characterization:

1. Direct characterization (telling): describe the character by the author directly.
 - A. Characterization through the use of the names.

- B. Characterization through appearance: to describe the character physically, such as: the clothes or how the expressions of the character.
 - C. Characterization by the author: to describe the character by the exposition and the direct comments from the author of the novel.
2. Indirect characterization (showing): dialogue and act, this method shows or describe the main character by the dialogue and action.
- A. Characterization through the dialogue .
 - B. Characterization by the location and situation of the conversation.
 - C. Characterization by the character's identity of the author's description.
 - D. Characterization by mental quality.
 - E. Characterization by the voice, pressure, dialect and vocabulary.
 - F. Characterization through the acts of the characters.

2.4 Main Character and Sub Character

Basically in the novel, there is a main character or central character supporting character or peripheral character. Main character is a preferred character and most-told in the novel, the main character is not always showed in each part or chapter in the novel, but the main character is related to the other characters. The main character is the character who prefers the story in the novel. He is the most showed character as subject of the incident, Nurgiyantoro (2013:176). Usually, the main character have a good characteristic but the main character is not always have a good fate, and sub character or peripheral character is a character that is not has important role in the story of the novel, but the sub character can give a good motivation or they just can make the main character down or broke in the story.

Tokoh utama dapat saja hadir dalam setiap kejadian dan dapat ditemui dalam tiap halaman buku cerita yang bersangkutan, tetapi tokoh utama juga tidak bisa muncul dalam setiap kejadian atau tidak langsung ditunjuk dalam setiap bab, namun ternyata dalam kejadian atau bab tersebut tetap erat kaitannya dengan tokoh utama. (The main character may be present in every scene and

can be found in each page of the novel or the book, but the main character also can not appear in any scene or indirectly appointed in each chapter, but apparently in the scene or chapter it remains closely related to the main character.) Nurgiyantoro, (2013:176).

2.5 Personality

Personality is something that exist in someone since they were born, personality can also change from various factors such as family, friends or from themselves. Someone can have a good or bad personality, it based on themselves thoughts or acted. Personality is something unique and speific. Everyone is a unique person in oneself. Everyone has specific characteristic for making adjustments, personality exhibits self-consciousness as one of its main characteristics. Man is described as a person or as having a personality when the idea of self enters into his consciousness. Everyone personality is the product of heredity and environment. Both of the child's is not born with a personality but develops and one as a result on countuous interaction with his environment, Madhava (2008: 7-8).

2.6 Biography of Stephen Chbosky

Stephen Chbosky is an American novelist, screenwriter and film director. He was born on January 25th 1970, probably in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Lea (nee Meyer) and Fred G. Chbosky and his sister, Stancy. Chbosky graduated from Upper St. Clair High School in 1988, around which time he met Stewart Stern, screenwriter of the *Rebel without a Cause*, they are became good friend, and Stewart also became Chbosky's mentor and proved a major influence on Chbosky's

career. Chbosky continued his school and he graduated from the University of Southern California's screenwriting program in 1992.

In his first career he wrote, directed and acted in the 1995 independent film *The Four Concern of Nowhere*. After several years he wrote a best-selling novel, *The Perks of Being a Walflower*, an epistolary novel that follows the intellectual and emotional maturation of a teenager who uses the alias Charlie over the course of his first year of high school. The novel is semi-autobiographical; Chbosky said that he "relate[s] to Charlie [...] but my life in high school was in many ways different". The novel was published in 1999 by MTV Books, was an immediate popular success with teenager readers and sold more than 700.000 copies by New York Times in 2007.

On May 2013, the novel reached over two million copies and published in 31 languages. In 2005, Chbosky wrote a film adaptation of *The Perks of Being a Walflower* and the film was released in fall 2012, it starred Logan Lerman, Ezra Miller, and Emma Watson, with Chbosky as a director. The film won the 2013 Independent Spirit Awards for Best First Feature, as well as the 2013 People's Choice Award for Best Dramatic Movie.

Chbosky also mixed up with Disney Movie, *Beauty and The Beast* in 2017 as the screenwriter (re-written from Evan Spiliotoulos's original script) and the movie was released on March 17, 2017. In addition, Chbosky was worked for other films: Austin Powers in *Goldmember* (2002), *Rent* (2005), *The Poughkeepsie Tapes* (2007), *As Above, So Below* (2014), *No Escape* (2015) and *Wonder* (2017).

Chbosky currently resides in Los Angeles, California. (Available at http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Chbosky)

2.7 Synopsis “ The Perks of Being a Wallflower”

This novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* generally issues the topics of common problems such as awkwardness of growing up, sex, suicide, drugs, friends, family and homosexuality that are often faced by teenagers. This novel talks about a boy named Charlie Kelmeckis, he is a teenager that have a self-problem called introvert. He is really quite, shy, he is a bullying-victim. He has been traumatized by the death of his friend in the past and he is always consumption an anti-depressant to control his trauma. With his self-problem he have to survive in his new school as a first grade student.

In the first day in school, he just have one friend that is his English teacher named Bill and he have to survive alone in school. Behind his introvert character, he is really smart but he does not have a bravery to speak up in the class. Writing is Charlie’s hobby, he uniquely share his world to an anonymous friend by wriring a letter which is unknowingly sent or not, he is always write a letter like a diary, he writes everything that happened in his life. Charlie live in Pittsburbhg, Pennsylvanya. Charlie has a tempramental father, emotional mother, an elder brother who is coincidental a football player, a famous older sister and used to live with his beloved aunt, she is aunt Helen. Charlie always thinks that no one in his family after aunt Helen died who listens and understands him well.

The story starts with Charlie's anxiety and depression before his first day in high school. He always feels lonely since he lost his good friend, Michael and his dearest aunt, Helen. Nobody wants to be his friend, because people think that he is a peculiar boy. His only friend at school is Bill, Bill is his English teacher who always give Charlie a good book to read and to write an essay. One day, he met two people in his school tournament, they are Sam (girl) and Patrick (boy) and they are step brother and step sister. With Sam and Patrick, Charlie can do the things that he never ever did before like drugs, sex and other freedom things. Patrick calls Charlie "wallflower", "wallflower" refers to a person who enjoys watching and observing people without wanting to participate due to his or her personality of being shy.