

**THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF HURSTON'S IN *THEIR EYES WERE*  
*WATCHING GOD***



**A Thesis**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University In  
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THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF HURSTON'S IN *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*

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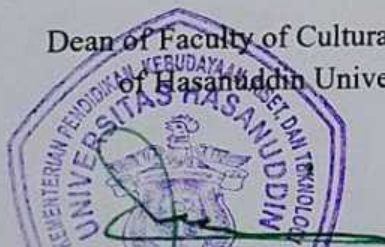
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The thesis by Muhammad Abizard (F041201070) entitled *The Personal Experience of Hurston's In Their Eyes Where Watching God* has been revised as advised during the examination on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

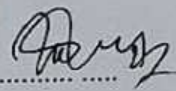
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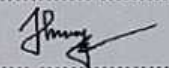
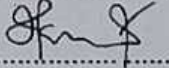
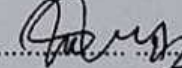

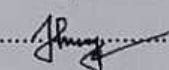
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**AGREEMENT**

On August 12, 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by A.Rismayanti (F041171519) entitled *The Personal Experience of Hurston's In Their Eyes Where Watching God* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain *Sarjana* Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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Makassar, August 2024

The writer



## ABSTRACT

**A.RISMAYANTI.** Supervised by **Dr.M.Amir** and **Andi Inayah Soraya.**

This study aimed to uncover the personal experiences that Zora Neale Hurston, the author of "Their Eyes Were Watching God," faced in her life as documented in her biography.

The writer employed a qualitative method, focusing on descriptive data. The study, "The Personal Experience of Hurston in Their Eyes Were Watching God," uses genetic structuralism and a biographical approach. Primary sources include Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" and Valerie Boyd's biography "Wrapped in Rainbows." Secondary sources consist of related articles and journals. Data collection involved reading the novel and biography, and classifying relevant aspects.

The findings show that Zora Neale Hurston faced numerous challenges throughout her life, as detailed in Valerie Boyd's biography "Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston." Hurston's early life was marked by trauma following her mother's death, leading to profound loss and alienation. Despite financial difficulties, she pursued education, working various jobs while excelling academically at Howard University and Barnard College. Her journey was marred by systemic racism and professional criticism, affecting her opportunities and reputation. Personal relationships, such as with Percival Punter, were tumultuous and unfulfilling. A false molestation accusation in 1948 severely damaged her reputation. In her later years, Hurston struggled with poverty and declining health. Her death in 1960 contrasted with posthumous recognition during the civil rights and feminist movements. Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" reflects her personal experiences, particularly in Janie Crawford's journey towards self-discovery. Her use of African American folklore and dialect highlights her cultural heritage. Future research could explore Hurston's work through postcolonial and psychoanalytic lenses, engaging with her novels' socio-historical context to uncover new insights into her legacy.

Keywords: The Personal Experience





## ABSTRAK

**A.RISMAYANTI.** Dibimbing oleh **M.Amir P.** dan **Andi Inayah Soraya.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap pengalaman pribadi yang dihadapi oleh Zora Neale Hurston, penulis "Their Eyes Were Watching God," sebagaimana didokumentasikan dalam biografinya.

Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan fokus pada data deskriptif. Studi ini, "Pengalaman Pribadi Hurston dalam Their Eyes Were Watching God," menggunakan strukturalisme genetik dan pendekatan biografi. Sumber utama meliputi novel Hurston "Their Eyes Were Watching God" dan biografi Valerie Boyd "Wrapped in Rainbows." Sumber sekunder terdiri dari artikel dan jurnal terkait. Pengumpulan data melibatkan pembacaan novel dan biografi, serta klasifikasi aspek-aspek yang relevan.

Temuan menunjukkan bahwa Zora Neale Hurston menghadapi banyak tantangan sepanjang hidupnya, sebagaimana dirinci dalam biografi Valerie Boyd "Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston." Kehidupan awal Hurston ditandai oleh trauma setelah kematian ibunya, yang mengakibatkan kehilangan mendalam dan keterasingan. Meskipun mengalami kesulitan keuangan, ia mengejar pendidikan dengan bekerja di berbagai pekerjaan sambil berprestasi secara akademis di Howard University dan Barnard College. Perjalanannya dipenuhi oleh rasisme sistemik dan kritik profesional yang mempengaruhi peluang dan reputasinya. Hubungan pribadi, seperti dengan Percival Punter, penuh gejolak dan tidak memuaskan. Tuduhan pelecehan palsu pada tahun 1948 sangat merusak reputasinya. Di tahun-tahun terakhirnya, Hurston berjuang dengan kemiskinan dan kesehatan yang menurun. Kematian Hurston pada tahun 1960 kontras dengan pengakuan anumerta selama gerakan hak sipil dan feminisme. Novel Hurston "Their Eyes Were Watching God" mencerminkan pengalaman pribadinya, terutama dalam perjalanan Janie Crawford menuju penemuan diri. Penggunaan folklor dan dialek Afrika-Amerika oleh Hurston menyoroti warisan budayanya. Penelitian lebih lanjut dapat mengeksplorasi karya Hurston melalui lensa pascakolonial dan psikoanalitik, dengan melibatkan konteks sosio-historis novel-novelnya untuk mengungkap wawasan baru tentang warisannya.



tema: Pengalaman Pribadi

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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study, identification of the problem, scope of the study, statement of the problem, objective of study, significance of study, and sequence of writing.

### 1.1. Background of The Study

Author is the source of some form of creative work. As a member of the society, the author conveys the problems of personal and social life as imaginative objects to become meaningful works. It's why the authors are an important part in literary works.

Writing literary works is one of the ways for authors to express their feelings and opinions about their own life experiences. Abrams (1999:14) stated that:

“Authors are individuals who, by their intellectual and imaginative powers, purposefully create from the materials of their experience and reading a literary work which is distinctively their own.”

The statements mentioned by the experts above indicate that the authors made a literary work by their experience, imaginative and intellectual power to create meaningful works. Schwarz (1986: 4) stated that:

“The work of fiction imitates a world that precedes the text, and critics should recapture that world primarily by formal analysis of the text, although knowledge of the historical context and author are often important”.



Based on the explanation above, there is a relation between the author and the work. the relationship between literary works and author can be seen from social issues related to political issues, cultural issues, crimes, which happened at the time

In this study, the researcher only focuses on analyzing the correlation between Zora Neale Hurston in her work *Their Eye Were Watching God*. As we know, novels are one of the most popular works in literature. It is also made by the creativity of the human itself. The author must have come from a different life background and it must be influenced by their work. It is proven by statement of Wellek and Warren (1977:82) stated:

“the main reason of literary work given birth is the composer himself or herself namely an author. That is why the explanation of personality and the author’s life is the oldest and established method in the literary work study”.

Zora Neale Hurston is an African – American novelist, who also writes folklore and anthropology. She was born on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1891, in Notasulga, Alamba. Hurston and her family soon moved to Eatonville, Florida, the first all-black incorporated town in the United States. During her time as a writer, Hurston has produced many works, such as *Jonah’s Gourd Vine* (1934), *Mules and Man* (1935), *Tell My Horse* (1938), *Moses, Man of The Mountain* (1939), and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). One of the most literary works that Hurston published is *Their Eyes Were watching God*. It was published in New York on September 18, 1937.



Zora Neale Hurston's *"Their Eyes Were Watching God"* a best-selling and iconic work of American literature, is an ideal choice for literary analysis due to its unique exploration of identity, gender roles, and autonomy within early 20th-century African-American life. Hurston's personal experiences and her background in anthropology lend authenticity to the novel, which stands out for its focus on personal empowerment and its innovative use of dialect. Written during the Harlem Renaissance, the novel's rich portrayal of Janie Crawford's quest for self-fulfillment and its enduring cultural significance makes it a compelling and distinctive work to study.

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* is a novel telling about a Woman called Janie Crawford who tries to look for her authentic self and real love. The story begins with showing a black woman called Janie Crawford, after a long time she returned to her hometown, Eatonville, Florida. Janie was raised by her grandma after her mother ran off. Nanny wants her to marry Logan Killicks. After marrying Logan, Janie moved in with Logan. After several years of marriage, Janie still feels that she doesn't have feelings for her husband, because Logan is an unromantic man. One day, Joe Starks, a smooth-spoken and ambitious man. Walk in the road in front of the farm. Joe and Janie flirt in secret for a couple weeks before she runs off and marries him. Janie and Jody (the nickname of Joe Starks), move to Eatonville, where Jody buys two hundred acres from fifty hundred acres in Eatonville. Jody was quickly elected mayor. After he became a mayor, he



treated Janie badly, because Jody insulted her, Janie got angry then Janie attacked him to shreds in front of the townspeople. Because of their fight, their marriage breaks down, and Jody becomes quite ill. After months without interacting, Janie visits him on his deathbed. As she berates him, he dies.

But when Tea Cake, her junior twelve years old, enters her life, Janie instantly feels a spark of mutual attraction. In spite of critical gossip inside the city, she begins dating Tea Cake. To everyone's horror, Janie marries Tea Cake nine months after Jody's death, sells Jody's shop, and leaves town to go with Tea Cake to Jacksonville. A horrific storm crashes into the Everglades, when they are desperate to escape the rising waves, a rabid dog bites Tea Cake. During a rabies-induced bout of madness, Tea Cake is persuaded that Janie is cheating on him. He begins shooting a gun at her and Janie is forced to kill him to save her life. She is immediately tried for murder, but the all-white, all-male jury finds her not guilty. She returns to Eatonville, where her former neighbors are ready to send her malicious gossip about her circumstances, thinking that Tea Cake has left her and taken her assets. Janie wraps up her story with Pheoby, who is deeply impressed by Janie's experience. Back in her room that night, Janie feels at home with Tea Cake and at ease with herself.

Based on the explanation above, the writer considers to take *Their eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston as the object of this study to the complexity of the plot and the issue that the writer tries to address



in its story. The writer also decided to examine the influence of personal experience of the author.

### 1.2. Identification of Problem

After reading novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, the writer identified some problems that can be analyzed:

1. Gender discrimination reflected in the novel.
2. Janie's characteristics reflect the Feminism concept.
3. The problem of the main character encounter in the novel.
4. Hurston's personal experience appears in her work.

### 1.3. Scope of Problem

As it mentioned above, there are many problems that can be analyzed from this novel. However, in this study, the writer only focuses on revealing Hurston's personal experience in her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

### 1.4. Statement of Problem

- a. What problem did Hurston face in her life that are recorded in her biography?
- b. How does Hurston personal experience influence her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?

### 1.5. Objective of The Study

- a. To analyze What problems did Hurston face in her life that are recorded in her biography.





- b. To analyze how Zora Neale Hurston personal experience influence her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

### 1.6. Significant of The Study

In this study, the writer expected to obtain two significant parts of the study, that is theoretical and practical.

- a. Theoretical, the writer expected to bring any benefits for the writer, readers, and to another researcher, especially the literary study on Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel by applying the theory of genetic structuralism and biography. It is also expected to make a contribution to enrich the understanding of literary matters.
- b. Practical, this research can provide students of English language learning programs, especially any researcher of this particular literary work, with a deep understanding, and enrich their knowledge and experience. In addition, the author also hopes that this research can provide references for other college students who are studying literature.

### 1.7. Sequence of Writing

This Research is entitled The Influence of Zora Neale Hurston toward *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, it consists of five chapters. The chapters are organized as follows:

The first chapter consists of a background of research, which contains several explanations of the reasons in choosing the novel and the role of the research, identification of problem, statement of problem, the



objectives of problem, significance of writing, and the sequence of writing. The second chapter presents the previous related studies of the research, theoretical background which consist of the previous related studies and theoretical background. The third chapter involves the methods of research, which consists of research methodology, data sources, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data. The fourth chapter is the analysis, which explains the ideas and the discussion of the problems found in the novel. Finally, the fifth chapter is the last chapter, which concludes the analysis of the study and makes suggestions.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will consist of some previous related study and theoretical background such as theory of genetic structuralism and biography from some experts.

#### 2.1 Previous Related Study

The writer has found some thesis that is related to this research. The studies conducted by Novicentrin Sinaga (2016), Agus Triyogo and Chairunnisa (2017), Cut Nursyidah Dewi (2009).

The first research is Sinaga's (2016) thesis entitled "*The Biographical Analysis of Five Selected Poems by Robert Frost*". This research focused on how Robert Frost life reflected in his selected poems and what life situation portrayed in Robert Frost selected poems. The writer uses biographical approach and hermeneutic theory which helps the writer to find the connection between Roberts Frost life and his selected poems through his own biography. In this research, the writer uses Theory of Literature by Rene Welleck and Austin Warren to describe a descriptive qualitative method of research. The writer describes Robert Frost five selected poems, it is found that five poems were written based on Robert Frost's life experiences. Frost's life experiences of having a farm, having a family and feeling the sorrow and depression are the influences on his ritings. His childhood also indirectly attributes some of the characteristics



to the themes to his works. This is a common practice for many writers and definitely one by Frost.

The second research is Triyogo's and Chairunnisa's (2017) entitled "*Gender Discrimination Reflected In Their Eyes Were Watching God By Zora Neale Hurston: Feminist Approach*". This research focused on analyzing gender discrimination issues limited to women. In this research, the writers use feminist approach to understanding the story from a view as a woman. In the conclusion of the research, the writers found that in this novel there were natality inequality, mortality inequality, household inequality, special opportunity inequality, and professional inequality. Such inequality and discrimination led to the effects experienced by the victims such as physical and psychological problems, impact on women's family and dependents, and impact on social life.

The third research is Cut's (2009) entitled "*The Portrait of J.K. Rowling Life in Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone*". This research focused on what part of the author's biography which also adapted in their work. The writer uses biographical approach and intrinsic theory as the theoretical framework of the research. This study processed the selected data by applying a descriptive qualitative method to try to explain the correlation between the background of the author's life and the influence to the literary works that has been produced.



Those research that was mentioned above have similarities and differences with this research. The similarities of the three research above is that the writers use qualitative methods. Two of the three researchers also analyzed the same approach with this research which is biographical and the other research analyzed the same novel: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Sinaga's research focused on how Robert Frost life is reflected in his selected poems and what life situation portrayed in Robert Frost selected poems. Triyogo's and Chairunnisa's research focused on analyzing gender discrimination issues limited to women. In this research, the writers use feminist approach to understanding the story from a view as a woman. Cut's research focused on what part of the author's biography which also adapted in their work. While this study, the writer wants to know how the personal experience of the author's influence their work. The writer uses genetic structuralism theory which includes all the internal problems in the novel, such as characters and characterization, settings, plot, and theme. The writer also analyses the external problems in the novel to be able to connect to the types of biography.

## 2.2 Theoretical Study

Theoretical study that is used in this study in order to support the researcher's analysis is Genetic Structuralism theory and Biographical approach.



### 2.3 Genetic Structuralism

Genetic structuralism was first proposed by Lucian Goldman, a sociologist born in Bucharest, Romania. Genetic structuralism combines the intrinsic analysis and extrinsic analysis to achieve the meaning of the literature itself. Elizabeth and Tom Burns (1973:119), Goldman stated that how humans have the three fundamental characteristics of human behavior, namely, the tendency to adapt to the environment, the tendency to be consistent in thoughts, behavior and feelings when dealing with environmental problems, and finally the tendency to modify or change the thoughts, behavior and feelings formed before.

In accordance with the disclosed Lucien Goldman (in Wardani, 2009:47) in his theory that, the approach of genetic structuralism trying to find a combination of text structure with social structure because the principle of this approach also takes into account social factors that affect the birth of literary works and review the structure of related texts with social conditions and social groups.

This theory originated from different views on structuralism theory. It only focuses on the intrinsic elements of the novel. This is why Goldman created genetic structuralism, which not only focuses on the author's imagination, but also on external influences such as the environment.

istory, Society, culture, etc. These intrinsic elements consist of characters and characterization, setting, plot, and theme, meanwhile the extrinsic elements include the socio-cultural background, politics, economy, and the



worldview of the author. In this thesis, the researcher uses the Biographical Approach to analyze the extrinsic elements of the novel.

## A. Intrinsic Elements

This intrinsic element consists of characters, setting, plot, and theme

### a. Characters

Characters are one of the important parts that build the literary work. A literary work cannot be made without characters. A character is a participant in a story, usually a person, but sometimes it can be any personal identity, animal, or entity that exists in a fictional work. Abrams (1999 : 32-33) defines characters as follows:

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action.

Based on the above definition above, the author should be able to clearly describe the character's qualities, attitudes and behaviors in order to describe a character to readers, because the characters and moral qualities described by the author are related to the interpretation of the author and the reader. Character can be divided into several types such as:

#### 1. Major Characters

Characters can be divided into several types, two of them are major and minor characters or central and peripheral characters. Nurgiyantoro (1995:176) argued that, in terms of the role and level



of importance of the characters in a story, the main character or central character is a character that is classified as important and appears continuously, so it seems to dominate most of the story. Meanwhile, some characters in the story only appear once or a few times, and may even appear in a shorter part of the story which are called minor or peripheral characters.

Major or central character is the character who takes the most role of the story from the beginning until the end of the story. Nurgiantoro (1995:176-177) added that, the major character is the character whose prioritized story and has been told the most in the story. Because the protagonist is told the most and is always in contact with other characters, and it really determines the development of the whole plot. It can conclude that major characters take the most part and determine the development of the whole plot.

## 2. Minor Characters

Minor or peripheral is a character who appears once or few times in the story and does not determine the development of the plot. Nurgiyantoro (1995:177) also suggested that the appearance of minor or peripheral characters in the story is less important, and their existence will only appear when they have direct or indirect contact with the major or central character.





b. Setting

Setting has an important part in a story. According to Nurgiantoro (1995:217):

The setting provides a concrete and clear focus on the story. This is important to give a realistic impression to the reader, creating a certain atmosphere as if it really existed and happened.

Setting in the story has the effect of influencing the character's situation, mood and personality. The setting reveals where the character is, what happened in society, and the situation where the character appeared. Setting includes location where and when the action was taken. The basic, set up actions that help readers visualize the work, thereby increasing credibility and the realism of the characters. Based on Abrams (1999 : 284) stated that,

“the overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general local, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place”.

Based on the statement above, the setting can be divided into three parts: general location, historical time, and social circumstance. On the other hand, Nurgiyantoro explains that elements of setting can be divided into three elements, that is place, time and social.

1. Place

Setting of place describes geographical location, such as a house, street, region, even country, that build up a story considered



as the setting of place. The statement above based on the idea Kennedy (1995:110) the idea is:

“To be sure, the idea of setting includes the physical environment of a story: a house, a street, a city, a landscape, a region. (Where a story takes place is some-times called its locale.)”.

## 2. Time

But besides place, setting may crucially involve the time of the story-hour, year, or century. It might matter greatly that a story takes place at dawn, or on the day of the first moon landing. Kennedy (1995:110)

Based on the statement above, the setting of time describes the time of the story, such as date, month, year, century and also situations like morning, afternoon, and evening in a literary work.

## 3. Social

Setting of social consists of cultural factors, living habits, customs, traditions, and the rules that apply to society at the time that the event occurs.

Social background in a story helps the readers more understand about the event of the story by seeing how the social condition at the time.

### c. Plot



According to Stanton (1965:14) in Nurgiyantoro (1995:113) stated that the plot is a story that contains the sequence of events,

however in every event, plot is a sequence of events that build the storyline. These events are causally linked depending on the author. According to Harmon and Holman (2009:409) plot refers to the sequence of events and actions that make up a story, including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. The plot is what happens in a story and can be thought of as the framework or skeleton upon which the story build. According to Charters (2003:3) plot is often used to create tension and suspense, as well as to develop characters and themes. The plot occurs because of the action and reaction between characters, even speech, body language, feelings, mindset and attitude of the leaders in dealing with problems of life.

There are some elements in the plot, such as the significant conflict, the five distinct sections of stages and the ordering plot.

1. Exposition is a cultivating process and introducing the major information of the story to the reader. By the exposition, an author begins to describe and explain a situation in a story such as character and basic information to the reader.
2. Rising Action is an introducing problem that happens in the story
3. Climax is a main problem in the story.
4. Falling Action is a kind of event which signed by reducing the problem in the story.
5. Resolution is the ending of a problem in the story.

#### <sup>d</sup> Theme



Another key point to emphasize is that, unlike characters, settings, and viewpoints, a theme is not clearly described. It requires a deep

understanding and explanation of the whole story by looking at other essential elements besides what is happening in it.

Theme is the main idea of the story. Theme also covers social living in literary works which is very important because the author can convey the messages through her work. The first meaning of theme in Oxford dictionary edition (Bull, 2011:460) is the subject of talk in piece of writing or person's thoughts; "Theme is a topic or main idea of story"

Another important discussion that should be pointed out is the use of words, phrases or sentences to describe the theme of a particular novel. It is often expressed in a broader sense, as there is a set of stories with broad and complex meanings in which different characters, conflicts, settings, and viewpoints can be found. Therefore, there cannot be one main idea for a particular novel, it can have multiple themes.

Stanton (2007:7) stated that the theme gives a strong explanation about the unity of what is happening in the story, and tells about the story of life in a common context. The presence of a theme in a literary work is one of the narrative builders that, when combined with other aspects, generates a unity. In reality, the existence of a theme is dependent on a variety of other variables like as characters, plot, and setting. The topics highlighted in the subject have a neutral tone since there is no attitude or propensity to crack down in the theme. The presence of a topic elevates literary works above and beyond simple reading. Themes are discussed in terms of the difficulties in the tale.



e. Extrinsic Elements

In this thesis, the researcher uses the Biographical Approach to analyze the extrinsic elements of the novel.

## 2.4 Biographical Approach

In appreciating literary work from a biographical approach, we can immediately deal with the author's biography. Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* give their opinion about literature and its relation with the real life that is:

“Literature is social institution using as its medium language, a social creation –But furthermore , literature, represents, life; and, life, is , in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation.” (Rene and Wellek, 1948: 94).

According to the point above, life in literature may be a reflection of the actual life that happens in a culture that could be found from the author's personal experience. When using a biographical approach, there are three points of view that should be noticed carefully.

“The first is biography explains and illuminates the actual product of poetry, is directly relevant. The second is advocating the intrinsic interest of biography, shifts the center of attention to human personality. The third is considering biography as material for a science or future science, the psychology of artistic creation” (Wellek and Warren 1948: 67).

This means that the biography of the author describes the process of making a literary work. The author focuses on the study of a literary work.



Biography may be used as a science to evaluate a literary work from a literary work condition when he produces his work.

Biographical approach begins with a key insight into the fact that literature is written by real individuals, and reading the author's existence readers would have a more complete idea to understand the writing. In reality, reading a biography of a writer helps the reader to see how much of an author's experience explicitly and indirectly influences his/her art. Wellek and Warren (1956:82) stated that:

“The study of biographical approach has some purpose. Firstly, it explains a great many allusions or even words in the author’s work. Second, it helps people in studying then most obvious of all strictly development problems in the history of literature. Last, it accumulates the materials for other questions of literary history:.

Based on the statement above, the biographical approach has some purpose: there are so many allusions or even words that include in the author’s work, to help people in studying the most obvious of all strictly development problems in the history of literature that sometimes make readers confused about the history of literature. Last but not least, a biographical approach can accumulate the material for other questions of literary history to the readers.

In conclusion, the main aim of biographical criticism is to do some digging into the facts of an author’s life and times, then to relate that formation back to the author’s work. Through this theory, we can understand a literary work by studying more closely the life of the author.



This research tries to understand Zora Neale Hurston and then know how her life was influenced in their work *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Moreover, by using this theory, we must know the biography or personal experience of Zora Neale Hurston and how the personal experience of the author influenced her work, because it was the important thing as a major problem to find the influence of Zora and her novel.

