

THE ALTRUISM OF CHARLOTTE IN E. B. WHITE'S *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*



THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in
Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain an Undergraduate
Degree in English Literature Study Program*

BY:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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MAKASSAR
2024**



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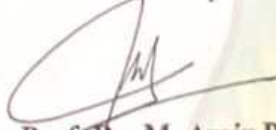
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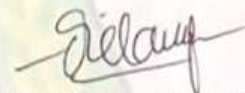
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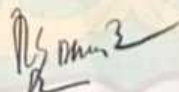


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LEGITIMATION

THESIS

THE ALTRUISM OF CHARLOTTE IN E. B. WHITE'S *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Friday, 26th July 2024
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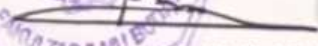

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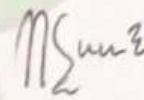

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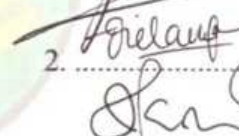
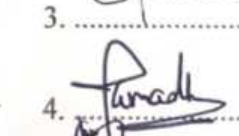
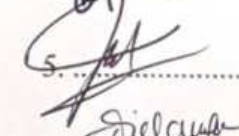
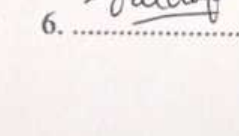

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AGREEMENT

On July 26, 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Sitti Ainun Mardiah (F041201071) entitled *The Altruism of Charlotte in E. B. White's Charlotte's Web* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, August 2, 2024

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DECLARATION

The thesis by Sitti Ainun Mardiah (F041201071) entitled *The Altruism of Charlotte in E. B. White's Charlotte's Web* has been revised as advised during the examination on Friday, 26 July 2024 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by himself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

Makassar, August 19th 2024



Sitti Ainun Mardiah



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The writer realizes that this thesis is not

Makassar, 19th August 2024

The writer



Sitti Ainun Mardiah



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ABSTRACT

The Altruism of Charlotte in E. B. White's Charlotte's Web. Supervised by **M. Amir P** and **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana**.

This study aims to reveal the altruism performed by Charlotte as the main character in E.B White's *Charlotte's Web*. This study also aims to reveal the reason behind Charlotte's act of altruism.

The altruism was analyzed by applying the structuralism approach. This study also uses the altruism theory by Kristen Renwick Monroe. This approach and theory are applied to find out if the character's action is truly an act of altruism and also to find out the reason behind the altruism action. The analysis was presented descriptively through the qualitative method.

The results show that Charlotte's act of altruism fulfilled the characteristics proposed Kristen Renwick Monroe and proven to be altruistic. The action is shown by her self-sacrifice to rescue another main character named Wilbur. Charlotte's act of altruism is motivated by her loyal, kind, and affectionate nature.

Keyword: *Altruism, Charlotte's Web, E. B White.*



ABSTRAK

The Altruism of Charlotte in E. B. White's Charlotte's Web. Dibimbing oleh
M. Amir P and **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap altruisme yang dilakukan Charlotte sebagai tokoh utama dalam karya *Charlotte's Web* oleh E. B White. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengungkap alasan di balik tindakan altruisme yang dilakukan oleh Charlotte.

Altruisme tersebut dianalisis dengan menerapkan pendekatan strukturalisme. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori altruisme yang dikemukakan oleh Kristen Renwick Monroe. Pendekatan dan teori ini diterapkan untuk mengetahui apakah tindakan tokoh tersebut benar-benar merupakan tindakan altruisme dan juga untuk mengetahui alasan di balik tindakan altruisme tersebut. Analisis tersebut disajikan secara deskriptif melalui metode kualitatif.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tindakan altruisme yang dilakukan Charlotte memenuhi enam karakteristik altruisme yang dikemukakan Kristen Renwick Monroe dan terbukti bersifat altruistik. Aksinya ditunjukkan dengan mengorbankan diri untuk menyelamatkan tokoh utama lainnya yang bernama Wilbur. Tindakan altruism Charlotte dilatarbelakangi oleh sifatnya yang setia, baik hati, dan penyayang.

Kata Kunci: Altruisme, Charlotte's Web, E. B White.



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Humans are called social creatures, which means that in aspects of life, they need each other to achieve a goal. In interacting with fellow humans, various feelings and emotions are involved. One of them is in the situation when humans are in trouble, the thought will instinctively arise to help to lighten the burden and share emotions. Being in a position to swiftly and spontaneously relate to the emotional states of others is commonly referred to as empathy, and it is an essential trait to regulate social interactions, coordinate activities, and cooperate toward shared goals (De Waal, 2008: 282). Thus, empathy is a social ability in which humans can understand other human emotions as if it was their own. Empathy triggers a sense of need to help struggling individuals. However, on some occasions, this need goes as far as putting those struggling individuals' welfare first and often sacrificing their own. This act of putting other's welfare before their own is called altruism.

David G. Myers (2012) explains that altruism is a motive to improve the welfare of other people without realizing it. An altruistic person cares and is willing to help even if there is no benefit offered or there is no hope of getting something back. Altruism itself is the opposite of selfishness which prioritizes self over the interests of others. Someone who practices altruism is also called an altruist. The word altruism was first created by a philosopher named



Auguste Comte. The word altruism comes from the French word 'autrui' which means 'other people'. From this, it can be understood that this word describes someone other than oneself as the main focus. Altruism is social behavior carried out by someone, solely for the good of others. In addition to other social phenomena connected to humanity, this action is also found in literature. As literature reflects the values of human life, altruism is an act that contains the life value of selfless sacrifice. Values that are often carried out by humans as social creatures. By being part of the values found in life, altruism cannot escape literature which is a medium for reflecting human life.

Literature is a means of social expression, a depiction of life, and an interpretation of human expression that gives knowledge about certain topics. According to Pradopo (1994), literary work is a reflection of the world and human life, the main criterion that is placed on literary works is truth or everything that the author wants to describe. Real-life values are written with words and human creativity. It can be concluded that a writer uses literary works to express various aspects of life. One of them is *Charlotte's Web* by E. B White.

E. B White short for Elwyn Brooks White, the youngest of six children, was born in Mount Vernon, New York, in 1899. White enrolled at Cornell University and completed his studies there in 1921. His professor William Strunk, who would go on to author *The Elements of Style*, became a friend of

while he was writing for the college newspaper. Before becoming a writer contributing editor for *The New Yorker* magazine in 1927, he worked as a



reporter and freelance writer. White updated and revised the book in 1959, and it remains one of the greatest guides to written English today. *Stuart Little*, is his first book and it was released in 1945. Another book of children's literature was *The Trumpet of the Swan*. It was published in 1970. Within that time, White had won both the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award and the Presidential Medal for Freedom. White wrote a lot of works for adults, but his contributions to children's literature are what made him most well-known and adored. His second book, *Charlotte's Web*, was released in 1952 and was recognized by the American Library Association with a Newbery Honor.

The novel is well-liked for its depiction of friendship, love, and the importance of helping those in need. Today, it is read by children and adults around the world and has become a source of inspiration for television shows and films. When the novel begins, a young eight-year-old girl named Fern rescues a small pig on her parents' farm. She stopped her parents from killing the little creature, chastising them for wanting to kill an animal just because it was smaller and weaker than its siblings. She named the pig Wilbur and cared for him until she grew big. He was sold to Zuckerman who owned a nearby ranch. Soon, he meets a spider named Charlotte, who lives in a web on top of Wilbur's cage. Wilbur doesn't realize that his owner plans to slaughter him for Christmas dinner.



In this story, Wilbur as the main character continues to get help from lotte. Charlotte always tried to help Wilbur with her web, even when she d out that she was getting older and tired every day. Charlotte

accompanied Wilbur to the fair despite her condition because she was worried about Wilbur. She made a web that said 'humble' for Willbur and a protective layer for her egg which then made her run out of energy. Thanks to Charlotte's help, Willbur can survive.

The writer finds that Charlotte's action is an example of altruism. For this reason, the writer is interested in analyzing this work with the theory of altruism. Nowadays, society tends to focus on personal comfort and security, ignoring individuals other than themselves. As an individual it is undeniable for a human to prioritize their comfort or security, however, it is to a certain extent could reach egoism. Egoism is an act where one is motivated only to view and tend to their benefit, ignorance of the suffering of people around them. This lack of concern for others is normalized for reasons of personal interest. This theory is used as an intermediary for researching positivity in humans. Altruism shows how humans give love, make sacrifices, and do acts of kindness. This action is a form of selfless treatment that is considered a part of human nature in society but is always overlooked in terms of its importance.

The work of *Charlotte's Web* is a fiction with a good moral message behind it, which is also one more reason for the writer to analyze some actions that occur in the novel as something that can be a lesson to contribute to society. The study of literary works regarding the issues of altruism has been

ed out in some research in the past using other literary works as the object. In some cases, there were also different theories and views regarding the



novel. In this research, the writer wants to show another event of altruism to add a reminder of how important it is.

1.2. Identification of Problem

After reading the novel *Charlotte's Web*, the writer found several problems, including:

1. The feeling of loneliness that Willbur felt.
2. Zuckerman's plan to kill Wilbur.
3. The nature of motherhood in Fern and Charlotte.
4. Charlotte's sacrifices and acts of altruism.

1.3. Scope of Study

The main focus of this study is to specifically analyze the story from E.B White's *Charlotte's Web*. To be able to arrange this study, the writer consequently narrows down the scope of the problem for this study, by analyzing the main character's act of altruism, and the reason behind it. The writer focuses on analyzing the altruism of the main character in White's *Charlotte's Web* by applying structuralism approach. After limiting the scope of the study, the writer has formulated the following statement of problems:



Statement of Problem

Because several problems that exist, the writer decided to limit the problem to:

1. How the altruism is reflected in Charlotte's action?
2. What are the reasons behind Charlotte's act of altruism for Willbur?

1.5. Objective of Study

The objectives to be achieved from this research are:

1. To describe the altruism reflected in Charlotte's action.
2. To elaborate on the reason behind Charlotte's altruism.

1.6. Significances of Study

The result of this study is expected to be beneficial and to provide detailed information about altruism and its role in society. This study is also expected to become a new source of information in learning about novels from many perspectives.

1.7. Sequence of Writing

The first chapter contains the introduction of the Study. It includes the background of the research, the identification of the problem found in the literary work, the scope of the problem, the objective, as well as the significance of the study. The second chapter contains a literature review. It includes the list of previous related studies and theoretical background. The third chapter contains research methodology, which shows the methodology, data sources, technique of the data analysis, and procedures of data collection. The fourth chapter consists of findings and discussions. This chapter contains the writer's



findings and analysis regarding the research problem. The fifth chapter contains the conclusion and suggestions. In this chapter, the writer gives conclusions of the research and states some suggestions regarding further research.



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

Charlotte's Web is used as an object in this study and is interesting to some people and has been adopted as the main object of several analyses. The fact that *Charlotte's Web* has been analyzed before through many kinds of perspectives, the writer notices that some references could support this research. The writer also found another reference that can be used regarding the theory of altruism.

The first researcher is Tilly Wulandari (2014) “The Altruism of Sara In *A Little Princess* By Frances Hodgson Burnett ”. The purpose of this study is to find out about the main character Sara's altruism and how it affects people around her. This study applied descriptive research design by focusing on Sara Crewe's characters. The approach used was the objective approach because the study focused on the literary product without considering the author's life, the background of the society, and the background of the work. This research was also conducted using the structuralism approach and the theory of altruism by Kristen Renwick Monroe. The result of this study shows that Sara's act of altruism is true and is based on her kind-hearted, smart, and mothering nature. Her act of altruism is positively affecting the people around her.



The second researcher is Zulhana (2021) “ An Analysis on Hierarchy of an Needs of The Main Character in *Charlotte's Web* By E.B White” The xtiative of this research was to find out about the hierarchy of human needs

depicted in the characters Wilbur and which one is his dominant needs in the book. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method along with a psychological approach about hierarchy of human needs by Abraham Maslow. The result of this research has shown that Willbur has 5 needs which are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. These needs are fulfilled by those around him. Another result showed that Wilbur's most dominant needs are safety needs.

In another study by Ahmad Roqib Arqi Suardi (2022) “Altruism of Main Characters in Oscar Wilde’s Selected Short Stories” In this study, the researcher proposed to analyze altruism as reflected in Oscar Wilde's selected short story, namely: *The Happy Prince*, *The Nightingale* and *The Rose*, and *The Model Millionaire* based on its Main Characters. In analyzing the altruism aspect, the researcher applies the theory of altruism by Kristen Renwick Monroe. This research uses the method of qualitative and descriptive research, which employs analysis of the data. The outcome of the research shows that the main characters truly illustrate altruism based on their sympathetic and emphatic feelings.

One of the studies above uses *Charlotte's Web* novel as the object of the research. The researcher analyzes the novel using different theories which can be used as another perspective in collecting the data. The writer focuses mainly on altruism and how it is reflected by the character, Charlotte. While the issues

past researchers and the writer were different, some similarities could be found, which focus on the characters of this novel. Other studies use the same



theory that used by the writer. In analyzing *Charlotte's web*, the writer uses the altruism theory by Kristen Renwick Monroe and focusing on the character Charlotte. This study intends to serve as an example of the impact of altruism on one's life, this study also aims to give an insight into what can drive someone to be altruistic.

2.2 Structuralism Approach.

Structuralism is a consciousness theory that tries to examine the components of intellectual studies, such as sensations, mental images, and emotions, and how these variables interact to generate more complex studies. According to structuralism, all text must have a shape. Everything that is written in this passage appears to be governed by a set of rules. Structuralism focuses on the internal structure of literary works rather than the historical, social, and biographical influences. Stated by Stanton (1965:68) that literary critics need to isolate certain elements of a literary work and then explain the relationship between these elements as well as their influence on the totality of the work. This approach think that literary critic needs to analyze a literary work based on its own form. It focuses on the intrinsic element of a literary works and examine them in terms of their connection with each other.

Scholes (1976:10) stated that structuralism is the idea of a system; Every literary unit, from word order to every sentence, can be seen to be related to a system. Every literary work, literary genre, and the entire world of literature are interconnected systems, and the world of that particular literature is part of a larger system, namely human culture. In this view, literary



works are assumed to be phenomena that have structures that are interconnected with each other. This structure has very complex parts, so meaning must be directed at the relationships between the elements as a whole. This approach tries to release the connection between other aspects that accompany the emergence of a literary work as something that can stand alone.

The background to this approach is the desire to liberate literary science from the confines of other sciences. This approach aims to dismantle and explain as carefully, thoroughly, in detail, and in-depth as possible the interconnections and interweaving of all elements and aspects of a literary work which together produce an overall purpose (Teeuw, 1984:135). In other words, the complete meaning of a literary work can be understood through intrinsic elements, without depending on other elements outside the existence of the literary work itself. In its application, this structural approach understands literary works through close reading (reading literary works behind closed doors without looking at the author, reality, and reader). This approach examines (examines) literary works without looking at the author and his relationship to reality. Meaning analysis (research) focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary works.

A structural approach emphasizes the intrinsic components that give literary works their structure. In a literary study, the structuralism method is equally crucial. Therefore, without structural analysis, it is impossible to fully investigate the intrinsic meaning of a literary work. It concentrates on the

insic components, including point of view, character, plot, theme, and list. In this research, the author focuses on the elements of character and



characterization in the structuralism approach.

2.2.1 Plot

Plot is a sequence of events contained in a literary work. The plot is built in such a way that it forms a series of stories by connecting other components in the literary work. Stanton (1965:14) states that the plot consists of events which then cause a cause-and-effect structure in the relationship. It is also said by Birkets (1993:37) that characters are pieces in chess and plot is a strategy for moving these pieces as the plot is formed when the characters are moved.

It can be said that a plot is a series of events arranged to explain the characters in it. These events are connected to each other and build a story. In this case, the plot can be formed when the characters act, react to problems, and solve existing problems. The plot can describe the characters through the actions they take. Therefore, the plot plays an important role as a building component in a literary work. There are five important parts in a plot, namely:

a) Exposition

Exposition is the initial part that describes the characters in the story. This section also shows the atmosphere of the place, time or environment of a story. characters and the atmosphere of the story, the author uses this section to attract readers. This section often determines continued enthusiasm for reading the story further.



ising action

Rising action shows the problems that occur to the main character in the

story. This section is the part that moves from introducing the characters to introducing the problems they face. Containing the problems faced by the main character, this section usually becomes the foundation that will build the story to the next stage. During the rising action, the main character will experience difficulties with the existing conflict. Readers are invited to witness how these problems arise and their influence on the main character's actions. This section is between the introduction and climax.

c) Climax

Climax is the core of a story. This section shows the determining point regarding the existing problem. The climax can occur because of the resolution or change to the problem faced by the main character.

d) Falling action

Falling action shows the events after the climax takes place. This section contains the main character's reaction to the solution or change to the problem he is facing. Events and problems also begin to be resolved in falling action, readers will find out what happens next and whether existing problems are resolved or not. This part is the part that lies between climax and resolution.

e) Resolution



Resolution is an event that shows the results of a solution or change that results to an existing problem. This section also unpacks and straightens out the events that occurred in the story. Resolution is formed when a climax occurs

and produces new events that indicate the situation after the problem is resolved. The state of the main character after the conflict is over or changes. The author makes this part a marker for the end of the story and a conclusion in a plot.

2.2.2 Character and Characterization

Character is individuals who show up in a narrative prose or novel and it is deciphered by the readers as the individual who has moral qualities and certain inclinations such as being reflected in what they say and what they do (Abrams, 1993: 32-33). It can be concluded that a character is a figure who appears in literary works and delivers a characteristic through actions and words. Characters can also be defined as a medium for the author to convey the message or the purpose of the story.

In terms of character, Mido (1994: 21-22) explains that character come alive in the story if they have 3 (three) dimensions, namely physiological (type, age, body characteristics and skin color), sociological (status social, occupational, position, religion and ethnicity) and psychological (adhered moral standards, temperament, emotions and certain need). Characters in fictional stories have an important role in making the story interesting, so it is important to make it livelier and more relatable for readers. In general, the definition of a character is a person created by the

or to experiences the events in the story. It can be said that they have aspects as character that live in literary works, which is physical characteristics, social conditions and psychological conditions. These



aspects create characters who can develop the plot in a story.

According to Henkle (1977: 88-100), characters are divided into two (major characters and minor characters) based on how important a role they have in a story.

a) Major characters

The main character is a character who has an important role in a story. Most literary works depend on the main character's ability to reflect problems that occur in real life. This character is a character who appears quite often in the story, either as a executor of events or just a topic of discussion. This character is considered important because it is told continuously so it tends to dominate most of the story. They also have a fairly high frequency of relationships with other characters. Because the main character tells the most stories and is always in contact with other characters, they hold the key for development of the overall plot in the story. The presence of other plots oftentimes functions to strengthen the existence of the main character as well.

b) Minor characters

Minor characters are the characters whose presence supports the main character. The characteristics and problems they have are simpler than those of the main character. This character was created by the author within a limited period of time. Their presence is always relatively brief and has little impact on the development of events. Often, they are present only



if there is a connection to the main character.

Characterization is a description of a character made by the author towards the characters in the story. The author shapes the quality that a character has in the story through the words they applied in the story. This characterization relates to the attitudes, desires, interests, emotions, and moral principles of the characters in the story. In general, characterization methods are divided into two, namely: direct characterization and indirect characterization.

1. Direct Characterization

In direct characterization, the author straightforwardly pronounces a character's depiction. The straightforward portrayal may come from a narrator, another character, or through self-proclaimed by the character in question. It can be concluded that in this direct method, the characterization carried out by the author is carried out by using the character's name, the character's appearance, and the author's speech.

a) Characterization Using Character Names

The use of a character's name in a literary work is used to develop the main idea or thought and clarify and sharpen the character's character. The use of names can contain literary or historical allusions in form of associations.

Characterization through the character's appearance



In this method, the character's appearance factors have a very important role in the characterization study. The intended appearance of the character is, for example, the model of clothing worn and his expression when wearing the clothing.

c) Characterization through the Author's Speech

This method can give the author a wide and free place in determining the story. The author comments on the character and personality of the characters, including the thoughts, feelings, and inner turmoil of the characters. The author not only brings the reader's attention to the comments about the character's quality but also tries to shape the reader's perception of the character being told.

2. Indirect Characterization

The indirect method is a method that ignores the presence of the author so that the characters can express themselves with their behavior. In this indirect method, characterization carried out by the writer can be done by characterization through dialogue, location, and situation of conversation, the identity of the character addressed by the speaker, mental quality of the characters, tone of voice, sound pressure, vocabulary and characterization through the actions of the characters.



Characterization Through Dialogue

Each character has more than one characteristic definition because presence of evidence in the form of a quote gives the reader

confidence that the characteristic in question is indeed true.

b) Location and Conversation Situation

Conversations in the family living room are more significant than conversations in the street or the theater. This can happen in fictional stories. But readers must also consider why the author presents the conversation in a place such as a street or a theater. Of course, that's an important thing in the story.

c) The identity of the characters targeted by the speaker and the mental qualities of the characters

The speech conveyed by a character in a story means the speech spoken by a particular character about another character. The mental qualities of the characters can be known through the flow of speech when the characters chat.

d) Tone of Voice, Sound pressure, and Vocabulary

The tone of voice can give the reader an idea of the character's character, as well as the attitude when the character is having a conversation with another character. Sound pressure can provide an important picture of a character because it shows the character's true form. Vocabulary can provide important facts about a character because

show the character's true form.

haracterization through the Actions of the Characters



Actions and behavior logically constitute psychological and personality development and show how the character's character is displayed in his actions.

2.2.3 Setting

In setting, the author shows the place, time and atmosphere in the story. They describe the world they want to show readers through the descriptions they make in the story. The author conveys the depiction of sound, sight, texture and color through words. Birkets (1993:53-54) states that setting shows the physical location and time of events when they occur. It can be concluded that the place and time where an event occurs is the setting in a story.

However, settings are not limited to only time and place. Setting also describes many things such as culture, a time in history, and location to explain the atmosphere that occurs in the story. By using language, the setting is created according to the author's imagination. Writers want to convey their imagination regarding the atmosphere in the story to readers through setting so that various events have a real impression. For the author, the function of setting is to serve as a guide for writing the story. Setting is not only useful as a support in forming the plot, setting also functions to form descriptions of the characters. Depiction of characters can be built and shown by the conversational style they use in story.



As previously explained, setting is information in a story that describes

the situation, time and social context. In other words, settings can be divided into three categories, namely setting of place, time, and social.

a) Place.

Setting is what refers to the place or location where the events told in a work of fiction occur. Setting of place serves as an information for the reader for the matter of the place in which the event taken place. It makes the reader imagine what kind of place the character have in a certain event and help them relate more to it. This setting can provide a clearer picture of community traditions, values, behavior, atmosphere in the place the event occur, which may influence the characters behavior and actions.

b) Time.

Time setting is a setting that refers to the time when the events narrated in a work of fiction occur. The setting of time can be described by mentioning the hour, day, date, month, year, historical event, and even the specific era behind it. They function as valuable information for knowing a certain event and the time in which it happens. With this setting a story could be processed easier as the information of time could provide knowledge about the order of the events happening in the story.

c) Social.



A social setting is a setting that refers to the social conditions of society in works of fiction. They usually serve as information about how the

society lives inside the story. It explains the traditions, ideas, and lifestyles that exist inside the story. In the story, the social setting can be shown by describing the character's manners, mind, and status. It can also be explained by the time and place in which the story taken place.

2.2.4 Theme

Theme is the main issue or topic that an author wants to show. A theme will be a general description of all the events that occur in the story. According to Stanton (1965:20) Theme is the meaning contained in a story. By building a story that involves characters and various events in a story, the author conveys the ideas they have regarding the issue. These issues are based on events that occur in the real world. As humans are individuals who live their lives, they will not escape life's issues. There are differences in the issues faced by each individual. However, it cannot be denied that there are universal issues that can happen to anyone and anywhere. This issue is often explained indirectly by authors.

Although the themes displayed by an author can still be interpreted by each reader's understanding, writers often create implicit messages in a story. These messages are determined from the existing storyline. It depends on how the story develops, the problems that occur, and the attitudes or thoughts held by the characters. These messages will guide readers to the themes raised by

author in the story.



Ittruism Theory

Comte defined altruism as "living for others", which in French is written as "vivre pour autrui". Altruism has its roots in the French word autrui, which Comte used. In psychology, altruism was originally viewed from a personality perspective. Psychology is interested in searching for models, motives, cognitive dimensions, and characteristics of altruistic subjective models. From here, philosophical studies regarding and using the concept of altruism, especially in the realm of moral philosophy, emerged.

Apart from that, the initial understanding of altruism is more widely known from the Russian-born American sociologist, Pitirim Sorokin, who widely echoed the importance of studying positive phenomena in human actions, especially regarding altruism. In his work published after World War II, Sorokin (1948:60) defined altruism as: *"The action that produces and maintains the physical and/or psychological good of others. It is formed by love and empathy, and in its extreme form may require the free sacrifice of self for another."* Many writers view Sorokin's ideas about altruism as a separate field of study, as being strongly influenced by the motive to accompany efforts to reconstruct and restore Western societies that had just been damaged by World War II. However, it also needs to be stated that in fact.

To understand what an altruistic act is and its conditions in a more comprehensive sense, the information is analyzed based on the theory of Renwick Monroe discussed in one of her works. The work is built



based on a narrative study of those qualified as altruists by Monroe. Monroe defined altruism as the opposite of self-interest. According to her, altruism is: *"a behavior intended to benefit another, even when this risk is a possible sacrifice to the welfare of the actor"* (Monroe 1996:6). Based on this definition, altruism has the following main condition (Monroe 1996:6-7): (1) Altruism must be an action. It cannot be just intentions or good thoughts towards others. (2) The action must be goal- directed even though it may be conscious or reflexive. (3) The aim of the action must be intended first and foremost to advance the benefit of others. If it turns out that the benefit of others is only intended as a consequence of my actions, for example, then that is not altruism. (4) Intentions matters more than consequences. The altruistic value of the action does not decrease even though the final outcome of the action cause negative things. (5) The action must have the potential result of reducing or harming the welfare of the perpetrator himself. Actions that result in increasing the benefit of the actors along with the receiver's benefit are not altruistic. (6) Altruism is a selfless act, the goal is only for the benefit of others without reciprocity for the actor.

