

**THE LOVE BETRAYAL OF EDNA PONTELLIER IN
THE AWAKENING BY KATE CHOPIN**



A THESIS

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

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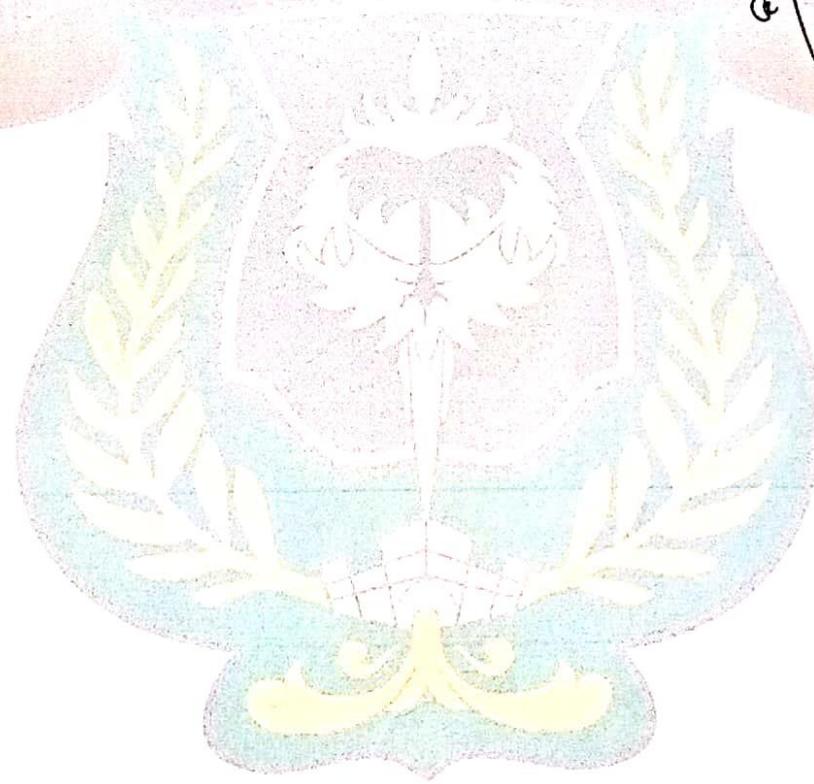
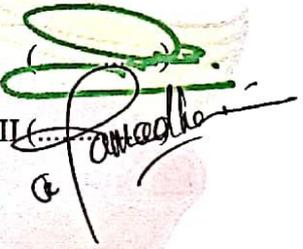
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The thesis by Natalia Wijaya Susanto (F041191039) entitled The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Awakening by Kate Chopin has been revised as advised during the examination on 26th May 2023, and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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LEGITIMATION

THESIS

THE LOVE BETRAYAL OF EDNA PONTELLIER IN THE AWAKENING

BY KATE CHOPIN

BY

NATALIA WIJAYA SUSANTO

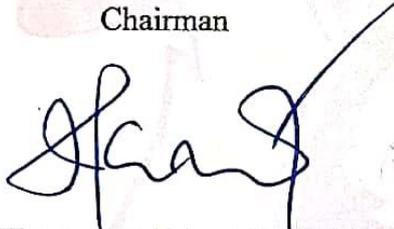
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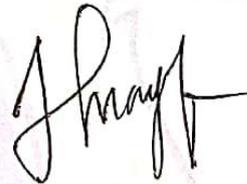
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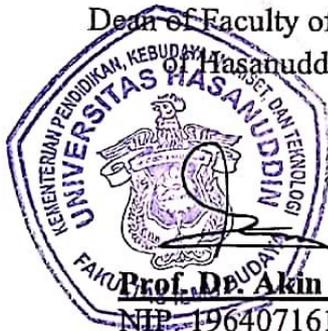
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AGREEMENT

On, 26th May 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Natalia Wijaya Susanto (F041191039) entitled “**The Lovel Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Awakening by Kate Chopin**” submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 26th May 2023

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STATEMENT LETTER OF AUTHENTICITY

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis entitled:

The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Awakening by Kate Chopin

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

If in the future it is proven that there is a part or all of the contents of this thesis are plagiarized, the author is willing to accept the sanction for her action.

Makassar, 26th May 2023

The undersigned,



Natalia Wijaya Susanto

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Finally, the writer would like to apologize for any shortcomings that may exist in this thesis. Despite the writer's best efforts, there may be areas where the work could have been improved or expanded upon. The writer understands that this is not a perfect piece of work, and there is always room for improvement. Despite its imperfections, the writer hopes this thesis will be beneficial and provide valuable insights for the academic community and wider society.

Makassar, 15th May 2023

Natalia Wijaya Susanto

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ABSTRACT

Natalia Wijaya Susanto. 2023. *The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Awakening by Kate Chopin.* (Supervised by **Herawaty Abbas** and **Andi Inayah Soraya**)

The aims of this research are to find the kind of love betrayal that the main character commits in the novel and to discover the effects of love betrayal. To analyze them, the writer examines the intrinsic elements of the literary work by using the structuralism approach by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. The focus of this research is the analysis of the character and characterization.

In this research, the writer applies descriptive qualitative methods to analyze the data, and in this case, the data is a literary work namely a novel entitled *The Awakening* written by Kate Chopin.

Through this study, the writer finds five kinds of love betrayal committed by the main character. They are neglecting her children and her obligation, leaving the house of her family, having affairs with other men, and committing suicide. Furthermore, there are four devastating effects of the main character's love betrayal namely Leonce Pontellier's confusion and his concern about people's opinion of Edna's changed behavior, implicit disappointment of Edna's children, Robert's self-sacrifice, and Edna's downfall.

Keywords: *Love Betrayal, Structuralism, Intrinsic Elements, Kate Chopin, The Awakening*

ABSTRAK

Natalia Wijaya Susanto. 2023. *The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier in The Awakening by Kate Chopin.* (Dibimbing oleh **Herawaty Abbas** dan **Andi Inayah Soraya**).

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis pengkhianatan cinta yang dilakukan tokoh utama dalam novel dan untuk menemukan efek dari pengkhianatan cinta pada keluarga tokoh utama. Untuk menganalisisnya, penulis mengkaji unsur intrinsik dari karya sastra dengan menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme Rene Wellek dan Austin Warren. Fokus penelitian ini adalah analisis tokoh dan penokohan.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data, dan dalam hal ini data adalah karya sastra yaitu sebuah novel berjudul *The Awakening* yang ditulis oleh Kate Chopin.

Melalui penelitian ini, penulis menemukan lima macam pengkhianatan cinta yang dilakukan oleh tokoh utama, yaitu menelantarkan anak-anaknya dan kewajibannya, meninggalkan rumahnya, berselingkuh dengan laki-laki lain, dan bunuh diri. Selain itu, ada empat efek buruk dari pengkhianatan cinta tokoh utama yaitu kebingungan Leonce Pontellier dan kekhawatirannya mengenai pendapat orang tentang perubahan perilaku Edna, kekecewaan anak-anak Edna, pengorbanan diri Robert, dan kejatuhan Edna.

Kata kunci: *Pengkhianatan cinta, Strukturalisme, unsur-unsur intrinsik, Kate Chopin, The Awakening*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the introduction of the research, which consists of background of study, identification of problems, scope of the problem, statement of problems, objective research, benefits of the study, and sequence of chapter.

A. Background of Study

The fact that humans will always disappoint is undeniable. Humans are not perfect, so they will always make missteps whether intentional or not. One of the mistakes that humans often make is betrayal. Generally, betrayal is when someone disregards one's trust. Throughout the history of humanity, betrayal has been considered one of the worst infractions a person can perpetrate against another. Betrayal can happen to anyone between friends, family, or spouses regardless of one's physique, position, etc. The topic about betrayal is very intriguing to discuss because betrayal does not happen only in the past, but is continuing until now. From leaking a secret of a confidante to infidelity between spouses, betrayal implies disloyalty and a violation of trust. Undoubtedly, everyone will encounter kinds of treachery, and most of us will betray others, intentionally or unintentionally (Jones & Burdette in Fitness, 2001: 2). One type of betrayal that is often discussed is love betrayal. A report by Betzig informs that excluding sterility, infidelity has become the most common causality of divorce in more than eighty societies (Fitness, 2001: 6) Therefore, through this study, the writer aims to provides several positive effects of analyzing love betrayal in a literary work and

its relevancy to our present reality. Firstly, it can help readers develop a more profound understanding of the complex human emotions and motivations, including the reasons behind betrayals in relationships. Secondly, analyzing love betrayal can provide a reflective space for the readers to develop a more subtle perspective on betrayal. Lastly, the study of love betrayal offers valuable lessons that are relevant to our contemporary reality and can contribute to personal growth and societal change. For its traction, the topic of love betrayal is often used as a theme in literary works, especially novels.

A novel is one of the types of prose that can be fictional or non-fictional. Through a novel, an author can represent the social reality that was occurring in his/her lifetime. It can be described by the physical condition of the characters, human activities, psychological and sociological issues in the novel. Since a novel is a form of literary work, a novel can be regarded as part of literature. In general, literature is a written work of art produced from the contents of the human mind, but it can also examine various kinds of humanitarian problems altogether. It can be illustrated as two different sides of a coin, where imagination and social reality are the two conflicting aspects, yet they are closely related and present in literature. Other than pouring the contents of the mind, feelings, and imagination of a person, literature can also be used as a medium to reflect on problems that have occurred in the past. This statement is supported by Ismawati (2013: 3) as below:

The study of literature or the experience of literature as a human endeavor can function as a source for contemplation and reflection on life. This is because literature is closely intertwined with life itself, implying that literature exists in parallel with life. Within the realm of literature, one can discover various compositions that express the values of life, humanity, and socio-cultural values, including those found in poetry, prose, and drama.

According to Ismawati (2013: 3), Literature is something that can be learned as a reflection of one's life because literature stands parallel to life. In literature, various compositions can be found that express the values of life, human values, and socio-cultural values, including those found in poetry, prose, and drama. In this study, the object of research is a novel entitled *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.

Catherine O'Flaherty, widely known as Kate Chopin, is an American novelist and writer. She was born in 1850 in St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America. Her mother, Eliza O'Flaherty was a Creole woman. Catherine was raised by her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother since she was five. Therefore, Catherine's personality was formed under the authority of Creole women. She used her own life experiences in her works, including one of her most popular novels, *The Awakening*, which is written in 1897 (Metzger, 2001: 1).

In *The Awakening*, Chopin reflects on the feelings and thoughts of the main character when she committed to betray her husband and children through 'the awakening' she encountered. Edna Pontellier is the main character of the novel. On Grand Isle, where she spends her summer vacation with her family, she encounters her personal awakening that awakens her potential as a human being. She meets several people who play important roles in developing her awakening. They are Adele Ratignolle, Robert Lebrun, Mademoiselle Reisz, and Alcee Arobin. Adele helps Edna realize that being a wife and mother is not her nature, and Edna refuses to submit to the traditions of Creole society. Mademoiselle Reisz supports Edna's potential in her artistic passion. While Robert Lebrun and Alcee Arobin develop Edna's most demanding awakening, which echoes throughout the book: her

freedom of sexuality. These lead Edna to the love betrayal she commits toward her husband and children. In regards to that, it is undeniable that every literary work may contain all aspects of life and certain experience of the author, and at the same time depicts the problems that occur in real life. The love betrayal that is committed by Edna Pontellier is a closer representation of someone's behavioral problem that is still happening until now.

In this research, the writer will use the structuralism approach developed by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren to analyze several forms of love betrayal committed by Edna Pontellier in the novel. This approach emphasizes the importance of the underlying structures of a literary work, such as plot, characterization, and narrative technique, over its content or the author's intentions. The aim is to gain a better understanding of the impact of the main character's awakening, actions, and emotions. Therefore, the writer will explore the novel's structural elements to achieve this. The writer is interested to analyze the betrayal of Edna Pontellier because it is very distinctive and controversial. Under the influence of her awakening, Edna betrayed her family by making an affair with another man even though she already has a husband and two sons. Through this research, the writer will discover the kinds of love betrayal that is done by Edna Pontellier, and the effects of Edna's betrayal.

From the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled "The Love Betrayal of Edna Pontellier's in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin". Along with that, through this study, the writer aims to bring her contribution for public society, especially students, by providing comprehensive knowledge for those who will be doing a literary study, so that the readers can find

the connection between the continual love betrayal that has happened in the past and the love betrayal in today's era. Moreover, the readers can receive a clear understanding regarding the kinds of love betrayal that is done by Edna Pontellier, and the effects of Edna's love betrayal.

B. Identification of Problems

The problems that happen in a literary work may arouse the curiosity of the reader and they will demand answers and solutions to the problems. Therefore, after reading *The Awakening*, a novel by Kate Chopin, the writer has identified several problems that is occurring in the story, especially the ones that are related with the main character, Edna Pontellier. Those problems are:

1. Act of feminism of Edna Pontellier that is reflected in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.
2. Edna Pontellier's rebellion that is caused by the household tradition of Creole society.
3. The journey of Edna Pontellier to achieve her personal freedom.
4. Discrimination against women in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.
5. Gender inequality and oppression against women in *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin.
6. The effect of patriarchy on Edna Pontellier.
7. The love betrayal that is committed by Edna Pontellier.
8. The impact of Edna's love betrayal.

9. The impact of Creole household tradition on Edna Pontellier's inner conflict.

C. Scope of Problem

Based on the problems the writer has found and sorted above, there are eight matters that can be analyzed further. However, this study limits the discussion only on the seventh and eighth problems. Those problems are the love betrayal that is committed by Edna Pontellier and the impact of Edna's love betrayal. Those two problems are examined thoroughly by using Wellek and Warren's structuralism approach.

D. Statement of Problems

As what the writer has found on the identification of problems and the limitation of the problem the writer has determined, the statement of problems are formulated as follows:

1. What kind of love betrayal did the main character commit in *The Awakening*?
2. How are the responds of the other characters who are affected by the main character's love betrayal?

E. Objectives of Research

Regarding the statement of problems that will be analyzed by the writer, the purposes of this study are:

1. To distinguish the kind of love betrayal did the main character commit in *The Awakening*, by Kate Chopin.
2. To identify the responds of the other characters who are affected by the main character's love betrayal.

F. Sequence of Chapter

This study has five chapters. The first one is the introduction of the research, which consists of background of study, identification of problems, scope of problem, statement of problems, objective of research, benefits of study, and sequence of chapter. Followed by the literature review as the second chapter, which deals with previous related studies, theoretical approach, and brief explanation of terms that will be used in the study. Then, the third chapter is the research method or methodology of research, which provides of methods of collecting and analyzing data, and source of data. Moreover, there is findings and discussions in chapter four. The last is the fifth chapter that summarizes the whole study. It includes conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses the literature review of the research, which consists of previous studies, theoretical framework, and definition of key terms.

A. Previous Studies

This part presents previous studies that relates with the research, which will be examined by the writer. One of the previous studies has the same object of research but with different analysis or theoretical approach, one of them has the same writer but with different object, while the rests have the same approach but with different object of research. Those literature studies are provided as follows:

The first study is an unpublished thesis conducted by Uliantara (2012) with his title *The Struggle of Edna Pontellier to Break the Creole's Patriarchy System in Kate Chopin's The Awakening*. Through this research, Uliantara focuses on the Creole's discrimination toward Creole women and Edna Pontellier, along with Edna's effort against the oppression of the Creole patriarchal system in Chopin's *The Awakening*. Through this research, Uliantara finds four kinds of discrimination toward Creole women and how it restricts Edna from exploring her talent. Moreover, he discovers Edna's ways to break the Creole norms, along with her struggles to fight for her rights as a human. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer's research can be identified. The similarity lies in the object of the research study, namely the novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. While the difference between

this previous research and the writer's research lies in the title of the research, the theoretical approach, and the problem to be examined.

The second research is done by Aulia et al. (2019) entitled *Betrayal Trauma in Heather Lloyd's My Name Is Venus Black*. The writer uses Betrayal Trauma Theory (BTT) to examine the trauma as a result of the betrayal that occurs in the novel. This work reveals the truth of the betrayal trauma of the main character due to depression and anxiety problems she experienced. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer's research can be identified. The similarity lies in the problem to be examined, which is betrayal. While the difference between this previous research and the writer's research lies in the title of the research, the theoretical approach, and the object to be examined.

Amalia (2021) finishes her study with the title *The Analysis of The Main Character's Internal Conflict on Chopin's Selected Stories*. She analyzes some literary works by Kate Chopin, and applies Freud's psychoanalysis theory. She aims to examine internal conflicts and to understand the influence of personality structure on the internal conflicts on the main characters in three selected stories by Kate Chopin. The first result of this study is the categorization of the main characters' internal conflicts by using two approaches, namely approach-avoidance and double approach-avoidance. Secondly, the personality structure of *id*, *ego*, and *superego*, which help the main characters to resolve the conflicts they experience. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer's research can be identified. The similarity lies in the writer of the object of the research study, namely Kate Chopin. While the

difference between this previous research and the writer's research lies in the title of the research, the theoretical approach, and the object and problem to be examined.

The fourth study is conducted by Damayanti (2021) entitled *The Study of Feminism in Kate Chopin's The Awakening*. The purpose of this research is to characterize the feminist characters in Chopin's novel, *The Awakening*. The writer uses feminism theory to identify the feminist characters in the novel. Finally, the results are showing that the main character of this novel is a feminist figure according to her efforts against sexism and social boundaries on women. Based on the explanation above, the differences and similarities between this previous research and the writer's research can be identified. The similarity lies in the object of the research study, namely the novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. While the difference between this previous research and the writer's research lies in the title of the research, the theoretical approach, and the problem to be examined.

Hereby, the writer declares that the conducted research is different from previous studies, and is proven to be based on the writer's own research. The writer believes that this work is different from the other studies because there is not yet a literature review that examines the kinds of love betrayal done by the main character, and its effects in Chopin's novel, *The Awakening*, using the structuralism approach by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren.

B. Theoretical Framework

Structuralism Approach

The theory of structuralism has a long evolutionary history and is developing dynamically. In the 20th Century, the formalism theory emerged in England through a group of formalists, including Roman Jakobson, Rene Wellek, and Viktor Shklovsky. According to Teeuw (2015: 102), structuralism developed through the tradition of formalism since the results achieved through formalism are continued in structuralism. In the middle of the 20th century, the structuralism approach evolved in several academic fields, including linguistics, anthropology, and literary theory. This method was greatly influenced in France throughout the 1950s and 1960s by the work of a Swiss linguist, Ferdinand de Saussure. His theories were considered the cornerstone of structuralism and were extensively debated and expanded upon in other nations (Sanusi, 2012: 125). Additionally, Claude Lévi-Strauss, a cultural anthropologist, contributed significantly to the development of structuralism concepts with his interpretation of the Greek story of Oedipus using the binary principle and structuralism (Sanusi, 2012: 126).

In correspondence to the formalism theory, this theory opposes those theories that believe literature is a medium of communication between the writer and the reader. The structural approach ignores any external influence such as biography and social influence and only focuses on internal elements of literary work. Therefore, the structuralism approach and the idea of intrinsic elements are firmly related in the context of literary analysis. Structuralism, as a theoretical

framework, emphasizes the fundamental structure of a work. In literary analysis, this approach seeks to uncover the intrinsic elements within a literary work.

Wellek and Warren (1956:139) explained that the starting point of analyzing a literary work is from its contents and language through the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves. In their book, they introduced a study that analyze the internal elements in literary work namely intrinsic approach. This approach has been worldwide and used by many scholars to analyze literary works.

It is critical to analyze the structure of literary work in order to find the important elements. As the central focus of the research itself, those elements are used to identify, evaluate, and explain the relationships between elements in a literary work.

The intrinsic elements of a novel are more detailed and complex than in a short story. Intrinsic elements consist of theme, characters and characterization, plot, and setting within a literary work. Through those elements, the writer can notice the relation between literature and the psychological aspect, which focuses on the emotional condition of the main character, the conflict within her, and her journey to the awakening.

1. Characters and Characterization

Character is part of the intrinsic elements of a literary work. A novel will be considered defective if there is no character in it. Every character in a literary work has its own characterization that can be seen through the thoughts, speech, such as monologue and dialogue, and point of view of the other characters. The

personality of a character is shown through their emotions, behavior, and logic when confronting a certain situation. Furthermore, besides humans, a character can be everything that carries a role in narrative work and has a moral quality and certain inclination expressed through speech and action, such as animals, plants, and lifeless objects.

As stated by Koesmobroto in Tussadiyah (2017: 12), there will always be two different types of characters in every literary work, namely major and minor characters. According to Abrams, a major character is the central focus and dominates the plot in a story (2012: 46). All events in the story need the involvement of the major character. However, major character cannot stand alone. Therefore, minor characters are indispensable to support the major character, so that the story will be more interesting. Nonetheless, their roles are not as crucial as the major character's because their presence is only to help the development of the major character (Aminudin, 1995: 80). Furthermore, Sudjiman in Ardiyanti (2012: 15) explains the three ways to distinguish the difference between major and minor character in a literary work, they are the involvement of the character in the story, the storytelling period of the character, and the number of associations carried out by one character with other characters.

Forster (2002: 5) identifies a character as an imaginary creation by the author and is defined by their individuality, complexity, and believability. Furthermore, he argues that characters are represented by their distinctive personality traits, passions, and actions. While Booth (1988: 171) explained that a character is not just an individual but a representation of thoughts and themes because the characters are a vital part of the work. Characters are described

through their actions, motives, and relationships with other characters. In accordance with Abrams in Syamsul (2019: 9), it is important for a character to have certain qualities such as morality, logic, and emotion to develop a story. A reader can discover these qualities through the action and dialogue of the character.

Character and plot are two inseparable elements because a reader should engage with the action of the character in a sequence of events to determine the character's personality. Furthermore, interpreting a character is more complicated than examining a plot because the character is more complex, inconsistent, and abstract. This process of determining the personality of the character is called characterization. As a literary device, characterization is used to analyze the detailed personality of a character in a literary work.

As explained by Sumarjo & Saini in Islam (2019: 11), there is a method to identify the characterization of a character in a literary work. The first step is to see how a character's behavior in critical situations, followed by their speech and dialogues, physical description, and textual characteristics are depicted by the author.

2. Plot

The plot is a series of events that occurs in a story and relates to each other. Therefore, a plot should be set accordingly. To support that statement, Stanton in Syamsul (2019: 11) defines a plot as a narrative that contains a series of events connected by cause and effect. A plot in a literary work includes exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. As the basic framework, a plot is

important to control the continuity of the events. For example, how actions relate to each other, the connections between every occurrence, and how the role of every character in that event.

In the 19th century, a German playwright namely Gustav Freytag introduced the seven crucial elements of literary work as the key steps in successful storytelling. They are exposition, exciting force, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and denouement (Freytag, 1900: 32). He created a simple triangle to depict the dramatic structure, and now it is known as Freytag's Pyramid. However, the writer will only use the most essential stages, such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

- a. **Exposition** is the very start of a story. In his book, Freytag explains that the exposition provides the introductory materials that set the tone of the story. Generally, this part supplies the introduction of the setting, characters, and essential facts to form the reader's understanding (1900: 32). This part sets a scene to introduce the setting and situation that will lead to a conflict between the characters.
- b. **Rising action** begins when the event becomes more complex because the main conflict will soon occur. When the inciting force arises, it moves into conflict and proceeds to the climax (Freytag, 1900: 34). This part is where the dramatic action occurs. Then, it leads to the complexity of the story.

- c. **Climax** is the point that brings together the conflicting forces and determines how the opposition can be resolved (Stanton, 2012: 32). It is the peak of the conflict, where a tragedy occurs, and the protagonist's ambition is getting stronger, which leads the main character to face obstacles accordingly until the plot reaches the falling action.
- d. **Falling action** is the stage before the catastrophe/denouement begins. It is also the changing course of a story (Freytag, 1900: 37). This stage will determine the ending of the story because the main character will find resolutions to the conflict that has happened.
- e. **Resolution** shows how the story will end, whether happily or catastrophically (Freytag, 1900: 37). This part also provides the resolution to the conflict of the story.

3. Setting

The setting in every literary work provides information about the place, time, and atmosphere of its occurrences. It can indicate a particular political situation and historical era. Moreover, the setting can be the description of the geographical and social environment, the time of the event, the religion of the character, moral, seasonal, and intellectual backgrounds are all part of the setting. According to the experts, the setting can also be the description of the natural and artificial scenery or environment in the story (Robert & Jacobs in Indah, 2004: 14). Other than its physical function, the setting also has a metaphorical psychological

function. (Aminuddin, 2011: 67). This means that the setting is able to create certain atmospheres that move the emotions or psychological aspects of the reader.

The setting in a literary work includes three main categories. They are the setting of place, the setting of time, and the setting of society.

a. Setting of place

The setting of the place is every location that reflects the geographical situation of the story. The description of the place helps the readers to imagine and visualize the place in the story. Because the reader can distinguish the setting through the visualization of place in the story, this setting is physical (Aminuddin, 2011: 67). The setting of place includes several locations, and it moves from one location to another as the plot and characters develop.

b. Setting of time

The setting of time includes all periods in the story. It usually relates to an actual time like a day, month, year, weather, or a historical period. Like the setting of the place, the setting of time is also considered as physical because the reader can directly distinguish the certain time in the book (Aminuddin, 2011: 67). To identify the setting of time, the reader must depend on their comprehension because a certain story will take the reader to a specific period of time.

c. Setting of society

Setting in a work of fiction is not only in the form of place, time, event, atmosphere, and objects in an environment, but can also be in the form that relates to attitude, stigma, prejudices, and the tradition of a society. This kind of setting can be considered as psychological setting (Hamalian & Karl in Aminuddin, 2011: 68). In a literary work, the setting of society relates to the social quality at a specific location and time. There is a tie between the social setting and the social life system. It could be a habitual nature, beliefs, conventions, religion, ideology, and faith. In addition, the setting of society depicts the social class of the character.

4. Theme

Generally, a theme can be defined as the central essence of the story. The theme is the most fundamental element of a literary work and is constructed through characters and conflicts in the story. Furthermore, the theme serves as a description of what is happening in the story (Stanton in Islam, 2019: 9). That is why a theme is considered guidance for the reader to understand the story. Just like the meaning of human trajectory, the theme highlights the aspects of life. Therefore, there will be certain values in the story. Furthermore, the theme has relevance to each part of the story. Thus, the storyline can be more focused, unified, conical, and impactful (Stanton, 2012: 37).

In a novel, there are main and supporting themes since a novel always have complex conflicts. However, the readers have to analyze the theme themselves

because most of the themes are not mentioned directly by the author. On the other hand, theme can be a bridge between the writer and the reader so that the reader can understand the author's frame of mind (Gill in Hidayat, 2020: 12). There are many literary works that represent and examine events or emotions experienced by humans such as love, suffering, fear, maturity, belief, betrayal of oneself, delusions, or even morality.