

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Review of Related Theories

In this research, researchers will examine cultural content in Novel *How Beautiful We Were* using Abrams' theory. The mimetic approach is a literary approach that examines the relationship between a literary work and the reality of life that occurs in society.

Ratna (2014:53) argues that approaches are defined as ways of approaching objects, while methods are ways of collecting, analyzing, and presenting data. The purpose of method is efficiency by simplifying by utilizing new methods and theories. In his book *The Mirror and The Lamp* (1971), Abrams put forward his universe theory of literature. The universe theory is a theory that refers to the universe. In this case we can know four things, namely first there are literary works (works of art), second there are creators (authors) of the work itself, then third there is the universe behind the creation of literary works (social reality), fourth there are connoisseurs of literary works (readers). Based on this theory, literary works can be viewed from four approach, namely: (a) expressive, (b) mimetic, (c) pragmatic, and (d) objective. These four approaches will be interconnected with literary works and in this research I use the mimetic approach proposed by Abrams.

2.1.1 Mimetic

The mimetic approach is a literary approach that examines the relationship between a literary work and the reality of life that occurs in society. The mimetic

approach connects what is written in a literary work with things that happen in everyday life.

The term mimetic comes from the Greek word mimesis which means "imitating", "imitation" or "embodiment". In general, mimetic can be interpreted as an approach that views literary works as imitations or shadows of the real world. Mimetics can also be interpreted as a theory which in its method forms a literary work based on the realities of social life experienced and then developed into a literary work with the addition of scenarios arising from the author's imagination and creativity in real life.

Raverzt argues that mimesis can be interpreted as an approach to studying literary works that seeks to associate literary works with the reality of a reality. This approach connects literary works with the universe (in Abrams' terms it is called the universe). These universes are related to aspects and problems that are quite broad and complex. It is not only concerned with issues of literature, but also between philosophy, psychology, and sociology with all its aspects.

In relation to literature and mimesis, Plato argued that literature is imitation and does not produce true copies. Art is only imitating and imagining things that appear, standing under reality. Art should be full of truth, and an artist should be humble. However, he tends to indulge in lust, even though rational humans should suppress lust.

Meanwhile, Aristotle argued that art actually makes the human soul holy through a process called catharsis. Poets do not imitate reality, artists create their own world with probability. Artwork is a unique means of knowledge, a unique way of imagining an understanding of aspects or human situations that cannot be expressed in any other way.

Mimesis theory considers literary works as a reflection, imitation, or imagining reality. This opinion is mostly shared by literary researchers of the Marxist school and other researchers who regard works of art as social documents. The strongest means of directing man to the interpretation of reality is language. Language not only integrates various fields of experience into a meaningful whole, but also makes it possible to overcome everyday realities (Partini Sardjono Pradotokusumo: 2005; 76).

Abrams in Ratna, (2013:69) says that the mimetic approach is the most primitive aesthetic approach. In medieval times, Minu Alam's artwork was associated with the dominance of Christianity, where human abilities can only successfully imitate God's creation. In mimetic terms, in the process of creating literary works, writers or artists must have made careful observations of human life in the real world then contemplated and finally realized it in the form of literary works. This is a view that refers to the universe. This means that this approach connects the relationship between the author's perspective on the surrounding environment, both the social environment and the natural environment, which is realized in the form of imaginative works. Its realization in the form of literary works is his criticism of the environment (the universe) expressed in different forms. In the end, the author's reflection is a real event that really happened at that time. Talking about the mimetic view of literary works, basically cannot be separated from Plato's thoughts. In his dialog Socrates, Plato reveals that all works of art (including literary works) are imitations. Imitation is a relational term that implies two things, namely: what can be imitated and the imitation and a number of relationships between the two. Although this theory was eventually refuted by Aristotle.

2.1.2 Sosial Background

Literary works grow and develop in social society. It is undeniable that social culture influences the birth of literary works as they are today. According to Endraswara (2003: 78) Literature is an expression of human life that cannot be separated from the roots of society. Endraswara (2003: 56) The work is seen as a reflection of the times that can reveal aspects of social culture, politics, economy, and so on. Important events from his era will be connected directly with the intrinsic elements of literary works. Semi (1993: 8) argues that as a creative work, literature must be able to give birth to a beautiful creation and try to channel human needs for beauty. Literature is also interpreted as a work of fiction which is imaginative in nature because it can transform reality into text. Literature presents a world in words, which is not the real world, but a world that may exist.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2012), social background is matters related to the behavior of the social life of the people in a place that is told in a work of fiction. The procedures for the social life of the community cover various problems within a sufficiently spiritual scope as previously stated.

Ratna (2003: 3) states that sociology of literature is understanding towards literary works by considering the social aspects. The theory of sociology of literature is used in two ways. First, understanding the social aspects of the novels studied, especially in an effort to understand the portraits and social backgrounds of the characters and relate them to social reality. Second, in determining the extent of the relationship between the novel's discourse and certain social discourses in society. In other words, where is the position of literary discourse in the context of wider social discourse.

In this study, the researcher will try to analyze a novel using the Mimatic approach and also the social background contained in the novel.

2.2 Previous Studies

The first is a thesis written by Sri Mulyani (2019) entitled "Kajian Budaya Dalam Novel Kusut Karya Ismet Fanany." This research was conducted to study a novel which aims to find out the cultural studies in the novel Kusut by Ismet Fanany. The results of this study state that there are cultural elements in Ismet Fanany's Kusut Novel which include language, knowledge system, social organization, system of living equipment and technology, livelihood system, religious system, and art.

The second is a thesis written by Bela Novya Revita's thesis (2020) entitled "Analysis Mimetik Novel Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan Karya Agnes Davonar." This study aims to determine the reality or reality in the novel Surat Kecil untuk Tuhan by Agnes Davonar with a mimetic approach. The results of this research can answer the research statement, namely the change of reality in the novel Surat Kecil untuk Tuhan Karya Agnes Davonar with a mimetic approach. The hierarchy of opposition or dominant text built by the author in the story is Gita Sesa, a girl affected by Rabdomyosarcoma cancer. The struggle of a person against malignant cancer, she fights it alone, her spirit is extraordinary, even the spirit of achieving education is not desperate. Even though she was sick and she didn't have long to live, she wrote Surat Kecil untuk Tuhan.

The third is a thesis written by Firdianingsih (2019) entitled "CULTURAL CONTENT ANALYSIS INEILPERSPECTIVE: A Study of 'Interactive English' Textbooks for Indonesian Junior High School Published by Yudhistira." The objective of the study is to explain the presentation of cultural aspects in English as International Language perspective and the type of cultural load in the orientation of communication and knowledge. This research is categorized as content analysis since it is aimed at evaluating textbooks investigating cultural content.

The fourth is a thesis written by Arie Armanda (2018) entitled "Analysis Cerpen Kaki yang Ajaib Karya Hasan Al Bana dengan Pendekatan Ekspresif." This study aims to determine the description of the author's expression and creative process in creating the short story *Miraculous Feet* by Hasan AlBanna published by Koran Tempo on May 28, 2012 ago. This research is a literature study. The methods used in this research are documentary studies and interviews. The data analysis technique is by reading carefully, collecting research data related to the analysis of short stories through an expressive approach, selecting the data obtained, analyzing and discussing the data that has been selected and applying it to the problem discussed, drawing conclusions from the results of the research. The results obtained are that there is a description of the author's expression and creative process, namely the emergence of brave, firm, confident thoughts, as well as expressions of surprise, disgust, and unique and poetic characters.

The fifth is a publication article by Geo Fanny Jacklin Padoma Nova (2020) entitled "Latar Sosial Dalam Novel Berkisar Merah Karya Ahmad Tohari." This article aims to describe the social background experienced by the main character in

the novel *Bekisar Merah* by Ahmad Tohari. The author tries to describe the social background experienced by the main character. In obtaining the data, the writer obtains it by means of literature study using various books that are related to social background. This study describes the social background experienced by the main character by explaining the intrinsic elements and explaining the social background that appears so that it makes it easier for the next step to find out the social background of the main character. This study was also carried out using an analysis of the elements of story development in the form of intrinsic elements which include plot, characters, and setting. In conclusion, there are six social backgrounds that emerge in this study.

The last previous study that the researcher found is a publication article by Ni Wayan Rismayanti (2020) entitled “Kajian Sosiologi Sastra Dalam Novel *Puzzle Mimpi* Karya Anna Farida.” This study aims to describe (1) the social class differences of the story characters in Anna Farida's *Puzzle Mimpi*, and (2) the social context of the author in Anna Farida's *Puzzle Mimpi*. The results of this study are as follows (1) examined the differences in the social class of the story characters contained in the novel *Puzzle Mimpi* including: social life related to social status becomes a benchmark for one's existence enforced in society and related economic status, namely the very rich class (2) the social context of the author in the novel *Puzzle Mimpi* includes: the views of the author which show the author's ideas. After analyzing the novel *Puzzle Mimpi*, there are differences in social class and social context of the author. In the future, authors are advised not to reveal differences in social class anymore in writing a novel so as not to cause social problems.

There are several similarities and differences from previous studies described above. the first study above analyzes cultural studies, the difference is that the previous research used cultural studies research with the theory of Koentjaraningrat in the form of cultural elements then for the second study there is a theory equation, namely using the mimetic theory of Abrams. then for the other studies it is only in the form of similarities in the use of theory from Abrams and the fifth study also discusses the social background which this theory is also used by researchers in analyzing this research.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The researcher analyzed cultural studies in the novel *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue by using Abrams' Mimetic approach and also Social Background. Mimetic is a mimetic approach, namely an approach that examines literary works by understanding the relationship between literary works and reality, while social setting is social setting, which refers to matters related to the social behavior of people in a place that is told in fiction.

