AN ANALYSIS OF SETTING AND CONFLICT IN THE NOVEL ENTITLED DECK THE HALLS BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK AND CAROL HIGGINS CLARK

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Abstract - Novel is one of literary work that can be enjoyed by everyone. Novel can represent of human life and can be their inspiration who have read it. Basically, novel is a media to share what author’s want to write or feel. Novel consists of many stories. Those are stories about friendship, love, tragedy, mystery, murder, revenge, comedy and so on. Novel is a prose, a passage of experience revealing its-form-rather, partially revealing its form, because that form is an ideal shape with no existence in space and lacks size and space and therefore can only is approached imperfectly (Cuddon, 1998). Intrinsic element is the element which build a literary work itself and make a literary work present as a literary work. The writer only analyzes the setting and conflict as a part of intrinsic element because the writer wants to know how far setting and conflict has the important thing in the novel’s story. The writer analyzes setting and conflict to expand the definition and expand the understanding about setting and conflict. A story of novel itself will not establish as well without the intrinsic element. The result of this study will shows that setting and conflict divided into different aspect with the different definition. The readers will find that an author to write a novel needs to put all of elements, such as extrinsic element and especially the intrinsic novel which built a story from inside and makes a story more interesting to read. The writer hopes this study makes the readers understand the whole content of the novel itself.

Key words: Novel, Analysis, Intrinsic, Setting and Conflict

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Problem

In our everyday life, we seek entertainment in many different ways. Some people prefer to sit at home and watch television; some other people prefer to read such as: magazines, newspaper, comic, novel, short story and so on. Novel is a kind of literary work that could be enjoyed by everyone. Novel can represent of human’s life and could be their inspiration who has read it. Basically, novel is a media to share what author’s want to write or feel. Novel consists of many different stories. Those are stories about friendship, love, tragedy, mystery, murder, revenge, comedy and so on. There are so many authors in this world and those authors are good authors, good writers and also well-known authors. Those authors are: John Grisham, Sidney Sheldon, and Sandra brown, Irving Wallace, Stephen King, Agatha Christie, Danielle Steel and many more.

In this study, the writer analyzes the intrinsic element of novel, especially focusing to the setting and conflict in a novel entitled Deck the Halls by Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark because the writer wants to analyze the novel deeper inside. Novel is not only as entertainment tool but also as a guidance of our life because many novels contain a lot of moral values. Reading novel, is not only bring pleasure, also something that can be imaginative power to enhance our creativity.

Mary Higgins Clark is the author of twenty-two worldwide bestseller. She lives with her husband, John Conheeney, in Saddle River, New Jersey. Books by Mary are Before I Say Goodbye, Pretend You Don’t See Her, You Belong to Me, Remember Me, All Around the Town, A Stranger Is Watching, A Cry in the Night, etc. Meanwhile her daughter Carol Higgins Clark is the author of four bestselling Regan Reilly novels. She lives in New York City. Her books are Twanged, Iced, snagged and decked.

Problem Identification
Intrinsic element of a novel is the element which directly builds a story and makes a novel can exist. Therefore, the writer decided to analyze a novel for a thesis as a Partial Fulfillment in Undergraduate Degree of English Literature.

Problems of the Study
The main problems of this study formulated as follow:
1. What are the kinds of conflict that occurred in the novel “Deck the halls”?
2. What are the kinds of setting and what kind of setting that occurred in the novel “Deck the Halls”?

Aims of the Study
1. The question number 1 is purposing to find out what are the conflict, how conflict occurs and what conflict which usually show up in the novel “Deck the Halls”. The reader will know that conflict is not only about fighting by using physic but conflict also has other definition.
2. Aim of problem number 2 to describe where, when, and how incident happened in the novel. The writer analyzes the setting to expand the definition and expand the understanding about setting.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Definition of Terms
One of literary work is a novel. Novel is an extended work of prose fiction. A novel is considerably longer than a short story and even novelette- a middle length work. In comparison to these latter genres, its magnitude allows for a greater variety of characters, greater complication of plot or plots, a fuller development of setting(s) and deeper, more sustained exploration of character and motives (http://felass.vaniercollege.qc.ca/~kingsmip/novel.htm). According to Allen in his book The New Penguin English Dictionary (2000), novel is an invented narrative that is usually long and complex and deals, especially with human experience and social behavior. Novel is a prose, a passage of experience revealing its-form-rather, partially revealing its form, because that form is an ideal shape with no existence in space and lacks size and space and therefore can only is approached imperfectly (Cuddon, 1998).

The novel is longer than (40,000 words and onwards) and more complex than either, the short story or the novella, is not bound by the structural and metrical restriction of plays and poetry. A definition of novel pointed out by Merriam (1995: 819), novel are fictional prose narrative of considerably length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience though a connected sequence of events involving a group of person in a specific setting. The novel always been thought as the literary from that was closest to the raw material of life, the one most bound up with temporal society and the grain of reality (Robson, 1982: 6)

Intrinsic Element of novel
Every novel has its own structure, intrinsic element and extrinsic element is included into novel structure. The intrinsic elements of novel are theme, setting, plot, character, point of view, symbol, and so on. A novel also has extrinsic element such as: moral values, psychological values, social values, cultural values, etc. In this study the writer analyze part of intrinsic element such as: setting and conflict as the problems of study.

Theme
Theme is the central and dominating idea in a literary work and also the message or moral implicit in any work of art (Shaw, 1986: 71). According to oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (1989: 1159), theme is subject of talk, a piece of writing or a person’s thoughts; topic. Birkets (1993: 67) says theme is the essential subject of the story or novel, it is dominant idea or ideas, what the work is about. Perrine (1988: 52) stated that theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. Theme must be expressible in the form of a statement with a subject or a predicate.

Another definition about theme is based on Kennedy (1979:90), theme of a story is whatever general idea or sight the entire story reveals. A theme needs not to be a moral or a message; it may be what the happenings add up, what the story about. And according (Hartoko and Rahmanto, 1986:142), theme is general basic idea which constructs a literary work and exists on text as semantic structure and theme is about similarities or differences.

Setting
Setting is the time and place of the action of a literary, dramatic, or cinematic work (Longman, 1992: 1365). According to PanutiSudjiman (1986: 46), setting is all description about time, space, atmosphere of happening action in a literary work. Kennedy explained (1991: 178), setting is not only about the time and place but also often in an effective short story. Setting may be figure as more than
background. It can make things happen, it can prompt characters to act, bring them to realization, or cause them to reveal their in the most natures, often setting and character will reveal each other.

Winarti (2004) also explained setting, setting is refers both to the physical location of the events and to the time in which they happened. When, where and how the author make use of it are the important questions you should find out to analyze this element. Abrams says setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time and social circumstances in which its action occur; the setting of an episode or scheme with a work is the particular physical location in which it take place (Abrams, 1971: 172).

Plot

According to The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English (1951: 915), plot is plan of play, poem and novel. And plot is the sequence of incidents or events which a story is composed. It may include what a character says or thinks, as well as what he does, but it leaves out description and analysis and concentrates ordinarily on major happening (Winarti, 2003: 5). Stanton (1965: 14) said that plot is a story consists of event sequence, but each incident only related by causative relation where one incident causes or caused another incident. Shaw (1986: 219) mentioned plot is a plan or scheme to accomplish a purpose. In literature, plot refers to the arrangement of events to achieve an intended reflect. A plot is a series of carefully devised and interrelate action that through a struggle of opposing forces (conflict) to a climax and a denouement and also a plot is different from a story or strong line (the other of events as they occur). Plot is also the plan, design, scheme or pattern of events in a play, poem or work of fiction and further, the organization of incidents and character in such a way as to induce curiosity and suspense (Cuddon, 1998: 976).

There is a set-up, or exposition, in which the character and their situations are introduced. This is followed by the rising action, which poses and then intensifies the complications, building toward a climax. The climax is the moment of maximum tension, the point after which the circumstances must be change. After the climax come the resolution, also known as the falling action, which shows the consequences. The resolution tells the reader how things turned out, answering the inevitable question “What finally happen?” Sometimes an author will attach a further explanation so that the reader makes no mistakes about the meaning of the outcome. This is the denouement, which is a French term that literary means “unraveling”. Most authors, though, especially modern authors, prefer to leave the meanings and implications for the reader. The favor a policy of indirection; that is, they would rather suggest than tell.

Character

Character can be defined as persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, which are interpreted by the reader as being endow with moral, dispositional and emotional qualities that expressed in the dialog and action (Abrams, 1985: 22). According to Robert (1977: 54) in his book Writing Themes about Literature, character is an author’s representation of human being, specifically of those inner qualities that determine how an individual reacts to various conditions or attempts to shape his or her environment. Choices and actions indicate character. Shaw (1986: 152) says character is a study of personality, setting or mood, which contains little action or plot and place emphasis on descriptive details about an individual. Also character is the aggregate of traits and picture that form a nature of some person or animal. Character has several other specific meaning notably that of a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc. Jones has simple definition about character, character is describing a clearly picture about someone presented in a story (1968: 33).

Meanwhile Nurgiyantoro (2002: 176-177) has another kind of character according to his definition:

1. Main character
   Main character is a character which has the central story in a novel. He or she is a character which most telling in a story. Usually, main character shows up in every incident or each page in a novel. But even though main character never show up in every chapter or every page but the story of a novel itself still tell about the main character problems.

2. Peripheral character
   Peripheral character is a character which rarely shows up in a story. Peripheral character only show up in a story if she or he has connection with the incident(s) of main character with directly or indirectly.

Meanwhile Hornby (1995: 186), classifies character into few of kinds, he is defines character as all the mental or moral qualities that makes a person, group, nation, etc. all the features that make a thing, place, event what it is and different from others.
Characters can also be classified by the amount of change they exhibit in their personalities. If a character undergoes a significant change in personality then that character is considered a **dynamic** character. If a character shows little or no change in personality then that character is considered a **static** character. Another method of classifying character is by the fullness of their personalities. If a character has several well-defined traits and a complex personality, then that character is considered a **round** character. If a character has few (if any) defined traits and a shallow personality, then that character is considered a **flat** character.

**Point of View**

Point of view is a particular way considering or judging a situation, person, even etc (Longman, 1992: 1013). Basically point of view is the perspective from which a story is presented to the reader (Webster, 1995: 894). According to Abrams (1981: 142), point of view is indicated to the way a story is telling. Point of view is a way or a view that used by author as a place to present character, action, setting, and various incidents which build the story into a narrative work to the reader. Meanwhile Nurgiyantoro (2002: 248), said that point of view is basically strategy, technique and tactics which chosen by author to state her or his idea and story. Another definition about point of view is according to Lubbock (Friedman, and Stevick, 1967: 117) point of view is the place where coherency and clarity of story-telling happened.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

**Research Design**

The method used in this research by the writer is qualitative research. Qualitative research assumes that all knowledge relative, that there is a subjective element to all knowledge research (Numan, David. 1992: 3). Meanwhile, Prof. Dr. NyomanKuthaRatna, S.U. says that method regard as ways, strategy for understanding reality and systematic steps to break out the next causative sequence. And Prof. Dr. NyomanKuthaRatna, S. U also explained about qualitative method which he says that qualitative method give attention to natural data on its relation with existence context.

The source of the data used in this research is a novel entitled *Deck the Halls* by Mary Higgins Clark and her daughter Carol Higgins Clark in 2000 which a novel that the writer analyzes for this Thesis, the Publisher P.T GramediaPustakaUtama, Jakarta.

**Data Collection Procedure**

In collecting the data, the writer took the following procedures:
1. The writer reads a novel entitled *Deck the Halls* until finished.
2. The writer makes a synopsis of a novel.
3. Identify the aspects that become the major concern of the study.
4. Identify the data by underlining the dialog that related with the problems of the study.
5. The writer gathering all data and organize the paper based on the data collection.
6. Draw a conclusion about the findings.

**Data Analysis Procedure**

The procedures of analyzing the data for this study are:
1. The writer classifies the data which had been collected.
2. Analyze the intrinsic element by relating the theories and the quotations from the novel.
3. The writer draws a conclusion from the analysis.
RESULT OF THE STUDY

Introduction of Novel Entitled Deck the Halls

Synopsis of Deck the Halls

This is a story about kidnap three days before Christmas. Regan Reilly is a private investigator who lived in Los Angeles but then her father Luke Reilly called her and told to Regan that her mother, Nora, the well-known mystery writer caught her heel on crocheted rug.

Regan’s father, Luke, is owner of three funeral homes and he has right-hand man, Austin Grady. Luke was handling the funeral of Cuthbert Boniface Goodloe, a rich man who is heritage his money to the Seed-Plant-Bloom and Blossom society of the Garden State of New Jersey. Goodloe has a nephew named Cuthbert Boniface Dingle, known as C.B. who was obviously bitter about his meager inheritance. Luke has seen C.B. stuffing rotted bits of house plants in the sleeves of the Goodloe suit.

After heard her mother is sick, Regan barely made the last night flight from Los Angeles to Kennedy. Three days before Christmas, Thursday, 22, December, Rosita Gonzales was waiting for Luke Reilly behind the wheel of one of the Reilly Funeral Home Limos, standing near the hospital’s Seventy-First Street Entrance. Rosita is Luke’s Driver. Suddenly, there was a tap on the driver’s window, Rosita looked up and saw a familiar face. Her unexpected visitor identified himself: Hi, Rossie, I’m Petey the painter. Remember me? Petey had been worked for Luke but he was fired because he painted the main viewing room of the Reilly funeral with chartreuse shade.

Luke emerged from elevator and walked to the door of the hospital. Luke arrived to his car and came into backseat before he realized that he was not alone in the backseat. Luke recognized that man is Petey. Rosie turned the corner and another man joined them. Petey partner crime was none other than C.B Dingle, nephew of Goodloe. Fifteen minutes later, the car pulled onto a narrow road that led down to the Hudson River. They reached an empty parking area at the river’s edge; to the left they could see GeorgeWashingtonBridge. They were forced to walk along the shore, past a deserted marina, to where a dilapidated houseboat, its windows boarded up, was anchored at the end of a narrow dock. The kidnappers locked them on the houseboat.

Regan woke up and had breakfast with bagel and coffee. She called her mother’s private nurse to ask the condition of her mother and ask whether his father, Luke, is in the hospital but Luke wasn’t there. Regan dialed the funeral house number and Austin Grady answered the phone and says that he hasn’t spoken to Luke since he called early this morning to send a car.

DISCUSSION

Conflict

Conflict is part of plot, but conflict itself has few aspects. So, the writer decided to analyze more detail about conflict than other parts of plot or analyze plot as the whole. Conflict could say is the central part of the plot. Before the writer is putting some dialogues in the novel which support the study, the writer will give some definition about conflict first which related with the problems.

Jones (1968: 30-31), divided conflict into three parts, there are:

1. Physical conflict: the conflict that happened when the character tries to overcome the obstacles to reach the character’s goal. This conflict signed by physical contact (fight).

2. Social conflict: the conflict that happened between someone or group with other persons and other groups without causing physical contact just only derides or argues each other.

3. Psychic conflict: the conflict that happened in her or him selves, example the confrontation between human wishes and his awareness, or between his wishes and his feeling to decide what he really wants. This conflict happens when the character faces the alternatives and he has chosen one of the alternatives.

From above definition from Jones about conflict, so the writer will analyze conflict and divide conflict based on his definition. Below are the results of the writer study:

1. Physical Conflict

Because there is no physical conflict in the story of novel “Deck the Halls” so the writer does not put the dialogue or statement from the novel. In the “Deck the Halls” the characters in the story did not involve with physical conflict.

2. Social Conflict

They were forced to walk along the shore, past a deserted marina, to where dilapidated houseboat, its window boarded up, was anchored at the end of a narrow dock. The boat rocked up and down, as the river lapped restlessly against its sides. It was obvious to Luke that the worn and aging craft was sitting dangerously low in the water.
“Take a look at the ice that’s starting to form out there. You can’t be planning to put us on that thing in this weather,” Luke protested.

“In summertime it’s real nice,” Petey boasted. “I take care of it for the guy who owns it. He’s in Arizona for the winter. His arthritis is something awful.”

“This isn’t July,” Luke snapped “Sometimes you get bad weather in July too,” Petey responded. “One time there was a real bad storm, and----”

“Shut up, Petey,” C.B. growled irritably. “I told you, you talk too much.”

“You would too if you painted rooms all by yourself twelve hours a day. When I’m with people, I like to talk.”

C.B. shook his head. “He drives me nuts,” he said under his breath. “Now be careful getting onto the boat,” he told Rosita. “I don’t want you to slip.”

“You can’t do this to us. I’ve got to go home to my boys,” Rosita cried.

Luke could hear the note of hysteria in Rosita’s voice. The poor kid is scared stiff, he thought. Just a few years younger than Regan and supporting two children on her own. “Help her! He barked.

“You’re very good at influencing people, Mr. Reilly,” C.B. complimented. “Let’s hope you’re as successful for the next twenty-four hours.”

Petey unlocked the door of the cabin and pushed it open, releasing a dank, musty smell into the cold outside air.

“Whew,” Petey said. “That stink’ll get you every time.”

“Move it, Petey,” C.B. ordered. “I told you to get an Airwick.”

“How thoughtful, “Rosita said sarcastically as she followed Petey inside. (Deck the Halls, p 29)

3. Conflict of Psychic

There was a crash followed by a startling lurch as the boat listed to a twenty-degree angle. Rosita and Luke were thrown to the side. Rosita cried out and Luke winced as the manacles dug into his hands and ankles.

“Mr. Reilly, this boat is sinking! We’re going to drown,” Rosita sobbed.

“No, we’re not,” Luke insisted. “I think one of the mooring lines gave way.”

Less than a minute later, the boat was savagely hurled against the dock again.

Luke heard a gurgling sound, and water began to bubble from somewhere near the door. As the boat swayed once more, the ring of keys C.B. had left on the stove slid off and dropped to the floor. Desperately, Luke bent as far as the chains would allow and leaned forward. His finger touched the edge of one of the keys, but before he could attempt to grasp it, the boat pitched again, and the keys slid well beyond his reach.

Up until that moment, Luke had believed they had a chance, but not anymore. Even if C.B. that call from wherever he was going, it would be too late. The water was rising steadily. Rosita was right—they were going to drown. Their bodies would be found chained like trapped animals, if they were found at all. This tub would be driftwood before much longer.

I had wanted a lot more years, he thought, as the faces and voices of Nora and Regan permeated his soul.

From across the cabin, he could hear Rosita whisper, “Hail Mary, full of grace…”

He finished the prayed with her. “…at the hour of our death, Amen. (Deck the Halls, p 193-194)

1. Setting of Time

“Fred is a police officer, Alvirah,” Regan said, and then looked directly at him. “Rosita and my father were kidnapped sometime this morning. We believe it must have happened between ten o’clock, when my father left the hospital after visiting my mother, and twelve o’clock, when he was supposed to show up for a funeral.” (Deck the Halls, p 74)

2. Setting of Place

Gabe Klein began, “The records from E-Z pass show that the car went through the Lincoln Tunnel into Manhattan at 9:15 A.M.That would be when the girl went in to pick up Luke Reilly at the hospital. At some point the car must have been driven back to New Jersey, because it crossed the George Washington Bridge into New York again at 11:16 A.M. Then it crossed the Triborough Bridge in a lane headed for Queens at 11:45 A.M. That was the last time the E-Z Pass registered any activity.” (Deck the Halls, p 81)

3. Setting of Tools

“Good idea. I’d love one.” Regan glanced around the cozy yet slightly cluttered apartment. The brightly slip covered couch and matching chair with their rounded arms and thick pillows looked wonderfully comfortable. A corner with shelves had been turned over to the children’s videotapes and toys. But it was the sight of the Christmas tree, already in the stand, just waiting to be decorated, that clutched at her heart. (Deck the Halls, p 73)

4. Setting of Environment Existence
It had been said of Alvin Luck that his name didn’t suit him. Fifty-two years old, with thinning brown hair, a slight frame, and an amiable but timid smile, he lived with his mother in a rent-controlled apartment on Manhattan’s West Eighty-Sixth Street. The author of twelve unpublished suspense novels, he eked out a living doing temporary jobs while waiting for his break in the publishing world.

Given the reason, his current odd job was to don a red suit and white beard and ho-ho-ho his way through the toy section of a discount department store near Herald square.

5. Setting of System Social Existence

Fifteen minutes later, the car pulled onto a narrow road that led down to the Hudson River. Rosita was on the verge of tears. They reached an empty parking area at the river's edge, facing the skyline of Manhattan. To the left they could see the towering gray span of the George Washington Bridge. The heavy stream of holiday traffic crossing back and forth on its two levels only increased Rosita’s sense of isolation. She had a sudden terrible fear that C.B. and Petey might be planning to shoot them and throw their bodies into the river. (*Deck the Halls, p 28*)

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

From this research and based on chapter IV about result of the study and discussion, the writer conclude that without conflict, the story of novel will not develop as well and the reader will not challenge with the story which has flat story. But not only that’s all, the conflict itself makes plot exist. Conflict is purposing to build root of the problems and makes a story more interesting and attractive. And from many definitions and from result of study, the writer found that conflict has different kinds and definition.

Without setting in the story, the readers will not know where, when, and why the incident happen and without setting will makes the readers confuse with the story line. Conflict and setting has the same important thing in a story. Conflict is purposing to make story more innovative to read by reader and setting is purposing to make a story clearly to read. Setting and conflict is part of intrinsic element which build a story from inside. Beside setting and conflict, we also able to analyze others aspect, such as: theme, plot, character, and point of view, moral values, cultural and so on.

Suggestion

From this study, the writer point out that how we will understand about conflict or setting depend on the reference that the researcher or the reader will use and the way we are regarding what is conflict and what is setting. From that explanation, the writer conclude that before the researcher wants to analyze about a problem, they should understand about the definition first from the problem before decide to explore the problem more far.

Reading a novel is not a bad idea, novel has many values of kindness that we can take as our guidance of life and also richest our thinking. By learning and knowing more detail about the novel, it could advance our knowledge about literature and with reading novel will add our English vocabulary.

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