

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this theoretical framework, the writer will discuss the theories used in the thesis to analyze the novel entitled *Atonement* by Ian McEwan which focuses on the psychology of the main character. There are two elements, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. In intrinsic elements, the writer will analyze character and characterizations, and also conflicts. Extrinsic elements use Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

The intrinsic elements in literary analysis, such as plot, character, setting, theme, perspective, style, and symbolism. In this thesis, the writer only analyzes character, characterization, and also conflicts contained in *Atonement* novel.

2.1.1.1 Character and Characterization

A character is a human or an animal that acts, talks, and advances the plot of a fictitious novel (Perrine, 1984:65-69). According to Perrine, there are two types of characters depending on their functions, namely the main character and the supporting character. The main character is an important character who appears frequently and serves as the central focus of the story. The supporting characters are subordinate to the main character, bringing the plot to life.

Characterization is a method which is used by the author to create the appearance and personality of an imaginary person and reveal their characters (Kenney, 1966:34-36). According to Kenney, there are two methods namely the

telling and showing. The telling method is when the author simply tells readers about his characters. This method is quite mechanical, discouraging the reader's imaginative participation. Meanwhile, the showing method is when the author allows his characters to reveal themselves to readers through their own words and actions. In other words, the characters show themselves in this method. This method also incorporates characters talking about other characters, a storytelling device where one character discusses another.

2.1.1.2 Conflict

Perrine (1984:42) states that conflict is described as the opposing or clash of action, ideas, or desires. There are two categories of conflict: internal and external conflict. Internal conflicts arise in a character's mind between himself and his thoughts. So, internal conflicts are a battleground where the struggle for identity, purpose, and integrity rages, often leaving scars that carve the contours of their being. These conflicts delve into the depths of human complexity, probing the intricacies of conscience and consciousness as characters navigate the labyrinth of their innermost thoughts and emotions. While external conflicts outline how external issues arise as a result of a clash between characters.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements in literature are factors outside the text that might impact its interpretation and meaning. The writer only focuses on Briony Tallis using the hierarchy of needs theory by Abraham Maslow (1943). In the hierarchy, five levels of human needs should be fulfilled, such as physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

2.1.2.1 Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow

Humans are motivated by five main types of needs, according to Abraham Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of needs, they are: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.



Picture 1.1 Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid

(source:<https://www.simplypsychology.org/wp-content/uploads/maslow-hierarchy-of-needs-min.jpg>)

2.1.2.1.1 Physiological Needs

Motivation theory typically employs physiological actions as its beginning point (Maslow, 1943:372). Physiological needs such as food and water, enough sleep, clothing and shelter, general well-being, and reproduction. When people lack multiple needs, they typically begin with their physical needs. Satisfying physiological needs is extremely important as the most fundamental need.

2.1.2.1.2 Safety Needs

Maslow observed that safety needs, once physiological needs are satisfied, provide a sense of security, stability, and relief from illness (Maslow, 1943:376). Safety needs can also be shown by a preference for a consistent routine. Individual appears to seek a predictable, organized world.

2.1.2.1.3 Love and Belonging Needs

The need for love and belonging is a fundamental human need that motivates individuals to establish effective and emotional relationships with others (Maslow, 1943:381). At this level, individuals will long for affectionate relationships with people in general, such as friends, lovers, spouses, or children, and to find their place within their group. Everyone will strive very hard to achieve this goal.

2.1.2.1.4 Esteem Needs

Individuals have a need or desire for a steady, securely founded, high self-evaluation, as well as the esteem of others (Maslow, 1943:381). These needs can be divided into two subsets. First, there is the desire for strength, success, sufficiency, confidence in the face of adversity, independence, and freedom. Second, there is a desire for prestige, recognition, attention, significance, or praise. Satisfying the self-esteem needs can boost confidence, value, strength, capability, and feeling usefulness in the world.

2.1.2.1.5 Self-actualization Needs

Self-actualization represents the highest level of the hierarchy, as an individual seeks to attain and actualize their genuine potential, abilities, and talents (Maslow, 1943:382). Maslow gives the examples such as a musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write. What a man can be, he must be. This tendency refers to the urge to develop one's identity and reach their full potential.

2.2 Research Method

The method of the research serves as an outline for doing research, explaining how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted to meet the research objectives. In this thesis, research method consists of research approach and method of data collection.

2.2.1 Research Approach

Based on the background of the thesis that reveals psychological phenomena in *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, the writer uses a psychological literature approach. To approach this research, the writer applies George's basic search strategy in library research. George (2008:67-69) states that to conduct research, it is recommended to consult specialized encyclopedias for background information rather than general ones. Then, it is recommended to compile and maintain multiple lists in your research log, including relevant terms, call numbers, subject headings, experts' names, and titles of scholarly journals and topic-focused periodicals. After that, search the library's online catalog for specific book sources, additional sources, and combinations of keywords, using subject heading links. Start systematically browsing the library's shelves, focusing on all call numbers.

Furthermore, it is recommended to utilize relevant indexes and databases to locate specific articles on the topic in both scholarly and popular publications, including newspapers. Examine all sources to identify the most useful ones and obtain leads to additional specific sources. After that, it is recommended to visit the library's online catalog to locate call numbers for identified books and determine if the library subscribes to the periodicals or newspapers for which you have article

references. Repeat steps until you have a variety of sources; consult with your instructor at least once during the brainstorming process.

Related to this approach, the writer uses Abraham Maslow's theory of human needs consisting of physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

2.2.2 Method of Data Collection

To collect data, this thesis is based on library research which is appropriate with the verbal data or written documents. According to George (2008:6), library research is a method of gathering data to help answer questions related to research.

The sources of the data in this thesis include two categories, they are primary and secondary sources. First, primary sources are evidence produced close to an event, individual, or phenomenon, providing a direct record of the study (George, 2008:189). The primary source of this thesis is a novel entitled *Atonement* that is written by Ian McEwan. Then, secondary sources are anyone's interpretation of evidence relating to the event, individual, or subject being studied. Secondary sources often consist of books or articles written by experts on the subject (George, 2008:193). In this thesis, the writer uses reference and the material related from some articles, e-journals, national and international papers, undergraduate thesis and internet access from google scholar as the secondary data.

The process of gathering data for analyzing a book involves numerous steps. Initially, the writer must define the objectives and choose a book that matches the goals. To analyze a novel, the writer picks one with the title *Atonement* by Ian McEwan and reads it carefully. Second, make notes about the characters, plot, and

themes and decide what important information to collect. Third, read the novel again, collecting data based on the information. After gathering the data, identify the problem by delivering characters who either directly or indirectly depict the novel. Lastly, conduct an analysis that aligns with the applied theory.