

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORY AND METHOD**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

##### **2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements**

###### **2.1.1.1 Character**

According to Abrams (1999: 33), characters are the people who appear in a dramatic or narrative work, who is interpreted by the reader as owning particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities based on conclusions drawn from what and how they say it (dialogue) and what they do (action). Abrams defines that the motivation of the characters is based on their temperament, desires, and moral nature. From the beginning to the end of a work, a character may remain stable, or unaffected in perspective, or undergo a radical shift, either through a process of development or as a result of a crisis. In this research thesis, the writer focuses on a moral, intellectual quality, and emotional quality of a character named Ezra. These moral, intellectual quality, and emotional quality are discussed in order to show the development of the main character.

###### **2.1.1.2 Conflict**

Conflict is one of the important parts of the plot of the novel. According to Wellek and Warren (1956: 285), conflict is something dramatic, referring to a battle between two balanced forces, implying action and counteraction. Conflicts will arise if there is no agreement or arrangement between one desire and another.

Conflict plays a role as it builds tension, carries the plot, and allows character development. Conflict gives the character challenges and obstacles to confront which leads to a resolution.

Conflict can be classified into two categories, internal and external conflict. According to Meyer (2011: 51-52), internal conflict is a contradiction that must be resolved by the character and it is also known as inner conflict. Internal conflict often revolves a character's growth. It includes psychological issues and contains aspects such as uncertainty, anxiety, and moral issues. On the other hand, external conflict is the opposition between the main character and another character or element of the story. The external conflict can be caused by different goals, interests, values, or individual hatred. It is a common source of tension in the plot which results in verbal, physical, or emotional disputes. In this research thesis, the internal conflict happens between Ezra and himself and the external conflict happens between Ezra and his dysfunctional parents.

### **2.1.1.3 Setting**

According to Abrams (1999: 284-285), setting refers to the action's location, historical period, and social context. It means setting refers to far more than place or time period of the story. It also refers to the social and cultural background that influences the plot. Setting is an important aspect of novel because it creates the scenes, influences the atmosphere of the story, and affects the way a character acts and interacts with other characters. Setting is also an element that helps reader to understand and visualize the plot of the story. A

proper use of setting can give a novel more depth and realism, which strengthens the story's appeal and relatability. In this research thesis, the writer will analyze the influence of place setting, time setting, and the social background on Ezra's psychological conflicts.

## **2.1.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **2.1.2.1 The Causes of Psychological Conflict**

According to Lewin (1948), there are three causes of psychological conflicts. They are the needs situation, the space of free movement, and the conflicting goals.

#### **2.1.2.1.1 The Needs Situation**

Everything that a person requires to continue one's ability to survive is referred to as needs. A person's needs are met to a point where they are satisfied. Unmet needs cause a person's overall level of tension to increase. This is relevant, especially for basic needs such as food, water, shelter, sex, or security (Lewin, 1948: 89).

#### **2.1.2.1.2 The Space of Free Movement**

Every human has their freedom. The amount of space for the free movement of each human has an impact on the level of tension. There is usually a high level of tension when there is only a small space of free movement. The high level of tension can lead to apathy or aggression (Lewin, 1948: 89).

### **2.1.2.1.3 The Conflicting Goals**

Every human has their own goals in their life. However, conflicts within certain groups are determined by how much each member's goals contradict one another. It also depends on the willingness to consider other member's points of view (Lewin, 1948: 89 – 90).

### **2.1.2.2 The Types of Psychological Conflict**

Lewin describes three types of psychological conflict. They are approach-approach conflict, approach-avoidance conflict, avoidance-avoidance conflict, and multiple approach-avoidance conflict.

#### **2.1.2.2.1 Approach-approach Conflict**

Approach-approach conflict happens when a character has to choose between two desirable choices or alternatives, but only one alternative can be obtained. In this conflict, the character must choose between two equally powerful positive choices. In other words, the approach-approach conflict has at least two good choices and may cause a little stress on the character. This psychological conflict is the easiest conflict to solve and relatively less stressful compared to the other types (Lewin, 2002: 115).

#### **2.1.2.2.2 Approach-avoidance Conflict**

Approach-avoidance conflict happens when a character experiences two equally strong negative and positive options. This conflict is the most difficult conflict to resolve because if the character chooses to approach the positive option and cannot achieve it, the negative option will get stronger than the positive one. Before making a final decision, a character may experience approach-avoidance conflicts and often goes through a long period of emotional stress. This causes a character to experience frustration or stress. According to Lewin, this situation has no positive valence. If a positive valence did exist, it could only create dreams, not powerful forces on the level of reality (1948: 155).

#### **2.1.2.2.3 Avoidance-avoidance Conflict**

Avoidance-avoidance conflict is the opposite of approach-approach conflict. Avoidance-avoidance conflict happens when a character wants to escape or avoid two undesirable options. The main issue of this type of conflict is when a character moves away from one negative option, it will lead the character to the other negative option. According to Lewin, for two reasons, this situation is typical of decision-making situations that also can lead to high emotional tension. First, there must be important restraining forces opposing the decision, because choosing the wrong decision will almost certainly result in another problem. Second, the character is unsure whether choosing one decision or the other decision first will get the character into more trouble (1948: 135).

#### **2.1.2.2.4 Multiple Approach-avoidance Conflict**

A multiple approach-avoidance conflict happens when a character simultaneously perceives two goals in both positive and negative variables. This conflict is a more complicated version of the singular approach-avoidance conflict (Lewin, 2002: 116). A character who experience a multiple approach-avoidance conflict are drawn to positive valences of each option (approach) while also attempting to avoid negative valences (avoidance). Choosing for a decision requires giving up the other desirable option while at the same time avoiding the undesirable options, which leads to ambivalence and tension.

### **2.1.2.3 The Impacts of Psychological Conflict**

According to Lewin, psychological conflict influences a character's behavioral changes and development (1935: 66). Psychological conflict that arises from the conflict between motivating and restraining factors is the key component of the character development. Psychological conflict creates a tension which makes it a critical aspect in comprehending how and why a character changes his behavior. Character development refers to the process by which characters develop as the story progresses. A character can begin on one path, end on another path, and change as a result of events that happen in the plot that leads the character to become more complex. A character that develops well is the one who has been fully characterized with many traits proven throughout the story.

### **2.1.2.4 The Relation of the Causes and the Impacts of Psychological Conflict**

There is a relationship between the causes and the impacts of psychological conflict. Psychological conflict happens when there is an imbalance between the variables that drive and restrict an individual's psychological area. The factors that encourage someone to take a particular action and restrictions that discourage someone to take an action are the root causes of psychological conflict. Therefore, psychological conflict, whether it has a positive or negative valence, affects an individual's emotional and cognitive states. According to Lewin, an event's valence comes from the fact that it provides a mechanism for fulfilling a need. Consequently, the intensity of an event's impact is closely related to an individual's needs at that particular moment (1935: 78).

The causes and impacts of psychological conflict are related in the following ways, which can be summarized: When the driving variables (causes) are overpowering the restricting forces, it develops psychological conflict (tension and uncertainty) that eventually results in behavioral change (impact). The greater the gap between driving and restraining forces, the stronger the psychological conflict, and the greater the possibility of changes.

## **2.2 Research Methods**

### **2.2.1 Method of data collection**

The method of data collection used by the writer is library research. According to George, library research is an investigation led by the researcher from start to finish. Library research is a type of structured research that employs specific tools, rules, and techniques (2008: 1). The writer gathers the data from a

variety of sources, including books, journals, and articles. Primary source is the data that is created as close as possible in time or place to an event, individual, or phenomenon (2008: 189) and secondary source is the interpretation by any individual of the data related to the event, individual, or issue under the research (2008: 193). The primary source of this study is *Take Me with You When You Go*, a novel written by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven. The secondary sources are books, journals, and articles related to the theory of psychological conflict.

### **2.2.2 Research approach**

The research approach of this research thesis is the psychology of literature. Psychology of literature is the study of the psychological types and laws occur within works of literature (Wellek & Warren, 1956: 75). The approach to analyzing the story involves the intrinsic elements which are conflicts and the main character of the story named Ezra as well as extrinsic elements which are psychological conflicts by Kurt Lewin. The writer uses contextual methods to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel. According to Beard, instead of referring to what happens in the text, context refers to what happens with the text (2001: 6).