

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHOD

2.1. Theoretical Framework

This study applies theories on intrinsic and extrinsic elements of novels to analyze Rachel Harrison's *Cackle*. This chapter describes the theories used to analyze *Cackle*'s intrinsic elements, namely character, characterization, conflict, and setting. In addition, this chapter also describes the theory of the hierarchy of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow.

2.1.1. Intrinsic Elements

This part of the study describes the first theoretical framework related to intrinsic elements of novels, namely character, characterization, conflict, and setting.

2.1.1.1. Character

According to DiYanni, characters are fictional individuals in a literary work (2007: 60). They are created not only to be alive in the story but also to be alive in the readers' minds so that the readers care enough to discover what happens to them. Thus, characters must be interesting and believable.

In addition to DiYanni's definition of characters in a literary work, Abrams and Harpham propose that characters are figures portrayed in a dramatic or narrative work that can be interpreted by readers through inferring to their speech and action (2015: 48).

DiYanni reveals several types of characters. They are major, minor, static, and dynamic characters. First, major characters, also known as protagonists, are characters that become the center of the world or theme in a literary work. A novel does not necessarily have to only have one major character. Second, minor characters are characters functioned to highlight and make the major characters stand out. Third, static characters are underdeveloped characters that do not change in the story. Lastly, dynamic characters are characters that change in behavior, attitude, or purpose as the story progresses (2007: 60).

In his book, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, Abrams and Harpham define several types of characters. They are flat characters, round characters, a heroine or a protagonist, an antagonist, and a villain. First, flat characters are simple characters that do not have complexity and are assigned to only one quality. Second, round characters are characters that are as complex as humans and have more depth than flat characters. Third, a heroine or a protagonist is defined as the main character who becomes the center of interest in a narrative work. Fourth, an antagonist is the opponent of the protagonist who is against the protagonist to reach their goals. Fifth, a villain is an antagonist character who commits crimes and evil behaviors (2015: 48).

2.1.1.2. Characterization

DiYanni defines characterization as the way authors present and reveal their characters in a literary work (2007: 61). Abrams and Harpham also propose the definition of characterization. He defines characterization as the technique used by authors to present characters in their narrative work (2015: 48).

As for the methods to reveal characterization in novels, DiYanni proposes six methods. First, narrative summary without judgment is a method of revealing characters through interpreting the implications of things associated with the character. Second, narrative description with explicit judgment is a method of presenting the character in which the author states the facts and comments about a character, so the readers can interpret the character according to them. Third, surface details of dress and physical appearance are a method of revealing the character's social class, personality, or identity through the description of their appearance and how they dress. Fourth, the method of the character's speech is a method of revealing a character by looking at what they said and how they said it. Fifth, the character's action is a method of revealing a character by looking at what they do. Sixth, the character's consciousness is a method of presenting a character by looking at what they think and feel (2007: 61).

Abrams and Harpham state that there are only two techniques to present characters in a narrative work. First, the showing technique or the dramatic method. It is a technique that allows the readers to interpret characters in a narrative work from their speech and actions when they speak and act. Second, the telling technique is a technique that involves the author's intervention to present the characters by openly describing the characters' motives or behavior (2015: 49).

2.1.1.3. Conflict

DiYanni defines a conflict as a struggle between opponents within a literary work, and it is usually resolved by the end of the story (2007: 27).

Moreover, it is in conflict that characters display themselves and further the plot. Abrams and Harpham also define conflict as similar to DiYanni. He suggests that conflict is the struggle between opposing forces. Although the definition is similar, the categorization is different.

DiYanni does not suggest a detailed categorization of conflict. The opponent can either be the protagonist themselves or other characters (2007: 27). On the other hand, Abrams and Harpham propose three types of conflict. First, the struggle between individuals is a conflict between the protagonist and other characters. Second, the protagonist opposes their fate is a conflict between the protagonist and their fate or the situation that hinders them from reaching their goal. Third, the character opposes nature is a struggle between the protagonist and nature. Fourth, the protagonist opposes themselves is a struggle between the protagonist and their desires or principles (2015: 294).

2.1.1.4. Setting

According to DiYanni setting is an element of a literary work that provides the location where the actions happen and the time in which they occur (2007: 43-44). Another theorist also proposes the definition of setting. Abrams and Harpham state that setting is the time, location, and social circumstances in which a narrative work takes place.

There are several types of settings according to DiYanni. They are the setting of place, the setting of time, and the cultural context. First, the setting of place is the location in which actions in a literary work happen. Second, the setting of time is the historical time when the actions occur. Third, the cultural

context is the cultural and societal condition that influences the character's life in a literary work, including how they interact with other characters (2007: 44).

Abram suggests there are three types of settings. First, the setting of time. It is the historical time in which the actions in a narrative work happen. Second, the setting of place refers to the location in which the actions in a narrative work take place. Third, the social setting is defined as the social condition in which the characters are involved in (2015: 362).

2.1.2. Extrinsic Elements

The concept of the hierarchy of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow is applied in the study to analyze *Cackle's* extrinsic elements. The concept itself is described by Maslow in a book entitled *Motivation and Personality* republished by Harper & Row in 1954.

Maslow reveals that humans have five needs, namely physiological needs, security and safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization. Maslow presents those needs in a pyramid, and all of them are related to each other. The lowest level is physiological needs, and the highest level is self-actualization. It is stated that to make progress, a person should try to fulfill their needs starting from the most basic ones and then moving up to the next level until they reach the highest needs. Besides that, Maslow reports that not everyone can reach self-actualization since it takes a person to realize their maximum potential and to become the best version of themselves, which is a process that will last for a very long time and, in the end, might be unfulfilled (1954: 35-46).

2.1.2.1. Physiological Needs

This is the basic need that should be fulfilled before fulfilling any other needs because it has to do with appetite and the maintenance of blood flow inside an individual's body (Maslow, 1954: 36). Hence, it involves the need for food, drink, and sleep. The inability to fulfill this need will cause a person to set aside other needs in their life. For instance, a hungry person will only think about food and forget about other things such as love, freedom, and respect. Therefore, one must fulfill their physiological needs first before one can progress in fulfilling other needs since it is the most basic ones, and one can not survive if these needs are unmet.

2.1.2.2. Safety and Security Needs

The second need emerges as the physiological needs are fulfilled. An individual will feel safe and secure if they are protected and have freedom from fear, anxiety, and chaos. Thus, this need is seen as unfulfilled if an individual feels threatened or endangered in any way and any aspect of their life. This need will dominate them if they are faced with psychological dangers and start seeing the world as hostile, overwhelming, and threatening (Maslow, 1954: 42). To fulfill it, they need to be in a place that does not threaten or endanger them, and they also need to be protected by someone else.

2.1.2.3. Love and Belonging Needs

The third need appears after the first and second needs are gratified. The need to fulfill love and belonging needs stems from the desire to feel affection, whether it is from friends, a spouse, or children, and the desire to be part of a

group or something concerning people like a friend circle or a community to have a sense of belonging in life (Maslow, 1954: 43). An individual who does not receive any affection and does not belong anywhere will strive to achieve this need, making the fulfillment of this need dominates their life. An example of unfulfilled love and belonging needs is loneliness, whilst psychopathology is an example of maladjustment to it. The fulfillment of this need is marked with the act of giving and receiving love. Giving love without receiving it and vice versa will not fulfill this need.

2.1.2.4. Esteem Needs

The esteem needs are related to the desire to be respected by themselves and by other people. Maslow categorizes this need into two subsidiary sets. First, the desire for adequacy, confidence, freedom and independence, mastery and competence, strength, and achievement. Second, the desire for prestige or reputation, status, fame and glory, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, dignity, and appreciation (Maslow, 1954: 45). An individual who has met this need is typically confident, recognizes their self-worth, has inner strength, feeling capable and adequate, as well as feeling useful and necessary in the world. Hence, this need is very important to be fulfilled so that an individual can confidently show themselves in the world and go for any opportunities without being hindered by low self-esteem or conditions similar to that.

2.1.2.5. Self-Actualization Needs

The fulfillment of those four other needs triggers a feeling of discontentment, and it can be removed by reaching self-actualization. Maslow

proposes that self-actualization means to be what an individual can be by maximizing one's potential and becoming who they are meant to be so that one can be the best version of oneself and be everything that they are capable of becoming (1954: 46). Hence, the form of self-actualization differs from one person to another because it is based on each individual's potential. For instance, one self-actualization might be becoming an ideal mother, while another is becoming a painter or a musician. To be a self-actualized person, one has to be a satisfied person first, meaning that their four other needs must be fulfilled. Hence, Maslow states that this need only arises after an individual has fulfilled their physiological needs, safety and security needs, love and belonging needs, and esteem needs (1954: 46). That is also the reason why self-actualization needs are particularly hard to achieve and not everyone could reach this level because it is very challenging to fulfill the four needs let alone to discover one's potential and actualize it to its fullest.

According to Maslow (1954), there are 15 characteristics of self-actualized people as mentioned below.

1. They have a good perception of reality.
2. They accept everything including themselves, others, and nature as what they are.
3. They are authentic by being spontaneous, simple, and natural.
4. They are focused on problems outside themselves.
5. They are self-deciders, hence, they can detach themselves and protect their privacy.

6. They are independent and have autonomy over their life.
7. They continue to show appreciation for things.
8. They experience the mystic experience or peak experience.
9. They have humanity despite occasionally feeling angry and impatient towards other human beings.
10. They manage harmonious interpersonal relations.
11. Their character structure is democratic.
12. They have good discernment between good and evil or means and needs.
13. Their sense of humor is philosophical and does not include hurting or insulting other people.
14. They are creative.
15. They resist enculturation.

There are only six of them found in the major character of the novel. As a result, only six characteristics of self-actualized people are analyzed in this study, namely they have a good perception of reality, they accept everything as what it is, they are authentic, they are self-deciders, and they are independent and have autonomy over their life.

2.2. Research Method

This study divides the research method into two sections. First, the research approach. Second, the method of data collection and analysis.

2.2.1. Research Approach

In the background of the study, it is shown that *Cackle* has interesting psychological phenomena that are illustrated through the major character's

journey. This study uses a psychological approach to analyze the psychological phenomena presented in the novel. A psychological approach to literature is an approach that involves viewing the psychological aspect of literary works, particularly in the way authors describe the psyche of the characters in their works (Wellek & Warren, 2019: 86). The theory applied in this study is the theory of hierarchy of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow.

2.2.2. Method of Data Collection and Analysis

The library research method is used to collect the data presented in this study. This method involves finding and identifying sources that provide relevant facts or personal/expert opinions about a subject matter (George, 2008: 6). According to George, there are two kinds of data presented in this study. First, primary data is first-hand evidence created as near as possible to an event, individual, phenomenon, or whatever is studied (2008: 189). The primary data in this study is a novel entitled *Cackle* (2021) written by Rachel Harrison and published by Berkley Books. Meanwhile, secondary data is the interpretation of the evidence made by anyone (2008: 193). It is typically used to support the primary data. In this study, the secondary data are taken from several book reviews and a relevant interview to help write a comprehensive analysis.

The analysis of the study falls into three stages. First, the analysis of the novel's character, characterization, conflict, and setting. Second, the analysis of Annie Crane's hierarchy of needs to describe her struggles for self-actualization. Third, the writer describes the relation between Annie Crane's characterization

and her hierarchy of needs by describing how Annie Crane has developed and changed herself as a result of the fulfillment of her five needs.