

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1.1 Characters and Characterization

Characters are the important part in every story of novel, especially the main character, because they play a central role. They are ways readers are able to feel the scenes from the narrative and comprehend the author's intended meaning. According to Abrams and Harpham (2012:45-46), "People who communicate moral and emotional ideals through speech, monologue, and action are known as characters in narrative work." In to the previous definition, characters represent ideals, conflicts, and attitudes that are representative of the human condition rather than being just developed to further the plot. Readers can discover the text's deeper moral and emotional aspects by paying attention to the thoughts, actions, and interactions of the characters. Characters also serve as a bridge between the fictional world of the novel and the real experiences of the audience, making the story more meaningful and relatable. Therefore, understanding characters is essential in literary work analysis, because it explains the larger concepts the author want to examine in addition to the characters in the story.

Abrams and Harpham (2012:47) stated that there are two different approaches of characterizing people in a story, such as, showing and telling. The first is showing techniques, in which the reader must infer the goals and

dispositions of the characters from the writer's portrayal of their speech and behaviour in the narrative text. In addition to a character's spoken words and deeds, the writer can portray the character's inner thoughts, emotions, and responses to situations. Secondly telling techniques, in narrative texts, the writer assumes a position of authority and uses it to clearly and directly convey, as well as regularly analyze, the goals and personality features of the characters.

2.1.1.2 Settings

According to Abrams and Harpham (2012:363), "setting includes the setting of place, time and social neighbourhood. Setting of place refers to the locations where the story take place, while setting of time refers to the times when a story was created, and setting of social neighbourhood refers to the social neighbourhood in which story was created." According to Abrams and Harpham (2009: 233), time boundaries refer to a certain time period or era in which the story is set. This can be more time-specific, like the weather or a specific day and time, or more generic, which include a century, decade, or year. Furthermore, the context in which the tale is situated might be defined as the social, political, cultural, economic, or "emotional surroundings" of the location (Abrams & Harpham, 2009).

2.1.1.3 Conflict

According to Abrams and Harpham (2009: 265), conflict is a central element of plot that arises from a struggle between opposing forces and functions

as the driving force of narrative development. As stated by Abrams and Harpham, in literary analysis there are two types of conflict: internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict involves a character's struggle within their own mind, setting them apart from external conflicts, which arise from confrontations with other characters or outside forces.

These conflicts have internal reasons rather than being influenced by outside forces, and they result from conflicting wants and uncertainties about one's own ideals. This inner struggle is crucial to the development of ideas and characters in literary works. External conflict refers to those that develop around one character and another character's differences. External conflict usually typified by the protagonist and antagonist's opposition as well as confrontations with fate or situations that complicate the protagonist's goal. These conflicts come from sources beyond character's own self and need external resistance.

2.1.2 Patriarchy

Based on Hooks, patriarchy is a system where men are taught to find their identity through controlling others, and it benefits them collectively (Hooks, 2000:7). She explains that this system not only shapes male behavior but also causes women to internalize sexist beliefs and support the very structures that oppress them if left unchallenged (Hooks, 2000:10–11). Hooks emphasizes that patriarchy encourages a harmful and narcissistic masculinity that relies on the subordination of women (Hooks, 2000:67–70). Hooks believes that in order to

address the oppression, victimization, and exploitation that patriarchy sustains in daily life, it is imperative to comprehend it as a systematic system of power.

Patriarchy is one of the main issues of women in progressing and developing. The general principles are, that men are in charge, remain the same regardless of variations in levels of dominance. This control's nature might be different. Therefore, in order to fight for women's growth in a methodical manner, it is vital to comprehend the system that maintains women's dominance and subordination and to dissect its workings. Patriarchal societies restrict women's human rights to some extent and give men total precedence. The term patriarchy describes the dominance of men in both public and private domains.

According to Hooks (2000), patriarchy is a system of domination that maintains male power and positions women as subordinate, which in turn produces women's vulnerability by limiting their autonomy, voice, and access to power. This vulnerability is not natural but socially constructed through patriarchal norms that define women as weak or dependent. However, hooks argues that vulnerability does not erase women's agency; instead, agency emerges through women's awareness, resistance, and efforts to challenge patriarchal control. Thus, while patriarchy creates conditions of vulnerability, female agency exists as a conscious struggle to reclaim subjectivity and resist domination

2.1.3 Agency

As stated in Kabeer (2005:14), "agency is a key component of empowerment and entails making decisions that challenge established power

dynamics. In context of present gender inequality, these conceptions of agency align to theoretical feminist traditions regarding women's right to freedom of choice." This suggests that agency is not only about individual decision-making but also about the ability to negotiate, resist, or reshape structural constraints. It emphasizes that women's empowerment is deeply tied to their capacity to redefine social norms that limit their autonomy. This indicates that agency involves the capacity to negotiate, oppose, or modify institutional limits in addition to personal decision-making. It highlights how women's empowerment is closely linked to their ability to reinterpret societal conventions that restrict their independence. In the end, agency facilitates change within patriarchal society as a process that is both individual and collective.

2.1.4 Vulnerability

In the statement by Fineman (2008:8), "vulnerability is the constant, unavoidable, and universal feature of the human situation. It is a permanent and fundamental part of the human experience, not just a characteristic of some exceptionally weak or disadvantaged people, birth to females alone and therefore left their husbands without an heir." However, while Fineman emphasizes the universality of vulnerability, in practice its definition often becomes context-dependent, shaped by social and cultural understandings within communities. Community members' perspectives are crucial in determining who is considered vulnerable, since their knowledge reflects lived realities and local needs. In this case, in patriarchal systems, women who were neglected by their husbands or

families were sometimes branded as “vulnerable” as they had daughters but no male heirs. This demonstrates that while vulnerability is a natural human trait, context influences how it manifests and is recognized, frequently exposing women to increased social and familial dangers and reinforcing gendered expectations.

In a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, legal theory, international relations, bioethics, and feminist theory, vulnerability has emerged as a crucial idea. Some believe the idea has the ability to advance critical social theory and studies of injustice beyond the confines of identity politics, especially feminist legal scholars Fineman (2008) Vulnerability highlights how social structures like patriarchy can expose certain groups, especially women, to greater harm or inequality. In feminist theory, it shifts the focus from individual weakness to systemic injustice and the need for broader protection and support.

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Research Approach

This study employs a qualitative research approach because it focuses on interpreting meanings and representations within a literary text rather than using numerical data. Qualitative research is suitable for literary studies as it allows in-depth analysis of characters, settings, and conflicts in relation to social issues. Creswell (2014:4) explains that qualitative research aims to understand social or human problems through detailed textual interpretation and description.

Therefore, this approach enables the researcher to examine how female experiences are portrayed in *Ariadne*.

More specifically, this research applies feminist literary criticism as its analytical approach. Based on Tyson (2006:85) Feminist criticism examines how patriarchal ideology shapes literary texts and marginalizes women's voices. This approach is relevant to this study because *Ariadne* portrays women's vulnerability and agency within a patriarchal society. As Tyson further notes, feminist criticism also highlights moments of female resistance and self-assertion despite oppressive structures (2006:92).

2.2.2 Method of Data Collection

According to Creswell (2012: 239), data collection is the method used by the writer to gather information in order to discuss topics related to necessary data. Scientific books, literary works, research papers, scientific frameworks, thesis, encyclopaedias, and other sources can all provide the information. To address the research issues, all of the collected data must be trustworthy. Creswell (2012: 22) defines qualitative research as a method for analyzing and understanding the significance that people or groups attach to a social or human issue. Based on the definition above, the writer obtains the data from "*Ariadne*" novel as the main data, as well as some relevant journals and articles as the supporting data.

In this research, the writer uses library research method to support the collecting data. Finding and identifying sources that offer factual information or expert and

personal opinions on a research subject is part of the “library research,” as defined by George (2008:6). Based on the definition above, the writer conducted qualitative research, for further analysis the writer uses library research.