CHAPTER 2
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 The Theory of the Character

The word character is derived from Greek word, which means to cut into furrows or engrave (inscription) which is created by men.

The definitions of “Character” quoted from the Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (1995:215) are as following:

1. of a person, community, race, etc. (mental or moral nature, mental or more qualities, that make one person, race different from another)
2. all those qualities that make a thing, place, etc. different from another.
3. person in a novel, play, etc. who is in some ways unusual.
4. description of a person’s abilities, and qualities, esp. in a letter by an employer, that may be used when applying for a position.

Jacobs and Roberts (1980:72) define character as one of the interesting things for personal opinions that the readers want to see how is the other people life and how they effort to pursue the goals. The readers can learn about individual characters from their own words and action, from what other characters said about them and way others act towards them. Roberts and Jacobs (1980: 72) say:

“The author’s way to make the readers understand the personality and image of a characters”
Moreover according to Harahap (2007:23), character is the aggregate of traits and features that form the nature of some person or animal.

There is a relation between the action and expression of each character with playing the powerful words that are articulated by each character. The words themselves represent full significant that can be appreciated by literary reader while reading it. In relation to this Richard (1981: 62) stated:

“A character is mere construction of words meant to express an idea or view of expression and must be considered in relation of other features of composition, such as setting and action, before its significant can be appreciated.”

In this type of fiction creation, the reader will be easier to recognize the emphasize of each character. We can notice and suggest a personality in a novel or play with an exploration about the intelligent, class, or education of each character that are written in a novel or play. With this information, the readers will be able to imagine what are their most favorite characters in a novel or play. As Keith (1998: 47) says:

“A writer’s use of speech for a character can think, feel, or obviously be very important to indicate what the characters believe. Speech can be used to suggest personality as well as intelligent, class, education.”
2.2 Character of the Play

The definitions of “Character” based on the word character in Shakespeare’s play (1970: 256) are:

1. the aggregate of qualities that distinguishes one person from another.
2. one such quality or features; a characteristic.
3. moral constitution, as a person or people.
4. good moral constitution or status.
5. reputation or good reputation.
6. an account of qualities or peculiarities of a person or thing.
7. a person.
8. a formal statement from an employer concerning the qualities or habits of a former servant or employee.
9. colloquial an odd person.
10. status or capacity.
11. a person represented in a drama, a play, a story, etc.
12. part of a role…..Theatre.

Shakespeare (2002:243) says that a character is one of the most important aspects in a play. A character can be seen firstly by what someone says, secondly by what he does, thirdly by what another person say about him. It cannot be refuted that play and characters are very closely related. It is considered that it is essential to write down the definition of character on purpose to make us more understand what the character is indeed. A play can be referred to as a tragedy, but
tragic events in a story are essentially part of the plot, rather than a literary device in them.

Characters in this play are divided in two parts. There are main character and minor character.

### 2.2.1 Main Character

The main character is usually the main figure that takes a big role in a story of a novel. We can notice and differentiate between main character and minor character by looking at the numbers of events and incidents that involving directly to which always involved in some events, incidents or conflict means they are the main characters.

The character is affecting the plot, if the story only has a few in characters, there will be more close and simple story. If we don’t know the plot of the story, it will be hard to understand what the story tells about.

As the result, with conclusions above, we can conclude that main characters have a tight relation with the plot. We can conclude and measure that how strength is a plot based on the main characters. Leo and Karl (1994: 244) states:

“If the main characters appear weak, the plots appear stronger; And, conversely, with a strong character, the plots becomes Secondary.”
Finally, the conclusion is the main characters are having dominant roles in literary story. They handle a big role in the plot from the beginning until the end of the story.

2.2.2 Minor Character

Terri (1980:www.eHow.com) A minor character is simply any character in a story that is not a major character. Many fiction writers of novels and short stories work hard to create their major characters, also known as heroes, protagonists or antagonists, but neglect their minor characters. Minor characters have many important roles in a story. They can move the plot along, provide conflict, or serve as part of the setting. They can be foils for the major characters. A foil serves to highlight the characteristics of protagonists for the reader by comparison and contrast. You do not usually need to develop your minor characters as fully as your major characters, but, depending on how important they are to the progress of the story, you should pay some attention to developing them.