2 THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 The Meaning of Character

Novel is prose story telling with a great amount of detail on every page, and usually reveals human values, as it stated by John Peck and Martin Coyle (1986:102). Since novel is a creative work, how an author create and develop characters of a story cannot be let loose from his creativity. An author has a full freedom to present characters suitable with his taste, whoever the person, whatever his social status, however his characterization, and whatever problems he is facing. In brief, an author is free to present and to treat each character whoever the person is, though it is different with his own ‘world’ in real life.

A character occupies a strategic position to bring and convey message, moral or something that is purposely conveyed to the readers. As Abrams (1981:20) says that character is people presented in narrative work, or drama, interpreted by the readers having moral quality and certain tendency as being expressed in what they say, and what they do.

Though are not real people, realized or not, characters are drawn from life. A character is a reasonable facsimile of a human being. As stated by Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs (1195:131), in fiction, a character may be defined as a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech description, and commentary, authors portray characters that are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters may be laughed at, dislike, or
even hated.

Describing as a representation of human being, characters of course have all the good and the bad traits of being human. A trait is a quality of mind or habitual mode of behavior. It is considered important to begin studying characters by determining their traits first, for each character may have different traits. Sometimes, of course, the traits we encounter are minor and therefore negligible. But often a trait is a person’s primary characteristic (not only in fiction but also in life). Thus, characters may be ambitious or lazy, serene or anxious, aggressive or fearful, thoughtful or inconsiderate, open or secretive, confident or self-doubting, kind or cruel, quite of noisy, visionary or practical, careful or careless, impartial or biased, straightforward or underhanded, ‘winners’ or ‘losers’, and so on.

Characters can be defined as “story doer” or characterization. It is a whole unity between a character and his characterization, because it is not rare when mentioning a name of a certain character directly signal us to his characterization. Stanton (1965:17) states that the use of character term itself in any English literature suggests two different definition, firstly as the characters of the story presented, and secondly as behavior, attraction, willing, emotion, and moral principal possessed by the characters.

From the statement above, we can see that character cannot be separated from characterization. As Lee A. Jacobus (1996:69) says that character is a person presented in a dramatic narrative work, and characterization is the process by which a writer makes that character seem real to the readers.
Characterization is the method used by a writer to develop a character. The method includes: 1) showing the character’s appearance, 2) displaying the character’s action, 3) revealing the character’s though, 4) letting the character speak, and 5) getting the reaction of others.

Characters can be convincing whether they are presented by showing or telling. Michael Meyer (2002: 121) states, author have two major methods of presenting characters; showing and telling. Showing allows the author to present a character talking and acting, and lets the reader infer what kind of person the character is. In telling, the author intervenes to describe and sometimes evaluate the character for the readers.

On the other hand, Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs (1195:135) explain other opinion on how author present their characters. Author use five ways to present their characters, such as

1. Actions

What characters do is our best way to understand what they are. As with ordinary human being, fictional characters do not necessarily understand how they may be changing or why they do the things they do. Nevertheless, their actions express their characters. Actions may also signal qualities such as naïve, weakness, deceit, a scheming personality, strong inner conflicts, or a realization or growth of some sort.
2. Description, both personal and environmental

Appearance and environment reveal much about a character’s social and economic status, of course, but they also tell us more about character traits.

3. Dramatic statements and thoughts

Although the speechless of most characters are functional –essential to keep the story moving along- they provide material from which you can draw conclusions. Often, characters use speech to hide their motives, though we as readers should see through such a ploy.

4. Statements by other characters

By studying what characters say about each other, you can enhance your understanding of the character being discussed. Ironically, the characters doing the talking often indicate something other than what they intend, perhaps because of prejudice, stupidity, or foolishness.

5. Statements by the author speaking as storyteller or observer

What the author, speaking with the authorial voice, says about a character is usually accurate, and the authorial voice can be accepted factually. However, when the authorial voice interprets actions and characteristics, the author himself or herself assumes the role of a reader or critic, and any options may be questioned. For this reason, authors frequently avoid
interpretations and devote their own conclusion.

2.2 Division of Characters

According to Burhan Nurgiyantoro in his book *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* (1998: 176-191) based on some criteria, the difference of point of view, and observation, characters can be categorized as follows:

2.2.1 Main Character and Peripheral Character

Main character is classified important and kept on performing that it feels dominating the whole story. The narration of this character is considered as the most important in a novel concern. He is the most narrated character, whether as the hero or the one who is affected in the action. Even in certain novels, a main character always presents in every event and can be found in every page of the novel concern. Though his superiority values are not always the same, main character in a novel can be more than one.

There are some characters that are presented only once or a couple of times in a story, and it may be in a relative short narration. These characters are called peripheral character. The appearance of peripheral in the whole story is less, not important, and he appears only if there is connection with the main character, directly or indirectly.
2.2.2. Protagonist Character and Antagonist Character

Reading a novel, readers often identified themselves with certain characters, giving sympathy and empathy, involving themselves emotionally on those characters. Those characters are called protagonist. Therefore, a protagonist is a character that we adore – which one of its kinds is popularly called hero – a character that is norms manifestation, values, that is ideal for us.

A fiction must consist of conflict and tension, especially conflict and tension experienced by protagonist character. Antagonist character can possibly be stated to be the opposite of protagonist character, directly or indirectly, either physically or physiologically. In other words, the antagonist is the character, force, or collection of forces that stands directly opposed the protagonist and gives rise to the conflict of the story.

2.2.3. Simple Character and Complex Character

Simple character, in its origin form, is a character that only has certain individual quality, one certain character. As a human being character, any possibility of his life side is not revealed. He does not have any characteristic or behavior that can give any surprising effect to the readers. A simple character’s behavior and characteristic is flat, monotone, and reflects only one certain character.

Different with simple character, complex character is a character who’s every possibility of life side and personality is revealed. He could have had a
certain characteristic that can be formulated, but he can also present various characteristic and behavior, even can be in contradiction and hard to be guessed. Therefore, it is difficult his characterization precisely in general. Compared with simple character, complex character is more likely as a real human being, because besides having any possibility of behavior and action, he also gives surprise. Thus, complex character is more complicated to understand, less familiar because the character presented is not really known before.

2.2.4. Static Character and Developing Character

Static character is a story character that essentially does not experience any challenging or developing characterization as the result of events happened. This character apparently less involved and not affected by any environment changing happened because of relationship among human being. He is similar to coral stone that is unshakable though is rammed by the waves everyday. His behavior and characteristic are relative consonant, undeveloping, from the beginning to the end of the story.

On the other side, developing character is a character that experienced changing and developing characterization in compliance with developing events and plot narrated. The changing that outside him, and the relationship among human being which are affected each other can possibly touch his soul and can cause the changing of his developing character and behavior. Thus, this character and behavior will change and develop from the beginning, middle, and the end of the story suitable with the whole coherence on the story.
2.2.5 Typical Character and Neutral Character

Typical character is a character whose individually situation is less presented, but his nationality or works are more presented, or some other things that possibly more represent. It is a description and reflection of people, or a group as a part of one institute, which exist in real life.

While neutral character is a character that only exists for the story itself. He is an imaginary character who lives and exists only in fiction. He presents or is presented only for the story; he could even be the storyteller, or the main character. His existence does not have any pretensions to represent or to describe something outside him, someone outside from real life. Or at least, readers experience difficulty to interpret it, due to the lack of evidences reflected from real life.