CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sociology of literature is a theory that sees a literary work as a result of interaction between the author and their community. This is suitable with main function of literature that is to portray, reflecting human life, while human life itself still developing (Ratna, 2004:75). So in this case we need a theory to understand a literary work.

Theory is a tool that has a function to guide and help a person in understanding objects maximally. In this thesis, the author uses the theory of dynamical structuralism. In analyzing the literary work, it is important to understand the work itself deeper by analyzing the elements that exist in the literary work itself, without forget the external elements when the novel was created.

Dynamic structuralism or dynamical approach is a perfect form of structuralism. It believes that literary work is the object of arts which can be understood in relation of the elements in the work itself. The text in literary work has some intrinsic components such as character, theme, plot, etc. This approach gives flexibility for the research to apply the components which will be a significant priority. Dynamic approach has the concept which given the valuation to the harmony of all the components that forms overall of the structure within relationship between these components so it becomes meaningful and they are aesthetically pleasing. Dynamic structuralism first raised by Mukarovsky and Felik Vodicka.

Mukarovsky dan Felik Vodicka (in Ratna, 2004:93) stated:

“Karya sastra adalah proses komunikasi, fakta semiotik, terdiri atas tanda, struktur, dan nilai-nilai. Karya seni adalah petanda yang memperoleh makna dalam kesadaran pembaca. Oleh karena itulah, karya seni harus dikembalikan
pada kompetensi penulis, masyarakat yang menghasilkannya, dan pembaca sebagai penerima.”

In the intrinsic elements has been implied the extrinsic meanings that must be understood by researchers. And finally the works must be returned to the community that has produced or contributed ideas in the making this work.

2.1 Intrinsic Elements in Prose

Prose or fiction in the late seventeenth century and eighteenth century is begun to develop. Human beings of various social statuses and the social phenomenon in daily life became the important topics of literary work. Human nature was not simple and could be interesting to explain in a literary works, especially the novel. That’s why fiction cannot be separated from characters in a story. Fiction, especially the novel feels so real and interesting when the story or the issues that discussed are very close to the environment around the readers or was going on in a community.

Besides characters, setting also becomes one of the important elements of prose or fiction. Setting is not only about places or environment, but also the economic, social, and political conditions which affect to people’s life. Prose also has another important element; they are plot, point of view, style, and theme.

The writer simultaneously will explain all the intrinsic elements in prose one by one, though in analyzing these intrinsic elements, the writer limits only to the dominant elements contained in a work, in this case *The Street Lawyer* novel. It means that the element that the writer analyzes depends on the dominance of these elements in the novel which is discussed by the writer as the researcher such as characters and setting, and issues that were discussed in the novel, even though all
the elements in the prose is important. Here are some intrinsic elements in literary work.

2.1.1 Character

In a story, the author emphasizes the characters in order to make up the whole of the story in prose or in a novel through dialogue and action. Through the characters, the reader can also identify various human natures of the people. Like the quotation below.

“In fiction, a character may be defined as a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters who are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate.” (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995:131)

The British novelist and critic E. M. Forster, calls the two major types of characters, they are round and flat character. Round characters are characters that can change their nature and personality. These changes can be caused by a condition or event that has a major impact in the life of these characters that make them undergo a change in personality and behavior. Because of they have a personality that can change anytime and flexible, this character can be called a dynamic character, such as the quotation below.

“The basic trait of round characters is that they recognize, change with, or adjust to circumstances. The round character—usually the main figure in a story—profits from experience and undergoes a change or alteration, which may be shown in (1) an action or actions, (2) realization of new strength and therefore the affirmation of previous decisions, (3) the acceptance of a new condition, or (4) the discovery of unrecognized truths.” (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995:133)

Round characters are usually playing a major role in a story. And because they have a personality that can be changed, these characters are also unpredictable. Contrast to round characters, flat characters do not grow and they are static. Usually
A flat character is a minor, although not all of the minor characters are flat. We can see from this quotation.

“In contrast, flat characters do not grow. They remain the same because they may be stupid or insensitive or lacking in knowledge or insight. They end where they begin, and are static, not dynamic. But flat characters are not therefore worthless, for they usually highlight the development of the round characters.” (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995:134)

Flat characters can also prominent in some literature such as detective or police stories. In this story, they must be strong, tough, and clever enough to perform recurring tasks like solving a crime, overcoming a criminal, etc. All of these characters are important to get a harmony within a story, both the major and minor characters. They are related to make the whole of a story became interest to the readers.

In this case, the main character in The Street Lawyer novel, the novel which the writer analyzes is Michael Brock, who can be categorized as a round character because of personality changes that happened to him. In this novel, Mike, the nick name of Michael, who at the beginning of the story is told as an ambitious young lawyer, a workaholic, and do not care about the fate of poor people, suddenly turns into a man who cares about the fate of the poor and homeless. This is the impact of the accident that happened to him and then opened his eyes and heart to the life of people who not lucky like himself.

2.1.2 Plot

An author make a story based on the sequence of events or incidents which are linked through a causal and time relationship to the climax and ended with a resolution. Sequence of events assembled to become a full story commonly called plot. The plot is the most important element in a story because it is the main point of
a novel or a story that told through the characters in the story. We can know this from the quote below.

“Stories are made up mostly of actions or incidents that follow each other sequentially. Finding a sequential or narrative order, however, is only the first step toward the more important consideration—the plot or the controls governing the development of the actions.” (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995:88)

Plot cannot be separated from conflict because it is makes a story become interesting and not boring. Conflicts are usually tensions or disagreement between two or more characters in a story. Conflict can provide extra energy or strength to people and the character must make important decisions which could affect the character’s life in a story.

2.1.3 Point of View

Point of view is the place or position of the author to see their story. How the narrator tells the story, give opinions and express his/her feelings in a story or novel, such as the following quote.

“Practically, point of view involves the actual physical location of this speaker and his or her position to see and record the main action and ideas. … It may also be considered as a way of seeing, the perspective into which the work of art is cast.” (Roberts and Jacobs, 1995:88)

Point of view divided into three types, they are first-person point of view, second-person point of view, and third-person point of view.

a) First-Person Point of View

If the voice of the work is an “I,” the author is using the first-person point of view, the impersonation of the narrator or speaker in a story. First person speaker usually reports events that they seen, felt, and how they communicated each other. First person speaker also considered more independent than the other point of view and found in many novels or short stories.
b) Second-Person Point of View

If the voice of the work is “You,” the author is using the second-person point of view. It occurs when the speaker know more about the character’s actions than themselves. It also explains the actions of other character such as a lawyer who defends his/her client in front of the judge.

c) Third-Person Point of View

If the event in the work described in the third person (he, she, it, they), the author is using the third person point of view. In this point of view, the speaker is outside the story to report the words and actions of the character in the story.

In a novel which the writer analyzes, the author uses the first-person point of view. We can know that because Michael as the main character in The Street Lawyer novel uses "I" to call himself, and he also acts as the narrator who tells how this story goes.

2.1.4 Setting

In the story, setting is not only about places and time when the story is told, but also about the conditions of society, culture, politics, lifestyle, social and emotional of the characters are also included into the setting.

Generally, the story in The Street Lawyer novel takes place in Washington D.C., the capitol of United States that commonly called as Washington, “the District”, or simply D.C., and other places in Washington.

2.1.5 Style

Style is about the way authors assemble the words to tell the story, but it’s not making the separation between style and the content itself. Authors express the fictional action or scene in the story through the words. Style is individual because
every author has a different style in writing the stories. It’s also making them unique for each other, and the readers can recognize them through their style in writing a story. Authors usually use denotation or connotation meaning in their work. Denotation refers to the literal meaning of a word or the dictionary meaning. In other hand, connotation is created when you mean something else or something that might be initially hidden.

2.1.6 Theme

The story usually has a lot of ideas. When the idea becomes a major, it is called the theme. The theme of a story is what the author is trying to convey or the central idea of the story. The central or major idea that author wants to convey through the characters and events of the story. Theme usually implied rather than stated explicitly.

2.2 Extrinsic Elements

This is important to know the extrinsic elements in a literary work besides the intrinsic elements. Extrinsic elements usually talk about the conditions in a society when the work such as novel was created. In this thesis, the writer find out the data related to this novel when this novel created such as economic background and social problems that occurred at that time.

2.2.1 Economic Background in America

America is one of the superpower countries today. This success is influenced by the increasing acceleration of development activities that depend on debt as a solution. In the past, America had several times failed to pay debts both the government and its citizens which resulted in a massive financial crisis whose the effects still can be seen until now, although not as badly as in the past.
The first crisis occurred in 1819 which is known as the “Panic of 1819”. The crisis began when the U.S. won the war against England in 1812, It makes the local banks began to lend money to anyone who wants to build the houses or places of business. This is going well until the European demand for imports of food from the U.S. began to decline. It was make the entrepreneurs and the U.S. government itself failed to pay their loans to the bank which resulted in the first economic crisis in America, where many of banks were forced to close, unemployment is everywhere, and prisons filled with people who are unable to pay their debts.

The next crisis occurred in 1857, which also started from banks that provide loans. In that time, the export of food and agricultural products from the U.S. east coast (New York and surrounding areas) to Europe began to decrease, it’s made many of U.S. citizens who moved to the west (California and surrounding areas) to find a new livelihood. They use the train to travel that make rail transport service got a big profit. It makes the banks began to give loans again to railroad companies, they expect the benefit too. But the economic crisis occurred when the U.S. citizens who are mostly farmers found the fact that the land where they live was barren and cannot be used to grow crops. So that, no more people were traveling to the west. This caused many companies began to go bankrupt because do not have a passenger, and make the banks that provide loans bankrupt too.

The third crisis occurred in the 1930s known as the ‘Great Depression’. The cause is still the same, because the problem of debt. The difference is it involved the capital markets. At that time, many banks ran out of money and closed because the stock exchange was fall. In 1932, more than a quarter of the American people become unemployed. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the U.S. president who won through the election in that time launched the New Deal policies. It’s about government
programs that provide assistance in the form of social security (construction of roads, schools, government buildings, works of art and give young people work to help the environment). This program was providing jobs for millions of American people although with a small salary. But the crisis recovered when World War II that occurred on 1 September 1939 in which the U.S. economy begins to move because a lot of companies receiving weapons and aircraft orders from countries in Europe.

2.2.2 Homeless People in America

The economic crisis in European countries creates many social problems. One of the problems is homeless. This problem becomes sensitive when winter is coming. Few years ago, the number of homeless people in America began to rise due to the economic crisis, even this condition has become commonplace. Based on the report from the group of experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), stagnation in the U.S. economy and the inability of citizens to pay their debts at the bank led to a lot of people are at risk of losing his home. In the report, it is said that until now 2.5 million Americans have lost their homes or apartments and 1.5 million people are not able to pay their debts so that they in the danger of losing their homes. Thousands of homeless people are forced to live in their cars, parking areas, and even they stayed at the roadside. Based on the U.S. Bureau of Statistics report, for this time, 50 million people is living in absolute poverty.

There are several factors that cause the increasing number of homeless people in developed countries. Poverty, drugs, and mental disorder are part of the factors that can increase the number of homeless. In addition, mental illness becomes one of the factors that make the condition of homeless people become worst. Consuming alcohol and drugs are another factor that led to increased of homeless in Europe.
Homeless people face many problems and major threats. Their life was not safe on the streets and in hunger condition. Their rights are ignored and any time they are threatened by various diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis.