

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED THEORY

This chapter explains the theories that will be used to interpret *The Green Mile* by Stephen King. These are the theories which used to analyze the novel.

2.1 Character and Characterization

Character has an important role of a story which makes it life. We can say character is the main key of a story. Abram stated that

“Character are the person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it-the dialogue and from what they do-the action” (1999:32).

In other sight, character is generally referred to the whole nature, personality, attitude toward life spiritual, qualitative, intelligence, physical build and moral attributes (Potter, 1967:3). From those statements, the researcher concludes that without any character, a story would not be alive or it is going to be flat because character builds the story.

There are two types of characters, major character (the main character) and minor character (support character). Robert stated that the major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict (2000:55). Major character has the bigger part than the minor character because it has big role in a story whereas minor character takes more little role in a story.

Klarer states:

“There are some characters that are presented only once or couple of time in a story, and it may be in relative short narration. These characters are called minor character. The appearance of minor in the whole story is less, not important, and the appearance only if there is connection with the main character, directly or indirectly” (1999:21).

From those statements we could conclude that even though minor character has slightly role than major character but it still has important part because it adjusts the major character so that the major character more alive in the story.

Characterization is person who establishing the distinctive characters in a narrative (*ibid*: 21). According to Abrams, there are two types in characterizing which are showing and telling. In showing, the author simply presents the characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind what they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events for a highly developed mode of such inner showing. In telling, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (1999:34).

2.2 Psychoanalysis

2.2.1 The Id

At the core of personality and completely unconscious is the psychical region called the Id. The Id has no contact with reality, yet it strives constantly to reduce tension by satisfying basic desires. Because its sole function is to seek pleasure, we say that the Id serves the pleasure principle (Freud, 2006:27). We are adopted the Id since we were infants. It comes naturally from our basic instinct to seek pleasure in our life without considering something which is good or bad.

Freud said that the infant seeks gratification of needs without regard for what is possible (that is demands of ego) or what is proper (that is restraints of the superego) (*ibid*).

On the other hand, along with Freud's theory, besides being unrealistic and pleasure seeking, the Id is illogical and can simultaneously entertain incompatible ideas (2006:28). It can be conclude, when someone follows his Id for seeking pleasure, he will do anything to get his want without thinking the consequence whether it is bad or good. He cannot think clearly and logically because it blindly seeks to satisfy the pleasure principle.

2.2.2 The Ego

The ego or I is the only region of the mind in contact with reality. It grows out of the Id during infancy and becomes a person's sole source of communication with the external world. If the Id acts according to pleasure principle, then Ego acts the reality principle. It seeks to please the Id's drive in realistic ways that will benefit in the long term rather than bring grief. Freud stated that the Ego is governed by the reality principle, which it tries to substitute for the pleasure principle of the Id (2006:28).

Freud also said that the ego becomes differentiated from the Id when infants learn to distinguish themselves from the outer world. While the Id remains unchanged, the ego continues to develop strategies for handling the Id's unrealistic and unrelenting demands for pleasure (2006:29). It can be conclude that the Ego can hold our Id so that we can separate what is real. The Ego avoids us to do something unrealistic and reckless because it helps us organize our thought and makes sense of them and the world around us.

2.2.3 The Superego

The last principle of mind by Sigmund Freud is the superego. The superego or above I is representing the moral and ideal aspects of personality and it is guided by the moralistic and idealistic principle (2006:30). The superego grows out of the ego. The superego differs from the ego in one important respect. It has no contact with the outside world and therefore is unrealistic in its demands for perfection.

Freud also explains in this following quotation,

The superego has two subsystems, the conscience and the ego-ideal. In general the conscience results from experiences with punishments for improper behavior and tells us what we should not do, whereas the ego-ideal develops from experiences with rewards for proper behavior and tells us what we should do. (2006:31)

Finally, we can conclude that the Superego works contradiction from the Id. The superego controls our mind and feelings of right and wrong. It strives to act in a socially appropriate manner instead the Id just wants instant self-gratification. Therefore, the Superego can stop us from doing certain things that Id may want to do.

2.3 Failure Mechanism theory

One of human characteristic in their daily life is defending themselves when they face problem, this action called self defense. Tyson stated, defenses are the processes by which the contents of our unconscious are kept in the unconscious (2006:12).

According to Maltz, failure mechanism is unlimited powers in every single person which come in every moment in his or her life. Even though that person has done his or her best to get something. Failure mechanism has seven symptoms

as the tools to categorize people as the failure one. The failure type personality also has its symptoms. People can not easily to recognize these failure symptoms. Even the most successful personalities experience them at times. No one is immune to these negative feelings and situation. It comes to their life without any warning before (1960:130). That is why people will unconsciously experience these seven symptoms while doing their daily activities.

Mechanism means signal of a warning or guidance in someone life. Basically, the signal is a method that guides someone to experience many unplanned situations. Therefore, the concept of the failure mechanism can be defined as negative signal of someone in the way of achieving his dreams. It is a negative signal because of the failure word which contains a negative meaning in life. Maltz states:

People can experience the failure mechanism through the symptoms of the failure mechanism. Every single action of someone affects that person life, whether he conscious or not. A person who undertakes some symptoms of the failure mechanism will receive it as a danger signal to warn the person that something bad is going to happen soon (1960:130)

However, when he can not recognize the signal then it will lead him to become a failed person. Based on the word FAILURE, Maltz defines seven symptoms of the failure mechanism, which are **Frustration**, **Aggressiveness**, **Insecurity**, **Loneliness**, **Uncertainty**, **Resentment**, and **Emptiness**. Along those symptoms, even it is not all that had experienced just like only four or five symptoms. Maltz categorized someone who has it as a failure-type person. These symptoms shall not be orderly as the acronym of FAILURE (1960:131).

In the next following paragraphs, the writer will explain one by one about the seven symptoms of the failure mechanism.

2.3.1 Frustration

There is not always perfect condition because sometimes we will face bad condition in every single day of our life. Bad things come without any warn and it gives mess impact to everyone. When someone gets a bad condition, he will feel frustration and shock. Actually, the frustration is created by the imperfect, incomplete, unfinished matter in someone life. According to Maltz, frustration is an emotional feeling which develops whenever some important goal cannot be realized or when a strong desire is thwarted (1960:131). Another theory of frustration by Dollard, he said “frustration was an interference with occurrence of an instigated goal response as its proper time in the behavior sequence” (1989:60).

When someone experience frustration, he will feel dissatisfaction and futility that it becomes a symptom of failure mechanism. Chronic frustration usually means that the goals someone has set for him are unrealistic or the image of him is inadequate or both. When facing such uncomfortable situation, commonly failure type person cannot accept the reality because he tried so hard to get what he want. As the consequence that person will face the frustration and cannot pursue his dreams it has been planned.

We start to experience frustration since we were kid unconsciously. It explains from Maltz’s state, “Many children continue to get their way, and have their problems solved by over-indulgent parents, by merely expressing their feeling of frustration. All they have to do is feel frustrated and dissatisfied and the problem is solved.” (1969:155). Because of we experience it since we were infant, unconsciously we use this childish technique until we are adult. Yet many of us continue to try it but unfortunately, it does not work in adult life. It strengthened

on another Maltz's quotation, "Harry N. had practiced feeling frustrated and defeated so much that feelings of defeat became habitual with him. He projected them into the future and expected to fail. His habitual defeatist feelings helped create a picture of himself as a defeated person (1969:156)". Therefore, if we keep use this childish technique excessively to express our frustration, then as the consequence we will not express our frustration in a proper way.

2.3.2 Aggressiveness

Maltz said that aggressiveness is very necessary feeling as determine succeed in pursuing a goal by using forceful actions (1960:134). A person must go out after what he wants in an aggressiveness is too much, which means uncontrolled, it turns to be excessive and misdirected aggressiveness. This kind of emotion will not support someone in achieving his dream anymore. It happens because the excessive aggressiveness will only lead the person to do a misdirected thing rather than a proper and correct action. It is strengthened by Dollard theory, he stated "sequence of behavior, the goal-response to which is the injury of the person toward whom it is directed" (1989:03)

The failure type personality does not direct his aggressiveness toward the accomplishment of a worthwhile goal instead, this uncontrolled aggressiveness does come out in other reactions such as worry, high blood pressure, compulsive overwork or even it can change a person character become someone who likes to blame or complain other people. It is the characteristic of aggressiveness as this symptom of the failure mechanism. Therefore, when someone has an excessive aggressiveness that person will not succeed to chase his dream because it only misdirected the correct way of that person.

2.3.2.1 Verbal Aggressiveness

Moreover, not only using aggressiveness in action, commonly person also uses it on verbal. According to Beaty and Wigley, “trait verbal aggressiveness refers to the predisposition to attack the self-concept of another person instead of, or in addition to, the person’s position on a topic of communication” (1997:447). Another verbal aggression theory by Reitman, he said that verbal aggression is deliberately harmful behavior that is typically both unprovoked and repeated. It is an intentional abuse of power, such as teasing, taunting or threatening, that is initiated by one or more individuals or relatively greater status or power (by virtue of their numbers or size) against a victim of somewhat lesser status or power(2004).

2.3.3 Insecurity

This symptom concerns about a condition when someone cannot reach a certain point that had been set before then that person will feel insecure. Basically, insecurity is an uneasy feeling because of losing confidence or lacking the abilities.

Maltz stated that when people think of themselves as having attained the goal, they become static then they will lose the security and equilibrium they had when they were moving toward something (1960:136). This feeling of insecurity is based upon a concept or belief of inner inadequacy. The more his insecure feeling grows, the more he is afraid to go ahead. Furthermore, based on the failure mechanism concept by Maltz, insecurity is self-defeating.

A person usually wants to prove himself as a superiority one towards other. Then, that person will compare his severely wants. However, when his ability

cannot complete as he thought, that person will gradually feel insecure and try to find a place where he feels safe. It makes that person will lose his way to pursue his dream.

2.3.4 Loneliness

Lonely is natural feeling of human being as individual creature. As humankind, all people must be lonely at times. Nevertheless, it does not mean people shall give up to loneliness. Loneliness is condition where someone is living a long way from other people.

As the symptoms of the failure mechanism, an extreme and chronic feeling of loneliness is a feeling of being cut off and alienated from other people and this type of loneliness is caused by an alienation from life. Because of the feeling of alienation from self, human contacts are not very satisfying.

In addition, according to Maltz, loneliness is a way of self-protection (1960:138). It is a way to protect the idealized self against exposure, hurt and humiliation. That person is afraid of being mix with others so that he separates himself from the society. Usually, lonely person will have a passive attitude. This way of protection will not save the person from anything, it guides him to be a failure instead because that person cannot express himself freely.

2.3.5 Uncertainty

There is no perfect thing in this world. Therefore, mistakes are common things in human life. Uncertainty is a condition when something is doubtful. The uncertain felling of someone will make that person afraid of taking any significant decision. According to Maltz, uncertainty as the symptom of the failure mechanism is a way of avoiding mistakes, and responsibility (1960:140).

It is based upon the silly premise that if no decision is made, nothing can go wrong. That kind of thought will make people will always hesitate to do any action. One way to avoid as many decision as possible is that no prolong that contain condition as much as possible or even blame a handy scapegoat.

This type of person will use uncertainty as a way of being night all the time which actually does not work to support his dream at all. It occurs because that person cannot only change or correct nothing in all ways that he takes. The uncertain attitude of doing something will only kill the creativity of someone. When the person keep doubting his choice and decision, at the end he will always stay in the same level and even face the failure.

2.3.6 Resentment

Everyone resent success and happiness of others because it is proof that he is not as capable as others or is being treated unfair or injustice. Resentment is a condition where someone feels angry because of something that person does not like. Based on the concept of the failure mechanism by Maltz, resentment is a way of making someone feels important (1960:141).

Most people who are thinking as victims will be more superior rather than the one who treated them injustice. In fact, it happened because the “victims” cannot accept the real condition. In this sense resentment is a mental resistance to a non-acceptance of something which has already happened. Therefore, it is also an emotional rehashing or refighting of some event in the past. People cannot win because they are attempting to do impossible thing or in other words, they want to change the past. By taking the victim-side, people only want to protect themselves

from the “unfortunate” condition that they must face. Thus, instead of pursuing the dream, they will do many defenses to get improper satisfaction.

2.3.7 Emptiness

Many people may think that successful person will not face this symptom, especially this is the last symptom of the failure mechanism. In fact, even though someone does not undergo the other symptoms but he will meet this one at the end of his journey.

Emptiness is the condition where something has no real meaning after doing many efforts to get it. When someone has lost the capacity to enjoy, it means no amount of wealth or anything else can bring success or happiness in his/her life. The truth is that joy is an accompaniment of creative function of creative goal-striving.

According to Maltz, emptiness is a symptom which makes people living in uncreative way (1960:144). Hence, when they find emptiness means they either have no goal that is important enough to them or they are not using their talents and efforts in striving toward an important goal. Moreover, emptiness is also a symptom that happens when someone thinks that he does not belong to what he really wants to get a goal of his life.

When someone experience emptiness, there will be so satisfaction and real success in his life. Thus, this condition will be used as an excuse to avoid his responsibilities. For these kinds of people, no goal is worth working for and life a terrible bored. In short way, nothing is worthwhile.

2.4 Previous of the Study

This study concerned with the failure mechanism theory and *The Green Mile* by Stephen King has been done by other researchers. Other researches were done by Melisa Chyntia Dewi, 2012 at Petra University of Surabaya and Meira P. Sari, 2008 at Airlangga University of Surabaya.

Melisa observed *The Failure Mechanism of the Four main Characters in Andrea Hirata's the Rainbow Troops*. Melisa finds that the failure mechanism influences the characters a lot when they tries to reach their dreams but finally the characters could survive from their failure mechanism and reached their dreams.

Second, another research that uses *the Green Mile* comes from Meira's research. She observed "*From Hatred to Sympathy*": *Paul Edgecombe's Changing Perception in Stephen King's Novel the Green Mile*. She finds that first perception happens when we meet someone for the first time but it can change by the time we know that person's character deeply. There are some differences among this research, Melisa's research and Meira's research. First, this research and Melisa's research use different novel. Melisa's research uses *The Rainbow Troops* by Andrea Hirata and this research uses *The Green Mile* by Stephen King. Second, this research focuses on one character in the story instead Melisa's research discusses on the four main characters.

In this research, the writer analyzes the failure mechanism theory on Percy Wetmore character while he pursues his dreams in *the Green Mile*. She analyzes what are the symptoms of failure mechanism of Percy Wetmore and the reason why he fails on copings the symptoms of Failure Mechanism.

The difference between this research and Meira's research are the theory and the character which has been analyzed. This research used failure mechanism and the writer analyzed Percy Wetmore. Meira's research used Perception theory and she analyzed Paul Edgecombe in *the Green Mile*.