

CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND FINDING

4.1. Preliminary Research

4.1.1. Theme

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009), theme is the meaning contained by a story. In a story, there are many meanings that describe the entire contents of the story, but from all of these meanings there are special meanings that can be shown as the theme of a story. Themes describe events, conflicts, and situations in the story. In general, themes have a more general, broader, and abstract nature. The theme in a story is not hidden because the theme has an important role that readers of the story must know. The theme in novel *The Goldfinch* is childhood trauma and the value of art and beauty.

4.1.2. Character

The characters are the actors which appear in the story and have connection with the other actors. According to Abrams (1981), in general the character can be divided into two categories, they are: major character and minor character. A major character usually appears in the whole of the story and becomes focus of the story. Sometimes major character is called protagonist whose conflict with antagonist in the story. Meanwhile, the minor character is as supporting character. The role of minor characters is important because they develop the major character in the story. Major characters in this novel are more than one and they are: Theodore Decker, Boris Pavlikovsky, and James Hobart (Hobie).

4.4.3. Plot

According to Abrams (1981), plot is a series of events that occur in the story. The plot explains the events and conflicts that occur in the story in an orderly manner so that the reader can understand how the problems faced by the characters in the story. The plot is divided into five parts; exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

- Exposition

Exposition is the beginning plot that describes and explains the characters, setting, and event. The exposition is started when Theo and his mother went to museum art in New York. Theo's mother wanted to look at a certain painting so she left Theo to go look for and then a bomb went off. Theo got a ring by a man in the museum and told him to take a famous painting, *The Goldfinch* by Fabritius.

- Rising Action

Rising Action is a part of event that leads the moment to serious attention. Rising action in the story is started when Theo met a man named Hobie who worked to the man in the museum, Welty. Welty took care of his niece, Pippa, the girl who already caught Theo's attention. After that, the two men owned an antique shop together.

- Climax

Climax is the peak of the problems that occur in a story. The climax is when Theo and Boris were in Amsterdam. They made a deal with someone in order to get the painting back. They were walking down the street to the hotel, suddenly there was a man had stopped them and attacked Theo and Boris. The man pulled a gun on

Boris but Boris has already dropped his gun and Theo picked it up and shot the man. Boris took the painting and told Theo to head him to stay at hotel for few weeks.

- Falling action

Falling action is a part of events that follow the climax and end of the story. It started when Boris gave Theo a bag of money which is it was prize money because Boris had turned the painting back to the "art police" museum and Theo returned to America.

- Resolution

Resolution is when conflicts are resolved and the story concludes. The resolution is started when Theo continued working for Hobie in the antique shop and now he try to buy certain pieces back that he had previously sold.

4.4.4. Setting

A story has a place, a time, and social. These three things are called setting. According to Rokhmansyah (2013), setting in a story is complete if it covers time and place aspect, and circumstance aspect. Background of the place shows "where" an event occurs in the story. The name of the scene of the event can contain the real name of a place or not. Background of the time shows "when" an event occurs in the story. Background of social shows the relating to the conduct of social life of the community in a place that is told. The settings of "The Goldfinch" are in New York, Las Vegas, and Amsterdam.

4.4.5. Point of View

Point of view is the way a story is told. All stories are told or narrated by someone and one of the first choices writer make is who tells the story. One of the choices is the point of view. It is a way and or views of the author used as a means for presenting the characters, action, background and events that make up the story in a work of fiction to the reader. The point of view discusses about who is telling story, or from which position the events are perceived. The point of view is divided into three parts; first person point of view, third person point of view, and mixed point of view.

The point of view in novel *The Goldfinch* is first person point of view. Theodore, as the main character is telling his story as if he is writing to someone. The reader is brought into the story as if the reader knows the thoughts and emotions of the main character. The reader looks through Theo's eyes around him, thinks through Theo's brain, whether under the influence of drugs and alcohol or not, and through Theo's heart the reader feels his feelings.

4.2. Research Analysis

4.2.1 Binary opposition as Deconstruction Reading Strategy

In the general perception of society, it was very easy to determine a person's character. This character was judged by the good and bad qualities of a person. One example of assessing a person's character was by making good character a standard in assessing someone's badness. This assessment sometimes only looked at a person's outward appearance without knowing the background of life and the factors that influence it. In this novel, the researcher classified the binary

opposition of good and bad character based on the first reading without using a deconstructed reading strategy. The first thing was seen from the following quote:

Data 1:

“I did know. Because if possible to paint fakes that look like that? Las Vegas would be the most beautiful city in the history of earth! Anyway—so funny! **Here I am, so proudly teaching you to steal apples and candy from the magazine, while you have stolen world masterpiece of art.**”
(Tartt, 2013, chapter x part ix)

From the quote above, Boris was a bad (naughty) child and had a free lifestyle, while Theo was described as a good boy and never violated school rules. Boris taught Theodore how to stolen something. According to the general perception, Boris was categorised as a bad person because he teaches negative things to his friend. The general perception in society a good child was described an obedient and do not commit criminal acts. Meanwhile, the perception about a bad child was described as a troublemaker and do something wrong. The perception that Boris was a bad child and Theodore is a good boy was included in the concept of a written text indirectly and can be related to similar things and not outside of the original text.

Good and bad character was also not only judged by one's actions but by person mindset as well. The general perception stated that someone who has bad thought and intention is a bad person. Many people said that action arose from thought and intention. If a person had good thought and intention then action was also good, on the other hand if a person had bad thought and intention then action was also bad. It can be proven by the quotation below:

Data 2:

“Good doesn’t always follow from good deeds, nor bad deeds result from bad, does it? **Even the wise and good cannot see the end of all actions. Scary idea!**” (Tartt, 2013, chapter xii part v)

According to quotation above, Boris's character was considered a bad person through his thoughts about an action and the result of that action. Boris argued that good deeds will never produce good things and vice versa. Even a good and wise person cannot guarantee and know what will be obtained in the end. Through this kind of thinking that Boris was seen as a bad person.

Based on the two data above, the binary opposition are good – bad in attitude the major character. This can be seen from the words said by Boris. The words he said led to a description of what he really was. He was a bad character.

The discussion about real and fake goods was interesting. Many products had one brand but differ in quality. Judging original and fake goods is tricky because it depends on someone's experience in using the product and a sense of trust in the seller. One form of valuation of original and fake product was through the price and seller's confidence in promoting the product. The general perception of original product was it was expensive and the seller was good at promoting the product. If the price was cheap and the seller was not good at promoting the product then the product is a fake. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 3:

Then I—grieved at the mix-up, while stalwart in my conviction that the piece was genuine—**gallantly offered to buy it back at ten percent more than an ordinary sale. This made me look like a good guy, confident in the integrity of my product and willing to go to absurd lengths to ensure my client’s happiness, and more often than not the client was mollified and decided to keep the piece.** (Tartt, 2013, chapter ix part v)

The quotation above explained Theo sold fake product and bought it from the seller directly. Beside the high price of the original product, one of the tricks that can be used by seller was to sell fake product at the same price as the original product. Theodore with confidence he could sell fake products at a price equal to the original price and even more expensive. Theodore also has high self-confidence in convincing its customers to buy his products. That was what Theodore did in business.

According to the data above, the binary opposition is honest – dishonest seller. Theodore is a dishonest seller. It can be shown from his behaviour how he lied to his customer about his product. He did not sell the product price according to its quality and only lied about the quality of the product.

In life, there are two attitudes shown by people, namely the attitude of caring and ignorant. This attitude can also be an assessment of a person's good or bad character. In general, people think that people who were caring are good people, while ignorant person was considered a bad person because he does not care about their surroundings. Caring people had a warm and caring family background while ignorant people come from ignorant family. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 4:

“TOO MUCH EDUCATION, was my problem,” said Hobie. “or so my father thought”, I was in the workshop with him and helping sort through endless pieces of old cherry wood. Anyway he had me doing that from fourteen, after school and on weekends-loading boxes in the rain. At first, it was only in the summers and over Christmas vacation. **But then, after my second year of college, he announced he wasn’t paying my tuition anymore.**”(Tartt, 2013, chapter iv part xvi)

The quote above explains that Hobie's father was the type of parent who ignorant of their children's education. Hobie's father indirectly told his son to work instead of spending his money on college. He trained Hobie so that from a young age, he felt how hard it was to make money so that he did not need to go to college and spend his father's money. Finally, Hobie dropped out of college because his father did not pay his tuition anymore. Hobie wanted to finish his study but is not supported by his father. In other words, Hobie lived with ignorant father and did not care with his son's education.

Many people think that caring people get enough affection from their family. It is through this affection that built the character of whether that person could be a good or bad person. One of the references for the attitudes of people who receive affection was through their educational life as the quote below:

Data 5:

and the teachers at my school on the Upper West Side had been so sorry for me, so eager to extend their understanding and support, **that they'd given me—a scholarship student all sorts of special allowances and delayed deadlines and second and third chances.** (Tartt, 2013, chapter i part ii)

The quotation above explained that Theodore lived in the affection given by those around him. They cared for Theodore and provided scholarships so that Theodore could continue his studies. In contrast to Hobie who was not supported by his father. Theodore lived in a family that cared about him and his education. It was through this discussion that the general view of a good person was that a caring person and an ignorant person was a bad person.

There were various perceptions about responsible people and irresponsible people. The attitude of the responsible person was used as a basis for evaluating

the attitude of irresponsibility. One of the judgments of the person being responsible was if someone found someone else's property and he returns the item to the owner. If he did not return the item then he was an irresponsible person. It can be proved by the quotation below:

Data 6:

The painting, inside the pillowcase, was wrapped in several layers of taped drawing paper—good paper, archival paper, that I'd taken from the art room at school—with an inner, double layer of clean white cotton dishcloth to protect the surface from the acids in the paper (not that there were any). (Tartt, 2013, chapter vi part x)

According to quotation above, Theodore kept the painting in a storage place that would not be known by anyone but himself. Theodore was considered to be an irresponsible person because he did not return the painting to the authorities. He looked after the painting for many years and made sure it was safe with him. Even though, he had many opportunities to return the painting to the authorities. He was only afraid that if he returned then he would be caught by the police. Through his actions he was considered someone who did not have a sense of responsibility. The fear was greater than the sense of responsibility.

The assessment of whether the person was responsible or not can also be seen from how much courage the person takes to take an action. The general view of a person who is responsible was a person who dares to take risks from his every action because he knows that every action must have a risk that must be borne. If fear was greater than responsibility then the person was not responsible. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 7:

Because — they are saying, ‘one of great art recoveries of history.’ And this is the part I hoped would please you—maybe not who knows, but I hoped. **Museum masterworks, returned to public ownership!** Stewardship of cultural treasure! Great joy! All the angels are singing! But it would never have happened, if not for you. (Tartt, 2013, chapter xii part v)

According to the quotation, Boris had succeeded in returning The Goldfinch's painting to the authorities and it was in its proper place. Boris knew that his actions would carry huge risks if not done carefully. He wanted to make amends to Theodore and hide Theodore's identity so that Theodore would not be searched by the police. There was a difference in attitude between Theodore and Boris. If through his actions, Theodore was considered an irresponsible person, it was different with Boris. Boris had a lot more sense of responsibility than fear. He was not afraid that he will be jailed if he returns the painting because he knows this was the only thing he can do good after the many bad deeds he has done in the past.

The binary opposition between the two data is responsible – irresponsible. Based on the data, Theodore is described an irresponsible character meanwhile Boris is a responsible character. It can be shown from the attitude both of them.

4.2.2. Internal Contradiction Text as Result of Deconstruction Reading

Strategy

Through the deconstruction reading strategy, there was a contradiction that could be identified from other characteristics between Theo and Boris especially in the assessment of good and bad character. The contradiction was conveyed

through the concept text deconstructing itself. This could be shown from the quote below:

Data 8:

BORIS HAD GROWN TO like my father, and vice versa. He understood, better than I did, how my father made his living; and although he knew, without being told, to stay away from my dad when he was losing, he also understood that my father was in need of something I was unwilling to give. (Tartt, 2013, chapter v part xxvi)

From the quote above, the contradiction is Boris was a bad (naughty) boy who understood the situation. Even Theodore did not really understand his father's situation. Bad children were known to be troublemakers and could not understand other people's situations. Meanwhile, good children always understand the situation of others. This situation depends on who the person is. Not all bad boys did not understand the situation, for example Boris. Boris understood when the right time to face Theodore's father than his son. From this concept produced a new perception of good and bad children that was the perception that bad children only think about themselves and did not understand the situation is inappropriate because it depended on the hidden attitude of the child.

Another perception that many people believe was that a good person says something honestly. Only bad people like to lie. This perception could be dismantled through reading deconstruction, namely the concept of invention. There was a contradiction in the character of Theodore as a good person which was shown by the quote below:

Data 9:

“It would be much easier to explain to Hobie how I had happened to take the painting out of the museum in the first place. That it was a mistake, sort of. That I’d been following Welty’s instructions; that I’d had a concussion. That I hadn’t fully considered what I was doing. That I hadn’t meant to let it sit around so long. **Yet in my homeless limbo, it seemed insane to step up and admit to what I knew a lot of people were going to view as very serious wrongdoing.**” (Tartt, 2013, chapter iv part xiv)

From the quote above, Theodore was considered a dishonest person by other people because it would be very difficult for Theodore to explain to who do not know. Welty that in fact he did not steal the painting of his own accord, because other people only know that he stole the painting without knowing the reason why he did this. Through the explanation above, reader got a new perception of good people, namely that good people did not always say honest things, sometimes they could also lie to cover up their mistakes or something they could not say to everyone.

General perception regarding the assessment of original or fake product could be dismantled through deconstruction reading. The contradiction obtained through the concept text deconstructing itself. This is shown by the quotation below:

Data 10:

Once it was back in my hands, I had a paper trail to show it had been part of the illustrious So-and-So collection. **Despite the mark-up I’d paid in repurchasing the fake from Mr. So-and-So. I could then turn around and sell it again for sometimes twice what I’d bought it back for, to some Wall Street cheese fry who didn’t know Chippendale from Ethan Allen but was more than thrilled with “official documents”** proving that his Duncan Phyfe secretary or whatever came from the collection of Mr. So-and-So, noted philanthropist/interior decorator/leading light of Broadway/fill-in-the-blank. (Tartt, 2013, chapter ix part v)

According to quotation above, many people think a product that was sold at a high price means that the item is original, whereas an item that was sold at a low price was considered fake. The concept of invention can viewed a seller can sell fake product at a high price. It indicates that not all products that are sold at high prices are original. It is necessary to pay attention to the quality of the product.

The general perception of the difference between caring and ignorant could also be broken down into a new perspective through deconstruction reading. Through deconstruction reading, the contradictions in the text are found, namely about the attitudes shown by the characters in the story. Theodore character had an ignorant attitude while Hobie has a caring attitude. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 11:

Clearly a mistake had been made. **“Theodore participates very little in class and appears to have no desire to expend any more attention on his studies than absolutely necessary,”** wrote my French professor, in a scathing midterm report that—in the absence of any closely supervising adult—no one saw but me. (Tartt, 2013, chapter viii part ii)

From the quote above, although Theodore had a mother who cared about him and gave his children a good school, but Theodore did not care about his education. He did not care about his education because his parents divorced and he did not get complete love from his parents. He had been trapped in promiscuity. It turned out that a child who grows up in a caring family did not necessarily build his character to become a caring child. Theodore also did not care about his father and lived as he wanted. He hated his father for leaving him and his mother.

Ignorant people were not only indifferent to themselves but also to those around them. This disrespectful attitude arose because of the factors that influence the person's background. The perception that people were ignorant from childhood already had such an attitude was not entirely correct. There were also people who turn their attention into ignorant people because of something had happened in the past. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 12:

That was your father that died. Your own father. **And you act like it was, I don't know, I'd say the dog, but not *even* the dog.** Because I know you'd care if it was the dog got hit by a car, at least I think you would. (Tartt, 2013, chapter vi part xxi)

From the quote above, through the concept of invention in the deconstruction reading, it could be seen that Theodore's character was very ignorant to the news of his father's death. He did not care about that. The factor why he did not care about his father anymore was he hated his father who had left him and his mother. He hated that his father wanted to take out his future savings to pay off a debt due to losing gambling. From the above discussion, it turned out that a good person was very ignorant of the person he hated.

Many people think that people who lived in ignorant family will build a person's character to be ignorant. People who lived in caring families form a caring character. These opinions can be debunked by means of a deconstruction reading. There was a contradiction between the above opinions which has resulted in a new perception of the family of caring and ignorant people. It can be shown by the quotation below:

Data 13:

I had admired Hobie's changelings for years and had even helped work on some of them, but it was the shock of being fooled by these previously-unseen pieces that (to employ a favored phrase of Hobie's) filled me with a wild surmise. **Every so often there passed through the shop a piece of museum quality too damaged or broken to save; for Hobie, who sorrowed over these elegant old remnants as if they were unfed children or mistreated cats, it was a point of duty to rescue what he could and then with his gifts as carpenter and joiner to recombine them into beautiful young Frankensteins** that were in some cases plainly fanciful but in others such faithful models of the period that they were all but indistinguishable from the real thing. (Tartt, 2013, chapter ix part v)

The quotation above explained Hobie lived with a father who did not care him. Even though, Hobie had a caring attitude towards other people and antiques. He took care of Theodore who was a stranger and repaired damaged antiques for resale. The concept of the invention that can be taken is that if someone lives in a family that does not care, it did not mean that their child will grow up to be a child who does not care. It all depended on the hearts of each others.

The person who was responsible was a person who has not committed a criminal offense because that person known the risks he will bear in the future. Many people think like that. This opinion can be destroyed by reading the text with the theory of deconstruction. In the concept, there is contradiction regarding this opinion.

Data 14:

Boris sighed. "Well, is partly why—a little. Was it safe at your house? No! And not at school either. Got my old school book, wrapped it in newspaper and taped it same fatness—"

"I asked *why* did you take it."

"What can I say. **I am thief.**" (Tartt, 2013, chapter x part xii)

According to quotation above, there was a contradiction about the attitude of responsibility from the character of Boris, namely even though he was a responsible person but he is a thief. He stole The Goldfinch from Theodore to open a drug business and make a fortune. Based on the concept of text deconstructing itself, there was a new perception that a person in charge has his own goals, namely whether he was really responsible or he just wants to make up for the mistakes he has made.

4.3. Research Finding

After completing the research analysis, the researcher has found several findings related to the deconstruction analysis of the major characters. According to Derrida (1976) there are two concepts in applying deconstruction theory as reading strategy, namely binary opposition and internal contradiction text. Based on the binary opposition, there were three concepts, namely difference, text, and dissemination. Meanwhile in the contradiction internal text, there were two concepts, namely invention and text deconstructing itself. The theory used in this study was related to one to another, therefore the researcher focuses on two research problems. To answer the problems in the novel, it can be seen in the division described as follows:

1. The binary oppositions are in data 1 until data 7. Binary opposition in data 1 and 2 is good – bad. Binary opposition in data in data 3 is honest – dishonest. Binary opposition in data 4 and data 5 is caring – ignorant. Binary opposition in data 6 and data 7 is responsible – irresponsible.

2. The internal contradictions text are in data 8 until data 14. Internal contradiction text in the perception of good – bad character is in data 8 and data 9. Internal contradiction text in the perception of honest – dishonest character is in data 10. Internal contradiction text in the perception of caring – ignorant character is in data 11, data 12, and data 13. Internal contradiction text in the perception of responsible – irresponsible is in data 14.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1. Conclusion

The Goldfinch novel told about the story of Theo Decker, a 13 years old boy who was traumatized after the bombing he and his mother at the Museum Art in New York. It was concluded that the binary opposition as deconstruction reading strategy and internal contradiction text as result of deconstruction reading strategy were represented by the major characters, Theodore Decker, Boris Pavlikovsky, and James Hobart (Hobie) in the novel “The Goldfinch” by Donna Tartt.

In the novel “The Goldfinch”, there were binary oppositions which show the difference of each character. The binary oppositions are good – bad, original – fake, caring – ignorant, and responsible – irresponsible. Binary opposition is obtained by comparing two characters and relating them to one another. Theodore character was described as a good character and Boris's character was depicted as a bad character. In addition, Theodore's character was described as an ignorant character compared to Hobie's character. Although Theodore was described as a good character, but Theodore was not as responsible as Boris. Binary opposition only explained the general view of each character in the story.

There was internal contradiction text as result of deconstruction strategy reading. This concept explained that in the reading text that has been analysed, it turns out to be in conflict with reality. This conflict can be positive or negative. The good characters in the story actually have a bad side as well, such as having an ignorant attitude towards anything, irresponsible, and a dishonest seller.

Meanwhile, bad characters in the story have good sides such as being responsible and caring about their surroundings. There were also caring and ignorant characters in the story. The ignorant character turns out not to live in an ignorant family but from a caring and affectionate family, while the caring character lives in a family that does not care about him. The general view of good and bad characters was that good people do not always do good and bad people always do bad. The general perception that has existed in society is not always right and not always wrong. It depended on a person's perception of something.

5.2. Suggestion

1. The researcher hopes that the next researcher will more explore deeply with different literary approaches that can be applied in “The Goldfinch” novel by Donna Tartt. Furthermore, other researchers can use the same concept of deconstruction theory by Jacques Derrida but in applying it uses a different object of research. Other researchers can also use the same novel but use different theories. This is so that there are many new findings that can be explored in “The Goldfinch” novel.
2. The researcher hopes in this research can help student in learning deconstruction analysis include binary opposition concept and the result of the deconstruction reading strategy. This concept is very good for opening the reader's mind so that he can be more critical in assessing something not only using one point of view but also by using another point of view. Reform the views that are believed by the wider community so far and provide a new and

more sensible perspective. The benefits of this theory are also especially for students of the English language and literature department of Putera Batam University.