CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter discusses about the change of identity that experienced by main character. In this research the main character is taken from the novel entitled “The flying man”. To observe how main character’s identity formed and changed, this research will use theory of character.

2.1 Character

To examine the identity changing experienced by Maqil as main character in the novel, this research is observing through the main character’s characterization by Scott Orson (1999). Orson’s character theory tells that the character in the fiction was human being. Some characteristics of human also attach in it. A character has some abilities like real human; it can talk, walk, eat and etc. it is made up for the readers, and then a character become alive and believable. When it becomes alive in believable a character bring into reader imagination. A character sometimes seems familiar with the reader. It can be like they family members, friends or themselves.

> *The characters in your fiction are people. Human beings. Yes, i know you make them up. But readers want your characters to seem like real people. Whole and alive, believable and worth caring about. Readers want to get to know your characters as well as they know their own friends, their own family. As well as they know themselves*.(1999:3)

This research is focusing on a character in “The Flying Man” novel. That character has a name, it name is Maqil and given some attributes like real people.

Maqil is depicting as human being, he could walk, sleep, eat and etc. Maqil is described as someone who loves to gamble. Since that character become as real as human being, commonly some characteristics attach to a character which could bring life to it. The life of a character is given through the description about the character. The description about a character can be said as characterization.

There are some characterizations that would help to recognize a character. This characterization describe through character's description in the story. There are some various ways to know about a character:

> *We never fully understand other people's motives in real life. In fiction, however, we can help our readers understand our character's motives with clarity, sometimes even certainty. This is one of the reasons why people read fiction to come to some understanding of why other people act the way they do.* (1993:7)

The quotation tells that to recognize a character by its motive. People actually have many motives in real life but sometimes their motives cannot be recognized clearly. However in a fiction, a character motive is known from the description about its' actions. Every character's action has a motive that could be understood although that motive was not clearly describe in the description.

Based on the motive that attach on a character as can be found in Maqil, other characterization also can be found. Not only from the motive, character also can be recognizing from its reputation, and it can be seen from this quotation:

> *You have a reputation. If enough people tell stories about you, we call it fame; but even if it's just your neighbors, the people in your workplace, or your relatives, stories are being told about you, shaping other people's judgment of you. (1999:8)*

A main character's reputation is coming from it description in the story. The description comes from the other characters which have interaction with the main character. Other character can tell every action that has done by the main character. Main character's actions usually have effect to other character. Therefore that action can be said as fame. When a character is being famous in other characters it means main character has gained a reputation.

A character famous among other characters can have good or bad reputation. It is based from what he or she has done to others character. If the other characters are having good relation with the main character could be said that the main character is a good person. Maqil has reputation that made him known as different person, from his family he is known for his good attitude, because his relation with his family members is good. But his reputation among his college friend is different. They know him as a mysterious man because he is acting such a mysterious way in front of his friends. Maqil's reputation come from its interaction with other characters, each character has a story about them and other characters will give their judgment about others.

Other characters in Maqil's environment are very important. From their description about Maqil's character can be seen that Maqil has grown his reputation among people in his environment. Without their explanation about Maqil, his character will not recognize. Therefore their description is very important to reveal main character characterization.

Reputation makes impact to a character because reputation is gained from interaction with other character. The character needs to maintain its reputation by

using same pattern from its characterization. Thus, reputation also comes from an event from the past which made impact to a character in present time.

> *People are what they have done, and what has been done to them. That's how we construct our image of ourselves. We all carry around in our memory our own story of what has happened in our past. (1999:8)*

From the quotation, when a character do something in the past it has an impact. A character image in the story is affected by its memory in his past. A character past usually tells in the story, such as its family background, its origin country and what it did when young. The past also give a reputation to a character where others character tell a story about a character it means he or she is famous among others character.

A character's image builds through action that has done by a character. When a character experiences a shocking incident during his/her childhood, he/she will have a trauma or phobia. The incident makes impact to that character and he/she will have choose his character in the future. Maqil also has been affected by an event from the past, especially his early years.

A character also can be recognized by its habits. Orson tells that Habit could make a character become more realistic. Habit has important role in a story that makes character has a pattern in its life. It is said in this quotation:

> *Habits not only make the character more realistic, but also open up story possibilities a change in pattern might show an important change in character life; other character might take advantage of her habits; curiosity about annoyance at a habit might lead to an interesting relationship between characters. (1999:13)*

Since reputation need to be maintained, then a character made some patterns in the story to keep it reputation. This pattern is an action which the character does it multiple times. Other character will see this pattern which did by the character as a habit. Other characters can take an advantage from a character habit that built the relation between characters. Therefore the character can develop in the story.

For some reason, main character is known by other character from his habit. Other characters occasionally observe main character actions during the story. From the observation, other character will know his habit. For example, main character spends his weekend by playing football. Other character knows that he only play football only in the weekend because the main character does it in some pattern. In this case, main character's pattern is playing football on weekend. That pattern has done in multiple times. When other character says playing football on the weekend, it means quantity of playing football. In a month there are four weeks, so the main character plays football four times. Therefore other character recognizes the pattern as main character's habit.

When Maqil's character is told as a mysterious person, it is a reputation for Maqil. His reputation is built from his patterns in daily life. From the description, Maqil has pattern that he never told his real name to his friends in college. Then that pattern becomes his habit and his habit is acknowledged by other character in the story. Everyone who has been met with Maqil will recognize it as a habit. It will be a different story when Maqil change his pattern. He will has different reputation, when he does different pattern.

A character also can be recognized by his look. It meant that a character can be recognized from his body. The body of a character can give view point to the other characters.

> *A person body is certainly an important part of who he is. Physical handicaps can force changes in a person's life. More minor physical problems weakness, thinness, overweight, lack of beauty can have powerful effects on how a person feels about himself and how others treat him. (1999:14)*

When some parts of a character body are different than the other characters, they will think that he was not part of them. Different person usually considered as embarrassment for them because they think being different is a mistake. Mostly characters will be humiliated by other character when they have minor physical problems. Those characterizations that have been mentioned become parameter to observe identity changing. It will ensure how a character identity through the description.

The physical or body appearance can make a character recognized by others characters. When a character describes in a story has blonde hair, blue eyes and white skin, it can be assumed that he/she is American or European. Or when it describes had black curly hair, big eyes and black it can be said he/she is African. That description makes a character known from its physical appearance, and its races also can be known. Those descriptions about characterization are used to examine the identity changing. In this research, main character is trying to change his identity by changing some characterizations. Efforts conduct and main character is called fabricating identity which mean changing an identity by creating a new identity.

Therefore to observe what kind of identity that changing, this research will use theory of identity that will be described in next sub chapter.

2.2 Identity

Identity is formed by how people are represented and how people represent themselves (Hall, 1995: 597). When a group of people live in the same environment for a long time and have same habits or characteristic. When a person from suburb is going or even staying in the city, he/she will see that people in the city are different from him/her. It is happened because they had different habits, language, life style and fashion with his/ her people in village. Rapid and high mobility as characteristics of urban life will shock the one who come from the suburb. But in the city people view point, this suburb person can not mingle with their life style. Therefore they do not see him/her as their part. If he/she wants to be considered as part of the city people, he/she should try their life style. Such condition also happens to Maqil since he is trying to change his identity.

Related to that Hall also explains that someone identity is not permanent but it is temporary and depend on identity form process that comes from someone discourses and practice (Hall, 1995:597). Identity which is possessed by someone is formed by representation from his environment or he can make his own representation. Identity changing process come from life experience and what has been done. Someone is trying to show himself to the others in purpose to show his identity.

> *There are at least two different ways of thinking about cultural identity. The first position defines 'cultural identity' in terms of one, shared culture a sort of collective 'one true self', hiding inside the many other, more superficial or artificially imposed 'selves', which people with a shared history and ancestry hold in common.(1990:223)*

In the statement above Hall says that cultural identity is formed because the people in a place have cultural similarity. For example a tribe formed when the people in the tribe have similarity like language, culture, history. Therefore those similarities become the identity of that tribe, and those make them as a unity. However, cultural identity was created by societies. Cultural identity has divided into two kinds, first the identity that has been existed in a person for a long time in a society. Cultural identity is created by old generation and they teach it to young generation. This process then continues through generation. Therefore it is a heritage for a society and called as superficial identity. Such example happens when a person was born as part of a tribe, then he/she is automatically gained his identity as the tribe member. This happens because the tribe members are sharing their culture among themselves. Therefore the culture that shared in that tribe is taught to him/her as representation of their identity.

The second cultural identity is an artificial identity, it means a person cannot get his superficial identity because he/she is not part of a tribe. But if a person tries to gain that cultural identity, he/she should adapt to that cultural identity. He/she could success when the people are recognizing him/her as part of them. The Main character experiences the condition when he was born as a part of society and taught by his parents about the culture in that society. Although since long time he is learning his origin culture, he decides to go out of his current

society. It affects his origin cultural identity and changes his kind of cultural identity since he learns about other culture that has been taught by outside society.

An Identity which formed in a society has a long process. Sometimes there is a person who does not have a same idea with the other in his society. That happened when a person ever lived in another place and society which has different cultural identity. Hall said that:

> *Identity is formed in the "interaction" between self and society. The subject still has an inner core or essence that is "the real me", but this is formed and modified in a continuous dialogue with the cultural worlds "outside" and the identities which they offer.(1995: 597)*

From Hall's statement, could be said that the interaction between a person and the society will form an identity in that person. When the person already has his original identity, the part of him would say that is his real identity. original identity comes from the first environment, this means original identity is coming from his/her family. It happens because parents actually teach their child to learn their culture. Therefore their cultural identity also attach to their child. However the identity which has been attached would change by the interaction with the other culture encountered. When the person perceives that his cultural identity is not appropriate, he will choose the other cultural identities which make him suitable.

Identity is also formed when a person has long interaction with a society. When a person lives and interacts with the people in the society, that person feels that he/she is already become part of that society. Although he/she already has cultural identity which it is gained from its superficial. With the long interaction

to other society, it can be a possibility that a person can choose an identity that suit for him/her. Because a person chooses his cultural identity from the outside society, it can modify the identity that has been existed in his/her. He/she could not be comfortable with his/her old identity. It can make that a person refuses his superficial identity but still try to be accepted by other cultural identity. Related to that Maqil also trying to becomes a part of a culture because he feels that he no longer suitable with his origin culture. Not only from interaction between one person and society, Hall also said that identity is part of culture, it can be seen in this quotation below:

> *Cultural identities come from somewhere, have histories. But, like everything which is historical, they undergo constant transformation. Far from being eternally fixed in some essentialised past, they are subject to the continous 'play' of history, culture and power. Far from being grounded in a mere 'recovery' of the past, which is waiting to be found, and which, when found, will secure our sense of ourselves into eternity. Identities are the names we give to different ways we are positioned by, and position ourselves within, the narratives of the past. (1990: 225)*

From the quotation, the cultural identity is fixed in the first time, then through time the cultural identity which possessed by a society will slowly change following the modernity. When a tribe is formed, people in that tribe have similarities among each other. Then those similarities become their culture, they teach their culture to their children, then their children teach it to their grand children. But modernity has influence to the cultural identity. It means that the fixed culture is experiencing the transition, then it can be said that the origin culture is not fixed as it created in the first time. Although a culture is not fixed as the first one, it still represents its cultural value. The society which experiences

transition in their cultural identity is adapting to the modernity but still keep their essential cultural value.

The main character also experiences this cultural transition. He escapes from his cultural identity, by trying to become part of other culture however he still has its value as cultural identity. It is happened because the essence of his cultural not completely vanish because it only following the transition that he has chosen. Someone possesses many kinds of identities; some are identity attached from the first time.

2.2.1 Information leads to Identity Changing

According to Mak (2013) the attached identities are registration, authentication, life history, observation and family/social network. These identities contains some information like DNA, finger print, photos, birth, ID card, marital status, residence and civil information.

2.2.1.1 Registration

Begin with registration identity; there are several identities that include in registration identity: birth, residence, and travel. Birth contains some information about place and date. It means when a person was born, it can be seen a person's name and where he/she was born and what time that he/she was born. From the birth identity also can found information about a person's parent. Information about a name and age also can be gained from the birth information. Other information from registration identity is a residence, it contains information about

the place that has been chosen by a person to live, and it can be told about countries, cities and villages. Then registration identity also contains information about travel, the travel information is like a passport. In a passport it can be seen the history of a place that has been visited by a person.

From that several information in registration identity, the main character is trying to hide his information about his birth and residence. Therefore when he interacts with other people, they do not gaining details information about his background. Event tough his hides personal information to other people, the information about his travel is described in the story

2.2.1.2 Authentication

Authentication identities are identities that attached in the body of a person, such as finger print or other sign like hair color, skin, etc. the information that contains in the authentication identity is fixed and could not be changed. It can be said that information is obtained from the parent's DNA which shared to their child. A person cannot choose his parent, therefore when he/she was born in a family they will attach some physical appearance from his/her parent. Finger prints are containing biological information about a person. It will tell about the genetic information such as blood type, the sickness, parentage line and etc.

From the information in the authentication identity, the main character is getting his physical appearance from his parents which come from a country in the South Asian, which is Pakistan. Pakistani has identical physical appearance with Indian which has black skin but not as black as African, big eye, black hair and

big pointed nose. Then these information are covered by the main character in order to hide his true identity.

2.2.1.3 Life History

A person does not only have register and authentication identity, but also has identity that comes from life history. Someone identity also can be obtained from the other information sources. There are other identity sources like Life history; observation identity and Family/Social Network are told about information from the other sources. Life history identity is compiling self narration and the story about a person from different sources. That information is told about the history of a person. It occasionally tells about a person background. The background tells about a person past, and what happened in the past that make impact to his/her present life.

In this research, the main character background also describes, from main character background there are some information about his life history. This life history information can be said as his first identity.

2.2.1.4 Observation

Observation is the description of a person, how their appearance, how their occupation and also the skill of people. Those information are gained in a person. With observation identity which tells about appearance, it means an identity of a person can be gained by looking to his physical appearance. Several types of physical appearance that can tell about someone's identity such body, shape,

styles, and etc. A person's body information like height, weight and skin color can also used to recognize a person's nationality.

Occupation also can tell someone identity, some occupations can be recognized by uniform. When a person uses police uniform, people know that person is a police officer because he/she is wearing police uniform. People also will know that a policeman can use a gun when they see a gun attaches in his uniform. The gun also can make people assume that the policeman has skill in using a gun.

2.2.1.5 Family/Social Network

Besides that, other identity comes from Family/Social network. This identity is told information about life environment of a person, his/her relationship with the other people and the family background. The information that gains from an interaction between a person and his environment can create an identity. This means that a person has reputation in his family members or his friend in closest environment. A person also has different identity in different environment. Such condition happens because he/she is building different images based on the people which lived in that environment.

From those different identity sources, the main character can change his identity; he can create the different information about his cultural background or gave the wrong information about himself. The information that has been change by the main character make his people in his environment has wrong opinion about his true identity.