

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter discusses the relationship between structuralism and literature as the underlying theory for applying structuralist approach. The researcher also presents the history of naturalism to get a comprehension on the basic problem of the research which lies on the writing system in this novel that makes *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* categorized as a naturalistic novel. It is important to tell the readers because it will help them easily understand about naturalism. A brief explanation about the differences between naturalism and realism is also included as an attempt to make the readers understand and to get deeper information about the aspects of naturalism. It is the central topic for this research since the researcher decided to explore the naturalism aspects in *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*. Stephen Crane's background is presented at glance since Crane's view about the poor is very important in creating his character. The researcher also presents some previous research studies as the research references for this research. Finally, the researcher presents framework of thinking which is used to arrange the idea of analyzing the novel.

## **A. Theoretical Review**

### **1. Structuralism**

In analyzing the novel, the researcher uses structuralist approach. According to Abrams, in approaching a literary work, “structuralist criticism stands free from poet, audience, and its environment. It describes the literary work as a self-sufficient object”(Abrams, 1981: 87). What Abrams means by the self-sufficient object is a system which consists of inseparable interrelation elements. An element determines the identity of the others and vice versa. Furthermore, in structuralist criticism, a literary product should be analyzed and judged by intrinsic criteria such as complexity, coherence, equilibrium, integrity and the interrelationships of its component elements. Therefore, from the explanation above, the researcher can conclude that actually the idea of structuralism is the idea of system. The individual works, the literary genres, and the whole of literature are also related systems.

Structuralists view a literary work as a totality which is built coherently by its builder elements. In another side, “the structure of a literary work can be regarded as an arrangement, firmness, and depiction of all elements and materials which shaping a unity” (Abrams, 1981: 68). Each element cannot stand alone without the other elements. An element needs the other elements to produce a whole story.

Burhan Nugiyantoro states in his book *“Teori Pengkajian Fiksi”* (1995), that structuralist approach aims to explain as clearly and accurately as possible the functions and relationships among many elements of a literary work which produce the whole story. The important thing is to show how the elements relate to each other. Structuralism itself is a way of thinking about the world which is predominantly concerned with the perceptions and description of structures. Structuralism claims that the nature of every element in any given situation has no significance by itself, and in fact is determined by all the other elements involved in that situation.

The structure of literary works is also heading to the relationship among the elements. They influence each other and they make a unity. Each element can be very meaningful and important after having connection with the other elements as well as its contribution towards the story or play. Structuralism can be seen as one of literary approaches which give more attention on the relationship among the elements involving in a certain work. In another side, according to Hawkes (1978), “structuralism is basically about how we see the world as a formative link not as a formative thing. An element in a system of structure will have a meaning after getting a link with the others.” Thus, basically the analysis of structuralism purposes to elaborate accurately the function and the relationship among the elements of literary works.

For many readers, form and structure are familiar. They do not read literature to learn about form and structure, but actually strengthen the experience of reading. “Form is inevitable. Art can not do without form” (Bertens, 2008: 41). No matter how life like a novel or a movie may seem, it is the end product of countless decisions involving form. All elements of a text are interconnected. The various functions of these elements and the relations between them constitute a structure.

The researcher decides to take the structuralist approach for her analysis because of the main idea of structuralism that emphasizes upon the relationship among the component of a literary work. The researcher thinks that naturalism is also a system. There must be some characteristics which make it different with the other systems. It is just like the idea of structuralism which emphasizes more in the relationship among the elements. In this research, the researcher tries to elaborate some aspects of naturalism that appear in *Maggie, A Girl of the Streets* in order to show the readers that those aspects relate each other and they make a unity. They are gathering together, making a system; that is naturalism.

## **2. Structuralism in Literature**

In literary theory, structuralist criticism relates literary texts to a larger structure, which may be a particular genre, a range of intertextual connections, a model of a universal narrative structure, or a system of

recurrent patterns or motives. Structuralism argues that there must be a structure in every text. Everything that is written seems to be governed by specific rules. Like new criticism, structuralism concentrates on elements within literary works without focusing on historical, social, and biographical influences.

Structuralism is a way of thinking about the world which is predominantly concerned with the perceptions and description of structures. Structuralism claims that the nature of every element in any given situation has no significance by itself, and in fact is determined by all the other elements involved in that situation. “The full significance of any entity cannot be perceived unless and until it is integrated into the structure of which it forms a part”(Hawkes, 1978: 11). Structuralists believe that all human activity is constructed, not natural or essential. Consequently, it is the systems of organization that are important. Everything that human being do is always a matter of selection within a given construct.

According to Northrop Frye, “literature itself formed such a system” (1983: 91). In fact, it is not just a random collection of history writings; if the readers examine it closely, they can see that it works by certain objective laws, and criticism can become systematic by formulating them. These laws are the various modes, archetypes, myths and genres by which all literary works are structured. “A literary work,

like any other product of language, is a construct, whose mechanism can be classified and analyzed like the objects of any other science.” (Eagleton, 1983: 106).

Structuralists seem to have unearthed a rather more solid object of investigation. The role of literary criticism is not primarily to make interpretative or evaluative statements but to step back and examine the logic of such statements, to analyze what they are up to, what codes and models they are applying, when they make them (Eagleton, 1983).

To engage in the study of literature, Jonathan Culler has argued that “the applying of structuralism can advance one’s understanding of the conventions and operations of an institution, a mode of discourse” (Eagleton, 1983: 124).

Structuralists see literature as a thing that involves too much subjectivism. Structuralism is teaching and studying not so much ‘literary works’ but the ‘literary system’. Structuralists identify and interpret literary works in the first place by exploring the whole system of codes; genres and conventions (Eagleton, 1983).

### **3. Genre Theories**

Theory of genre is a principle of order. It classifies literature and literary history not by time or place (period or national language) but by specifically literary types of organization or structure. The word genre

comes from the French (and originally Latin) word for 'kind' or 'class'. At the first glance, genres are classes of texts. “There has never been a literature without genres; it is a system in constant transformation, and historically speaking the question of origins cannot be separated from the terrain of the genres themselves” (Duff, 2000: 197). The term is widely used in literary theory, media theory, and more recently linguistics, to refer to a distinctive type of text. Literary works have been classified as belonging to general types which are variously defined. In literature, the broadest division is between poetry, prose and drama, within which there are further divisions, such as historical and romance within the category of novel. It is hard enough to find texts which are exceptions to any given definition of a particular genre. It is difficult to make clear-cut distinctions between one genre and another. “A specific genre tends to be easy to recognize but difficult to define. An individual text within a genre is rarely ever has all of the characteristic features of the genre.” (Fowler, 1989: 215).

A genre can embody certain values and ideological assumptions. For instance, “texts within genres embody the moral values of a culture”(Konigsberg, 1987: 144-5). Structuralists and feminist theorists, among others, have focused on the way in which generally defined structures may operate to construct particular ideologies, values and to encourage reassuring and conservative interpretations of a given text

(Casey, 1993). From the perspective of many recent commentators, genres first and foremost provide frameworks within which texts are produced and interpreted. Genre provides an important frame of reference which helps readers to identify, select, and interpret texts.

Every genre positions those who participate in a text of that kind: as interviewer or interviewee, as listener or storyteller, as a reader or a writer, as a person interested in political matters, as someone to be instructed or as someone who instructs; each of these positioning implies different possibilities for response and for action. Each written text provides a reading position for readers, a position constructed by the writer for the ideal reader of the text (Kress, 1988). Thus, the assumptions about the ideal reader include their attitudes towards the subject matter and often their class, age, gender and ethnicity. A genre defines as “a kind of text that derives its form from the structure of a (frequently repeated) social occasion, with its characteristic participants and their purposes” (Kress, 1988: 183).

There is a system in a genre. That is a set of genres which is understood to form a coherent system of some kind; or a theoretical model that offers a comprehensive list of genres and an explanation of the relation between them (Duff: 2000).



## 4. Naturalism

### a. The History of Naturalism

Naturalism began in the late nineteenth century in France in attempt. It was a concept developed in detail by French author Emile Zola but inspired by Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Zola's philosophy was based on an objective and experimental presentation of human life, also known as determinism, that is, human motivation and behavior were absolutely determined by environmental influences, such as social or economic conditions. He aimed to dissect human behavior and to expose the real forces at play.

“Fiction, Zola believed, should above all be truthful rather than polite, amusing, or ennobling and truth was achieved by depicting life in accord with scientific laws and methods. Science, to Zola, was thus a form of faith, since he believed he was using its ideals and methods to achieve a more truthful account of the human condition.” (Pizer, 1993: 18)

In America, naturalism grew in 1880's. There were two factors that governed the growth of American naturalism. The first is Calvinism. The Calvinist believes in their inscrutable God and their doctrine of original sin was weakening by the impact of the Enlightenment. In the period of Enlightenment, people believe that science and reason would advance human progress. “Scientist presented scientific principles played by the force of nature that happen in man life. Scientist metamorphosed the absolute God of Puritans into the rationalist view of the universe that was

directed by the forces of nature”(Norton, 1974: 261). The second governing factor in the emergence of American naturalism was the moral sterility of the undisciplined material and political growth. In 1880’s, the social and economic condition of America was getting worse.

“After 1880, however, a growing spirit of skepticism, the spiritual unrest and disturbed religious faith, was reflected in the changing economic thought and morality of America and in the deterministic attitudes of intellectuals and writers.” (Bradley, 1962: 43)

The gap between the rich and the poor was getting wider and the condition was becoming worse. This condition strengthened the note of pessimistic determinism that increased into the 19<sup>th</sup> century when American naturalism developed. American naturalism developed broadly in two directions, one examining the social and political dynamics of American urban life and the other examining the biological aspects of deterministic thought. Although its origin was European, naturalism was an important movement in American literature. While it is strongly associated with realism in depicting the surface reality, naturalism is more than a literary technique because of the involvement of determinism for the basic concept. “Naturalism is a literary movement derived from realism, but it is not only to depict real life but also to probe deeper than the surface. Due to this, naturalistic writings often depict pessimistic determinism” (Cuizon, 2009).

## **b. Naturalism and Realism**

Before going to the explanation about the aspects of naturalism, the researcher wants the readers to look first at realism because it came first chronologically. Then, they have to look at naturalism, which happened later. Thus, the readers can see the differences between realism and naturalism.

According to Dr. doCarmo's notes on realism and naturalism (2010), realism tries hard to present the world as it really is. The way, for instance, a photograph might capture it. This concern with delivering plain and simple truth leads realists to fill their works with details drawn from everyday life or facts. The facts can be about domestic life, families, history, politics, geographical places, business and finance, whatever. The realists fill their works with facts to bolster the reader's feeling that the place is just like the world they live in. Before the realists' time, most characters in American literature are simply expected to speak the Queen's English, like good gentlemen and ladies. In the realists' period, the writers let the American characters speak in various types of American English. Realists have to have an excellent ear to make their characters sound like real American.

Naturalism is not, however, synonymous with or even really a subtype of realism. In realism, characters have at least some degree of free will, which they are able to exercise to affect their situations; naturalism

assumes humans have little if any control over what happens. In naturalistic works, which tend to stress either biological or socioeconomic determinism, things happen to people, who are at the mercy of a variety of external and internal forces as if they were marionettes whose movements are entirely determined by forces beyond their control (Ray, 2003). From the description, the researcher has an assumption that naturalism wants to present an almost photographically accurate version of real life, like what realism has done. It is full of facts and details about an everyday world. “Naturalism was the acceptance of a particular technique of presenting human life in fiction. The literary naturalists were also fighting for the right to tell the truth about society”(Thorp, 1960: 143).

Naturalism's central belief, in fact, is that human beings are at the mercy of uncontrollable larger forces that originate both inside and outside them. These forces might include some of our more animal drives, such as the need for food, sex, shelter, social dominance, etc. These forces might include the natural environment, the man-made environment, or finance, industry, and the economy in the external side. Naturalists have desire to show how larger forces control and manipulate people. “Naturalism is sometimes claimed to be an even more accurate picture of life than is realism” (Abrams, 1988: 152-4).

Realism portrays things the way they might appear to be, while naturalism shows a deterministic view of a person's life and actions.

Realism shows that a person's decision is based upon his response to the situation, whereas naturalism concludes that a person's decision is predetermined by natural forces that make him act in a certain way. Though naturalism and realism are often defined as the same, but actually naturalism differs from realism in adding pessimistic determinism (Bruce, 2010).

“Naturalism is an outgrowth of realism” (Cuizon, 2009). Naturalism is an extension or continuation of Realism with the addition of pessimistic determinism. George J. Becker states that naturalism is different from realism. Naturalism has its own ideology which makes it different from realism. “... no more than an emphatic and explicit philosophical position taken by some Realist ... (that position being one of) pessimistic, materialistic determinism” (1984: 27).

For naturalistic writers, human beings are characters which can be studied through their relationship with their surroundings. Through this objectivity of human beings, naturalistic believed that the laws behind the forces that govern human lives might be studied and understood. They study human beings governed by instinct and passion as well as the way in which the characters' lives are governed by forces of heredity and environment. Although they use the techniques of accumulating detail by the realist, the naturalist have a specific object in mind when they choose the segment of reality that they wish to convey (Pizer, 1984).

Furthermore, “naturalism has several tensions that clarify from realism or the other concepts” (Prior, 1984: 12). It means that naturalism has its own aspects. There must be something that makes it different from the other concepts. Pizer (1984), in his valuable study, suggests the following specific changes in subject matter and characterization which help in defining naturalism as different from realism.

**1) The subject matter**

- a) The subject matter deals with those raw and unpleasant experiences which reduce characters to “degrading” behavior in their struggle to survive. These characters are mostly from the lower middle or the lower classes. They are poor, uneducated, and unsophisticated.
- b) The milieu is the commonplace and the unheroic; life is usually the dull round of daily existence. But the naturalist discovers those qualities in such characters usually associated with the heroic or adventurous – acts of violence and passion leading to desperate moments and violent death. The suggestion is that life on its lowest is not as simple as it seems to be.
- c) There is discussion of fate and hubris that affect a character; generally the controlling force is society and the surrounding environment.

## **2) The concept of a naturalistic character**

- a) Characters are conditioned and controlled by environment, heredity, chance, or instinct; but they have compensating humanistic values which affirm their individuality and life – their struggle for life become heroic and they maintain human dignity.
- b) The naturalists attempt to represent the intermingling in the life of the controlling forces and individual worth. They do not dehumanize their characters.

After reading the passage, the researcher concludes that naturalistic movement in literature was a shift from writing about people in a realistic manner, into writing about people from the perspective that there is no free will; and that human thoughts, ideas and actions are not chosen but predetermined by heredity and environment. Naturalistic writers study human beings as creatures of instinct, and write novels that illustrate man's inherently animalistic nature.

### **c. The Aspects of Naturalism**

Based on the Donald Pizer's theory of naturalism and the information that the researcher got from a journal in "proquest" by Xiaofen Zhang on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, there are some aspects or characteristics of naturalism. They are determinism, pessimism, detachment from the story (objectivity), and unpredictable ending.

## 1) Determinism

One of the characteristics of naturalism is determinism. This is the vital principle of naturalism. Naturalism is a doctrine that holds to the philosophy of determinism. It conceives as man is controlled by his instinct or passion or by his social and economic environment and circumstances (Hart, 1956: 517). It should be reserved to designate a literary movement in the late nineteenth century scientific thought.

“From Newton it gains a sense of mechanistic determinism; from Darwin it gains a sense of biological determinism; from Marx it gains a view of history as a battle ground of vast economic and social forces; from Freud it gains a view of determinism of the inner and sub consciousness; from Taine it gains a view of literature as a product of deterministic forces; from Conte it gains a view of social and environmental determinism.” (Holman, 1980: 286).

Determinism is a belief where characters do not have free will. Since human's life is controlled by his instinct or his passion or by his social and economic environment and circumstance, man is really not free and he is not able to determine his fate. All determinists believe in the existence of the will, but the will is often enslaved on account of different reasons. The strength of external forces (society, environment, and nature) and the internal forces (instinct and passion) that completely control man's life are believed to be the power of nature. Naturalists believe that men's choices play little or no part in



determining what happens to them since their decisions are overwhelmed by natural and social forces (Shipley, 1962).

To emphasize determinism in a man life, animal imagery is usually used in naturalism. Scully Bradley said that “man is fundamentally an animal without free will” (1962: 64). Animal’s act is driven only by its instinct or environment. In the animal life, there is no moral value. Their life is not divided into good and evil, but strong and weak. The strong animal will have more chances to live longer than the weak one. This statement seems to happen in man life, one who can survive is one who is stronger than the other.

“Determinism is basically the opposite of the notion of free will. For determinism, the idea that individual characters have a direct influence on the course of their lives is supplanted by a focus on nature or fate. Human beings are living in natural environment like animals. They can react toward the exterior and interior forces but they are helpless before these forces.” (Xianghua, 1989: 528)

Determinism is a belief where characters do not have free will. They are controlled by the external force and internal force. These two forces are influential in people’s life. The forces can be easily found in a slum area. The slum environment is always poor and dirty. People out there always quarrel each other. The environment in a slum area is very bad. Perhaps, it is impossible to have a good life in this condition. It may shape bad effects to the people at there because they have to face the ugliness of the place they live.

## 2) Pessimism

Another characteristic of naturalism is pessimism. Based on the third edition of *Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary* (2008), pessimism means a feeling that a bad things are more likely to happen than good things. Pessimism comes from the latin word *pessimus* (worst); it means a state of mind in which one perceives life negatively. Very often, one or more characters will continue to repeat one line or phrase that tends to have a pessimistic connotation, sometimes emphasizing the inevitability of death. As man acts have no part in changing their fate, they seem to be forced in tendency to believe that the worst thing is more likely to happen.

According to Arthur Schopenhauer (1969), pessimism comes from his elevating of will above reason as the mainspring of human thought and behavior. Schopenhauer pointed to motivators such as hunger, sexuality, the need to care for children, and the need for shelter and personal security as the real sources of human motivation. The perfect example can be taken from the condition in a slum area. Everything can happen in there. Quarreling and fighting are things that happened almost everyday. It sounds common for them who live in a slum area because they always face this condition in their environment even in their own home. Family is the basic component, especially for children, in shaping their characters. It will determine how strong they

can handle problems in this life. If the members of a family do not live in harmony, it influences the children's mental condition. Many parents do not realize that their children need a shelter and security to protect them from delinquencies. Parents must create a comfortable home for their children. Parents must not show their problems to their children because this situation automatically will influence their mental condition. Children will think that their home is not safe. They feel pessimistic with their own home. There are no hopes in it. Finally they try to find a place which can make them safe.

The pessimistic attitude towards life is the product of determinism. Men acts are meaningless because their destiny seems to be shaped by blind forces which they could not control. As a result, people come to a state of having lost of hopes. Hofstede (1997) states that:

“The pessimistic version maintains that people are what they are conditioned to be; this is something over which they have no control. Human beings are passive creatures and do whatever their culture tells them to do. This explanation leads to behaviorism that locates the causes of human behavior in a realm that is totally beyond human control.”

Everybody's life will always be complicated. There are a lot of life obstacles. Once people are surrounded with so much happiness in their life but sometimes they have to face unexpected things that are beyond their control. There will be some choices when people are falling

down. Those choices will determine their life. It can be good or bad depending on their decision. Many people will be stress if they are faced with so much complicated things. They tend to find something funny or entertaining that hopefully can reduce their burden like alcohol or drugs. They hope that those things can help them forget or perhaps end their problems. It is often that their problems will ruin themselves and lead them into desperation. This stage will be very risky because they cannot think, just following their instinct and ignoring the moral values. Environment is also important in determining our life because life is determined by environment.

### **3) Detachment of the Story (Objectivity)**

Another characteristic of literary naturalism is detachment from the story or objectivity. Objectivity refers to the presentation of characters and plot in a literary work without overt comment or judgment by the author. Ray (2003: 312) states that:

“Objectivity is the opposite of subjectivity, in which the personal opinions and emotions of the author are evident and even paramount. Writers attempting to achieve objectivity try to suppress their personal feelings and opinions in order to present the most impersonal, neutral view possible.”

Naturalists often try to maintain a tone that will be experienced as objective. They present themselves as an objective observer, similar to scientist taking note of what he or she sees. Of course, no human being

can ever be truly objective, but by detaching from the story an author can achieve objectivity. Also, a naturalist will sometimes achieve detachment by creating nameless characters. It focuses on the plot and what happens to the character, rather than the characters themselves. The naturalistic writers aim to make their stories as close as possible to the reality.

Everything must be told in detail and it must be presented in transparent words. For the naturalists, it is the duty of the writer to present to the reader the reality without illusion, to offer a scientific, detached view of it rather than to adorn or mislead or simply please the reader. “Naturalism is a manner and method of composition by which the author portrays ‘life as it is’ in accordance with the philosophic theory of determinism” (Ahnebrink: 1961). The naturalists should make the readers understand the true condition of a certain story or place. “Naturalism in writing is all about depicting believable reality in the story” (Cuizon’ 2009). It is their duty to make the readers feel like they experience it by themselves. It is hard but that is the purpose of naturalism, to give a truly depiction to the readers about a certain place or condition.

#### **4) Unpredictable Ending**

Another common characteristic in naturalism is unpredictable ending at the end of the story although it does not always spell happy ending for the main character. Naturalistic fiction also attracts many readers because of its sensationalism, “terrible things must happen to the characters of the naturalistic tale” (Norris, 1896). Equally, there tends to be in naturalist novels and stories a strong sense that nature is indifferent to human struggle. In a naturalistic novel, the ending is completely unpredictable. The author leads the readers in one direction at the beginning and in the middle ultimately drifting towards a completely unexpected course.

#### **d. Naturalism in American Literature**

In the United States, the genre is associated principally with writers such as Abraham Cahan, Stephen Crane, Ellen Glasgow, David Graham Phillips, John Steinbeck, Jack London, Edith Wharton, and most prominently Frank Norris, and Theodore Dreiser. Evolution Theory of Charles Darwin provides the greatest influence to naturalistic writers. That is why stories from naturalistic writers mostly about the view that one’s environment determines a person’s character (Cuizon, 2009). It is important to clarify the relationship between American literary naturalism with France naturalism that flourished in France at the end of the 19th

century. French naturalism, as exemplified by Emile Zola, can be regarded as a programmatic, well-defined and coherent theory of fiction that self-consciously rejected the notion of free will. Many of the American naturalists were heavily influenced by Zola.

“The fiction of the first generation of American Naturalists suggests the ways in which Zola and the naturalistic movement were absorbed and maintained in American literary expression. The work of Crane, Norris, and Dreiser in the 1890s has many of the obvious characteristics of Zolaesque naturalism. These writers also depict contemporary middle and lower class life free from superficial notions of the ideal and supernatural as controlling forces in experience, and they also find man limited by the violent and irrational within society.” (Pizer, 1993: 19).

Stephen Crane is considered to be one of the most prominent literary naturalists in American literature. American naturalist authors strive to be objective in their works. Their characters are portrayed as victims of their environments and circumstances. Naturalists emphasize the deterministic nature of human life. In other words, men's fate is dictated by some factors rather than their own free will. People may try to do better, but they are small and ineffectual compared with the natural environment. Characters in naturalist literature are deeply impacted by hereditary and environmental factors. Naturalist philosophy held that people are trapped by their environment and are powerless to change it. Naturalist writers attempt to imitate the dialect, actions, and thoughts of real people. The primary goal of the late nineteenth-century American naturalists was not to demonstrate the overwhelming and oppressive

reality of the material forces present in our lives. Their attempt was to represent the intermingling in life of controlling forces and individual worth. The naturalists do not dehumanize man (Pizer, 1984).

Many American naturalist novels focus on poor characters living in industrialized or industrializing cities. Similar to American realists, naturalist authors do not attempt to make poverty appear glamorous to the readers. On the contrary, it is maintaining objectivity. American naturalists are not shy away from depicting the daily horrors of life in extreme poverty.

## **B. Previous Research Studies**

In order to gain authenticity of this research, the researcher found four previous research findings related to this research in analyzing the same topic. However, each previous research finding has significant differences to this research.

The first research is *The Elements of Naturalism In Theodore Dreiser's Jennie Gerhardt* by Imelda Gustia from Universitas Sumatra Utara (2010). In that research, Gustia discusses some elements which commonly appear in naturalistic novels. The elements are determinism (where the characters of the story are powerless in changing their fate), objectivism, inability to handle sex desires, wish to be wealthy and famous, and surprising twist (tragic ending). The focus of this research is almost the same as the researcher's; that is to



prove that one novel belongs to the genre of naturalistic novel but the difference is in the object of the research (main source). In this case, Gustia uses *Jennie Gerhardt* by Theodore Dreiser as her primary source while in this study; the researcher uses Crane's *Maggie: A girl of the Streets* as her primary source. The sources are different, and then the discussion will be different as well.

The second research is *Naturalism as Reflected Stephen Crane's Short Story "The Open Boat"* by Erni Yusriana (2001) from Universitas Negeri Sebelas Maret (UNS). This research is a kind of library research. The main data are taken from Stephen Crane's short story "The Open Boat". The purpose of the research is to find out how naturalism aspects are reflected in Stephen Crane's short story "The Open Boat". To come to that purpose, Erni applies the structuralism theory to analyze the problem. Besides, she also applies the naturalism aspects based on Vernon Louis Parrington's idea. Through the analysis, it is found that there are some naturalism aspects in the element of the short story of "The Open Boat". The naturalism aspects found in Stephen Crane's short story of "The Open Boat" are frankness, objectivity, and philosophy of determinism.

The third research is *The Aspect of Naturalism in Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of the Street (Characterization and Theme)* by Dicky Agus Handoko from Sanata Dharma University (1998). The title sounds the same, but the focus of the research is absolutely different. He focuses in the

interrelationship between the aspect and the main character through characterization. Besides, he also concerns in the interrelationship between the aspect and the theme of the novel. From some aspects of naturalism, he just focuses in the determinism aspect. It is a belief where characters do not have free will. He thinks that it has a contribution in shaping the character of Maggie. It also reveals its significance to the theme of the story, namely destiny as the victim of determinism. While in this study, the researcher tries to prove that *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* is truly a naturalistic novel by giving or pointing some aspects of naturalism, not just focus on the characterization like what Dicky did.

The fourth one is a thesis by Rivina from Sanata Dharma University (2005) entitled *Determinism as an Aspect of Naturalism reflected in the Main Character's Love Life in Thomas Hardy's the well-beloved*. In the research, Rivina focuses on the aspect of determinism which appears in Thomas Hardy's the well-beloved. She focuses on one of the aspects of naturalism; that is determinism, while the researcher of this study is not only focuses on determinism but also focuses on the other aspects of naturalism like pessimism, objectivity, and surprising twist. The primary source is different and the data will be different too.

### C. Biography of Stephen Crane

Stephen Townley Crane was born on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1871 in Newark, New Jersey, into the large family of Mery Helen Peck (1827-1891) and Jonathan Townley Crane (1819-1880). During his first ten years his family lived in Jersey City. The family moved from Bloomington, and Patterson, New Jersey, and finally in Port Jervis, New York, which giving him the experiences of small-city and small-town life which he utilized in his Stories. In 1880 his father died, and after several removals, the family settled in 1882 at Asbury Park, a New Jersey resort town. The home is now preserved as a museum. There was an older brother, Townley Crane, ran a news-reporting agency, and gave Stephen Crane his first newspaper experience, as a reporter of vocation news. Stephen Crane attended school at nearby Pennington Academy and latter at the Hudson River Institute, a military academy at Claverack, New York. His abilities were then chiefly observable on the baseball diamond, and his apprenticeship on small-town sand lots and at preparatory school led, in collage, to brief athletic distinction. He brought his collage days to an end, and relieved his family of a financial burden that they could not sustain. Crane was apparently a born writer, and he turned to newspaper work as the natural and expedient means to earn a living. While in collage he had sold sketches to the Detroit free press and during the summers he had written news for his brother. However, in the three years from 1892 until the publication of *The Badge of Courage* he experienced the professional

difficulty and economic hardship. He was simply not adapted to doing the factual reporting of routine assignments then of the cub newsmen. While still in college, during two days before Christmas, 1891, he had written the first draft of *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, but newspaper reporting was something else. Editors were not impressed by news stories in which sense impressions and atmospheric touches triumphed over factual detail. It shows Maggie as a simple, ignorant girl bullied by her drunken mother, delivered to a seducer by her brother, driven by the seducer into prostitution and, finally, to suicide. In this free-lance experience he came to know the mean streets and the poverty-ridden slums of New York and the adjacent New Jersey cities; indeed, himself very poor, he lived for several years in such places. He had not found a publisher for Maggie, now rewritten, and in 1893 he borrowed seven hundred dollars from his brother and paid for private printing. One of his friends helped him find markets for his sketches. Finally, Maggie was regularly published in 1896 (Merrimen, 2007).

#### **D. Background of Crane's *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets***

Stephen Crane was one of the United States foremost naturalists in the late 1800's. Stephen Crane's first novel, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* is claimed as the first dark flower of American naturalism. The story centers on Maggie Johnson, a pretty young woman who struggles to survive the brutal environment of the Bowery, a New York City slum, at the end of the

nineteenth century. Crane had to publish his novel himself because no editor was willing to take a risk on a novel that seemed both crass and disturbingly pessimistic about American society and human nature. This novel is the drawing of Cranes' personal experience. He described the rough environment that persisted in the slum area. Crane personalizes a large tragedy that affected and reflected American society as a whole. He attempted to portray children raised without guidance from their parents. Maggie blossomed in a corrupt world. She was unable to escape from her society. Crane uses an observation technique to show the natural law of the universe. Crane's views of the poor affects him in creating his characters. Because of his strong naturalist views and the biographical details of his own life, he is able to create his character, Maggie, from a fictional literary interpretation into the essential example of a product of her environment.

Crane spent a great deal of time in the Bowery of lower Manhattan gathering material for his first novel. Like a research scientist accumulating data, Crane wanted to learn as much as he could about life for the impoverished, mostly immigrant residents. As much as possible, Crane wants the readers believe that they are listening to the residents of the Bowery, not reading an author's work. Writing from his own experiences in the Bowery, Crane writes about family life, interpersonal relationships, and basic life choices. *Maggie* was unusual for the time in that it perfectly reproduced the vulgar dialect of the persons portrayed. Crane portrayed the poverty exactly as

it was. Like many of his fellows of American novelists, Crane began his career as a journalist, and he continued to travel and report on international stories for the remainder of his career. His total contributions to the body of literature were relatively small, as he died before his thirtieth birthday.

#### **E. Conceptual Framework**

A novel is a kind of literary work beside prose, poetry, short story, or drama. As a literature work, a novel is also an imitation of life which the content can be various. It can be about experiences of life, opinions, problems or conflicts. Everything can be shared through literature, especially novels. Therefore, there is a system in every novel. The system itself contains many elements which are influencing to one another. The content in a novel is transferred through written words or text form. Every text has a class called genre. However, naturalism is one of the literature genres.

There is a claim that *Maggie: A girl of the Streets* by Stephen Crane belongs to the genre of naturalism. It depicts the poor living conditions of the lower classes. This novel forces the readers to look at the strength of one's environment in influencing someone's action. Considering those reasons, the researcher is interested to reveal the aspects of naturalism in *Maggie: A girl of the Streets* in order to prove that this novel is truly a naturalistic novel. Based on the theory, there are some aspects of naturalism; determinism, pessimism, detachment of the story (objectivity), and unpredictable ending. After

elaborating the aspects of naturalism in *Maggie: A girl of the Streets*, the researcher invites the readers to know about how far this novel can fulfill the requirements of the naturalistic genre. It is hoped that the readers can lose their hesitation about the genre of this novel and ensure them to take this novel as the example of a naturalistic novel for a further literature study.

As a content analysis research, this research applies framework of thinking. The framework of thinking of this research can be seen in the diagram as follow:

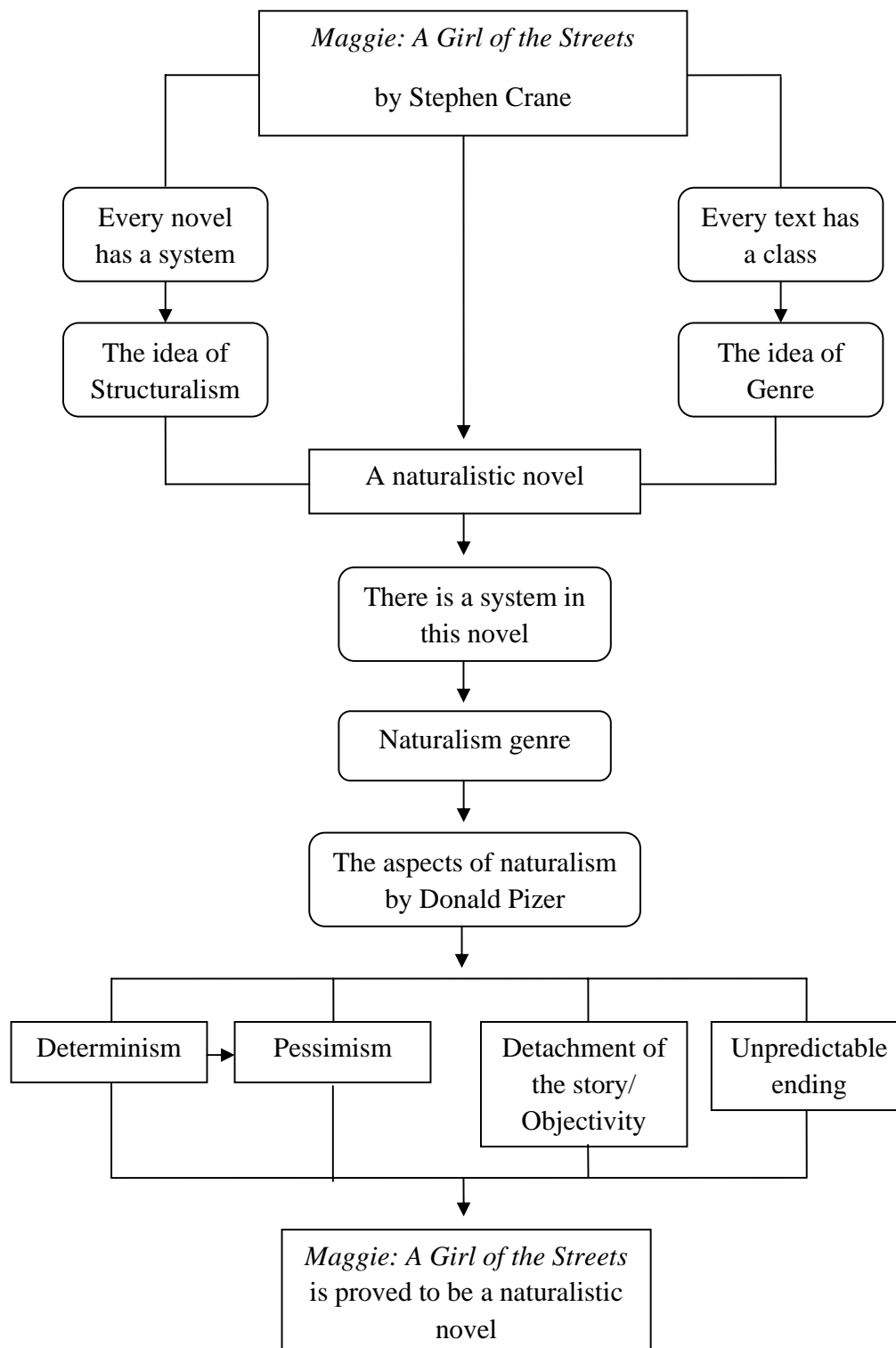


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework