CHAPTER 2
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

In this chapter II, the writer would clarify some theories and concepts that are used for this analysis. It covers the intrinsic elements of literature to know more clearly about the relationship between John and Marley, the concept of differences between character and characterization of John. The analysis also uses the theory of Cesar Millan who was famous as a dog trainer and Liberal Humanism, especially tenets theory is included too as well as some supporting theories to analyze the research.

2.1 Intrinsic Elements of Literature

Intrinsic elements are a part of literary work to analyze the literature such as: novel, film, drama, prose, etc. Intrinsic elements also analyze the literature according to the text in the literature. Intrinsic elements can be divided into five elements: plot, character, setting, theme and symbol.

2.1.1 Plot

Plot is one of intrinsic elements that very important. People know about the film from how the characters act, where the setting is, and how the story will be presented, it is from the plot. There would be no story if there was no plot. There are five elements from plot: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Every element has each meaning to help the readers or the audience to more understand the way the story that is presented in the literature. According to DiYanni (2001, p. 44), Plot can be described as
Plot, the action element in fiction, is the arrangement of events that make up a story. A story’s plot keeps us turning pages: we read to find out what will happen next. But for a plot to be effective, it must include a sequence of incidents that bear a significant causal relationship to each other.

For good and effective plot, it must have a sequence of incident in the story. Sometimes, the middle of the story can be a resolution first before the audiences know about what happened in the climax or falling action. In the end, the audience find out the climax that makes the resolution in the story can be like that.

According to Arp and Johnson (2006, p. 45) plot is, “The sequence of incidents or events through which an author constructs a story; skilled authors are careful to presents the sequence in a significant order.” The plot produces relationship in the story from beginning until the end. Writer of the film will bring the audience to a journey that plot presented. Plot also gives the detail contents of the film, so the people know the details about what the writer of the film presented to the people.

2.1.1.1 Exposition

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2010, p. 14), exposition in the plot can be described as

...an exposition: the opening portion that sets the scene (if any), introduces the main characters, tells us what happened before the story opened, and provides any other background information that we need in order to understand and care about the events to follow.

Exposition is an opening or the beginning of the story that introduces the main characters, background information inside the
story for the people who watch and read it can understand and easy to follow what the film tells about. The exposition also explains the story before going to the rising action, introducing how the characters act and the setting in the film and gives us imagine to the next story. At the beginning of the story, the author tells the description of how the story will go to rising action or conflict.

2.1.1.2 Rising Action

Rush (2005, p. 52), mentioned that rising action is when the audience feel a sense of mounting tension and increasing suspense as the audience watch the characters unfold and many obstacles that received by the characters. Rising action is also known as the conflict in the plot. In a story, there must have a conflict. Actually this is an element of plot that makes people interested to the story in the film which the characters in the difficult position to face it. According to Arp and Johnson (2006, p. 46), conflict can be divided into three types, those are:

Characters may be pitted against some other person or group of persons (conflict of person against person); they may be in conflict with some external force—physical nature, society, or “fate” (conflict of person against environment); or they may be in conflict with some elements in their own natures (conflict of person against himself or herself).

The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional, or moral. In “Marley & Me”, the writer will analyze the conflict of person against person, conflict of person against environment, conflict of person
against himself or herself. The character will have those conflicts to be faced in his life.

2.1.1.3 Climax

According to DiYanni (2001, p. 45), climax is a moment of greatest tension that character must face it. Besides that, Rush (2005, p. 58) stated climax is the moment of highest tension and a moment when the final choices are made. This is what the audience wants to know what happened in the story. Besides, the final choices are made by the character, usually climax shows a new conflict. In “Marley & Me”, John will get a new conflict that he must face after get conflict with his wife.

2.1.1.4 Falling action

According to DiYanni (2001, p. 45) diagram, falling action is when the tension going down or calm down. Falling action is a situation when the tension subsides, the conflict during climax has been reached by the character. From here, we can see the change of character due to the problem that he faced it.

2.1.1.5 Resolution

According to DiYanni (2001, p. 45), resolution is the action falls off that the problems are sorted out and resolved. Resolution is the final element of plot and the end of the conflict. It’s just like a conclusion of all stories from exposition, rising action, complication
and climax. Besides that, the resolution also gives the results which the character will never know it is a good or bad results for the character.

### 2.1.2 Character and Characterization

Character and characterization have a relationship which cannot be separated. In the story, it must have a character and characterization to support what the story tells about. Character and characterization also cannot be separated from plot. In the film, the audience always asking and wondering what will happen to the characters. According to DiYanni (2001, p. 55), the relationship between character and plot can be described as

“Plot and character, in fact, are inseparable; we are often less concerned with “what happened” than with “what happened to him or her.” We want to know not just “how did it work out,” but “how did it work out for them?”

Plot and character are inseparable. When we watch film or movies, we always ask what will happen to the characters after the incident or how the characters could be like this in this plot. Therefore, the plot and the characters are related to each other.

According to Gill (1995, p. 127), “A character is someone in a literary work who has some sort of identity (it needn’t be a strong one), an identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name and (possibly) thoughts going on in the head.” A character is one of important points in literature. A character has an identity to show the audience by their appearance, conversation, action, etc that is made by the author to represents the
message through by the character. In a film, the characters in the film were played by the actor and actress. In general, most people when interested to the film, they would see who are the actor and actress who become a character in the film.

A character in literature, not just a person can be a main character, but also an animal or environment can be a main character. In Kennedy and Gioia (2010, p. 77), there is an example of George Stewart’s novel *Storm*, the protagonist character is wind; in Richard Adam’s *Watership Down*, the main characters are rabbits. In “*Marley & Me*”, the main character is not just John but Marley also that an animal, dog. Animal can be a character like dog, cat, bird, etc. Something creature can be like wind, river, trees, etc.

Arp and Johnson (2006, p. 104) stated that the author presents the characters can be divided into two ways: **direct presentation** and **indirect presentation**. Direct presentation tells us straight out by showing the exposition how a character look and describe the other character. In indirect presentation, like techniques of the characterization, the author tells us the audience about the character do, say, action and thought. “We need to observe their actions, to listen to what they say and how they say it, to notice how they relate to other characters and how other characters respond to them, especially to what they say about each other” (DiYanni, 2001, p. 55).

Besides that, character can be classified into 2: major character and minor character. DiYanni (2001, p. 55) mention a major character is an important figure at the center of the story’s action or theme. According to DiYanni, the major character can be described as
The major character is sometimes called a *protagonist* whose conflict with an *antagonist* may spark the story’s conflict. Supporting the major character are one or more secondary or minor character whose function is partly to illuminate the major characters. Minor characters are often static or unchanging: they remain the same from the beginning of a work to the end. …we should be careful not to automatically equate major characters with dynamic ones or minor characters with static ones.” (2001, pp. 55-56)

Major character and minor character are important in character. Usually, people assume protagonist (major character) is the same with main character that in the beginning until the end story. Antagonist (minor character) is a partner from protagonist that supports protagonist character to make the plot interesting. Antagonist character is related when the story has a conflict for protagonist character to achieve what the goals that protagonist character represents for the audience. In some cases, not all major character is dynamic and minor character is static, because it depends on how the plot tells the story. For example, in “A Rose for Emily, the major character, Emily Grierson, is a static character (minor character). (DiYanni, 2001, p. 56)

To know more about the character, there are four types of character: Flat character, Round character, Static character and Dynamic character. Kennedy and Gioia (2010, p. 78) stated a flat character has only one outstanding trait or feature, or for most a few distinguishing marks. According to Barnet, Burto and Cain (2005, p. 228), a flat character is a simple character that in the beginning until the end just has one trait. A flat character just shows one or two characteristics in character in the film.

Besides flat character, there is a round character. Arp and Johnson (2006, pp. 105-106) added that round characters have a complex personality and many-sided; they have the three-dimensional quality of real people. A round
character is a character that has many traits in film that he/she represented more than a flat character.

Static character is, “A static character, also known as a flat character, is one who is offered the chance for positive change but who, for one reason or another, fails to embrace it.” (Soles, 2009, p. 67) Inside flat character, there is a static character. Static character is same with flat character, but static character is a part from changing personality. Static character can change the personality, but it depends on the character that he/she wants it. But mostly, static character is unchanging form beginning until the end of story.

“A dynamic character, sometimes referred to as a round character, is one whose values, attitudes and/or ideals change as a result of the experience the character undergoes throughout the story.” (Soles, 2009, p. 65) A dynamic character is same with round character, but dynamic character is a part from changing of personality. Dynamic character is like development of character, one of the characters in the film can change accordance to the progress of the story. The audience can see the changing or development of the character from the beginning until the end of the story. The changing of development can be the personality, behavior and attitude.

The developing (or dynamic) character, on the other hand, undergoes some distinct change of character, personality, or outlook. The change may be a large or a small one; it may be positive or negative; but it is something significant and basic, not some minor change of habit or opinion. (Arp and Johnson, 2006, pp. 106-107)

Based on the clarification of character, it can be concluded flat character’s partner is round character. Both of them include the number of how much traits they have. Flat character is just showing one or two traits whereas
round character is more than two traits than flat character. Besides that, there are static character and dynamic character. Static character’s partner is dynamic character. Both of them include the changing of personality. The difference from both is static sometimes or more static character cannot change, from the beginning until the end of the story just like a usual. Different with dynamic character which from the beginning the human nature of personality, they can change accordance the situation that they faced.

According to DiYanni (2001, p. 56), characterization can be described as, “Characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal character.” Characterization is different from character. A character in the film is created by the characterization, the author brings and makes some characteristic for the character. Characterization is a method or the technique that author uses to create or develop a character according to what the author wants. The meaning of characterization is also the author wants to introduce or show the character in the film for the audience to know more about the character’s personality.

The method of the characterization according to DiYanni uses narrative description with explicit judgment when the author tells explanation that from the beginning people know who he is or who she is or who is it? According to DiYanni (2001, p. 57), the techniques of the characterization can be divided into six ways, those are:

- Narrative summary without judgment, narrative description with implied or explicit judgment, surface details of dress and physical appearance, character’s action—what they do, character’s speech—what they say (and how they say it), character’s consciousness—what they think and feel.
Of all six ways, the writer only uses 3 ways in this analysis: character’s action—what they do, character’s speech—what they say (and how they say it), character’s consciousness—what they think and feel. Those ways help the author analyze the relationship between John and Marley, how they interact with each other every day that makes John character develops.

Besides analyzing the main character, the writer also wants to analyze the dog, the character Marley of this film. Each dog have characteristic. Marley is a type of Labrador Retriever dog. According to Muhlenberg.edu, Labrador Retriever has many personalities or characteristic, there are: kindly, outgoing, tractable nature; eager to please and non-aggressive towards man or animal. From this analysis, the writer wants to know how the types of Labrador like Marley have an impact to someone’s character.

2.1.3 Setting

According to DiYanni (2001, p. 61), setting is “Stories come to life, are imagined as occurring in a place, rooted in the soil of a writer’s memories. This place or location of a story’s action along with the time in which it occurs is its setting.” In the story or plot, it must have a setting. Setting is an element that supports the plot. Setting refers to the place or location, time in the story to make people or help the people more understand the story and character shown in the story.

In the film, setting and plot cannot be separated. The setting can change the behavior of people. In general, when people go to another place, people will follow the value, culture, and people’s behavior there, like an
adaptation the place where we are. According to Soles, setting is, “…when we travel to another place, our behavior is usually mediated by local history, culture and custom. In other words, the time and place (the setting) where the action (the plot) occurs influences human events and behavior.’(2009, p. 79). People said, people’s personality created by where they are. So, setting is important for the character’s personality. In “Marley & Me” film, the story has many place and the characters or human nature and behavior will change because it is influenced by the setting. The setting in "Marley & Me", has a big influence for John character for his developing character.

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2010, pp. 107-108) the setting has four elements. There are place, time, weather and atmosphere to show how the character act, how the characters socialize with others and how the characters show their human nature to the audience when they see it.

1. **Place**

   Kennedy and Gioia (2010, pp. 107-108) stated the definition of each element that setting in place referred to the environment of the story, like the house, a street, a city, a landscape, a region.

2. **Time**

   Time is also an important in setting. In addition, the place in the setting related to the time of the story, like hour, year and century. In setting, besides place and time

3. **Weather**

   Weather is also included as the setting in the story. The weather can involve the plot in the story that it might be there is a connection between the characters with another character that have
the conflict in the weather time. According to Kennedy and Gioia, atmosphere is “… the dominant mood or feeling that pervades all parts of a literary work.” (2010, p. 108)

4. **Atmosphere**

Atmosphere in literature is presented by the character action and happened when supported by the place, time and weather. In “Marley & Me”, there is much atmosphere that represented by the characters including the character of John. There is not just physically but emotionally that makes John character develops. The setting and atmosphere have a strong relation. Atmosphere related to the mood and feeling by the people and the mood and feeling related to the plot. So, the audience can see and feel how the character’s atmosphere that they presented in the film. According to Barnet, Burto and Cain (2005, p. 230), the relationship between setting and atmosphere can be described as

> The setting and environment is not mere geography, not mere locale: It provides an atmosphere, an air that the characters breathe, a world in which they move. Narrowly speaking, the setting is the physical surroundings—the furniture, the architecture, the landscape, the climate—and these often are highly appropriate to the characters who are associated with them.

The setting of environment has a big influence to the story or plot. The atmosphere of the characters is shown when the wife has a conflict with John. From the conflict or atmosphere from his wife, John can develop his character to be a good character.
2.1.4 Symbol

The author uses the object or thing to express the meaning of something and it is called symbol. The author uses symbol to get a deeper meaning and showing that the symbol has more than one meaning to involve the story. Audience tries to guess what the author gives about the message through the symbol. Sometimes the author uses the symbol because it must have a special meaning and does not want to express the meaning idea directly. Besides the object or thing, we can find the symbol through the mood or feeling by the character’s expression. “When we read, we may feel that certain characters and certain things in the story stand for more than themselves, or hint at larger meanings. We feel, that is, that they are symbolic.” (Barnet, Burto and Cain, 2005, p. 230)

According to Kennedy and Dana Gioia (2010, p. 224), symbol can be divided into two: symbolic characters and symbolic acts. “In some novels and stories, symbolic characters make brief cameo appearance appearances. Such characters often are not well-rounded and fully-known, but are seen fleetingly and remain slightly mysterious.” (Kennedy and Gioia, 2010, p. 224) Sometimes, symbolic character is when the character only appeared one time or two times, but the appearance influences the story from the beginning until the end. In general, symbolic characters are when the character can be two roles, a main character and a symbol that makes the meaning of the story.

Symbolic act is related to attitude and movement when the character action gives the meaning of the story. Actually, every movement or attitude by the character has a meaning. Symbolic act can be supported by a gesture. “A symbolic act, however, doesn’t have to be a gesture as large as starting a
conflagration.” (Kennedy and Gioia, 2010, p. 225) The gesture of the characters or the objects give a symbol for deeper meaning like the author wants to give a message inside the story. A gesture is interpreted by the characters how they act and supported by the setting that makes them can be a symbolic act. (Barnet, Burto, and Cain, 2005, p. 337)

Soles (2009, pp. 100-104) mentioned that analyzing symbol can be categorized into 4 symbols: Objects as symbol, natural symbols, religious symbols, character as symbol. Objects as symbol is a symbol which in a story has a thing that has special meaning. For example: when glasses are broken, it means something happened or death. A natural symbol is use a symbol that is related to elements of nature in the world. For example: black bird, it means that someone will die. Religious symbol is a symbol when a character in the story gives the lesson that we have to believe in faith. For general example: believe in God. Many people still do not believe in faith of God. The last is character as symbol that the character can be double roles. We can learn something from the character that has a symbol from the story.

2.1.5 Theme

According to the Kennedy & Gioia, “The theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. In some stories the theme is unmistakable.” (2010, p. 183) Theme is the main idea in the story and point of the story’s content. The main idea of the story is trying to tell something to the audience. People interested in literature like film, poem, poetry, novel, etc is when people see theme that what the story told about.
“The literary term for the message, the insight into human experience an author offers to his or her readers, is **theme.**” (Soles, 2009, p. 84) Theme also known as getting the message from what the author gives. The author gives a message to the audience according to human experience. The human experience here is when the people usually do something like in human daily life and happening around our life. So, the author relates theme with the significance of human experience to make the audience easy to understand what the author gives.

Theme is represented by the author into the film to give the message to the reader or the audience. According to Soles (2009, pp. 84-89) theme has seven types of the most common literary. The themes are: family, love, war, nature, death, faith, and time.

1. **Family**

   In any story, most of them must have a family. Family is a social unit that never far away from us. Family always has a conflict, love, which supports the story in the film. “Since family is our basic social unit, it stands to reason that writers will often tell of the love and conflict, the function and the dysfunction, inevitably found within any family.” (Soles, 2009, p. 84)

2. **Love**

   Love is universal. Love can happens anywhere. Including to the film, there is must be love between man and woman or with the others. “Love is another common literary theme. Most writers, poets especially, have paid tribute in verse to the man or woman they love.” (Soles, 2009, p. 85)
3. **War**

   “War is another common subject for works of literature. There are poems and stories which celebrate the courage and honour displayed in a time of war, but by and large poets and storytellers write of the horrors of war, the tragic and futile loss of human life and property.” (Soles, 2009, p. 86) Theme of war is a theme that when the stories or poems happened in war time. Most of theme of war is related to kingdom and many human life and property loss in that time.

4. **Nature**

   “Authors, poets especially, often celebrate the beauty of nature and describe the shooting effect nature’s beauty has on them.” (Soles, 2009, p. 86) Nature cannot be separated in the literary. The beauty of nature supports theme. In common, nature just related to the environment such as: tree, wind, weather, etc. Actually, in our life there is an animal. We live with many animals. So, theme of nature, it can be a relation between people and animal.

5. **Death**

   According to the Soles, “But as a literary theme, death is rarely an occasion for exasperation and sorrow but more often an opportunity for speculation about the immortality of the human soul.” (2009, p. 87) Death can be a theme that makes the story was interesting. Theme of death in here is like even though a person was a dead but their human soul is still here and can be felt by those people who are left.
6. **Faith**

   In the story, sometimes theme has an element of faith. Faith that we trust is right or not represented by the film. Mostly the example of faith is about Faith of God, but faith in family and friends, it is also including of faith. Faith in family is like when you protect, trust, and love each other without suspicious any other.

7. **Time**

   “Writers are often struck by the transience of time and the brevity of human life. Often in their work, they urge us to make the most of the time available to us… The writer reminds readers that time flies and that life must be lived to the full.” (Soles, 2009, p. 88) Time is an important one in theme. Time can influence the content of the film. Time can change the human life and there is has a message that we have to respect time to used in our life.

2.2 **Theory of Calm Assertive Energy**

2.2.1 **Cesar Millan Dog Whisperer**

   Cesar Millan is a dog trainer which very famous in his reality shows “Dog Whisperer” at National Geographic channel every Wednesday at 9 p.m (Gertrude, 2011) In “Dog Whisperer”, Cesar Millan helps the people that have a problem with their dog. When the writer saw it, there are many lessons that the writer can get. For example: 3 words that always Cesar said to the dog owner to get a good dog are: exercise, discipline, and affection. Those three words are part of the dog’s need. Energy of the dog’s owner can be reflected to the dog.
Cesar said dog can feel the energy from the owner. So, when the owner feels sad, nervous, angry, doubt, etc, dog can feel that energy too. That is why dog’s behavior depends on the owner’s behavior.

Cesar always uses “calm-assertive energy” when handling a dog problem, which the theory is energy relax, control, and no doubt of the owner transform to the dog. (http://profpost.uc.edu/2011/01/im-a-lot-like-a-dog/)

### 2.2.1.1 8 Life Lessons Learned by Dog

According to the Cesar Milan in Sung (2009), there are top 8 life lessons learned from dogs: live in the moment, nurture a balanced life, trust your instincts, be direct and consistent in your communication, learn to listen, do not hold grudges, live with purpose, and celebrate every day. This theory is used as evidence that the dog could have an impact to someone. The dog can give many lessons life indirectly to a person. In “Marley & Me”, the writer will analyze what lessons John got from Marley and can be learned by others. (http://www.examiner.com/article/dog-whisperer-cesar-millans-top-8-life-lessons-learned-from-dogs)

### 2.3 Liberal Humanism

Liberal humanism is also known as Formalism. According to DiYanni (2001, p. 628), Formalism focuses on intrinsic elements, which is plot, character, setting, point of view and can be a symbol. According to Barry (2009, pp. 17-21), liberal humanism has 10 tenets:
1. **Good literature is timeless**

   The view to literature both novels, short stories, movies, prose, poetry, etc, which have a good work is timeless. The values given in the content of the work has contents that will be remembered in a long time, even forever by the people.

2. **The context in which literature is created should not be considered.**

   The story that is presented in the film itself, has meaning through text. In the story, it should not be associated with the outside.

3. **Literature should be studied closely, without expectations or pre-conditions.**

   In this case, we must learn how the literature is, understanding the context of literature: the text or methods that is used in the context of literature. We also have to distinguish between text and methods to understand more about the literature.

4. **Humans are motivated and influenced by the same things throughout history. Human nature is unchanging.**

   Each people has the different kind of human nature and attitudes that exist in human beings. But there is nature in people which cannot be changed. Basic human traits that already exist from childhood to adulthood. For example, love, without being taught, the nature of human love will be formed automatically depending on where it is located.
5. People can change, but they can't be transformed. There is no absolute change of heart.

Change and Transformation is a different word and meaning. Change is when people has a good behavior and can change to be a bad behavior or people has a bad behavior can change to be good behavior. Different with change, transformation is when people drastically change until 180˚ or more.

6. The purpose of literature is to enhance life and propagate values (in a non-programmatic way).

Every literature must have a purpose to enhance life and propagate value. In this point, literature has a purpose to increasing human nature or humanism value and the function to influences viewer of literary itself.

7. Form should follow content. Superfluous form should be stripped away.

In this point, form must be followed by the content. For the analysis “Marley & Me” film, form and content cannot be separated. In this point, form must be followed by content. Form and content are used in accordance with the form and content of the film.

8. Work must be sincere. Emotion in a work should follow from showing actions. It shouldn't be pointed out. Emotion should not be overinflated with language.
In the literature, making or delivering a literary work should be with sincerity. Literary work could be called good works when it is made with sincere without involving the emotions that make the work becoming not a good work. Making this can be in accordance with the experience of people without any pretense, be honest with yourself and what it is made with.

9. "What is valued in literature is the 'silent' showing and demonstrating of something, rather than the explaining, or saying, of it." Ideas are worthless until they are vested in action.

In this point the work of literature, the author gives or presents the content and message of the work by demonstrating without having to explain.

10. The job of criticism is to interpret the text, to guard against the intrusion of preconceived notions or theories. Criticism should guide the reader toward what is present in the text and no more.

In this last point, it is about to connect between the writer’s criticism in analysis the text and the reader who read my analysis.

For the analysis purpose, the writer use six of ten tenets, these are: Good Literature is Timeless, Human Nature is Unchanging, Purpose to Enhance Life and Propagate Value, People Can Change but Cannot be Transformed, Work must be Sincere and Silent Showing rather than Explaining.