CHAPTER II

Literature Review

The second chapter consists of the theories used to analyze the novel, Dan Brown’s *Deception point*. This study tries to reveal mostly about the conspiracy through the conflict in the novel, so the researcher uses some theories: new criticism theories, conflict, and secondary theory about conspiracy. Those are explained as follows:

2.1. New Criticism

The New Criticism is an Anglo-American variety of Formalism that emerged in the early decades of the twentieth century and dominated teaching and scholarship until the early 1960s (Castle 122). New Criticism is introduced to America and called “close reading” has been a standard method of high school and college that used in literary studies for the past several decades (Tyson 135). New criticism is one of the theories that have been used by scholars since long time ago for analyzing literary work. The most important concepts of this theory are concerning the nature and importance of textual evidence (135). It means that it emphasizes on the text as sole evidence which its language that is organized in literary work. Tyson says that the way to know the author’s intention or reader’s interpretation is by examining carefully the formal elements of text such as characterization, setting of the time and place, point of view, plot, images, metaphor and symbols so that it can find the theme (137). As formal
elements, plot is one of important tools that can be used to analyze the literary work.

New Criticism asserts that text of literary works is a complete system or structure. As complete structure of literary works, text of literary works is constructed by elements of literary works which have correlation each other to make a meaning. In this way, a new critic attempts to study the “formal elements” of the text, such as characters, setting of time and place, point of view, plot, images, metaphors and symbols to interpret the text (Tyson 135).

Based on those elements, this study only focuses on conflict that happens in Dan Brown’s Deception Point. This element is to complete the first and the second statement of the problems. Since conflict happens in plot, this studies also employs the concept of plot to support the analysis in order to expose the way of the main character participates on the conflict in the story.

2.2. Concept of Conflict

Conflict is one of the important elements in the story. Without it, the story in the literary works will be not interesting, flat, and meaningless. Conflict usually brings into climax of the story in literary work which tries to explore feeling, thought or portrait of life based on the author.

Conflict in the story can happen in personal or two in group. Conflict in personal usually happens between two characters or one character with another character. In other hand, conflict in groups can happen when the problem gets wider, like civilization, ethnics, races, and classes. As Bartos and Wher say that
conflict is defined as a situation in which the actor uses behavioral conflict with each other to achieve goals that are incompatible or to express their hostility and this situation not only for individuals but also groups (13). According to Robert and Jacobs says that the conflict is the opposition between two characters, between large group of people, or between protagonist and larger parts such as natural objects, ideas, modes of behavior, public opinion, and the like (1694). However, conflict here is not always involved fighting or some overt fight because there are some conflicts are “latent” and not involve overt fighting.

There are three main causes of social conflict such as incompatible goal, hostility, and conflict action or behavior. First cause is incompatible goal which has two approaches to determine reliably whether goals are in fact incompatible. Second is hostility which has the differentiation with incompatible, what makes it different is rational and non rational behavior in hostility. Third is conflict action or behavior which has three important parts such as coercive action, non coercive conflict action, and degree of coerciveness (Syifa’ 20).

Conflict generally is divided into two types, they are the internal conflict and the external conflict. Internal conflict is the condition facing the character within her/his character and also giving the impact to the character. Internal conflict is the war against oneself. It is a struggle between elements within the characters of personality what the dominance is. It is a battle needing
a decision between two or more choices and requiring a personal decision to achieve some goals. The internal conflict is called the psychological conflict because it is a fight inside a human between strength and weakness; love and hate, etc (Holman 118). Tomlinson says that the basic conflict may be one that occurs within main character, called person against-self (26).

Problems coming from the world are called external conflicts. Character in the story will fight to face circles of external conflict. When the struggles against internal conflict happening within character, it is not easy to face external conflict. External conflict is something more complex because it presents issues of society, community, nature, government and also other characters. External conflict shows itself as man versus man, man versus nature and man versus society.

The first is Man versus man. Conflict occurring between men is a fundamental of external conflict. The conflict happens when the characters struggle against other characters. The struggle can grow in moral, religious or social difference so a conflict begins between man and man and it does not consider position or age of the characters. Conflicts with peers, problems with sibling rivalries and stories of children rebelling against adult are person-against-person (Tomlinson 26).

The second is Man versus nature. Man versus nature conflicts occur when the characters find the situation to struggle against nature. The characters in the story face the problems that can give threat to the character such as cold,
storm, flood, earthquake etc. A conflict is usually found in survival stories when struggle that the character has with the forces of nature called as person-against-nature (Tomlinson 26)

The third is Man versus society. Man versus society is the situation when conflict happens because there is man struggling against government and culture or social traditional. Conflict in children’s stories is most often either about the environment being destroyed by new technology or changing times or about children caught up in political upheaval such as war. That kind of conflict is called as person-against-society (27).

2.3. Conspiracy theory

Black’s Law Dictionary defines a conspiracy as a combination or confederacy between two or more persons formed for the purpose of committing, by their joint efforts, some unlawful or criminal act. Conspiracy can be roughly defined as a belief that an organization made up of individuals or groups was or is acting covertly to achieve some malevolent end. The fact that thousands of conspiracies exist and have been amply documented does not mean, of course, that every theoretical conspiracy is true. Some are absurd, transparently ridiculous, or even physically impossible (Newton iv).

The conspiracy theory view of the world has entered into the mainstream with the help of other forces, as well. One was the development of a willing political culture in which seemingly any idea that promotes one’s cause, however implausible is embraced. In such a culture, conspiracy can be a
profoundly useful idea to attack one’s political foes. After all, conspiracies are hidden and undercover with so lack of evidence is not necessarily a problem, especially if the idea is heavily promoted by enemies with an agenda. In the court of public opinion, the case for conspiracy can be made as easily with innuendo as evidence and on many occasions it (B. Arnold 2).

After World War II, fears of conspiracy became more prominent. This gradually attracted the notice of writers interested in understanding current impulses in American society. After the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, the conspiracy theory worldview seemed to be increasing. Pondering this phenomenon, historian Richard J. Hofstadter published a groundbreaking study of the topic the following year “The Paranoid Style in American Politics” (6).

Hofstadter noticed that the tendency toward a conspiracy theory worldview was often found among people with extreme right-wing views, but he realized that this impulse was much broader than that. Indeed, what was true when he wrote his essay is even truer today; the conspiracy theory mindset is distributed across American life. Equally at home among liberals, conservatives, and political agnostics, it knows no bounds. Although widely dispersed, conspiracy theory still draws. To the extent that they are sympathetic to this outlook, most people seem to identify with only part of what conspiracy theories say. And so while many Americans may believe, as public opinion polls suggest, that a conspiracy was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy, they do not necessarily believe that a vast conspiracy is controlling
modern events. As a literal worldview, conspiracy theory is well known, but for the most part it has only been accepted in a piecemeal (7).

Conspiracy becomes an interesting object in literary analysis and this study comes as an example which is interested in such matter; the conspiracy that appears around the main character of *Deception Point*. Conflict becomes an important thing in this study since it focuses on the conspiracy around the main character named Rachel Sexton. By analyzing the conspiracy around her, more knowledge about the conspiracy can be achieved.

2.4. Review of related studies

In order to broaden knowledge about this study, the researcher reviews previous studies that use the novel by the same author Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*. Both novels are bound to each other in terms of planning a conspiracy and scandal that is full of lies. If *The Da Vinci Code* focuses on the scope of religion, *Deception Point* focuses on political conspiracy.

Another previous study has been done by Ahmad Syifa’ a student of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya (UINSA). His thesis entitled *A Study of Conspiracy in Robert Ludium’s The Bourne Identity*. In this research, the researcher focuses on the conspiracy represented in the story of Robert Ludlum’s *The Bourne Identity*, and he tries to connect a conspiracy in the novel with a description in the Quran.

The difference with Ahmad Syifa’s study is that he focuses on the conspiracy represented in the *Bourne Identity*, and he describes the main
character, that is Bourne’s life based on the reflection with the Quran. In this study, the researcher focuses on the conflict in the story. The researcher analyses how conflicts are described in this novel and how the main character reveals political conspiracy that happens.

Based on that previous study, the researcher wants to analyze the conflicts which are underground by the main character. The researcher chooses *Deception Point* to be the object of the study entitled *Rachel’s Struggle to Reveal Political Conspiracy in the Conflict in Dan Brown’s Deception Point*. 