# CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SAROYAN'S
## *THE HUMAN COMEDY*

## *A THESIS*

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin University in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English Department.*

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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## MAKASSAR
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With reference in the letter of the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 891/UN4.9/KEP/2020 Regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis darft by Arie Sandhy Abustan (F21113533) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.
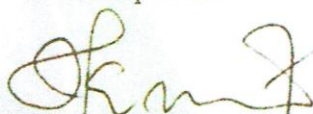
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**THESIS**

**CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SAROYAN'S**
*THE HUMAN COMEDY*

**BY**

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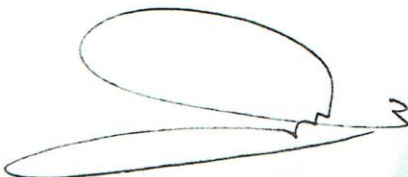
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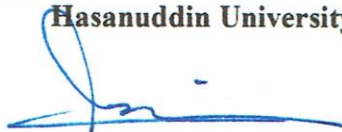
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iii

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Today, Monday, 10th August 2020, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **ARIE SANDHY ABUSTAN** (Student Number: **F21113533**) entitled:

## CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SAROYAN'S *THE HUMAN COMEDY*

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 10th August 2020
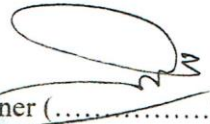
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## DECLARATION

The thesis by **ARIE SANDHY ABUSTAN** (Student Number: **F21113533**) entitled, **CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SAROYAN'S *THE HUMAN COMEDY*,** has been revised as advised during the examination on 10th August 2020 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect and still need many improvements, therefore all suggestion and criticism for perfection will be most welcome and received with gratitude. The writer hopes that this research will give useful significance for readers.

Makassar, Augustus 2020

The Writer

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# ABSTRAK

**ARIE SANDHY ABUSTAN**. 2020. *Conflict of The Main Character in Saroyan's Human Comedy* (dibimbing oleh **Burhanuddin Arafah** dan **Herawaty Abbas**).

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh utama di dalam novel. Kemudian penulis menjelaskan jenis konflik tokoh utama yang terbagi kedalam konflik internal dan eksternal. Selanjutnya, penulis menunjukkan beberapa sikap tokoh utama dalam menghadapi konflik yang dialaminya.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan struktural untuk menganalisis penelitian ini. Pendekatan sturktural sastra merupakan pendekatan yang menganalisis karya sastra melalui unsur-unsur intrinsik yang terdapat dalam sebuah karya sastra. Penulis menganalisis konflik tokoh utama melalui penggambaran karakter dan hubungan antar karakter melalui alur cerita. Kemudian, penulis menggunakan analisa deskriptif yaitu menggambarkan apa yang terdapat dalam novel dalam bentuk analisis.

Hasil dari analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa, konflik yang dialami tokoh utama sebagian besar penyebabnya berasal dari lingkungan atau faktor eksternal tokoh utama. Homer sebagai tokoh utama meredam keinginan-keinginan pribadinya dan mementingkan orang-orang disekitarnya. Homer kemudian tumbuh menjadi anak dewasa yang bertanggungjawab karena kesabaran dan kebaikan hatinya. Konflik yang dialami tokoh utama dalam cerita tersebut mengajarkan pembaca bagaimana bertanggungjawab ketika menjalani hidup.

# ABSTRACT

**ARIE SANDHY ABUSTAN.** 2020. Conflict of The Main Character in Saroyan's Human Comedy (Supervised by **Burhanuddin Arafah** and **Herawaty Abbas**).

The thesis aims to analyze the conflict experienced by the main character in the novel where the writer explains about the kinds of the conflict which are divided into internal and external conflicts. Then, he shows some attitudes of the main character in facing the experienced conflict.

The writer uses a structural approach in analyzing this research. Structural approach is an approach that analyzes literary works trough the intrinsic elememts contained in a literary work. He analyzes the main character through the depiction of character and the relationships among the characteristics. Then, he uses descriptive analysis to describe what are contained in the novel.

The results indicate that most causes of the main character come from the environment or external factors. The main character, Homer reduces, desires and gives priority to those around him. Then, he grows up to be a responsible adult for his patience and care. The conflict of the story teches how to be responsible when living life.

**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background**

A literary work is produced with a specific purpose, literary work can provide knowledge and learning about morals, entertainment and aesthetics to the reader. In producing a literary work, it definitely needs supporting elements to build the story. One of the supporting elements of a story is character. Character is one of the important elements in literature. Characters are individuals created by writers who experience events in a story. Events experienced by characters in a story usually produce conflict

Conflict is a struggle experienced by the characters in the story. This conflict is the essence of a literary work that eventually forms the plot. The general conflict in literature can be classified into two groups, which are internal conflict and external conflict. Furthermore, internal conflict is a problem that occurs within a character and a struggle within him/her without causing or affecting others around him/her. In contrast, external conflict is a problem that occurs with other factors outside the self.

In a story, when a character experiences conflict and how to deal with the problem, they have a different approach in responding to it. This is because of their diverse backgrounds (life experiences). Therefore, to find out the personality of each character, it will be easier to know when the

characters face a problem, we will see how they describe the mood and the next action to be taken. The writer who succeeded in reviving the role of the characters in the story means also managed to revive the character.

In this research, the object of the study is the novel *The Human Comedy* (1943). This novel with the title "The Human comedy" written by William Saroyan tells about the journey of one teenager to understand the world and the human. The richness of character inside this novel shows the readers about the interesting character built up of Homer as the main character.

This novel tells the story about a boy named Homer Macauley who works as a telegraph messenger. At a very young age he had to work to help his family's finances. His deceased father and his eldest brother Marcus went to war, automatically making him responsible for his mother and other siblings. The story begins and Homer takes care of his mother, Kate, his older sister, Bess, and his younger brother, Ulysses.

At the beginning of the story, Homer, a telegraph boy, carries out his first assignment to convey a woman that her child was death while serving as a warrior. After several tasks have been carried out, Homer learns about the world mainly from his experience at work, under the direction of his boss Mr. Spangler and Mr. Grogan who also works in the telegraph office.

Next story, in a town shop, there are several figures, a shop owner namely Mr. Ara who is passionate and inspiring and the owner of a

hardware store named Mr. Covington who has a miser. Ulysses and Homer regularly shop for supplying at the store. Both of them learn life experiences from the two shop owners as they are very different from each other. At school, Homer also experiences some unpleasant experiences where the principal Mr. Ek and his athletic trainer Mr. Byfield often make decisions that make Homer often in trouble. Homer also likes her classmate named Helen who already has a lover named Hubert who is reach and also Homer's classmate. At the track match, because of his dislike for Homer Mr. Byfield tried to frustrate Homer in the race. Homer fell but he then got up and ran back, seeing the incident Hubert relented and gave Homer victory.

Homer mother's are wise and philosophical. At one time in the novel, she was visited by her husband's ghost, who told her that their son who was at war would soon join him. On the other hand when Marcus is on the train he tells his friend Tobey about his family. Marcus expresses his interest in Tobey marrying his sister, Bess and when something bad happens to him Tobey could regard the Marcus family as his own family.

At the end of the story, in the telegraph office, Homer discovers that old Grogan dies of a heart attack on his typewriter; he dies while typing a message to be addressed to Homer's mother. On his way home, Homer meets with Tobey, a friend of Marcus, also comes to announce the death of Marcus. He is welcomed to Macauley's house with enthusiasm, despite the tragic circumstances.

This novel is very interesting, there are many moral messages contained in every story that is presented in each character. Humans have always lived in two choices; the results of that choice will end up good or bad. Similar to the messages delivered by Homer while working in the telegraph office, the messages he brought were not always good or bad. When a good message to be delivered he was happy as fast as lightning to deliver the message. But when Homer had to bring bad news, it was very heavy on his feet to walk. Even so, whatever happens is good and bad life, everything must continue because life must go on.

In this novel Homer has made his choices, and we can learn life lessons from Homer's choices. Homer, the main character in which he was very young, chose to bear the big responsibilities in the family, he worked hard to meet the needs of the family and protect all family members. That made him grows into an adult and responsible. He dampened his desire for the benefit of his family. This is very interesting to be investigated further, how Homer responded to each problem he faced and how he resolved it. Also in this novel are not only lessons from the main characters that can be taken, but how other supporting characters live their own ways. Therefore, the writer examine this novel by determining the title: *Conflict of The Main Character in Saroyan's The Human Comedy.*

## 1.2 Identification of The Problem

After reading the Saroyan's novel *The Human Comedy*, the writer found and identified some problems below:

1. The conflict experienced by the main character and various characters.

2. The Journey of the teenager in understanding the world

3. How the main character argued with all other characters in order to learn about humanity itself.

## 1.3 Statement of Problems

Based on the identification of problems, the writer formulated the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What kinds of conflict does the main character experience in *The Human Comedy?*

2. How does the main character deal with the conflict in the novel?

## 1.4 Objective of Problems

Based on to the statement of the problems above, the writer determines the objectives of the research, as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of conflict the main character experiences in *The Human Comedy.*

2. To find out way the main character deals with the conflict.

## 1.5 Sequence of Writing

This research contains five chapters. Chapter one is an introduction. This chapter covers the outlook of the whole writing which includes: background, identification of problems, statement of problems, objective of

problems and sequence writing. Chapter Two explains the literature review which consists of previous study, structural approach, and definition of conflict. Chapter Three consists of method of the research. It contains methodological design, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data and procedure of collecting data. Chapter Four contains the analysis this thesis which contains structural aspects of *Human Comedy,* conflict experienced by the main character and the main character dealing with the conflict. Chapter Five contains conclusions and suggestions.

# CHAPTER II

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Previous study

Previous study is one of the references used by the writer to support this thesis. The writer found some previous studies in Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University, which have raised the topic of conflict in the main character, they were Syalom Allo (2003), Nirmalasari (2007), and Hasrullah Hamseng (2008).

Syalom Allo (2003), in his research entitled *The conflict of the characters Lucy Gillen's novel Come Walk With me* shows that the types of characters which are avoidance conflict (conflict of Julie and Dr.Richard) and avoidance approach conflict (conflict of Julie) are mostly the ambition of Dr. Richard, the remorseful of Julie and the jealously of Kim, however the central characteristic of this novel, Julie is stubborn. The result of the analysis is that the writer shows the condition of the main character's family. The conclusion, is that the understanding and good communication is very important to overcome the problem in the family.

Nirmalasari (2007), in her research entitled *The analyzes conflict of the Main Character Jimmy Porter in John Osborne's drama look back in Anger* shows the condition of the main character's family which is explaining about the understanding and good communication of how is important to overcome the problem in the family.

Hasrullah Hamseng (2008), in his research entitled *Conflict among the characters in Animal Farm by George Orwell* indicates that the writer of the novel tries to put in narration about the politics and government condition in the world to the criticism which includes the violence of the seven commandments as a constitution in farm, corruption and exploitation.

Some previous studies above discuss the main character conflict, as well as this research discuss the main character conflict, however The difference in conflict experienced by each character makes the results of this study different from some of those previous studies. The main focus of the writer in this study is the intrinsic elements in the novel to dig deeper into the personality of the main character, the relationship between the characters, the causes of conflict and conflict resolution both internally and externally. The relationship of the current research with the previous researches is that this research examines the main character's conflict from two sides where each conflict affects the development of the main character's behavior. Whereas the three previous studies only examined conflict from one side.

## 2.2 Structuralism Approach

Structuralism is a philosophy that was invented by Claude Levi Strauss and developed in 1960 in French where the origin of structuralism is ambiguity because the use of this philosophy is not only in literature or language, but it is also used in psychology, history, sociology, and other

subjects. In analyzing the novel *Human Comedy*, the writer used a structural approach. Structural approach is based on the theory of behaviourist, which discusses the work on the elements that construct the literary works from the inside. The approach examines the work of a literary work as an autonomous and independent of everything that exists outside of literature. The concept of structuralism assumes that within a literary work is an autonomous structure conceived as a whole. From that, assumption literature is composed of various elements that are interrelated and structured, so that every element is functional in the whole story. Whether it is valuable or not, a work of fiction is determined by elements which is coherent. Structural approach is tried to explain the function of every element of a literary work as a structural unit, which produces the whole meaning together (Teeuw, 1984: 135). Thus, it can be concluded that the structural approach is an approach on literary work which by works analyzing literary elements that construct the structure of the literature, as well as search for relevance or relationship of these elements in order to achieve unanimity of meaning.

Regarding the structure, Wellek and Warren (1992: 56) give the constraint that the sense of structure put into content and form, as far as both are intended to achieve aesthetic purpose. Therefore, the structure of literary works (fiction) is composed by form and content. The from is the way of writer writes, while the content is the idea that a writer expression, Van Luxemburg (1984: 38) states that the structure intended implies a reciprocal relationship between the parts and the whole thing.

The structure in a literary work can be interpreted as formation, affirmation and an overview of materials and component parts into interesting form. The elements contained in a literary work is something that can be used as study materials in identifying, assessing and describing the functions and relation among the elements in the novel. It is the center of focus literary work or literary text itself.

Structural analysis is not only done by lists the specific elements of a work, such as plot, characters, theme or the other. The important thing is how to show the relationship between one element with others. There are many structures of fiction or novel:

## 1. Character

Character is one of the most important elements that can be found in a literary novel or short story form. The problem of characterizations is one thing that presents in a very important and necessary fiction, because there is a literary work without the moving figures and eventually making a plot. Every character has a different characterization and it can cause a conflict. Character is the quality of the mind and soul that distinguishes one character to another.

Description of the character and performance of the characters in the story of a literary work is some mixed experience and creation process. Blending and mixing in the process of creation come from the imagination of the writer, which raises from the sense of humanity, individuals and selfishness as reflection with a sense of social circumstances and life experiences.

Character is a fictional individual who experiences the events or who behaves in a variety of events in the story (Sudjiman, 1990: 79). In describing the circumstances and characterization, the writer makes two ways: explicit and implicit, explicitly characterization can be describes through the comments of another character, while implicitly, through the action and utterance of the characters themselves (Luxemburg, 1989: 17).

Readers can know many characters in a novel through the dialogue between the characters and other characters. Character can be known by his response to other characters, although it is not always described correctly, so a character in a novel is a person who makes, declares and has an attitude that can be assessed either other characters or the readers.

This is appropriate with the opinion of Gill (1985: 99-100) which suggests that the character could be detected and identified by how he talks (how character speak), the appearance of the hero (the appearances of characters), the character's social life (the social standing of characters), people close to the character (the company of characters), and what is being done or done by the hero (what characters do). From description above, it can be concluded that the character is the actor who carries the events in fiction or novel so that the event is able to forge a story.

## 2. Plot

Plot can be defined as a series of events or events in the story, in a causal relationship. The series of events are the arrangement that forms a unified whole. According to Aminuddin, (1995: 83) states that Understanding plot in short stories or in works of fiction in general is a series of stories formed by the stages of events, so as to establish a story presented by the actors in a story.

The essence of understanding about the plot is located on cause-effect, but the most important element is one of the conflicts and the climax, which come from the internal and external conflicts. The emphasis in analyzing of plot is how the formation, not how it is. Nurgiyantoro (2007: 149-150) states that the plot sometimes uses a type of causation which is divided into five parts. Parts are as follows:

a) The situation is time to introduce and disclose relevant material or inform the audience about the problems experienced or conflicts within the characters in the play.

b) Generating Circumstances is currently introducing a source of conflict between characters or within a character.

c) Rising Action is a detailed explanation of the struggle of the characters or the characters to resolve the conflict.

d) The climax is a conflict that occurs at a limited point occurs among the characters that occur within the flow of a work.

e) The resolution is the process of resetting to a new atmosphere. This part that the final events in the play and sometimes give answers to all the problems and conflicts that occur.

### 3. Setting

Setting does not only relate to place, time and event, but it also relates with tradition, characters, social behaves, and people perspective by the time when the story is written. According to Aminuddin (1995: 67), setting is background events on the literature as place, time, and also event, and fiscal and psychological function.

The presence of background in a fictional story is very important. Fiction as a world within the world the possibility is equipped with occupant figures and problems. Attendance figures require absolute space and time. Background or setting is something that describes a situation or circumstance in a story. The setting is the environment that surrounds an event in the story, the universe that interacts with the events that are taking place. Background can also intangible fixed times (day, month and year), the weather, or a period of history (Stanton, 2007:35).

### 4. Theme

The existence of a theme in a literary work is one element of the story builder that simultaneously with other elements forms a unity. Actually the existence of a theme depends on various other elements such as characters, plot, setting and others. Panuti Sudjiman (1991: 50) in the dictionary the term of literature, suggests that the theme is the main idea, ideas, or thought that underlies a literary work. The issues raised in the theme have a neutral because in the theme, there is no attitude and tendency to crack down. The existence of a theme will make literary works

more important than just regular reading. Talks about themes include the problems in the story.

The main meaning or thought of a new story can be obtained after a deep search of the other elements that build the story. Therefore, the main meaning or thought that is gained after reading the whole story by considering the elements is what is called the theme of a story.

## 2.3 Definition of Conflict

One of the most important aspects of a story is conflict. In essence, conflict is something dramatic, referring to a struggle between two equal forces and implying action and retaliation (Wellek & Warren 1992: 285). These two classes cannot adjust to each other purpose, effort and intentions. Conflict is unpleasant (negative connotations). That is why people prefer to avoid conflict and want a quiet life.

Conflicts becomes the basis of plot are the conflict of the protagonist. This situation and condition arouse some events on the story and make the story alive. Generally, the central theme of a story is a conflict and how to solve it. Conflict is the center to all problems in the story. Conflict shows the size or magnitude of a problem. The creation of a strong story is strongly supported by an interesting aspect of conflict. Medium conflict will result in stories being flat, predictable and ultimately boring readers. Conflict in novel stories does not appear simultaneously, but there are a number of interrelated elements used by novel writers to create a conflict.

In the literature means that conflict is a tension or conflict in fiction or drama that is a conflict between the two powers, contradictions within the characters, conflicts between the two characters. The conflict can be identified because of several characteristics as follows:

1. Conflict happens to everyone with a different reaction to the same stimuli. This depends on factors of personal nature.
2. Conflict occur when the motives have a value equal or approximately equal, giving rise to doubts and tensions.
3. Conflicts can take place in a short time, perhaps a few seconds, but it can also be long, days, months, even years. (Kurt Lewin 2008: 213-216)

There are two types of conflict that appear in a story, those are internal conflict and external conflict. To distinguish the types of conflicts that are the scope of this study, it is necessary to describe some definitions of the types of conflict. According to Nurgiyantoro (2009: 124), conflict in differentiated into two types, namely physical or external conflict and internal or internal conflict. The internal and external conflicts contained in a work of fiction, can consist of various forms and levels of functions. These conflicts can serve as major conflicts or sub-conflicts (additional conflicts). Each additional conflict must be supportive-hence it may also be called a supporting conflict and clarify the presence and existence of major conflicts, central conflicts that can themselves be internal and external conflicts or both. This main conflict is the core of the plot, the core

of the story structure, and at the same time the center of the development of the plot of the work concerned (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 125-126).

## a. Internal conflict

Internal conflict is more personal because all people must experience conflict in their lives. Conflicts that is personal in nature known as inner conflict. Aside from not causing friction with other humans, inner conflicts are relatively easier to resolve.

According to Kenney (1966:19), the conflict happening within the single man is called 'internal conflict. According to Coser (1913:218), who sees conflict as instinctual for humans that internal conflict in the larger social system among different groups within the United States releases hostilities, and creates norms. For dealing with the conflict and developing lines of judiciary systems where a society must always contend with the psychological need of individuals to engage in conflict. This need can build up over time and become explosive. Low level, frequent conflict tends to release hostilities. Those hostilities keep conflict from building and becoming disintegrative for the system and the goals in this internal conflict is usually called 'psychological conflict. The examples of the internal conflict are: man versus himself and man versus man. Internal conflict is often referred to as man versus himself since the struggle is inside one's head.

## b. External Conflict

External conflict is an open conflict. Situations that occur when there are differences of opinion or differences in perspective between several people, groups or organizations and when the balance among feelings, thoughts, desires, and behavior of a person or institution is threatened.

According to Kenney (1966:19), the conflicts which fiction concerns itself are many kinds of conflict. In addition to internal conflict, conflicts between men, conflicts between society and men, between men and nature are also reflected in a work of literature, for instance in a novel. This kind of conflict is called external conflict. The conflict is described more profoundly in terms of external conflict. The tragic vision presented is man in conflict with other forces greater than himself. The other forces operating in these plays are described as fate, destiny, chance and necessity. External conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force is an external conflict. For example of external conflict is Characters may face several types of outside forces. Types of external conflict are such as: man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society, and man versus technology.

According to Coser (1913:219), External conflict is the different group involved in conflict also experience functional results especially when the conflict is more violent. As a group, it experiences external conflict, the boundaries surrounding the group become stronger, the members of the group experience greater solidarity, power is exercised more efficiently, and the group tends to form coalitions with other groups  is more violent

the conflict is, the more intensified are these effects. In order for any group to exist, it must include some people and exclude others. This inclusion or exclusion process involves producing, and regulating different behaviors, ways of feeling and thinking, cultural symbols, and so forth.

# CHAPTER III

# METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Methodological Design

The Methodological design is a pattern or concept used in this study. Doing some research requires a structured method. The method in the study consists of qualitative research and quantitative research. In analyzing the conflict of the main character in a novel *Human Comedy* by William Saroyan, the writer uses qualitative research method.

## 1. Qualitative Research

Qualitative research is a research method that presents data in the form of descriptive. The data is conveyed through words or language in written form or spoken. It produces understanding based on methodology that investigates the main character problem in the novel.

In research object, the writer examines the issues concerning the conflict of the main character that is associated with a structural approach. After understanding the object of study, then finding some dominant conflicts occurred on the main character in the novel. From the data it is found that the problem of conflict experienced by the major characters in the novel then analyzing based on the theory presented earlier.

## 2. Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive method aims to describe situations or events. The main purpose of the descriptive analysis is to describe a situation or condition and examine the cause of certain tendencies. Therefore, the writer concludes that descriptive analysis is carrying out detail writer on an individual or a unit for a certain period. The method involves in depth and comprehensive research on the object of the research including the changes that occur in there search object caused by environmental influences.

## 3.2 Methods of Collecting Data

There are several methods of collecting data. In this research writer uses the literature study and library research as the method of collecting data. Literature study is a research which is done to the written sources such as documents, annually report, constitution regulation, and diploma of certificate. Library research is the method of collecting data with any references, book, thesis, and articles that related to analyzing this research.

In this research, the writer tries to get information by reading the novel *Human Comedy* and other materials related to the problems in this research. The writer collects information about internal and external conflict of the main character found in the novel and how the main character deals with the conflict. The writer takes note about internal and

external conflict that occurs in the novel. The writer also collects some supporting references needed to facilitate the research.

## 3.3 Methodology of Analyzing Data

All the data are obtained from the collection of data. Then data are analyzed in accordance with the theories and methods that are determined. The data are classified in accordance with the subject matter and analyzed to find linkages. In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive method. The writer shows and describes personality of the main character through the plot. Based on the plot, the writer discusses about the internal and external conflict of the main character that contained of the story. Then the writer elaborates where the supporting character has an effect upon the action of the main character. The writer analyzes it by using structural approach to find out the conflict and how the main character deals with the conflict.

## 3.4 Procedure of the Research

In the process of the research, the writer took the following steps in researching object of the study:

1. Reading the novel of *Human Comedy* by William Saroyan as the object of research.

2. Identifying the issues that have to be discussed in this research.

3. Determining the main problem or focus of this research.

4. Making a note of a number of problems, which are related to the research topic.

5. Listing the related information that supports the research.

6. Limiting and formulating the problems that are going to be analysis.

7. Collecting and classifying the data.

8. Choosing an approach that use for analyzing the research.

9. Analyzing the data by using the suitable approach that is consistent to the developed information.

# CHAPTER IV

# ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer discusses intrinsic elements, including characters, plots, settings, and themes. Furthermore, the writer examines the kind of conflict experienced by the main character in The *Human Comedy* and how the main character with conflict.

## 4.1 Structural Aspects of *The Human Comedy.*

The intrinsic elements are the elements contained in a literary work to construct the story. In general, the intrinsic elements of literary works are as follows:

## a. Character

## 1. Homer Macauley

Homer is the main character in this novel. He is a 14-years-old boy. He is the third of four children in the Macauley's family, and he has two brothers and one sister. He is a student at Ithaca High School. Besides attending school, he also works as a telegraph courier in the city of Ithaca, California. At a young age, he has to work in helping his family because Homer's father dies and his eldest brother is going to war.

> "…you said that yesterday we're not supposed to hire a boy unless he's at least sixteen, but I thought I'd take a chance on you. How old are you?"
> "Fourteen" Homer said.