

**THE CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN *DEAR MARTIN* BY NIC STONE**



**A THESIS**

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain

Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM**

**FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES**

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**MAKASSAR**

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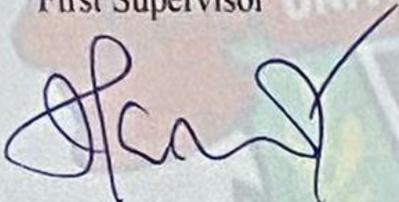
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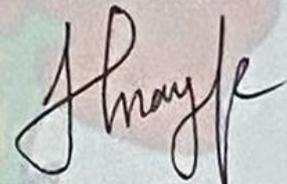
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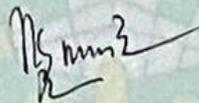
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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023  
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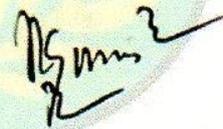
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# ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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#### AGREEMENT

On Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Gita Zahirah Niswan (F041181505) entitled “*The Conflict Analysis In Dear Martin By Nic Stone*” submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 •

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM**

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**DECLARATION**

The thesis by Gita Zahirah Niswan (F041181505) entitled **The Conflict Analysis In *Dear Martin* By Nic Stone** has been revised as advised during the examination on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

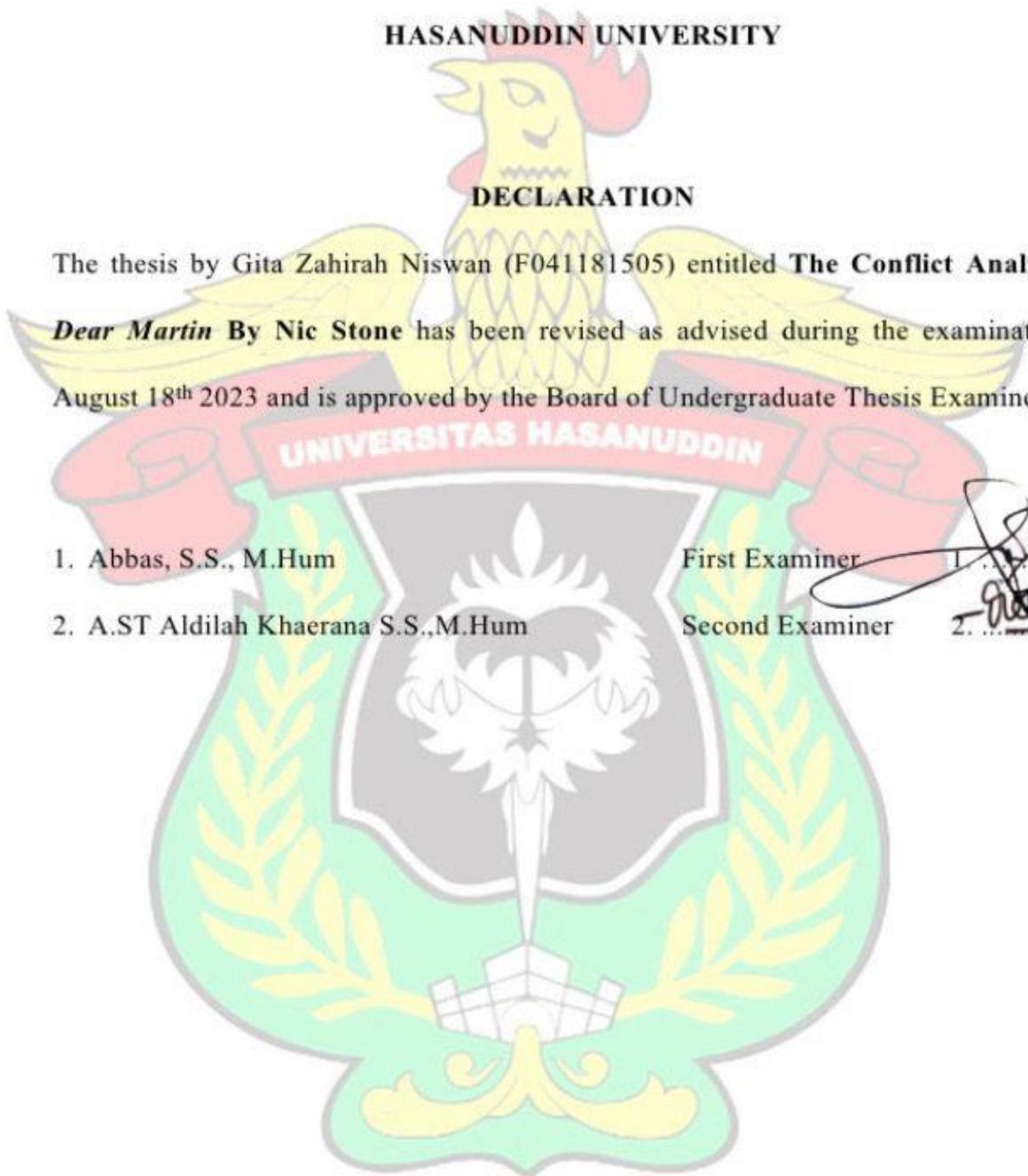
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except the quotations and references.

Makassar, August 18<sup>th</sup> 2023



The writer,

Gita Zahirah Niswan

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In the process of preparing this thesis the researcher realizes that the capacity possessed by the researcher is still very limited to achieve perfection, it is not easy for the researcher to finish this thesis without the help of other parties who always provide motivation and direction during writing this thesis.

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Hopefully this thesis can bring blessings and provide benefits to readers. With all humility, the researcher always aware of deficiencies, suggestions and constructive criticism are highly expected by the researcher for better results.

Makassar, 1 April 2023

The Researcher

Gita Zahirah Niswan

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## **ABSTRAK**

**GITA ZAHIRAH NISWAN**. 2023 “The Conflict Analysis in *Dear Martin* By Nis Stone”. Supervised by **Herawaty Abbas** and **Andi Inayah Soraya**.

This study aims to explain the conflicts experience of the main character Justyce McAllister in *Dear Martin* novel and how Justyce McAllister resolve the conflicts that occur. The conflicts experience by Justyce are internal conflicts and external conflicts.

The method of this study is descriptive qualitative. It focuses on the intrinsic elements of the novel namely characters, plot, theme and setting to analyse the conflicts experienced by the main character and how he solves the conflict.

Based on the analysis, the researcher finds that the conflicts experienced by the main character are divided into internal and external conflict. The internal conflict consists of Justyce's despair at his mother's words, self-awareness against the stigma of racism from people and emotional feelings towards Jared's words. The external conflict consist of debate between Justyce and the Police, the altercation between Justyce and Blake at the birthday party, Manny shooting incident and argument between Justyce and attorney Garret Tison over Manny's shooting. This analysis also shows the way the main character solves his conflict by confessing his feelings to Martin, build confidence to fight against racist stigma from people, waiting for help from Melo's parents, Justyce vs Blake physical contact and Justyce's argument with Garret Tison's lawyer.

**Keywords :** *Conflict, Main Character, Dear Martin.*

## ABSTRACT

**GITA ZAHIRAH NISWAN.** 2023 “The Conflict Analysis in *Dear Martin* By Nis Stone”.  
Dibimbing oleh **Herawaty Abbas** dan **Andi Inayah Soraya**.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan konflik yang dialami tokoh utama Justyce McAllister dalam *Dear Martin* novel dan bagaimana Justyce McAllister menyelesaikan konflik yang terjadi. Konflik yang dialami oleh Justyce adalah konflik internal dan konflik eksternal.

Metode penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Ini berfokus pada unsur-unsur instrinsik novel yaitu karakter, alur, tema dan latar untuk menganalisis konflik yang dialami tokoh utama dan bagaimana dia menyelesaikan konflik tersebut.

Berdasarkan analisis, peneliti menemukan bahwa konflik yang dialami tokoh utama terbagi menjadi konflik internal dan eksternal. Konflik internal terdiri dari keputusan Justyce atas kata-kata ibunya, kesadaran diri terhadap stigma rasisme dari orang-orang dan perasaan emosional terhadap kata-kata Jared. Konflik eksternal terdiri dari perdebatan antara Justyce dan Polisi, perselisihan antara Justyce dan Blake di pesta ulang tahun, insiden penembakan Manny dan pertengkaran antara Justyce dan pengacara Garret Tison atas penembakan Manny. Analisis ini juga menunjukkan cara tokoh utama menyelesaikan konfliknya dengan mengungkapkan perasaannya kepada Martin, membangun kepercayaan diri untuk melawan stigma rasis dari orang-orang, menunggu bantuan dari orang tua Melo, kontak fisik Justyce vs Blake dan argumen Justyce dengan pengacara Garret Tison.

Kata kunci : *Konflik, Tokoh Utama, Dear Martin.*

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of background, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, statement of the problem, objective of the writing, and sequence of the writing.

#### **1.1 Background**

Conflict is part of a story that originates in life. Therefore, the reader can be emotionally involved in what is happening in the story. Every reader of a literary work does not just read, but is able to feel deeply each story and relate it to the events that occur around them. Conflict is one of the intrinsic elements of literary works. Conflict is a clash that occurs between two or more parties caused by differences in socio-cultural conditions, values, status, and power. In literature, conflict is one part of a good story so that it can evoke the feelings and emotions of the reader to reflect passion, fear, pity, and sadness towards something, especially a situation, so that emotional involvement can be reflected by the reader.

Conflict in novels is interesting to study because conflict is one of the building elements of literary works related to characters, plot, and setting, which are intrinsic elements of literary works. Wellek and Warren (1995:285) state that "conflict is something dramatic, it refers to a fight between two balanced forces, implying action and reciprocal action". Conflicts can occur when there is disagreement between one interest and another. Things like this usually happen in real life, which is often avoided. In a literary work, conflict is needed to support the content of the story. The more interesting the conflict in a story, the more interesting it will be to read. Conflicts often occur in human life and sometimes occur because of unfulfilled desires, which are one of the factors that influence psychological changes that result in behavior and attitudes taken in living their lives. Conflict can take the form of strife, disagreement, conflict, and tension. Conflict can occur because there is cause

and effect. If a work of fiction does not have conflict, then the story will not be interesting and will be bland.

Conflict is life in a literary work over the death and life of a literary work and the elements in it. Conflict analysis in literary works can be divided into internal and external conflicts that are interesting to analyze. Internal conflict refers to the character's raging feelings and emotions. In addition, it is also related to psychology. On the other hand, extrinsic conflict refers to the conflict between the two, which gives rise to clashes and battles. Conflict is important to analyze in literary works, one of which is a novel. Basically, conflict is something that cannot be avoided. With conflict, we can understand the context of the problems that occur and find a way out of them. Conflict helps us learn from and benefit from our differences. Conflict also gives us the strength to focus more on issues than problems.

In this study, the researcher decided to analyze the novel *Dear Martin*, which contains several interesting conflicts to be analyzed. This novel was written by Andrea Nicole Living Stone (Nic Stone), a fiction writer from Atlanta. Nic Stone was born and raised in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia, America, on July 10 1985. Nic Stone decided to become a writer when she met a family with a story that fascinated her. Nic Stone grew up amidst cultures, religions, and backgrounds, and she has always sought to incorporate a variety of voices and stories into her work. After earning a Psychology degree from Spellman College, she first worked in youth counseling and settled in Israel in 2008 before deciding to return to America. In 2017, Nic Stone wrote her first novel, *Dear Martin*. This novel, published by Crown Publishing Group, is known as Stone's first (debut) novel.

This novel tells the story of a 17 years old African-American student named Justyce McAllister, he is a very good student, smart and accomplished but people don't care because

they only see his black skin and think that he is a criminal. Justyce became one of the victims of racism by a white police officer, when he wanted to help his ex-girlfriend who was drunk suddenly a police officer came and immediately beat him and handcuffed him for 3 hours without being allowed to explain what happened. This incident made Justyce experience a mental breakdown and had to convince everyone and accept the fact that he was actually a good boy and had nothing to do with crime in the slightest. This novel talks about racial discrimination as one of the conflicts given in the story with black people, including Justyce, who does not receive sympathy and does not want his struggle to be recognized in modern society. Since that incident, Justyce began to write down everything he experienced in a book to Pastor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And the book is called *Dear Martin*.

After the racist incident he experienced, Justyce experienced another incident that really hit him, namely when he was driving with his best friend Manny Rivers, they played music very loudly and when it stopped at a traffic light, a man beside his car admonished them to turn down the music but Manny ignored the man's warning, which made the man very angry and they got into an argument until the man's patience peaked and he shot Manny dead on the spot. The man who shot Manny was a 52 year old Atlanta police officer named Garrett Tison. At the time of the incident, Garrett Tison was not wearing a police uniform because he was off duty and was immediately arrested on the spot. Justyce was very shocked after seeing his best friend shot dead in front of his eyes, this incident made Garret Tison arrested and Justyce had to be an eyewitness in the trial of the death of his friend Manny Rivers.

After Garret Tison was imprisoned, one night there was a fire in his house, and before that incident, Garret Tison's wife received a lot of terror by phone or letter. From the fire, the police arrested three members of a young black jihadist gang. A jihadist gang is a group of black teenagers who are friends of Justyce and Manny, but Justyce and Manny are not

members of a black jihadist gang. The fire made the police suspect Justyce's involvement, and after Justyce was questioned by the detectives who interrogated the fire, they did not find Justyce's involvement in the fire because, on the night of the incident, Justyce was at SJ's house, and that could be proven by SJ and his parents. The trial into Manny's shooting is still ongoing, and Garrett Tison has been found guilty of three of the four charges in connection with the shooting incident. Garrett Tison was charged with two misdemeanors, namely violating public order, pulling a revolver near a road, and aggravated maltreatment. 27 hours after the trial, Garrett Tison felt that his life was in danger. In that trial, the jury had not yet reached a consensus, so the trial would still continue. 48 hours after the trial, Garrett Tison was found to have committed suicide in prison after receiving several threats. After the death of Garrett Tison, the trial was finally closed because the defendant had died.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher decided to use *Dear Martin* as a novel that contains racial discrimination conflict to find out the conflict experienced by the main character and how the main character resolves his own conflict. In researching the novel *Dear Martin*, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative research and tends to use analysis. This study focuses on the analysis of the conflict experienced by the main character with the intrinsic elements in the novel *Dear Martin* which is associated with a descriptive analysis method. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis method. The descriptive analysis method is used to analyze the conflicts that occur in the main character through intrinsic elements, after which the researcher will look for the causes of the conflict and reveal the causes of the conflict to resolve the conflict.

## **1.2 Identification of Problem**

After reading the novel *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone, the researcher has identified several cases as considerations that can be put into this research. These identifications were classified

into five categories in regards to the choice of the novel and conflict as the main issue to be researched:

1. The personality of the main character Justyce McAllister
2. The conflict that occurs in the main character Justyce McAllister
3. Debate between Manny Rivers and the police
4. The fight at Blake's birthday party
5. How does Justyce make peace with himself

### **1.3 Scope of Problem**

Based on the five problems that have been identified, the researcher decided to limit this research into two focuses, namely to analyze what conflicts are experienced in the novel and how these conflicts are resolved. To limit the results and discussion, the researcher only uses a focus on the conflicts experienced by the main character, so that the conflicts experienced by other characters are not used in this study. In addition, this research uses *Dear Martin* novel as the object and data source used.

### **1.4 Statement of The Problem**

Based on the background, identification of the problem, and the scope of the problem that have been described, the researcher formulated two problems that were classified in this study. These problems are focused on conflict and conflict resolution proposed in the novel. Here are the two problems:

1. What conflict does the main character experience and how is it presented in the novel *Dear Martin*?

2. How does the main character solve his conflict in the novel?

### **1.5 Objective of The Writing**

Based on the formulation of the problems that have been described, the researcher formulates two objectives that are classified in this study. These objectives are focused on conflict and conflict resolution proposed in the novel. Here are the two problems:

1. To find out the conflict the main character experiences in *Dear Martin*.

2. To analyze how the main character solve the conflicts in *Dear Martin*.

### **1.6 Sequence of Writing**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter One is an introduction. This chapter discusses the background writing, the identification of problem, the, the scope of problem, the statement of problem, objective of the writing and sequence of writing. Chapter Two is a literary study. This chapter includes the previous study, the structural approach and conflict in the novel. Chapter Three is methodology. This chapter includes methodological design, method of collecting data, method of data analysis and procedure of the research. Chapter Four presents the analysis of the data, the analysis data consist of analyzing the personality of the main character and still conflict that develop the story. Chapter Five presents conclusion and suggestion regarding this discussion.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of previous studies and theoretical background that are classified in this research which have been matched with the problem formulation and research objectives. The previous studies are previous research related to the problems and objects used and theoretical background is the explanation of structuralism approach, covering characters (minor and major characters), plot, theme, setting, and conflict (internal and external conflict).

#### 2.1 Previous Study

In writing this thesis, the researcher explores information from previous studies as a comparison material, both regarding the existing advantages or disadvantages. There are several previous studies that have been done by Sastyamoko (2019), Novita Sari (2019), and Suryani (2021).

First research by Sastyamoko (2019) entitled Institutionalized Racism Portrayed in Nic Stone's *Dear Martin*. This thesis focuses on how institutionalized racism is described in the novel *Dear Martin* and how black American characters react to this treatment. This study uses qualitative methods and careful reading techniques. The results of this study reveal that institutionalized racism as described in the novel *Dear Martin* still exists in the United States and black Americans are still considered inferior and are discriminated against and experience violence. The similarities between previous and current research are using qualitative research methods and the same novel, *Dear Martin*. Another supporting data come from book, articles and webs. The difference lies in the focus of the research, the research above focuses on analyzing how institutionalized racism is described in *Dear Martin* and the reaction of black American characters to this treatment. The focus in the

current research is in analyzing the conflicts that occur in the novel and the focus of current research is analyzing conflict in *Dear Martin*.

The second research was done by Novita Sari (2019) whose research is entitled Family Conflict in *Allen's Sugar Queen*. This thesis explains family conflicts experienced by only children and the factors that cause family conflicts that makes the main character is not happy. This thesis uses qualitative research methods and structuralism approaches. The results of this study conclude that the main character finds that the people closest to him, namely his family, are also capable of doing unexpected things. The similarity is that they both analyze the conflict in the novel using qualitative methods and the difference is about the analysis of the research object. The thesis above analyzes the conflicts that occur in a family and makes the characters in the story experience divisions, while the current research analysis the conflict in *Dear Martin*

The last research was conducted by Suryani (2021) entitled “Color-Blind Racism Based On The *Dear Martin* Novel By Nic Stone (2017): A Sociological Perspective”. This thesis focuses on identifying color-blind racism contained in the novel *Dear Martin*. The story in the novel shows visible acts of racism or color blindness. This thesis uses qualitative research methods and data collection techniques in this study using documentation techniques. The results of this thesis conclude that there are three types of color-blind racism, namely cultural racism, minimizing racism and abstract liberalism frames. The difference is the focus of the research, the research above focuses on identifying color-blind racism contained in the novel and the current research focuses on conflict analysis.

## **2.2 Structuralism Approach**

The structural approach is an approach to literary studies that works to analyze the structural elements that build literary works from within and to find the relevance or interrelationship of these elements to achieve unanimity of meaning. Structuralism is a

concept and a belief that everything in this world has a structure and a structural working. In addition, structuralism is also a theory of literary text that emphasizes the overall relationship between different text elements. The structuralism approach aims to analyze the relationship between a literary work and all its elements as a whole. The structural approach is often referred to as an intrinsic approach," which addresses all the elements that exist in literary works and can be developed. With structural analysis, a literary work can be analyzed in more depth and in more detail from all kinds of aspects that exist in literary elements, which will produce a literary work that has a broad meaning.

Teeuw (1984:121) says that "structural analysis is a priority and subject in studying a study compared to other theories. The structural approach is the initial approach in literary research. This opinion is in line with the opinion put forward by Terence Hawkes (1997:54) "structuralism is a thought about the world that specifically reminds itself of the perception and picture of that structure". It can be concluded that in order to pay attention to the structure when analyzing a literary work, this section aims to explain in detail the possible linkages with all aspects of the work.

Besson (1981:7-9) says that "structuralism is a way of thinking about the world, especially about the world related to the perception and description of a structure". Thus, structuralism is a way of thinking about the world that is primarily concerned with the responses and descriptions of structure. Considering that this literary phenomenon is based on interrelated structures, structuralism carries an overall meaning, but to build the intrinsic elements of structuralism, an approach is needed so that the parts of structuralism are perfect, namely plot, characters and characterizations, setting, and theme. In determining the structural approach used in a literary work, it must be applied by identifying, exploring, studying, describing, and then relating it so that it can obtain the perfect meaning of the work as a whole. If a structural approach is used in analyzing a literary work, it will go through

several stages to achieve the desired result. The intrinsic elements in literary works serve to explain in more detail the meaning of the entire work.

In a story, characters play an important role because if there are no characters, then a story will not be formed. With the existence of characters, the characters play their respective roles in various settings of time, place, and atmosphere that aim to build a story.

### **2.1.1 Characters and Characterization**

In a literary work, the character is one of the elements of the story that plays an important role in the course of the story. The characters in the story will direct the story to achieve a goal that can be understood by the reader. The function of the characters in a story is to ensure that the quality of the story has a quality that is able to make the reader believe in all the motivations and actions taken by the characters in the story. Characters are key to the development of a story; if the characters are not well developed, then the story and theme that the author wants to convey will not be enough to make the reader interested. According to Thomas Lickona (1991) "character is education to shape one's personality through character education whose results are visible in one's real actions, namely good behavior, honesty, responsibility, respect for the rights of others, hard work, and promptness". This opinion is in line with Abrams (2007) statement that "story characters are people who appear in a narrative work or drama that is interpreted by the reader as having certain qualities and moral tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action". It can be concluded that each character has their own respective characterization in a story. Characters and characterizations have an interrelated relationship. Characterizations show the role played by characters. Characterizations are real pictures of the characters who participate in the story through their actions.

In the study of a work of fiction, the terms character and characterization, character and character as well as character and characterization often appear. These terms refer to the same meaning, although they are sometimes used in different senses. In general, humans play the main role in a story, but there are also characters who come from objects, animals, antitas (eg justice, death, and so on). Schmitt and Viala (1982:70) "to explain the characteristics and characteristics of the characters in order to facilitate identification".

This reveals indirectly the character of the characters in question. In general, the notion of a character is an individual created by the author who experiences the events in the story, so the existence of a character in a fictional story cannot be separated. The characters in the story have different characteristics and each character has certain qualities and moral tendencies that are expressed in an action or conversation. Characters and characterizations have an interrelated relationship. The characterization shows the role played by the characters. Characterization is a real picture of the characters who participate in a story through their actions. Characters can be divided into two categories.

#### **a) Major and Minor Characters**

The main character, also known as the major character, is a character who plays an important role in a story. This character is very dominant in every conflict and develops in the story. The main character is a character whose story is prioritized in a novel. Based on this opinion, it can be concluded that the main character is a person who has a very important role and really determines the course of a story because a story will never exist if there is no main character. The main character will always be in every story and can be found on every page of the novel. But there are also those who are not always present at every event because they are not immediately shown in every story chapter, but in stories, additional characters or other characters are always related to the main character. Usually, there is more than one main character in a novel. Therefore, the main content is different.

The main character does play an important role in a story even though he is not always involved in the problems in the story, and usually additional characters related to the main character are always there.

Minor characters are characters that don't really take precedence and are usually only used to support the main character. Minor characters are supporting characters who fill an important role in the story, drive the plot, and provide motivation to the main character. Minor characters flesh out the main character's world, major and minor characters are equally important in a story. Minor characters are highlighted only in one aspect of the character because minor characters are static, and these minor characters appear only a few times as support for the main character. Minor characters can develop their own complex backgrounds but are usually related to the main character. It can be concluded that minor characters are supporting characters who are not very important in a story and only occasionally appear in a story to simply support the main character.

#### **b) Protagonist and Antagonist**

Protagonist is a person who plays the main character in a story. The protagonist character is the easiest to recognize because it is the central character and appears the most in the story. Protagonist character refers to a neutral nature that can be good or evil, but in general, the protagonist character has a good character. The protagonist aims to be a plot builder in a story; the protagonist usually has a specific goal and faces many conflicts throughout the story. Because in many stories the point of view of the main character is usually used, the protagonist is often presented with a good, positive character that has commendable characteristics and is in accordance with moral values. Protagonist characters always have good traits so that the protagonist is able to display what is expected by the reader because the protagonist is the main determinant that influences the storyline. The protagonist plays an important role in the storyline. The protagonist is often

described as the character who faces the most conflicts and obstacles in a story. The existence of the protagonist in a story greatly influences the reader's behavior as a good role model. According to (Alwisol,2008:27) “character is described as a picture of behavior that highlights right-wrong, good-bad values, either explicitly or implicitly”. The character who acts as the leader of the storyline is called the protagonist or the main character. It can be concluded that the protagonist is a character who holds the plot in a story, and the protagonist places the main idea in a story.

An antagonist is a character who is identical with or opposes the protagonist, either directly or indirectly, both physically and mentally. In a story, the antagonist is a character who hinders the goals of the protagonist, who is the main character in the story. With the presence of an antagonist, the conflict in the story will become stronger and develop. Usually, the antagonist character is portrayed as a bad person and even referred to as a source of trouble in a story. However, antagonistic characters are not always evil. The source of the problem does not always come from the antagonist character; only the antagonist character has character strengths that can cause conflict that other characters cannot. That's what causes the antagonist to like to oppose the main goal in a story to create a dramatic impression. Minderop (2005:165) "Describing the character of a character is a depiction of the character of a character contained in a work of fiction". It can be concluded that every character in a story has a very important role. Every character, especially the antagonist, must be able to evoke a storyline so that it becomes very interesting. Characterization can be done by differentiating one role from another, it is hoped that the differences in these roles can be recognized by the reader. This is intended so that the reader is able to feel the meaning of the role.

### **2.2.2 Plot**

Plot is an element in a literary work in which each part will be linked to each other with causes and effects in each part and arranged chronologically, the definition of plot is a series of stories from beginning to end. The plot functions to regulate how the actions contained in the story must be related to one another; for example, if an event is related to other events, then the characters depicted and who play a role in the story are all related to a single unit of time.

A story won't be interesting if it doesn't have a plot. A plot is a sequence of events, and each event influences the next through the causal principle. Plot stages consist of initial stages, middle stages, and final stages. The initial events that appear in a work of fiction may immediately be in the form of scenes that have a high level of conflict and drama, or they may even become a conflict that greatly determines the plot of the work in question. Stanton and Kenny (2015:167) state that a plot is a story that contains a series of events that are only causally related, events that cause or cause other events to occur". This is in line with the opinion Luxemburg (1984:149) "groove is a movement structure contained in a story or construction made by the author logically, chronologically, and causally, which are interrelated or experienced". It can be concluded that plot is the most important element in a story, and plot is a series of stories that have been arranged in such a way that a story can be formed. In a literary work, there is no flat story without a storyline, and of course there will be some conflicts that occur in a story. This is what makes a story interesting for readers. The plot acts as a concrete and clear basis for the story. In addition, based on the knowledge that the reader has, it will help him operate the imagination of the literary work. The plot outlines the story from start to finish as follows, Bitar. (2021, December 11). Guru Pendidikan. Retrieved from Guru Pendidikan.

### 1) Exposition

Exposition is the introductory part of the story or the introduction of the story situation. In this section, the main character in a story is introduced. In addition, the setting, atmosphere, and time were also introduced. This section also includes characterizations and the seeds of problems in the story, along with the relationships between characters. The exposition is very important in the story because, from the exposition, the reader can know and understand the outline of the story.

### 2) Rising Action

Rising action refers to all the events that occur in a story towards the climax. Rising action drives the plot, building tension to keep the reader engaged in the story as it moves forward. Rising action is an important part of the plot. Rising action is used by the author to keep the reader interested in the story and to make the reader want to know what the climax of the story will be like. From the rising action, readers can learn about the characters and explore the setting, as well as discover more about the theme of the story. Rising action events often present multiple challenges that build on the story's initial conflict. The existence of conflict in a story can be an attraction for readers. How interesting the story conflict presented by the author is can influence the reader's interest. The contents of the story at this stage are in the form of an explanation of the problems encountered; the problems in the story are introduced slowly. Problems can be internal problems within the main character or disputes between characters.

### 3) Climax

The climax in a story is the point at which the tension, excitement, or stakes reach their highest level in the story. It is often the conclusion to the story's main conflict and sets up a successful resolution or an unsatisfactory ending. The climax is the most intense, exciting, or emotional part. The climax is where the reader can see the main

characters make decisions and face obstacles that define who they are and what they stand for. The climax allows the story to build to an increasingly satisfying or tragic resolution. The climax part has the key to answering the conflict raised. The character of each character will increasingly look equally strong in this section.

#### 4) Falling Action

Falling Action is the period between the climax and the story's conclusion. This is an important part of the story where the tension has begun to subside because the main character has begun to have conflict resolution and has adjusted or not to various events or incidents that have occurred. The events that occur in this section will lead to the end of the story. Story content in this section includes solving plot points. Answer questions and help with character development. However, if too little Falling Action actually feels rushed, Then, if there is too much Falling action, it will give the impression that the ending drags too many aspects here and there, thus eliminating the reader's interest in the important point that has been waiting for, namely the resolution.

#### 5) Resolution

Resolution is the last part of a story. Resolution is the final finishing stage of the entire series of stories. In this section, all conflicts in the story already have solutions or have been resolved. The ending of a story does not always have to be happy. The resolution section contains a coda that contains the message or messages the author wants to convey.

### **2.2.3 Theme**

The theme is the main idea conveyed by the author in a story. In a literary work, the theme acts as the main message or idea; the idea or message is something the author wants to convey to the reader. Generally, themes are made to reflect the author's views or opinions on a problem or situation and can help shape the views or perceptions of readers. The theme is

also a general, basic idea or meaning that supports the work as a semantic and abstract structure that appears repeatedly through motives and is usually done implicitly. Every literary work must have a theme because the theme is the most important thing that is seen by the reader.

Themes can be moral, ethical, religious, socio-cultural, technological, or traditional issues that are closely related to life problems. Themes can also be the views, ideas, or wishes of the author in dealing with problems that arise. The theme in a literary work is considered the soul of the story because the theme determines the setting of the story. The theme is also the basis that supports the idea of a literary work and forms the basis for developing the story as a whole. The theme will determine the purpose of a literary work, and the theme makes the work more interesting because it connects all aspects. It is proven in the statement above that the theme connects all aspects. Mido (1994:18) "Theme is a problem that manages to occupy a central place in fiction and not in the mind of the author", According to Keraf (1980:107) "theme is the message conveyed through the essay". It can be concluded that the theme is the main idea that underlies the essence of a literary work. Therefore, the theme in a literary work is different.

A theme is a story element that binds various important elements of a narrative. The function of the theme among other things is to provide a moral or value message to be conveyed by the author, to help determine or determine the character or personality of the characters in the story, to help the reader understand the characteristics of the characters and situations that occur in the story, to attract the interest of the reader and to strengthen the attractiveness of the story, helping to maintain the consistency of the story and tying the different elements of the story into a unified whole, giving aesthetic value to the story and helping to shape the image and impression produced by the story itself, providing a kind of motivation for readers to embrace these values the values and views of life contained in the

work and help shape the reader's perspective on the environment and the surrounding community. Themes give readers a better understanding of the conflicts, experiences, discoveries, and emotions of the main characters in a work. Through the theme, the author tries to provide insight to his readers about how the world works or how he views human life. In general, the function of a theme is to provide input for other structural elements, such as plot, characters, and setting. For readers, having a theme helps them know what the author wants to convey through his work. Themes are specific and use simple and limited words.

The theme includes several conflicts related to a literary work, such as the themes of family, friendship, romance, and so on. The theme plays an important role in a literary work because the theme includes the meaning contained in a story, and without a theme, the story will not be interesting because the meaning will not be clear. In every literary work, the theme is the general basic idea (meaning) that supports a literary work as a semantic and abstract structure that is repeatedly raised through motives and is usually carried out implicitly. According to Stanton (2012:36) "theme is an aspect of the story that is parallel to meaning in human experience, something that makes an experience so memorable". The theme acts as the central idea in a story, and the theme makes up the elements of the story that connect completely.

#### **2.2.4 Setting**

The setting of the story is the main thing in a literary work that describes the situation in the story. Setting is a description of the place, time, or all the situations in which the event takes place. This background is closely related to the character or actor in an event. Therefore, the setting also greatly influences the atmosphere of events, the main issues in the story, and the theme of the story. Setting is an important element in forming a story. Setting is never separated from a work of fiction because it is the scope of the place and time where the characters play and develop the storyline. Setting is a description of the time, place, and atmosphere of the events in the story; therefore, the setting of the story greatly influences the

atmosphere of events, the subject matter, and how the story goes. Setting will reveal when and where a story goes.

Abrams (1994:216) "Setting is something that suggests, in terms of place, time, and social environment, a series of events in a fictional story". This is in line with the opinion put forward by (Kenney,1996:38) that "setting is a fictitious element that shows where and when events occur". Setting acts as a concrete and clear footing for the story from the author to the reader to get a more detailed picture or imagination of the whole story. In addition, based on the knowledge possessed by the reader, it will help the reader operate the imagination of the fictional literary work.

Elements of the setting of a literary work can be grouped into three main parts: setting of place, time, and social setting. These three elements contain different problems but are related to one another. These three elements according to Salmaa. (2021). *Pengertian Latar Cerita*. Retrieved from Penerbit Deep Publish.

#### 1) Setting of place

Setting of place is where the story takes place or where the story takes place and the setting elements point to the location and explain where an event takes place. Mido (2016:56) suggests that "place setting is a description of the place, time and situation in which an event occurs". The clearer and more interesting the place described by the author, the higher the quality of his work. From the opinion above it can be concluded that, a story will always take place in space, time, atmosphere, and customs. The setting of the place can move in the form of a house, city, village and a wider area.

#### 2) Setting of time

The setting of time is closely related to when the events in the story occur. The setting of time explains when events occur during the day, night, evening, in the past, in the future, and so on. The reader's knowledge of time will be used by the reader in

exploring the atmosphere in the story based on time references originating from the time setting. Based on the time setting, the reader can imagine where the story takes place. This is related to the statement Rohrberger and Woods (1971:22) "setting helps build credibility, can help explain both character and situation, and can contribute to the dominant atmosphere or mood". In a fictional story, the setting is very important to evoke the feel of an interesting story to read.

### **2.3 Conflict**

Conflict comes from the Latin verbs "con" which means together and "fligere" which means to clash or collide. In general, conflict is an event or social phenomenon in which there is conflict between individuals or between individuals and groups. The conflict is motivated by differences in the characteristics that individuals bring to an interaction. Conflict is one of the most important elements in literary works. With conflict, the author can give birth to the emotions and feelings of the reader. Conflict is one of the forms of social interaction. Forms of social interaction can take the form of cooperation, competition, or conflict. In addition, conflict can also be interpreted as a social problem that arises because of differences in views that occur in society and the state. Conflict is an intrinsic aspect and cannot be avoided in social change. It becomes an expression of the heterogeneity of interests, values, and beliefs that emerge as new formations brought about by social change that emerge against inherited barriers. On the other hand, conflict means a relationship between two or more parties, at the individual or group level, who have incompatible interests.

Conflict is very necessary and is one of the most important elements in literary works, because conflict can draw the reader's interest in a story. Conflicts can occur because of differences in meaning caused by differences in cultural backgrounds that form different personalities. The sources of conflict include conflict within the individual, namely conflict

that occurs because of choosing conflicting goals or because of too many task demands to be abandoned; conflict between individuals, namely conflict that occurs because of differences in personality between individuals and other individuals; and conflict between individuals or groups, namely conflict that occurs because there are individuals who fail to adapt to the norms of the group where they are. Conflicts can occur anytime and anywhere due to incompatibilities. This appears in personal relationships as well as with the surrounding community. All literary works in the form of fiction contain conflict. According to Stewart & Logan (1993:341) “conflict is not always identified as a clash between two conflicting parties, however also identified as a ‘cold war’ between two parties because it is not expressed directly through words that contain anger”.

Conflict is unavoidable in the dynamics of social life. In conflict theory, the condition of a pluralistic society will indeed lead to an imbalance, so that there will always be social groups that compete with each other for influence in a society. In this competition, a group that has the most power over the other groups will emerge. This competition is what will lead to conflict. Conflicts that often occur are internal and external. Internal conflict is conflict that occurs in a person's heart or soul. Conflicts like this are usually experienced by humans with themselves.

Internal conflicts can occur due to external pressures or expectations that are different from their wishes or expectations. Internal conflict originates from two conflicting things that face each other and are equally strong, so that the expectations are not as expected, such as when the desired beliefs conflict with existing values and culture or when desires are not in accordance with the capabilities possessed. Internal conflict is psychological; the writer uses creativity, taste, and work in creating a work. Literary psychology states that literary works are psychological reflections. The author captures the symptoms of the soul, which are then processed to be included in the text and can bring a story to life through the work. Literary

psychology studies certain phenomena experienced by the main character in a literary work when responding to self and environment. Therefore, psychological symptoms can be revealed through the characters in a story. Literary psychology is text analysis that considers the relevance and role of psychological studies centered on the characters in the story, so inner conflicts can be analyzed. Psychology is a science that investigates and studies human behavior and activities. Human behavior and activity are manifestations of the life of the soul. The soul is something abstract; it can only be understood through the results that arise from the behavior and activities carried out. Through the behavior that is generated, it can be seen how the character of that person. In literature, the object of psychological study is a fictional human being created by the author in a story.

According to Coser (1956) "conflict is a struggle for values or demands for status and is part of society that will always exist, so if there is a community, there will be conflict." Internal conflict can be triggered due to differences in opinion, characters one does not like, misunderstandings, competition, injustice, etc. Conflict also occurs due to misunderstandings in communication, as according to Meredith & Fitzgerald (2013:179), "conflict refers to the notion of something unpleasant that happens and is experienced by the characters in the story". According to Dahrendorf (1959:164-165) "conflict arises through social relations within a system. Every individual or group that is not connected in a system will not be involved in conflict".

External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself, such as the natural environment or the human environment. Semi (1988:45) states that "conflict in fiction consists of internal conflict, namely conflict between two desires within a character, and external conflict, namely conflict between one character and another character or between a character and their environment". External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside of himself. This type of conflict is usually

interpersonal or social in nature. That is, conflicts occur on a larger systemic scale between groups of people or on a smaller scale between individuals. The causes of external conflict are manifold. This conflict arises primarily from conflicting interests within a group and other groups, which are caused by differences in goals, differences in status, and communication errors. External conflict is interpersonal or individual conflict driven by personal dislike or disagreement. External conflicts usually arise when a person experiences a negative emotional reaction to another individual, so he will act irrationally towards the surrounding environment as a way to express his dislike. Meredith & Fitzgerald in Nurgiyantoro (2002:122) state that "conflict is something unpleasant that occurs or is experienced by story characters, and if the character has the freedom to choose, then they will not choose the event to happen to them".