THE ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT THE MAIN CHARACTER IN STEINBECK'S OF MICE AND MEN



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain A Graduated Degree in English Literature Study Program

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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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.





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> Makassar, 03 June 2021 The Writer

Rezki Amaliah.T



ABSTRACT

REZKI AMALIAH. T 2021 The Analysis Conflict of The Main Character in Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men. Supervised by **Herawaty Abbas** and **Andi Inayah Soraya.**

This research is a literary study that aims to trace the conflict in the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. In this study, the writer analyzes the types of conflicts that occur in the main characters in the story and the resolution of these conflicts by the main characters, namely Lennie.

The approach used in this thesis is the Structuralism Approach which focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary works, namely the theme, plot, setting, and characters. In collecting research data, the writer conducted a literature study on the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. The research data is then displayed descriptively.

Based on the results of the study, the writer found three types of conflicts that occurred in Lennie's character, namely physical conflict, social conflict, inner conflict, the conflict was resolved by Lennie and George when they were thirsty, tired, and hungry they decided to rest and spend the night by the river, when they lost their job they looking for a new and job decided to work in the Bunkhouse, then the conflict between Crooks and Lennie was resolved when Crooks persuades Lennie so that not vent his emotions, the resolution of the conflict between Lennie and Culey is won by Lennie, the resolution of the conflict between Lennie and Culey's wife when Lennie is shot with a gun by George. Lennie's death is the solution to all the problems and conflicts that occur in their environment, including Curley's revenge because the death of his wife died result of Lennie's act.

Keywords: Conflict, Main Character, Novel Of Mice and Men



ABSTRAK

REZKI AMALIAH.T 2021 Analisis Konflik Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men. Dibimbing oleh Herawaty Abbas dan Andi Inayah Soraya.

Penelitian ini merupakan studi sastra yang bertujuan untuk menelusuri konflik dalam *novel Of Mice and Men* karya John Steinbeck. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menganalisis jenis konflik yang terjadi pada karakter utama dalam cerita dan penyelesaian konflik tersebut oleh karakter utama, yaitu Lennie.

Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini adalah Pendekatan Strukturalisme yang menitikberatkan pada unsur intrinsik karya sastra yaitu tema, alur, latar, dan tokoh. Dalam mengumpulkan data penelitian, penulis melakukan studi literatur terhadap novel *Of Mice and Men* karya John Steinbeck. Data penelitian kemudian ditampilkan secara deskriptif.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, penulis menemukan tiga jenis konflik yang terjadi pada tokoh Lennie, yaitu konflik fisik, konflik sosial, konflik batin.

konflik, konflik diselesaikan oleh Lennie dan George dimana ketika mereka haus, lelah, dan lapar mereka memutuskan untuk beristirahat dan bermalam di tepi sungai, ketika mereka kehilangan pekerjaan mereka mencari pekerjaan baru dan memutuskan untuk bekerja di Bunkhouse, kemudian konflik antara Crooks dan Lennie diselesaikan ketika Crooks membujuk Lennie agar tidak melampiaskan emosinya, penyelesaian konflik antara Lennie dan Culey dimenangkan oleh Lennie, penyelesaian konflik antara Lennie dan istri Curley ketika Lennie tertembak dengan pistol oleh George. Kematian Lennie adalah solusi dari semua masalah dan konflik yang terjadi di lingkungan mereka, termasuk balas dendam Curley karena istrinya meninggal akibat ulah Lennie.

Kata Kunci: Konflik, Tokoh Utama, Novel Of Mice and Men



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of introductions which include background of the study, identification of problems, scope of problem, research questions, objectives of study, significance of writing and sequence of chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

In life, some things usually happen beyond a person's control, for example, namely conflict. A person cannot escape from conflicts, such as conflicts with himself or with others. Conflict is something that occurs in human life that involves several individuals and groups. Conflict also usually occurs when there is no agreement between one ego and another, or differences in cultural patterns, social status, interests, and events of social change. But in the world of literature, conflict is needed to support a story, in a story there is a Plot. Plot is a story that contains a sequence of events, but each event is only connected cause and effect, one event is caused or causes another event to occur. (Stanton 1965: 14)

However, in world of literature, plot and conflict have a relationship to support the story's content to make it interesting to read. Conflict is also part of the analysis plot. Based on the quotation above, the writer concludes that plot and conflict are mutually influential in forming a literary work which can then increase interest in knowing its contents. Several reasons why conflict is



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g for analysis in a work, first, conflict is one of the building blocks of orks related to characters, plot, and setting, which is an intrinsic part of a ork. Second, from a conflict, there are many lessons that we can learn so that we can learn how to solve problems that might happen to us one day. Third, the existence of conflict can attract readers to read a literary work.

Literary works are born because of the imagination of an author in which there are ideas, thoughts and feeling. Literary works as a form of the result of a creative work which is essentially a media that utilizes humans. Therefore a literary work in general contains the problems surrounding human life. Thus, literary works reflect the social reality that occurs in life. According to (Wallek and Warren 1978: 94)

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. They are conventions and norm which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature represents life and life is in large measure a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation. The pool himself is a member of society, possessed of a specific social status; he receives some degree of social recognition and reward; he addressed and audience, however hypothetical.

Literary works that reflect a lot social reality are novels. The writer concludes that among literary works, novels are the most popular literary works because they are more complete than other literary works, where novels are works of fiction or stories of social life presented in written form. Novels have their own world, namely the imaginative, world of human life with various problems built with various elements. Stanton (2007: 90) stated that is novels are able to present the development of one character, complicated social situations, relationships that involve many or few characters, and various complicated events that occurred



ears ago in detail. The hallmark of the novel lies in it is ability to create a and complex universe.

From the description above, the writer chooses the novel to be researched because the novel "Of Mice and Men" has a unique story and there is a conflict between the main character and other characters, but also a conflict with the character itself. This kind of conflict is related to the character of personality and psychology. John Ernst Steinbeck. Yes is one of the most famous American writers of the 20th century, John Steinbeck won and was awarded the 1961 Nobel Prize for Literature for this realistic and imaginative writing. He is very brave to explain openly about the reality that occurs as a form of criticism towards the government and becomes a representative voice for the lower classes. During his writing career, he wrote 27 books, including 16 novels. His most famous works include Tortilla Flat (1935), The Red pony (1937), The Grapes of Wrath (1939), Cannery Row (1945), East of Eden (1952), and Of Mice and Men (1937).

The novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Ernst Steinbeck tells the story of the condition of West America during the Great Depression. What John Steinbeck presents in this novel is a prototype that distinguishes between hope, error and dreams that arise in times of destruction. All the truth through a unique friendship story, the conflicts that are presented are not so many, but are described coherently from the perpetrators. Each character has a background that reflects the ambition and desire to uphold freedom. Readers can describe the tough but emotional nature of George or Lennie who is retarded but sentimental.

Apart from that Of Mice and Men is one of John Steinbeck's best works,



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in this novel also has conflicts between the main characters which later ne of the reasons the author chose this novel. The writer assumes that in the novel John Steinbeck describes how sad the lower class people are at the time. With a strong character, he has succeeded in creating a real and natural depiction of friendship with various friendship conflicts which are certainly very interesting to analyze. So, the writer chose the title *"The Analysis of Conflict the Main Characters in Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men"* Furthermore, in conducting this research the writer uses a structuralism approach to literary works.

1.2 Identification Problems

After reading novel *Of Mice and Men*, the writer finds and identifies some problems as follows:

- a. There are several conflicts among the main character
- b. Complicated friendship story
- c. Portraits of how bad, suffer, and miserable, the lower class is depicted in the novel
- d. The main characters who have different personalities such as George the tough but emotional and the backward but sentimental Lennie.

1.3 Scope of the Problems

According to identification of problems, the writer limits the problem of this study. In this study, the writer only explains the conflict of the main character George's and Lennie in the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.



1.4 Research Question

Based on the background above, the writer discusses about conflict started below:

- 1. What conflict does the main character experience in Of Mice and Men?
- 2. How is the conflict solved by main character in the novel?

1.5 Objective of Study

Relating to the research questions, the writer decides objectives of the research as follows:

- To find the kind of conflict that faced by character in novel Of Mice and Men
- 2. To explain how the characters solved her conflict in novel *Of Mice and Men*

1.6 Significance of Writing

a. Theoretical Significance

The writer provides a deeper explanation for readers in using structuralism theory as an objective approach in literary analysis. This research is expected to provide an overview of the analysis of character conflicts physically and socially in the English Department of Hasanuddin University.

b. Practical Significance

The writer hopes that this research can be useful for students, who are also



in analyzing literary works using Structuralism which focuses on

conflict analysis, especially for students of English Department of Hasanuddin University.

1.7 Sequence of the Chapter

In this thesis, consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background of the study, identification of the problems, Scope of the problems, Research questions, Objectives of the writings, Significance of the writing and Sequence of the chapter. Chapter two consists of literature review, which provides reviews of any previous study, Theoretical background, and Structuralism theory. Chapter three explains Methodology of the study. It contains of Research Design, Method of collecting data, Method of analyzing data, and Research procedure. Chapter four contains the Analysis of this Thesis. It contains the analysis of the kinds of conflict and the problem solving of the conflict in the novel, finally. The last is Chapter five which consists of conclusion and suggestion.



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter the writer discusses literature review, which consists of previous study, structuralism approach and Theory conflict.

2.1 Previous Study

Based on the results of the literature review, the writer found same of thesis that related with this study. They are Rara Novita (2014), Hanna (2016), Nur Fadillah (2019).

The first research was conducted by Rara Novita (2014), entitled *Alienation of Modern Man in John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men.* The writer described that the purpose of this study is to analyze the alienation of George Milton who is the main character in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men.* The research findings indicate that George Milton perfectly portrays the concept of Schacht's alienation from culture-society. George's alienation toward the self is emerged because he is full of exaggerated delusions for gaining the more expectancy of life. The similarity of this research and the author's research is that the two researchers chose the same novel to be examined, namely the novel *Steinbeck's Of Mice And Men*, however research will research the conflict in Steinbeck's novel Mice and Men.

The second was done by Hanna (2016), entitled An Analysis of the Main



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rs' Conflicts in Jane Austin Sense and sensibility. The similarity it to this is focusing on the conflict analysis in novel but this research uses object as the material analyze. Based on the description above, the writer

concludes that the similarities and differences between the previous study and the research of the writer are found in the research object, the focus of the approach and theory used in the analysis. The similarities that exist in previous studies are discussing to analyze conflict that occurs in literary works and one of the previous studies has the same object with the writer.

While the differences in research in terms of the object of research, in terms of the method of analysis, in this study the writer takes the conflicts of the main characters in the novel by using a structural approach focusing on conflict analysis.it is different from previous research which focuses more on fantasy analysis and psychoanalysis. Another difference that distinguishes previous researchis the different research objects. Therefore, the results of this study are absolutely different from the analysis in previous studies. .

The third research was by Nur Fadillah (2019), entitled *Inner Conflict of Tyrone's Family in O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night,* It discussed about the conflicts that faced by the Tyrone and reveal the symptoms of psychology disorder of each character that affect the family's harmony. She analyzed the psychological of each character in Tyrone's family influence the family's harmony and the inner conflict influence the family. The similarity of this research and the writer's research is the two researchers are using the same focus on conflict of the character. On the other hand, the difference of these two researchers is the approach and the object. Nur Fadillah uses the play as the object



tructural approach to analyze the play and the writer uses novel as the

object and analyzes "An Analysis Conflicts of The Main Character in Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men"

The studies above are related to the conflict issue which the writer discusses in completing this research. After learning about these previous study the writer knows that the previous study similarity discusses about the conflicts. This study is different from the previous study because the writer chooses "*The Analysis of Conflicts of The Main Character in Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men*" and then the research is different from previous research above of different object, in this novel have conflicts who difficult to analysis.

2.2 Structuralism Approach

Structuralism approach is intrinsic approach, which is to discuss the work on the elements that build literary work from the inside. In other words, it focuses in the intrinsic elements of literary works as the center assessment in an attempt to understand the meaning of literature. Structuralism approach would be aside view of that will be revealed though a literary work meanwhile the theory is the main analyze.

Structural approach by Tyson (2006: 210) stated that in literature, structuralism has very important implications. Applying structuralism does not mean to judge whether a literature work is good or not; structuralism means to discover the underlying principles that govern their composition short.



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relation to structuralism approach, Aminuddin (1995: 52) said that the is a verbal structure which has own autonomy apart from other elements . The basic assumption is literary text is seen as a complete work and has its inner coherence. In its totally, ever part of element it displays authentic role. In addition, the element furthermore has its complete meaning from the entire of the text. A literary work according to the structuralism is totality constructed coherently by its various elements (builders).on one parties, the structure of literary works can be interpreted as composition, affirmation and the description of all the materials and part of the component which are in turn together forming a beautiful roundness (Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, 2013: 71).

Based on the explanation above of structuralism approach, the writer understands that is structuralism approach is in intrinsic approach, which is to an approach in the science of literature that works by analyzing the structural elements that build literary works from within, as well as looking for relationships or linkages of the elements with another in order to achieve unanimity of meaning. The writer only focuses on intrinsic elements in this analysis. Furthermore, the writer describes the intrinsic elements of novel *Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck* such as in the character, plot, setting, and theme.

2.2.1 Character and Characterization

Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in a fictional work. The information may be such as personality, appearance, age, gender, social status, sexual orientation, beliefs, motivation, others. Through the characterization, the reader can understand each character and therefore be able to understand the whole story Martin (1994: 95) said that the characters tell to the



bout the physical and non-physical characteristics of the person in the

Bannett and Royle (2004: 60) stated that, characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. In literature, however, the term of characters is used to mean a person, sometimes a personified animal or object. There are two kinds of character, namely the main character and minor character (supporting character). Aminuddin (1995: 99) that a story had difference character. A character has important character story is called main character, while a character that's character is less important, because her/his play completely, to support, to work, with main character only. It is called minor character or supporting character.

Koesmobroto (1988: 67) distinguished two types of character, main or major character and minor character. Major character is the most important character in the story. Basically, a story is about this character, but he cannot stand on his own; he needs other characters to make the story more convincing and lifelike. Minor characters are of less important than those of the main. The main characters in fiction or in a play is called protagonist.

In traditional fiction the protagonist is also the hero or heroine, an admirable character that embodies widely accepted strength and virtues, who is morally good. The antagonist is unsavory enough the world villain or villainess is used. It has often been assumed that characters in literary work can be judged from four levels of characterization.



Based on the explanation above the writer concluded that a character is an individual who experiences a direct event in the story. Characterization is a description of the character or image characteristics of each character in the story.

2.2.2 Plot

Plot is another important element because plot is the things characters do, feel, think, or say, that make a difference to what comes afterward (Dibell, 1988: 6). Plot is the sequence of events in the story that is composed as functional interrelation that also marks the order of the inner parts overall fiction. Thus the groove is a blend of elements that building the story so that it is the main framework of the story. In a sense, the path regulates how actions should be related to each other, how the characters are portrayed and play a role in the event all related in one unified time.

Plot is interlacing of events in literary works for achieves a certain effect. The plot is a sequence of events connected by causality, one event caused by or causing other events (Stanton in Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 119). Appearance event after event only base themselves from the sequence time alone is not plot, in order to become a plot then events had to be processed and tricked creatively. So the results of process and the accentuation itself is something beautiful and interesting, especially in relation to the relevant fictional work whole, plot can be divided into five parts.



xposition

This part usually occurs in the beginning of the story. The exposition os basically they entire setup and background information needed to proceed with the plot that is why character and setting are introduced in this part.

B. Rising Action

Rising action is the part where the conflict in the story begins to emerge. In the other word, the character in the story will experience in the conflict.

C. Climax

Climax is the peak of conflicts in the story. This part is the most exciting part because the conflicts in the story become complicated and intense. The complexity of the conflict n this part makes me reader interested in continuing to read the story. The complexity of the conflict also makes this part looks more dramatic.

D. Falling Action

The falling action is everything that happens as a result of the climax including wrapping-up of plot points.

E. Resolution

Resolution is the ending of the story where all the problems of the plot are solved. The resolution is not always happy, but is does complete the story. It can leave a reader with questions, answers, frustration, or satisfaction.

2.2.3 Setting



Setting is a description of the place, time and circumstance of events in a work. Setting denotes the location, historical period, and social ngs in which the action of a text develops (Klarer, 2004: 25). Setting can

represents the places in which characters appear, the social context of characters, such as their families, friends and class, the customs, beliefs and rules of behavior that give identity to a society, the particular locations of events, and the atmosphere, mood and fell that all the above elements create (Gill, 1995: 148).

Setting becomes one of important elements of literary work since it can create the atmosphere of the story and lead readers to imagine the situation of the story. Setting is also important because setting has a close relationship with other fictional elements. One of the elements of fiction that has a close relationship with setting is character. Setting can reflect the characterization in the story. For example, if the story is set in a rundown countryside, then the reader may judge that the characterization of a person living in rundown countryside is poor and stupid. So, setting can help reader to identify the characterization of a character.

There are three elements of setting, those are setting of place, setting of time, and setting of society. All three elements have their own problems and can be discussed on their own. However, the three elements of the setting are interrelated and interact with each (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 227-234).

1) Setting of place

Setting of place usually leads to the location of events that are told in a work of fiction. Usually, the place in a story corresponds to the one in the real world such as New York, London, and Athena. Those are the places that exist in real life but there are also places that are not in the real world but the place is created in the story. For example, Wonderland and Neverland, those places only created in fiction but



nothing in the real world. Setting of place is also usually explained in detail but there is also a place that is only mentioned name but not explained in detail. That is because the place is less affect the development of plot and character. Another reason is that the setting of place to place based on plot and character development.

2) Setting of time

Setting of time is the time when the story happened. Typically the time is associated with a factual time or the time relates with a story event. The connection between time and historical events can make the reader more interested and can make the reader feel the atmosphere at a certain time. However, in some fictions, setting of time seems vague and is not shown clearly.

3) Setting of society

Setting of society refers about matters that relate to the behavior of the social life of the community in the place of this story. It can be habits, customs, traditions, beliefs, the views of life, the ways of thinking, and how to behave. In addition, setting of society also relates to the social status of the person concerned, whether he or she a low, middle, or upper social status.

Based on some explanations about setting above, the writer concludes that setting is the element in the story where time, place, and circumstance off the



are described. Setting also can help the reader to identify the

characterization of character in the story. Setting has three elements that have their respective but related.

2.2.4 Theme

Theme is general basic idea that sustains a literary and inherent work in the text as a semantic structure concerning equations or differences (Hartoko and Rahmanto in Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 68). Theme is filtered from the motives contained in the work in question which determine the presence of certain events, conflicts and situations. Theme becomes the basic for the development of the whole story, so it is also animating the whole part of the story. The theme has generalizations, is broader, and abstract. The theme as the main meaning of a work of fiction is not intentionally hidden because it is exactly what is offered to the reader. However, theme is the overall meaning that the story is supported by itself will be hidden behind the stories that support it.

Theme in a literary, fictional work is just one from a number of other story building elements, which together from a whole. In fact the very existence of the theme itself is very depending on the various other elements. It was in the cause of the theme, which in fact only the form or meaning of the general basic idea of story, cannot be present without unsure of the from that holds it. Theme of a story is impossible to say directly, but rather just implicitly through the story. On the other hand, elements of the character and characterization, plot, setting and court,



are possible become unified and meaningful if bound by a theme. The

theme is to give coherence and meaning to the four elements and as well as various other fictional elements.

In a story, there must be a theme. Theme can be identified from the reader. The reader usually identifies the theme by allowing themselves to be dissolved by the story that they read. In addition, readers usually seek knowledge of literary works that they want to read. It is necessary for the reader to have a foundation on the story so readers can easily determine a theme. Another thing that can be down to easily identify a theme is to carefully observe each conflict because the conflict usually contains something useful so that readers can identify the theme of a story (Stanton, 2012: 41-42).

Based on some explanations about theme above, the writer concludes that theme is not mentioned clearly in the story but the theme can be determined by understanding the story especially in the part of conflict.

2.3 Theory of Conflict

As for the explanation of conflict theory, Nurgiyantoro (2013: 22) stated that namely conflict is an activity that is classified as important so that it will be a functional event, the core of which is an essential element in the plot development.

Meredith and Fitzgerald in Nurgiyantoro (2013: 122) said that conflict is something that is unpleasant that occurs and or experienced by the characters, who



racters have freedom to choose, they will not choose that event to happen Wellek and Warren in Nurgiyantoro (2013: 285) stated that conflict is something dramatic, referring to the fight between the two a balanced force implies action and countermeasures. Conflict thus, in the normal-normal-life view, meaning not in the story, suggesting a negative condition, something not it was fun.

Events can cause conflict, instead, because conflict occur, other events can also appear, for example those a result. Conflict after conflict followed by event for the sake of events will cause conflicts to escalate. So, the causes of the conflict can be concluded that, conflict is always a nature damaging, and conflict itself encourages further conflict, so cause change the cannot be avoided, and change will always be leads to improvement in human quality, so there will be consequences disadvantage although beneficial that can arise from the occurrence of conflict. Events and conflict are usually closely related, they can cause each other the occurrence of one another, even conflict is essentially an event.

Conflict is one of important parts that occurred in a novel. It causes a serious argument between the characters in a novel. Conflict is the element that makes the story becomes more interesting. Without conflict, the story would have no point or purpose. It requires some struggles for the reader to understand what might happen to the characters. According to Jones in Hartiningsih (2001: 15), there are three kinds of conflict such as physical conflict, social conflict, and psychological conflict.



cal conflict

Physical conflict is a conflict between human being with nature and environment. Physical conflict is a type of external conflict that occurs in the story when individual character struggle against other external force. In physical conflict, we usually find a man in conflict with nature. In such a story we may go through the struggles of a man climbing a mountain, a women fighting to survive in a cyclone, a man fighting an army of ants on his plantation. The principal appeal of this kind of story is almost wholly to the emotions of the readers Jones (1986: 30). While Sayuti (2000: 42) said, "*Physical or element conflict, usually appears when the character can't control or use and cultivate nature around as it should be*".

B. Social conflict

Jones (1986: 30) tells that Social conflict is a conflict between one person and another. Social conflict is a conflict the struggle is of one person against another. For example: two women seeking to marry the same man, two men competing for a job, a detective pitted against a criminal, a child in conflict with his parent. While Sayuti (2000: 43) said "Conflict between people or someone and society that called Social Conflict, usually in the form of character conflict, in relation to social problems"

C. Psychological Conflict

Based on Jones (1986: 31), Psychological conflict is the pressure of the



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gainst himself. It like how the characters feel uncomfortable with the . The psychological conflict or internal conflict is a man struggling imself, his conscience, his guilt, or simply trying to decide that he or she is going to do. In such a story we may see a honest but poor bank employee fighting the temptation to steal from his bank, a woman struggling with the sequences of a lie she is told, or an unwed pregnant girl trying to decide whether to have an abortion, place her child up for adoption or raise him alone. In his case, the psychological conflicts of the main character consist of: anxiety, doubt, fear, and sadness. In other words, conflict is not always happen between two person or more, but it also can happen with the environment, furthermore with our self. And the conflict is also not only a problem that can be seen factually. While Sayuti (2000: 42) said, "conflict within a person who often called psychological conflict, usually in the form of a struggle a character against himself so that it can overcome and determine what he will do".

