AN ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT IN FITZGERALD'S SELECTED SHORT

STORIES

A THESIS

*Submitted to the English Literature Study Program in Faculty
of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin University as a Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree in
English Literature*

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES

HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

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LEGITIMATION

THESIS

AN ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT IN FITZGERALD'S SELECTED

SHORT STORIES

BY

MUTMAINNA. AT

Student ID Number: F041191126

It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Tuesday, July 25th 2023 and is declare to have fulfilled the requirements.
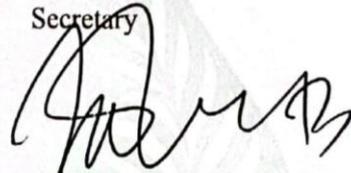
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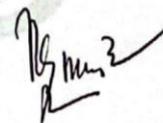
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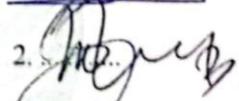Dra. Nasmilah, M.Hum, Ph.D
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AGREEMENT

On July 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **MUTMAINNA. AT** (F041191126) entitled *"An Analysis of Conflict in Fitzgerald's Selected Short Stories"* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 30th July 2023

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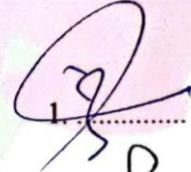|			
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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No.1931/UN.4.9.1/KEP/2022 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Mutmainna. AT (F041191126) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.
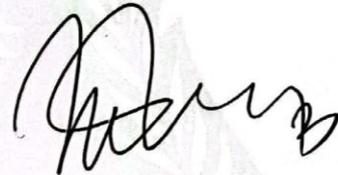
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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALLY

The undersigned;

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Short Stories

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, 30th July 2023

The Writer,

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Mutmainna. AT

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ABSTRACT

MUTMAINNA.AT. 2023. An Analysis of Conflict in Fitzgerald's Selected Short Stories. (Supervised by **M. Amir P.** and **M. Syafri Badaruddin**).

This research focuses on analyzing the conflicts in three short stories written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, namely; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, and Bernice Bobs Her Hair. The research is about the internal and external conflicts by the main characters in the three selected stories and how the main characters in the stories face the conflicts that occur in their lives.

This research uses Teeuw's structuralism approach that focuses on intrinsic elements; character, plot, setting and theme. This research also uses descriptive qualitative method. The main objects and data in this study are Fitzgerald's three selected short stories, namely; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button published in 1922, Babylon Revisited and Bernice Bobs Her Hair published in 1954.

Based on data analysis using intrinsic elements in Fitzgerald's three selected short stories, researchers found that the three main characters of the short stories experienced internal and external conflicts. Internal conflicts are faced by the three main characters, namely Benjamin Button, Charlie Wales and Bernice. And there are nine external conflicts, namely Man vs Man and Man vs Society. The three main characters face internal and external conflicts by relying on themselves.

Keywords: *Fitzgerald, short story, structuralism, conflict, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, Bernice Bobs Her Hair*

ABSTRAK

MUTMAINNA.AT. 2023. An Analysis of Conflict in Fitzgerald's Selected Short Stories. (dibimbing oleh **M. Amir P.** dan **M. Syafri Badaruddin**).

Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis konflik di dalam tiga cerita pendek yang di tulis F. Scott Fitzgerald, yaitu; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, dan Bernice Bobs Her Hair. Penelitian ini tentang konflik internal dan eksternal karakter utama dalam ketiga cerita pilihan dan bagaimana karakter utama di dalam cerita menghadapi konflik yang terjadi di hidup mereka.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme milik Teeuw yang berfokus pada unsur intrinsik; karakter, alur, latar dan tema. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Objek dan data utama dalam penelitian ini adalah tiga cerita pendek pilihan milik Fitzgerald, yaitu; The Curious Case of Benjamin Button yang terbit pada tahun 1922, Babylon Revisited dan Bernice Bobs Her Hair yang terbit di tahun 1954.

Berdasarkan analisis data menggunakan unsur intrinsik di dalam tiga cerita pendek pilihan milik Fitzgerald, peneliti menemukan bahwa ketiga karakter utama dari cerita pendek mengalami konflik internal dan eksternal. Konflik internal dialami ketiga karakter utama, yakni Benjamin Button, Charlie Wales dan Bernice. Dan terdapat Sembilan konflik eksternal, yakni Man vs Man dan Man vs Society. Ketiga karakter utama menghadapi konflik internal dan eksternal dengan mengandalkan diri mereka sendiri.

Kata kunci: *Fitzgerald, cerita pendek, strukturalisme, konflik, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, Bernice Bobs Her Hair*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the Introduction, which consists of the Background, identification of problem, scope of problem, research question, objective of writing, significance of writing, and sequence of writing.

A. Background of The Study

Literature is a popular art. Nowadays, writers pour their ideas into literary works aiming to communicate the story's message. According to Klarer (1998:1), literature is defined as "the entirety of written expression," with the caveat that not every written document can be classified as literature in the strictest sense. Hartoko (1992: 23) says literary work is writing a value as a work of art like fiction, poetry, drama, novel, and criticism that are recognizing as having important and permanent artistic value.

Wellek and Warren (1963: 22) say that:

> the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination.

The quotation above explains that a literary work could come from the experience of the author itself. It could also come from the experiences of others, which then, with the imagination, it becomes a story. This story will be of interest to the readers.

A piece of literary work that is short in length and focuses only on a single plot, a limited cast of characters, and a concise narrative is called a short story. It attempts to convey an entire story in a condensed format, typically between a few hundred and a few thousand words. Short stories frequently coalesce around a central theme or message and can be found in a variety of genres, such as mystery, romance, horror, science fiction, etcetera.

In literary works, there are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are in literary works, namely characters, settings, plots, themes, and point of view. While extrinsic are elements that are outside the story.

Conflict is one of the important elements in literary works. It is an intrinsic element. There are two types of conflict: Internal and external conflict. Kenney (1966:19) explains the two types of conflict, the conflict between man and itself, called internal conflict, and external conflict, such as the conflict between man and man, man and society, man and nature, etcetera.

Both of these conflicts can be found in Fitzgerald's short story: *The Curious* Case *of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, and Bernice Bob Her Hair*. In *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, the story begins with Roger Button – Benjamin Button's father – when he heads out to the hospital to meet his "newborn son", but he finds his "baby" is a 70-year-old man. Benjamin Button ages is reverse. When everyone else gets older, he gets younger at the same time. Most people blame Benjamin for his peculiarity, but Benjamin does not care. When Benjamin wants to go to college, he is rejected because he is considered too old. Then, When Benjamin appears fifty (and has actually been alive 20 years), he meets and falls

in love with the beautiful young Hildegarde Moncrief, luckily Hildegard has more interested in an older man, so they get married and have a son named Roscoe. But every year Benjamin gets younger, and Hildegard gets older, and he loses his interest in his wife. From time to time, Benjamin gets younger until his age same as his grandchild. Afterward, *Babylon Revisited and Bernice Bobs Her Hair.*

Babylon Revisited is a short story about a man called Charlie Wales, an American who became wealthy and famous in Paris in 1920, only to lose everything when the stock market crashed. Charlie returned to Paris to reclaim custody of his daughter, Honoria. However, he must persuade his sister-in-law that he has truly changed.

Bernice Bobs Her Hair is a short story about a young girl named Bernice who goes to stay with her cousin, Marjorie. Marjorie complains to her mother about Bernice's unpopularity due to her dullness. However, Marjorie, on the other hand, agrees to make over Bernice to make her look attractive and confident to the local young man.

The reason why the researcher chooses those stories because all of the stories have a different plot. Where the conflict in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* arises due to the birth of Benjamin Button, who is not like a normal child. Conflict in *Babylon Revisited* about Charlie's life unravels due to his alcoholism, and he loses his family because of his habit. Furthermore, the conflict in *Bernice Bobs Her Hair* is about Bernice, who bobs her hair because her cousin, Marjorie, to get more attention but it looks awful. Due to the different plots and stories, the researcher wants to find the conflict in those short stories. Also, there is no thesis

about conflict in those Fitzgerald selected short stories; only a few researchers analyzed the short story.

B. Identification of Problem

After reading the whole story of *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Bernice Bob Her Hair, and Babylon Revisited,* the researcher found some problems in the story:

1. The conflict faced by the main character in Fitzgerald's selected short stories

2. Social condition in Fitzgerald's selected short stories

3. Moral Values in Fitzgerald's selected short stories

C. Scope of Problem

As already mentioned, the researcher found three problems in the short story. Nonetheless, this thesis does not focus on the first and second problems. The researcher focuses on the third problem, which is about the conflict faced by the main character. The conflict which internal and external conflict will be the main focus.

D. Research Question

Based on the scope of problem above, the researcher presents research questions as follows:

1. What are the internal and external conflict faced by the main characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's selected short stories?

2. How does the main characters in Fitzgerald's selected short stories face their conflicts?

E. Objective of Research

The objectives of the writing can be stated as follows:

1. To describe the internal and external conflict faced by the main characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's short story

2. To find out how the main Characters face their conflicts

F. Significance of Writing

The significance of the study is as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance: the significance of this analysis is to increase the literary understanding in terms of literary works and to describe the portrayal of conflict in F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories

2. Practical significance:

   For the readers: the results of this research could increase and develop knowledge about how to analyze conflict.

   For the other researcher: this research could give additional information for those who want to analyze the same topic.

G. Sequence of Writing

This research comprises five chapters as follows:

The first chapter is an introduction. It consists of background of the study, identification of problem, scope of problem, research question, objective of writing, significance of writing, and sequence of writing.

The second chapter is a literature review. It consists of previous study, and theoretical framework and conflict.

The third chapter is a methodology. It covers the methodology of research, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and researcher procedure.

The fourth chapter is analysis. It explains the results of the analysis.

The fifth chapter are the conclusion and suggestion. It discusses the conclusions of the analysis that has been carried out.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the researcher discusses about literature review, which consists of previous study, theoretical framework, conflict in literary work.

A. Previous Study

The researcher found several pieces of research that related to the researcher's analysis. Several research uses the same object to analyze the conflict.

The first previous study is a journal done by Krisna (2017). The journal title is "An Analysis of Main Character's Conflict in Jodi Picould's My Sister's Keeper" This research focused on analyzing the conflict in the novel "My sister's Keeper by Jodi Picould". The researcher focused on internal and external conflict. The researcher wants to portray how the conflict that occurs in the novel. The researcher uses qualitative descriptive to find the internal and external conflict. The researcher found ten internal conflicts as data and sixteen external conflicts as data, but the researcher only analyzes six internal conflicts and fourteen external conflicts.

The second previous study is a thesis done by Soraya (2018), the title of her thesis is "An Analysis of The Main Character's Conflict in The Fault in Our Stars Novel by John Green" The researcher focused on analyzing the main character's conflict pictured in the novel and on finding the dominant types of the main character's conflict in "The Fault in Our Stars by John Green". The researcher also focused on internal and external conflict. The researcher also used qualitative descriptive. The researcher found there were four types of conflicts in the novel.

They were Man Vs Self conflict, Man Vs Man conflict, Man Vs Nature conflict and Man Vs Society conflict. Then, the dominant type of conflict found in the main character's dialogues and narrations in this novel was Man vs Self conflict.

The third previous study is a journal by Maryana Bulu (2018). The title of her journal is "Conflict Analysis of The Main Characters in Short Stories by Edgar Allan Poe". The researcher focused on describing the types of conflicts of the main characters in short stories, and describe the effects of conflicts of the main characters in short stories. To find out the conflict the researcher uses qualitative method. By using qualitative method the researcher find sixteen data from three short stories by Edgar Allan Poe. There were four data from The Tell-Tale Heart, ten data from The Black Cat, and two data from The Hop Frog, and the details are: Six data of internal conflicts, five data of social conflicts, and five data of physical conflicts.

The fourth previous study is a thesis done by Nurrahma (2021) the title of her thesis is "The Analysis Conflicts of the Main Character in Austen's EMMA". The researcher focused on analyze the intrinsic aspect and reveal the internal dan external conflicts experienced by the main characters, Emma Woodhouse. To find out the conflict that occur on Emma, the researcher uses descriptive research method, and to analyze the intrinsic elements the researcher uses structuralism approach. As a result, the researcher found internal and external conflict face by the main character. The internal conflicts about Emma and herself, and the external conflict, which Emma vs Mr. Knightley, Emma vs Harriet, Emma vs Mr. Elton, and Emma vs Jane Fairfax.

After learning about these previous studies, the researcher noticed that they all had a common study with the researcher thesis. All four previous studies above explain about conflict internal and external from the main character. However, the researcher from the first, second and the fourth previous study using a novel to analyze conflict, while the researcher in this research uses three selected short stories to analyze the conflict and it same with the third previous study. The difference between this thesis with theses and journals above are, the first research focuses on the conflict in My sister's Keeper novel by Jodi Picould and to find out how the conflict occur, while this thesis focuses on the conflict in the selected short stories by Fitzgerald. The second research also a novel, and the researcher want to find out the dominant type of conflict that occur, while in this research the researcher did not want to find out the dominant type of conflict but the researcher wants to find out how the main character deal with their conflict. The Third previous study focuses to describe the type of conflicts from the three selected short story by Edgar Allan Poe, the difference between this two are the researcher using three short stories by Edgar Allan Poe while in this thesis the researcher chooses three selected short story from Fitzgerald. In the last previous study also a novel, the researcher analyzes the conflict from Emma by Jane Austen, while the researcher in this thesis using three selected short story by Fitzgerald.

Based on the previous study above, the researcher will analyze the conflict in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, and Bernice Bobs Her Hair by Fitzgerald and those previous studies served as a reference for the researcher.

B. Theoretical Framework

1. Short Stories

According to Aristoteles (in Budianta dkk., 2003:7), literature is a work that conveys the experience, provides unique enjoyment and also insight into life. Literature has three general genres: drama, poetry, and prose.

Robert (1999:3) stated that prose is something created, crafted, or formed based mostly on the author's imagination. There are some forms of prose: it is novels, short stories, novellas, romance, drama and etcetera.

A short story is a short narrative prose, usually targeted around one event. It is restricted in scope and has an introduction, body and conclusion. Even though the short story is very similar to novel. Edgar Allan Poe (Jassin, 1961:72) the famous American author, stated that a short story is a story finished reading in one sitting, roughly half an hour or two hours, something that would be impossible when reading a novel. Because it is shorter than a novel, a short story usually focuses on one plot, whereas a novel have multiple plots with a variety of characters.

2. Structuralism Approach

Structural comes from the Latin language "structura" which means form or build, and "systema" means method. The first scientist who proposed this theory was Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913). The theory put forward by Saussure is: (1) Meaning cannot be separated from words, and words not only contain sound but also have meaning. This theory is called Signed and Signifiers. (2) Language is only a form, not a substance. (3) Language can be learned based on historical and ahistorical reviews.

Claude Levi-Strauss (1908:2008) then developed Saussure's theory. Structuralism is different from the concept of Linguistics but rather sees structuralism and is more concerned with social life. One of the things that made Levi-Strauss increasingly known in Structuralism was his statement that sometimes humans cannot live based on facts alone but also contain emotions, illusions and delusions.

In contrast to Saussure and Levi-Strauss, Jacques Lacan (1901 – 1981), a psychoanalyst from France, saw that Structuralism is closer to psychology. He stated that language is always moving and dynamic.

Dynamic structuralism was first proposed by Mukarovsky and Felik Vodicka (Fokkema, 1977: 31). According to him, literary works are a communication process, semiotic facts consisting of signs, structures, and values.

Structuralism was developed in Europe in the early 1990s by Ferdinand de Saussure. It was preceded by Russian formalism (1915-1930), Prague structuralism (1930s), and New Criticism in the United States (1940s), In the late 1950s and early 1960s, when structural linguistics faced difficulties due to Chomsky, structuralism experienced decline, but several humanities scholars continued to "borrow" Saussure's theory for their respective of study. Then in the 1960s, a French anthropologist, namely Levi-Strauss, developed this theory to spark widespread interest in structuralism. Structuralism has been applied in many studies, including anthropology, sociology, psychology, literature, and etcetera. However, in the late 1960s, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Louis Althusser, and Roland Barthes criticised the principles of structuralism. And around the

1960s, discussed new structuralism in Russia, French structuralism, the development of structuralism in England, the autonomy movement in Germany, structuralism in the Netherlands, and structuralism in Indonesia through the Rawamangun group (1960s).

Important figures of structuralism including Roman Jakobson, Jan Mukarovsky, Felix Vodicka, Rene Wellek, Jonathan Culler, Robert Scheles, etcetera.

According to Teeuw (1988:125), the structural analysis seeks to disassemble and describe the interrelationship and intertwining of all elements and aspects of literary works that produce a total meaning as carefully, thoroughly, immediately, and deeply as possible. What matters in structural analysis is that it is presented as a whole. Burhan Nugiyantoro (1995:36-37) stated that, the structural approach seeks to explain as clearly and accurately as possible the functions and relationships between the many elements of a literary work that contribute to the overall story. The relationship between the elements is also reflected in the structure of literary works. They influence one another and form a unified front.

Structuralism is an approach that identify the literary work from the intrinsic elements. Structuralism only focuses on the object and does not attach importance to the subject of the creator. Structuralism detaches the work from the literary and socio-cultural history of its origin. The researcher focuses only on the intrinsic elements of the short story. This study uses structuralism theory, where the researcher analyses the conflict in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Babylon Revisited, and Bernice Bobs Her Hair short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald. In

analyzing the conflicts that are portrayed in the short story, the researcher uses this theory by analyzing the plot, setting, characters, theme and conflict. By applying this approach, the researcher can find the internal and external conflict portrayed in this Short story.

2.1 Character

Another intrinsic element in literary work is character. According to Forster (1990:73-80), there are two kinds of character : (1) Flat character, flat character is not a complicated character because flat characters do not change. (2) Round character, the opposite of the flat character, this character changes because conflict is changed.

Based on the appearance in literally fiction, character divided into two types, which is protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is a character who experiences conflict in the story, usually, the protagonist is described as a good character so that the reader will be interested. In contrast, the antagonist is defined as an opposite character or against the protagonist. The story revolves around the major characters, also known as the primary characters or protagonists. They typically play an important role and are involved in the primary plot and conflict. Major characters frequently undergo significant character development throughout the story, and their actions and decisions have a direct impact on the story's conclusion

Minor characters, also known as supporting characters, fulfill various functions in a narrative. They contribute to the overall narrative by providing

context, adding complexity to the world, supporting the major characters, or advancing subplots, even if they are not as significant as the main characters.

Characterization is how an author characterizes his novel or drama or the behaviour of each character who plays a role in a literary work.

2.2 Plot

Plot is a sequence of events intertwined in the story to build a storyline from beginning to end. According to Saad (in Rahmanto, 1988:30), plot is divided into two types: linear and flashback. The linear plot also called progressive plot, which is the story that starts from the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Meanwhile, a flashback plot is a plot that tells the main character's life's past events and then to the present.

In general, the elements of the plot can be explained as follows:

a. Exposition: At the story's beginning, the author introduces the characters, setting, conflict and theme.

b. Rising action: The story's conflict appears, after the exposition and before the climax.

c. Climax: The conflict faced by the main character is getting more complicated; it is the turning point of the story, and this stage forces the main character to solve the conflict.

d. Falling action: After the complicated conflict in the climax before, the conflict starts to fall

e. Resolution: The resolution is the end of the story

2.3 Setting

The setting is where the time and location take place. Setting is one of the important elements in literary works.

According to Abrams (1981:175), setting dividends into three types: setting of place, time and atmosphere. The setting of a place is the place where the events of a character occur, for example, at home, at school, in a city and etcetera. While the setting of time shows when the events experienced by a character occur. Then, the setting of the atmosphere shows the inner condition experienced by the character. Usually contains the environmental conditions in which the character is located so that we will know the character's feelings.

2.4 Theme

The theme is the main idea that forms the basis for creating a story in literary works. According to Aminuddin (2002:91), a literary work theme is a story's underlying idea, so it acts as the starting point for the author to portray it fictional work. Whether a novel or short story, the theme is usually written implicitly or explicitly in literary work. To find and determine the theme in literary work, it has to read the whole story of the literary work.

C. Conflict in Literary Work

According to Michael Nicholson (1992:11), conflict is an activity that occurs when individuals or groups want to hold out mutually contradictory acts regarding their wants, needs, or obligations. Conrad (1991:135–155) stated that conflict results from interactions between interdependent people who perceive their interests as incompatible, conflicting, or opposed. Human life will not be

separated from conflict; as humans, we will try to resolve conflicts that arise so that our lives are peaceful. There are two kinds of conflict; it is internal and external conflict.

1. **Internal Conflict**

Internal conflict is a conflict between Man and itself known as the conflict that happens inside a person. Because this conflict occurs within themselves, this conflict can affect their actions and interactions with other characters. It is a type of conflict that occurs within an individual, involving conflicting thoughts, beliefs, values, desires, or emotions.

2. **External Conflict**

External conflict is conflict outside of the person. External conflict deal with Man Vs Man, Man Vs Society, Man Vs Nature, and Man Vs Technology. This type of conflict often advances the plot, creates tension, and reveals important aspects of the character's personality and motivations.

1. Man vs Man – This type of conflict involves a character pitted against another. Examples include the rivalry between Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty in Arthur Conan Doyle's stories or the feud between the Montagues and Capulets in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

2. Man vs Society – This type of conflict involves a character struggling against the norms and expectations of society. Examples include the protagonist in George Orwell's "1984" fighting against a totalitarian government or Huck Finn in Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" rejecting the racist attitudes of his society.

3. Man vs Nature – This type of conflict involves a character struggling against the forces of nature. Examples include the survival stories of Jack London, such as "To Build a Fire," or the struggle against a storm in Sebastian Junger's "The Perfect Storm".

4. Man vs Technology – This type of conflict involves a character struggling against a machine or technology. Examples include the sentient computer in Arthur C. Clarke's "2001: A Space Odyssey" or the dystopian world of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World.