

**ANALYSIS OF CONFLICTS OF MAIN CHARACTERS IN  
PLATH'S *THE BELL JAR***



**THESIS**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University  
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in English*

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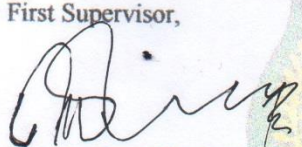
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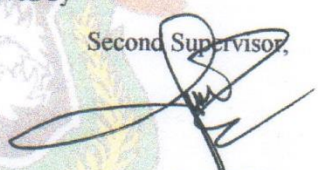
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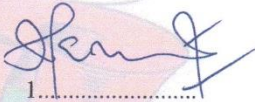
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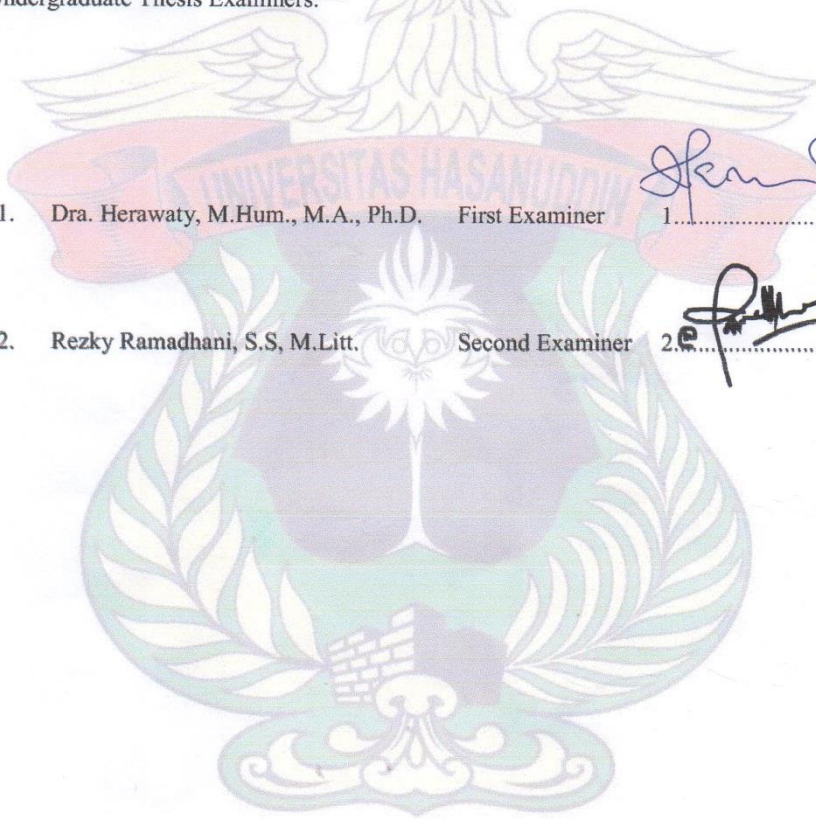
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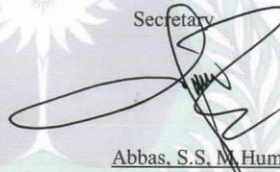
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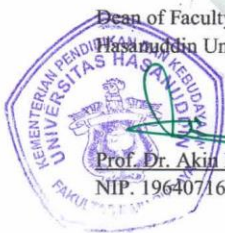
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(Febrianti)

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Makassar, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
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## ABSTRAK

**Febrianti.** 2020. *The Conflicts Analysis Of Main Character In Plath's The Bell Jar*. (Dibimbing oleh **M. Syafri Badaruddin** dan **Abbas**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan tentang analisa masalah konflik dalam novel *The Bell Jar* oleh *Silvia Plath*. Konflik tersebut terkait dengan tokoh utama, yakni *Esther Greenwood*. Dalam analisa konflik ini, penulis menggambarkan Internal dan External konflik yang terjadi pada tokoh utama dan menjelaskan dampak konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh utama tersebut.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif, sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah novel *The Bell Jar* karya *Silvia Plath*. Untuk mendukung data dalam analisis, penulis menggunakan Pendekatan Strukturalisme untuk menganalisa struktur intrinsik novel, meliputi karakter, alur, latar, dan tema dalam cerita fiksi. Penulis juga menggunakan teori konflik untuk mendukung penelitian ini

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa berbagai konflik internal dan konflik external yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh dalam cerita ini berupa percobaan bunuh diri *Esther Greenwood* dengan dirinya sendiri, Kemudian eksternal konflik terkait tindakan dan perilaku tokoh utama dengan tokoh lainnya yang mengakibatkan munculnya banyak masalah.

**Kata Kunci:** *Konflik, Pendekatan Strukturalisme, Novel The Bell Jar*

## ABSTRACT

**Febrianti.** 2020. *The Conflicts Analysis Of Main Character In Plath's The Bell Jar*. (Dibimbing oleh **M. Syafri Badaruddin** dan **Abbas**)

This study aims to explain the analysis of conflict problems in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. The conflict is related to the main character, namely Esther Greenwood. In this conflict analysis the writer wants to describe the internal and external conflicts that occur to the characters and to explain the impact of the conflict experienced by the main character.

The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method, the data source in this study is the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. To support the data in the analysis, the writer uses a structuralism approach to analyze the intrinsic structure of the novel, including the characters, plot, setting, and themes in the story. The author also uses conflict theory to support this research

The result on this study indicates that the various forms of internal conflict and external conflict experienced by the main character in this fiction includes suicidal attempt between Esther Greenwood and herself. Then, an external conflict related to the actions and behavior of the main character and other characters which results in many problems.

**Keywords:** *Conflict, Structuralism Approach, Novel The Bell Jar*

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Human life is filled with interactions in maintaining life, both interactions with humans and interactions with nature. Interaction is a part of human dependence with fellow humans and nature. Every individual has a role in society that encourages the formation of collectivity in life. These roles can be manifested in the form of professions such as traders, barbers, domestic servants, farmers, teachers, police, soldiers, students, business people, and others. The loss of the role of individuals in society has the potential for chaos and destruction of a community so that the collectivity of roles needs to be cared for and maintained. Diversity of individual roles on one side can be the potential to advance the community, but on the other hand diversity has the potential for conflict that can undermine a community.

A person has the potential for conflict with others because of differences in interests, deprivation of rights, extortion, fraud, and a number of other reasons. It means that conflict cannot be avoided by humans as social beings in social life. Humans as individual creatures as well as social creatures in establishing relationships with other humans are inseparable from differences in interests with each other. As long as humans have different interests, conflicts will always be present wherever they are. Conflict can be defined as a state of society that experiences differences between one individual and another individual, between one group and another group so as to encourage changes in attitudes, behavior, and actions based on these differences.

Conflict as part of social dynamics is documented by humans in various forms of work such as caricatures, paintings, theater, books, and literary works. Events or events contained in literary works are played by fictional characters as a reflection of real life in society. The behavior of fictional characters who build stories with the diversity of life issues in society is a reflection of the behavior of individuals in human life, including behavior or interactions that have the potential to cause conflict. The fact of conflict in the imagination of the author can be found in several literary works, including the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath.

Novel *The Bell Jar* tells the story of a girl named Esther, she is a young girl about 19 years old who recently received a scholarship offer to continue her studies at a college in New York City, USA. She is one of twelve young girls who won fashion magazine contests through essay writing, poetry, articles, and stories about fashion. They get the opportunity to work while studying and learning for a whole month in New York. All expenses and living costs are borne by the scholarship sponsors, even they also get various bonuses and prizes from sponsors in the form of tickets for ballet shows and fashion shows, visiting and enjoying services at leading salons, getting fashionable clothes. They appear in glamorous lives as public figures. They were trained in how to attend official banquets, how to dress up with film star-class make-up. All the facilities enjoyed by the scholarship recipients are the dreams of the girls, especially those from small towns like Esther.

Esther became so fed up that she finally did not feel happy or happy with all the facilities she received. The first time it was interesting but after a while later, she was unable to feel the appeal of all the activities and activities she lived. At first she felt jealous of other girls whose families were rich and they just spent time with



various activities. Then she imagined like rich girls dreaming of being able to fulfill many of her desires, including holidays abroad, mastering various foreign languages, making weighty writing, becoming social volunteers, and others. Esther's imagination caused a conflict in her because the people around her, including her parents, did not understand this dream. Esther then turned into a private person.

The inner conflict and thought disturbances experienced by Esther reached a peak which resulted in her running away from school, leaving her scholarship and all its attributes, severing ties with her finance. She came back and hid in her parents' house and did not do any activities until she experienced great depression and suffered severe insomnia for weeks. Her mother was so concerned about Esther's condition that she took her to doctors and psychiatrists with various forms of treatment and therapy that cost a fortune. The treatment did not make Esther heal instead made her condition worse until she committed suicide.

The main character in the novel *The Bell Jar* named Esther has a conflict that is unable to be resolved instead ends with her death. Internal and external conflicts have a big impact on Esther's life which is interesting to study because this conflict is related to the gap between the reality of life and fantasy. Based on the fact this gap in the story encourages the writer to conduct a conflict analysis of fictional characters by formulating the research title, namely *The Conflicts Analysis of the Main Characters in the Plath's The Bell Jar*.

## **1.2 Identification of Problem**

Novel *The Bell Jar* has a story related to life issues in society, namely conflicts that occur in the main character. The writer is interested in examining conflicts in the novel by identifying a number of problems as follows:

1. The novel has a number of characters, including Esther, Buddy, and Esther's Mother who are involved interactively building stories to create conflicts.
2. Esther experienced internal and external conflicts that resulted in her experiencing great depression
3. The conflict in the story was not resolved instead ended with the death of the main character, Esther.

### **1.3 Questions of Research**

A number of questions in this study are the focus of the writer's discussion regarding conflicts in the novel, namely:

1. What is inner and external conflicts happened by main characters in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath?
2. How is the impact of the conflicts to main characters in the novel?

### **1.4 Objective of Writing**

The writer sets the objectives of this study based on a number of questions that have been raised previously, namely:

1. To describe the conflict of inner and external happened by main characters in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath.
2. To explain the impact of conflict to main characters in the novel.

### **1.5 Sequence of Writing**

This research is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is an introduction consisting of background research, research objectives, problem formulation, statement of problems, objective of writing, and sequence of writing. Chapter two is

a literature review containing previous studies, literary approaches, and theories related to research issues. Then chapter three contains research methodology, data sources, data collection, and data analysis. Next, chapter four discusses about inner and external conflict of the main character in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath, and the impact of conflict of main character in the novel. Finally, chapter five is the conclusion of the research and suggestions.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter consists of previous study to support the analysis of main character's conflict in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. It also consists of the structuralism approach to analyze the novel and theory of conflict to shape the analysis.

#### **2.1 Previous Study**

Previous study is used to know about the other thesis that related or relevant with this research is the analysis of main character's conflict in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. The writer found some theses that related with this research such as Tri Nurlianingsih (2014), Lalu Riyan Permana (2017), and Alim Imam Muttaqin Wahiduddin (2016).

The first research is Tri Nurlianingsih with entitled *Esther's Problems of Personality as an Impact of Her Failure in Accomplishing Self-Identity* by using psychosocial analysis. This research aims to identify which stage of the psychosocial development is unsuccessfully handled by the main character of *The Bell Jar* and to explain the impact of this failure to her personality. To analyse the research object, it used the psychosocial theory by Erikson and a qualitative research with the content analysis method. The writer found that a psychosocial crisis which occurs in the main character's life based on Erikson's psychosocial development theory is *Identity* versus *Role Confusion*. In this stage, she also identified the main character experiences to two major problems of identity diffusion in her adolescence period, namely identity diffusion and negative identity.

Next, Lalu Riyan Permana wrote a thesis entitled” *An Analysis of Main Character’s Conflict in Anne Holm’s Novel I Am David*. This thesis explained about internal and external conflict of the main character. The researcher used Sigmund Freud’s theory which explains the Id, ego, and superego’s role in the conflicts faced by the main character. The findings show that the main character faced two kinds of conflicts, internal and external conflict. The internal conflict includes the psychological conflict faced by David and the external conflict includes the other characters, social and nature conflict faced by David. So, there searcher concludes that the internal conflicts are built by the contradiction among Id, Ego and Superego and the external conflict are the conflicts again the outside forces, such as David against other characters like The Man, Carlo The American, Children’s Mother, The Farmer, and society.

The last is Alim Imam Muttaqin Wahiduddin with entitled *The main Character’s Nervousness in Poe’s Short Stories The Black Cat and The Tell Tale Heart*. In his thesis, he focused to analyze reveal nervousness as represented by the main characters in Poe’s short stories, *The Black Cat* and *The Tell Tale Heart*. He employed Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalysis theory to find out what happened to the main characters’ psyche and to reveal the signs, symptoms and impacts of antisocial personality disorder through the main characters in Poe’s short stories, *The Black Cat* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. The results of the study show that nervousness in Poe’s short stories is revealed through some aspects, they are characters and conflicts. Essentially, the main characters of both short stories show signs and symptoms such as disregard for right and wrong, persistent lying or deceit to exploit others, being callous, cynical and disrespectful of others through the reflections of

their unstable inner minds and unexplainable flaw in their personalities. Those conditions create fatal action such main character becomes the aggressor or assailant by attacking an innocent victim.

The writer assumes that there are similarities and differences between these previous studies and the research that is analyzed either from the object approach and theory. The similarities are to use structuralism approach, analyzing conflicts to the main characters, and the same object. Apart from the similarities, the writer also finds there are some difference between these previous researches and research conducted by the writer. The differences that found by the writer are Nurlianingsih used psychosocial analysis to identify which stage of psychosocial development has not been successfully handled by the main character, Lalu Riyan Permana focused on analyzing the conflict of main characters in different novels, and the last is Alim imam focused analyzing the nervousness experienced by the main character in the short story by using psychoanalysis. Another difference that makes this research different from previous researches is the object of the research and the causes of the conflict in this novel. Therefore, the results of this research are differing from the analysis in the previous studies.

## **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 others 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. It is explained by Ryan (2007: 41) that structuralism approach is a kind of



approach that only focuses on intrinsic elements of literary works. It is one of the literary theories that start from the assumption that the literary works is composed of several elements, which are bound up as a unity. The elements influence each other and finally work as autonomous structures.

Structuralism approach has been known since the time of Greece by Aristotle with concept of wholeness, unity, complexity, and coherence (Teeuw, 1998: 121-134). However, literary structuralism is growing rapidly especially in the revolutionary atmosphere of the 1920s, when it was thought. This approach was created between around 1915 and 1930 by the Russian Formalists. The Formalists has begun to elaborate their ideas before the Russian Revolution broke out in 1917 (Sturrock, 2003: 99).

In relation to structuralism Approach, Aminuddin (1987: 52) said that the literature is a verbal structure which has its own autonomy apart from other elements outside it. The basic assumption is literary text is seen as a complete work and has its inner coherence. In its totality, every part of element it displays authentic role. In addition, the elements furthermore has its complete meaning from the entirety of the text. A literary work according to the structuralism is totality constructed coherently by its various elements (builders). On one part, 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, 2010: 71).

On the other hand, the structure of the literary works also springs on understanding of inter-elemental relation (intrinsic) that are mutually mutually determine, influence each other that together from one unified whole. By itself,

isolated from the whole, the material, the elements, or the parts are not important ,  
even meaningless. Each section will become meaningful and important after being in  
connection with the parts others, and how it contributes to the overall discourse  
(Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 36).

Based on the explanation above of structuralism approach, the writer  
understands that it is structuralism approach is 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 one 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 *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath such as in the  
character, plot, setting, and theme.

### **2.2.1 Character**

Character is one of the most important elements in literature, especially in  
novels. the existence of characters in stories related to conflict creation. in this case  
the character plays an important role in creating conflict in fiction. the character  
given will be reflected in the mind, speech, and character's view of something  
characters can be people, animals, objects and others.

According to Bennet and Royle (2004: 60), character is the life of literature,  
the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and  
condemnation. Character is most important element in a story because the character  
has an important role in running events in the story. The existence of a character in a  
story related to the creation of a conflict. In this case of the character has an  
important role to make a conflict in fiction.

Abrams states the character is the name of a literary genre; it is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type of person (Abrams 32). character represents a subject. It is about who the doer in the story is. The characters live in a story, like human being. It needs to be alert for how we are to take them , for what we are to make of them, and we need to see how they may reflect our own experience. Many people experience like characters done. It also needs observe their actions, to listen to what they say and how they say it, to notice how they relate to others characters respond to them, especially to what they say about each other

In some works, a character may offer signs of the progress and the completion of narrative pattern. John C. Gerber (1948: 68) explained that a character score of novelty in an unchanged scene may be change in the character himself and a character is sense of change in a scene which remains the same, in another narrative, may show a shift in thought and feeling.

Abrams also stated that basically, based on the importance, the character can be divided into two categories. They are major character and minor character. A major character usually appears in the whole of the story. He becomes the focus of the story. The events that appear in the story always involve him directly or indirectly. On the other hand, minor character is often said as the supporting character. The roles are less important then the main characters because they are not fully developed characters and their roles in a story are just to support the development of the major character (1981: 20).

Nurgiyantoro (2010: 176) mentioned that character can be categorized into several naming types at once. The first is character can be divided into main character and minor character.

1. Main character is center of the story because main character dominates in a story and certainly has an important role in the story. Usually the main character is always appears in every event or although the main character is not shown in certain events but the incident is very closely related to the main character. Although the main character always dominates in the story, the main character also needs another character as minor character.
2. Major character has a role to create situations and provoke conflict for the main characters. For that, major character is only present in some parts of the story and appears if the role is related to the main character.

Besides main character and minor character, character can be divided into protagonist and antagonist according to Althenberd and Lewis (1966: 58). Protagonist is the character that the reader admires, sometimes called the hero of the story. This character is the personification of norms and values which are ideal for the reader. Protagonist shows something that agrees with the readers view and hope. On the contrary, antagonist is the character that caused the conflict the story. Sometimes the antagonists are called the enemy of protagonist because it is believed as the opposition of the protagonists, directly or indirectly, physically.

Based on some explanation related to character above, the writers concludes that characters is one of the elements in literary work which character has a role to build interaction and conflict in the story. Character can be divided into main character and major character. Character also can be divided into protagonist and antagonists.

### **2.2.2 Plot**

Plot is a very important basic framework. It regulates how actions related to each other, how the accident related to another accident, and how the character explained to a role in that accident. It is that contains the sequence of events but each incident is only connected in cause and effect, an event which caused or led to the occurrence of other events. According to Stanton in Nurgiantoro (2010: 119), the plot is a sequence of events connected by causality, one event caused by or causing other events so it is the interlacing of events in literary works for achieves a certain effect.

Freytag Gustav in Waluyo (2001: 8-12), the components of a plot contain exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

1. Exposition is the condition existing at the beginning of the story. The setting is identified. The main characters with their existence, circumstances and relationships to one another are established. The exciting force or initial conflict is introduced.
2. Rising Action is the series of events, conflicts, and crises in the story that lead up to the climax, providing the progressive intensity, and complicates the conflict.
3. Climax is the turning point of the story. A crucial event takes place and from this point forward, the protagonist moves toward his inevitable end. The event maybe either an action or a mental decision that the protagonist makes.
4. Falling Action is the events occurring from the time of the climax to the end of the story. The main character may encounter more conflicts in this part of the story, but the end is inevitable.

5. Resolution is the tying up of loose ends and all of the threads in the story. The hero character either emerges triumphant or is defeated at this point. The end of a story could happen in three ways, they are happy ending, unhappy ending, or twist ending.

Based on some explanation related to plot above, the writers concludes that that the plot is an essential element in a story. It intended to give an understanding to the reader of how an event may relate to another event. Plot also reveals *why* and *how* an event or conflict could happen. And then reveal the consequences of events that occur.

### **2.2.3 Setting**

Setting is a description of the place, time, and circumstance of events in a literary work. According to Klarer (2004: 25), setting denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops. It can represent the places in which characters appearance, the social context of character. It is also the environment that surrounds an event in the story, the universe that interacted with the events that are taking place. Background can intangible fixed times (day, month and year), the weather, or a period of history (Stanton, 2007:35). The presence of background in a fictional story is very important. Fiction as a world within the world the possibility is equipped with occupant characters and problem. Attendance characters require absolute space and time.

There are three elements of setting related to the fictional story, those are setting of place, setting of time and setting of society. The whole settings have a potential of determining theme of story. According to Abrams (1999: 284), 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 other.

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 the story corresponds to the one in the real world such as New York, London, and Athens. Those are the places that exist in real life but there are also places which are found in the real world but the place is created in the story.

2. Setting of time

Setting of time is the time in the story happened. Typically, the time is associated with a factual time or the time related with a story event. The connection between time and historical event can make the reader more interested and can make the reader feel the atmosphere at a certain time.

3. Setting society

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

Based on some explanation related to setting above, the writer concludes that Setting is a very important story forming element, because it can determine the general situation in a literary work. Setting greatly affects the atmosphere, events,

main issues in the story, and the theme of the story. Settings can also give a realistic impression to the reader, creating a certain atmosphere that seems to exist and occur.

#### **2.2.4 Theme**

Theme is the main idea or meaning contained in a story that the author conveys through the storyline. So, the story does not only contain a series of events arranged in a chart, but also has a specific purpose. According to Robert and Jacobs (1987:59), the theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. In literary fiction, a theme is seldom so obvious. That is, a theme need not be as a moral or a message; it may be what the happenings add up to, what the story is about. For the meaning, we must look to other elements in the story, besides what happens in it, theme is the general basic idea that sustains a literary and inherent work in the text as a semantic structure concerning equations or differences. Theme as the main meaning of a work of fiction is not intentionally hidden because it is exactly what is offered to the reader.

The existence of the theme is depending on the various other elements in the literary works. It was in the cause of the theme, which in fact only in the form or meaning of the general basic idea of story, cannot be presented without uncertainty of the form that holds it. Another thing that can be done 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.

Theme is main idea or an underlying meaning of literary work which can be state directly or indirectly. Theme is an important element because it is attached to the whole story from start to finish and also be more than one theme. 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**

Conflict is a problem experienced by human beings and can be detrimental to it self. Literature is defined as a conflict or disagreement in a fictional story or drama. This is like the opinion of Warren and Wellek (in Nurgiyantoro, 2013: 179), which stated that the conflict is something dramatic, triggers a fight between two balanced forces and implies an action and retaliatory action. It means that conflict is a dispute, contradiction or disagreement in a story the climax process.

The importance of the story presence of conflict in a story described by Stanton (2007: 31) that the two basic elements that build the plot are conflict and climax. Every work of fiction at least whether or not to have internal conflict (which obvious) that comes through the passion of two characters ore one's desire character with its surroundings. This specific conflict is subordination of the main conflicts that are internal and external or both so it can be seen that conflicts are disputes in a story. Similar to real life, conflicts can occur because of differences in interests, actions such as women, influence and wealth, betrayal, revenge, typical of human character, and others (Nurgiyantoro, 2013: 179).

The notion of conflict can be understood by the existence of an event experienced by a fictional character as a form of human investment in real life where the event tends to be unpleasant events or things that make the character feel disturbed and uncomfortable. Stanton explained that in a story must be found at least a conflict with the characters in it, whether it's internal conflict, external or even both. Thus from the explanation according to its division, conflict can be divided

into two namely internal conflict and external conflict. According to Stanton in Nurgiyantoro (2010: 124), conflict among fictional characters distinguished into the following two categories, namely internal conflict or psychological conflict, and external conflict.

1. Internal conflict or psychological conflict or also called man versus itself is the conflict that exist inside the character. Internal conflict usually occurs when the character have to struggle with morality, fate, desire and belief, and other factors that come from within a person. Internal conflict is the complicated form of conflict because the character needs to overcome their conflict by themselves.
2. External conflict is conflict that occur outside the character itself. In contrast with internal conflict, external conflict is the conflict that occurs because of the external factor or can be said the character deals with the problem of the world. External conflict occurs when characters are involved in the world's woes, such as issues of community, nature, government and other characters are all examples of external conflict.

External conflict manifests itself as man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society, and man versus fate.

- a. Man versus Man

Man versus man is the most common and fundamental type of external conflict. Man versus man happens when a character struggles against another character. Those struggles may be arise from moral, religious or social differences and may be emotional, verbal or physical conflict.

Usually, this kind of conflict happens because of two opposite characteristic, protagonist and antagonist.

b. Man versus Nature

Man versus nature conflicts occur when the characters find themselves at odds with forces of nature in the form of natural disaster or experiencing a dangerous situation. Character struck by lightning, character whose boat sinks in a storm, character who struggles against hypothermia in a snow storm, and character who stranded on an uninhabited island and no signal, are all characters experiencing man versus nature conflicts.

c. Man versus Society

Man versus society exists when characters struggle against the morays of their culture and government. Man versus society is usually presented by someone who tries to fight the rules that have been set in the society. Man versus society can be said as the type of rebellion by someone who wants to change what character things negative in the society become positive.

d. Man versus Fate

Man versus fate happens when character is compelled to follow an unknown destiny even though the character does not like it. Man versus fate conflict usually results internal conflict, while pushing characters to believe even though they do not want to believe, to follow even though they do not want to follow, or to agree even though they do not want to agree on their fate.

There are some modern theories add the following additional types of conflict in literature. One type of modern theory is character vs god or the supernatural. The type of conflict is divided into character versus God or the supernatural and character versus machine or technology. Character versus God or the supernatural is the form of conflict that quite similar with character versus fate. In character versus God or supernatural occurs when the character is forced to believe something supernatural. Character versus machine or technology occurs when the character has to fight in the needs of a sophisticated environment which is all practically relying on technology, machines, and robots.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that conflict is a struggle that can happen in somebody consist of external and internal conflict. Internal conflict is a conflict of an idea and others ideas, one and him selves or her selves (psychological conflict). The conflict usually happen in environment related to the society. On the other hand, external is a struggle between two persons, two groups of persons, one and his environment and even between one and nature (social conflict).

Related to this research, the writer explores that the main character conflict in the novel *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath happens including internal conflicts that occur in the main character is the struggle of the main character with his depression and insanity getting worse. The main character feels trapped by self-doubt and worry. and the main character also experiences external conflict that is the main character does not want to do what is expected of her from society. All of the women she knows forget their dreams in favor of supporting their husbands.