

**THE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S INTERNAL  
CONFLICT ON CHOPIN'S SELECTED STORIES**



**THESIS**

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

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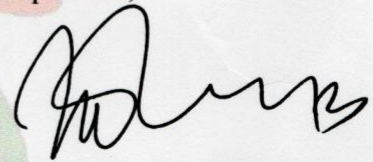
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**BY**

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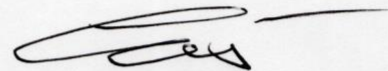
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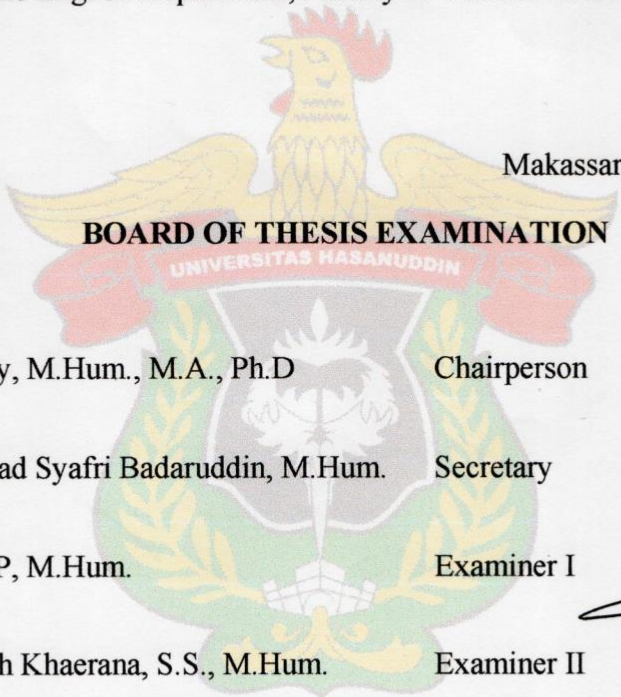


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Today, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **ANUGRAH PUTRI AMALIA** (student number: **F041171317**) entitled **“THE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER’S INTERNAL CONFLICT ON CHOPIN SELECTED STORIES”** submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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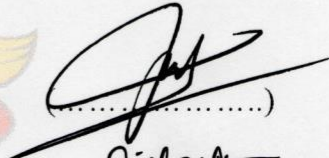

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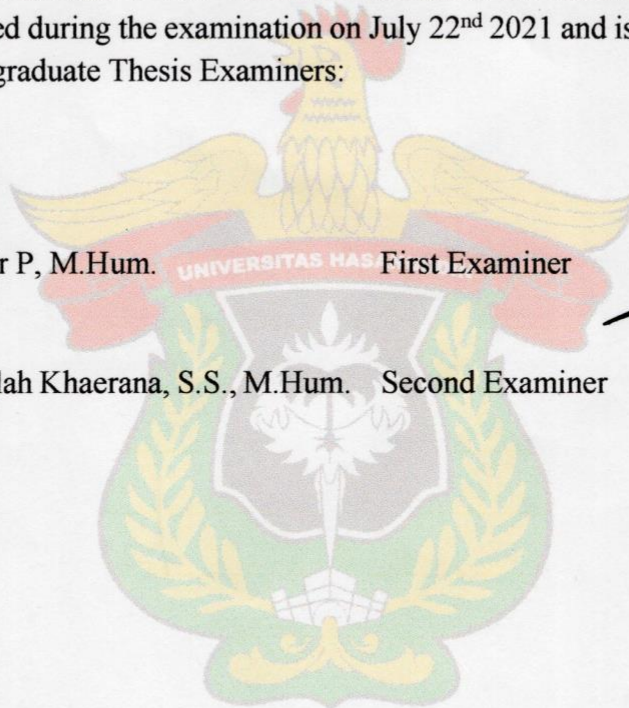


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The thesis of **ANUGRAH PUTRI AMALIA** (Student number: **F041171317**) entitled, **“THE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER’S INTERNAL CONFLICT ON CHOPIN SELECTED STORIES”** has been revised as advised during the examination on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Anugrah Putri Amalia

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Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. Thus, all suggestions and criticism are received for the improvement of her thesis in the future.

Makassar, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021  
The writer,

**Anugrah Putri Amalia**

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## ABSTRAK

**ANUGRAH PUTRI AMALIA.** 2021. *Analisis Konflik Internal yang Dirasakan oleh Karakter Utama pada Cerita Terpilih Karya Chopin.* (Dibimbing oleh Herawaty dan Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin)

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menemukan konflik internal yang dirasakan oleh karakter-karakter utama dalam cerita dan mengetahui pengaruh struktur personaliti terhadap konflik internal pada karakter-karakter utama.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah tiga cerita pendek yaitu *A Pair of Silk Stockings*, *The Story of an Hour*, dan *A Respectable Woman* karya Kate Chopin. Selain itu, teknik analisis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini didasarkan pada teori struktulisme, teori psikoanalisis, dan teori konflik internal. Serta, mengikuti prinsip metode analisis data, data primer, dan data sekunder.

Ada dua temuan baru dalam penelitian ini. Pertama, konflik internal yang dirasakan oleh karakter-karakter utama bisa dikategorikan ke dalam dua jenis konflik internal yaitu *approach-avoidance* dan *double approach avoidance*. Kedua, struktur personaliti yaitu *id*, *ego*, dan *superego* mempengaruhi karakter-karakter utama dalam menyelesaikan konflik yang sedang dialaminya.

**Kata Kunci:** *Konflik Internal, Psikoanalisis, Chopin, The Story of an Hour, A Pair of Silk Stockings, A Respectable Woman*



## ABSTRACT

**Anugrah Putri Amalia.** 2021. *The Analysis of the Main Character's Internal Conflict in Chopin's Selected Stories.* (Dibimbing oleh **Herawaty and M. Syafri Badaruddin**)

The aims of this thesis are to find internal conflicts felt by the main characters in the story and to know the influence of personality structure on internal conflicts on the main characters.

The method of this thesis used descriptive qualitative methods. The data sources of this study are three short stories, namely *A Pair of Silk Stockings*; *The Story of an Hour*; and *A Respectable Woman* by Kate Chopin. In addition, the data analysis techniques used in this study are based on the theory of structuralism, psychoanalysis theory includes internal conflict theory. Also, follow the principles of data analysis methods, primary data, and secondary data.

There are two findings of this study. First, internal conflicts felt by the main characters can be categorized into two types of internal conflicts, namely approach-avoidance and double approach-avoidance. Second, the personality structure of *id*, *ego*, and *superego* affect the main characters in resolving the conflicts they are experiencing.

**Keywords:** *Internal Conflict, Psychoanalysis, Chopin, The Story of an Hour, A Pair of Silk Stockings, A Respectable Woman*

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses introduction, which consists of background, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, the objective of the problem, the significance of the study, and the sequence of writing.

### 1.1 Background

Since centuries ago, people began to do writing activities. It is intended to perpetuate the phenomena that occur in society. However, unlike writing activities, literary works result from the author's imagination that often comes from phenomena in society. For example, Beowulf is the most famous literary work. This heroic poem is based on historical people from 6th century Scandinavia. So it can be said that literary work is one of the historical evidence because it contained events in the community. This phenomenon is related to what Wellek and Warren said:

"The term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by the imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of fact. It is not just the collection of real events, although it may happen in real life. Literature can create its world as a product of unlimited imagination." (1956: 11)

Every literary work has two aspects: intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic element is the element that built the literary work from the inside, such as themes, characters and characterization, plot, moral values, settings, and points of view. In contrast with the extrinsic element, where is the element source from outside of the literary work, such as the background of the society, and author's background. Meanwhile, extrinsic elements are literary symptoms that come from outside of the



literary work. For example, it can be conflicts or social phenomena that exist in society.

In broad outline, the author usually converted the social phenomena in their environment into their work. Thus, the social phenomena in his work reflect social phenomena that are or have occurred in real life. The author's work allowed us to search for historical evidence or historical phenomena when the work was done. Thus, it is making literary works can be taken with other historical works.

Literary work has a conflict that will be helped by the plot as an intrinsic aspect so that the reader will understand the story. Mostly, a short story has one conflict, while a novel has more than one. Conflict in literary work is one of the building elements that will be one thing of reader interest. The conflict would help the reader to have an intimate interaction with what is going on in the literary works.

After reading some literature discussing the conflict in literary work, the writer concluded conflict is the heart of a story and is often associated with the main character. Conflicts in literature are divided into internal conflicts, called man vs. self, and external conflicts, including man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, and man vs. fate.

Through this study, the writer wanted to research internal conflict. It will discuss how conflict is used and the influenced of personality structure through the conflict faced by the main character in Chopin's selected stories. According to Swanström and Weissman (2005:7), a conflict arose from competing desires regarding scarce resources, target differences, and dissatisfaction. It meant conflicts occur due to differences in one's interests, goals, pleasures, and frustration levels. Internal conflict is also often called the dilemma or mental struggle that everyone

feels regarding morality, fate, desire, and belief. This dilemma occurred when an individual in a situation where he should decide on two or more values or duties but only choose one of them (Kvalnes, 2019:11). Not much different from Lewin's theory, A German-American who developed approach-avoidance conflict theory. The theory introduced the concept of approach and avoidance that arise in individual feels at the same time.

Kate Chopin also applied the same thing in her works entitled *The Story of an Hour*, *A Pair of Silk Stockings*, and *A Respectable Woman*. *The story of an hour* is a story of a woman named Mrs. Mallard who was told that her husband had died in a train accident. Shortly after hearing the news, Mrs. Mallard was unfortunate. However, she felt happy because she could be free. *A Pair of Silk Stockings* is about a woman named Mrs. Sommer who found an unexpected possessor of 15 dollars. She immediately thought about how to spend the money.

On the other hand, she thought about the needs of her son and daughter. In the end, she thought of using the money for herself. Meanwhile, *A respectable Woman* is a story of a woman attracted to her husband's best friend. Nevertheless, as a respectable woman, she could not possibly cheat on her husband.

The three stories above tell about women who tried to fight a conflict in their hearts. These conflicts are more about the problems of women in a family where they cannot feel freedom, must be focused with their family, and uphold their honor as a woman. The above works were written in the 19th century, and these conflicts are still related to the present time where many women feel that they are still under pressure from men. The reasons above made the writer is interested in raising this issue as a research topic by applying Lewin's theory.



The three conflicts above are some of the social facts that often arose in people's lives. As a social fact, conflict is one of the most frequently researched issues by experts for analysis in various areas of life such as politics, law, economics, literature, education, and others. Authors display social facts through the character they create in the story. It is certainly not without reason. These conflicts are presented to provide new information or knowledge to the reader that these problems are real in society.

The three conflicts experienced by the three main characters in Chopin's stories occur because of two or more goals that support each other or even contradict each other. The conflict was first examined by a German-American man, Kurt Lewin. This theory was developed around 1935 to identify three patterns of conflict, namely approach-approach, avoidance-avoidance, and approach-avoidance (Lewin, 1935). Not only that, but further research also studied the influence of personality structure on internal conflict.

## **1.2 Identification of Problem**

After reading Chopin's selected short stories, the writer found and identified some problems below:

- a) The internal conflict of the main character in Chopin's selected short stories
- b) The psychology of the main character in Chopin's selected short stories
- c) The relationship between the main character and other characters in Chopin's selected short stories

### **1.3 Scope of Problem**

To guide this research to the object of writing, the writer focused this study on the internal conflict in three selected stories and how Lewin's theory works in Chopin's selected stories.

### **1.4 Statement of Problem**

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

- a) What kinds of internal conflict do the main characters face in Chopin's selected stories?
- b) How does their personality structure influence the main character's internal conflicts?

### **1.5 Objective of the Problem**

The objectives of the research can be stated as follows:

- a) To find out some of the internal conflicts faced by the main characters in the story.
- b) To discover the way their personality structures influence the main character's internal conflicts.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

Due to the problems and the objectives stated above, the writer expected to acquire two significances, theoretically and practically. First, this research is theoretically expected to contribute by increasing the understanding of some practical and substantial issues such as psychology represented in literary works. Second, practically, this research is supposed to be a reference for the subsequent



similar research, yet who will decide to use the same approach in the analysis. In any case, this research is expected to give readers further comprehension of psychological aspects in society.

### **1.7 Sequence of Writing**

This chapter contained the part of the thesis arranged by chapter one, which consisted of the background of the study, identification of the problem, statement of the problem, objective of the problem, and sequence of writing. Chapter two is a literature review which consisted of some previous studies to support the analysis; the theory of structuralism included theme; character; and plot, theory of psychoanalysis included Freud's theory *id; ego; and superego* and theory of conflict in the literature included internal conflict. Chapter three presented the methodology consisting of research methodology, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and procedure of collecting data. Chapter four is a chapter of analyzing and it consisted of structural aspect of *The Story of an Hour; A Pair of Silk Stockings; and A Respectable Woman*, kinds of internal conflict faced by the main character in Chopin's selected stories, and the influence of personality structure on the internal conflict faced by the main character in Chopin's selected stories. Chapter five presented the conclusion and the suggestion from this study.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer presents previous studies, the theory of structuralism included intrinsic aspects such as plot; theme; character; and setting, psychological theories including Freud's Model of the human mind; and tripartite concept, and conflict theory, including Lewin's theory.

#### **2.1 Previous Study**

The writer presents some previous findings, which is related to or relevant to this research, as follow:

The first research that applies Freud's psychoanalysis was done by Rohmat Anang Fakhruddin (2015) in his thesis entitled *The Internal Conflict Faced by Victor Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. The study only focused on analyzing the influence of the main character's personality toward his internal conflicts. In his research, he found four types of internal conflict faced by Victor Frankenstein and classified them based on Lewin's concept. He also classified the internal conflict into four types based on Lewin's idea of approach and avoidance. He also found the influence of Victor's personality toward his self-conflicts based on Freud's personality theory.

The second research is Gabriella's (2017) thesis entitled *Women's Struggle Against Patriarchal Society in Four of Kate Chopin's Selected Short Stories*. This research focused on how women struggle against the patriarchal system in American society in the mid to late 19th century. In her research, she used the qualitative method and presented the research on descriptive method. The writer described that patriarchal society in America positions women in the same position lower than

men. She found three issues of women's struggle that can be seen in four of Kate Chopin's selected short stories related to Politics, economy, and marriage system patriarchal society. She also found Kate Chopin's criticism of patriarchal society by linking it to her personal experience.

The last research related to this research is *Internal Conflict Faced by The Main Character of My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult* by Nur Hidayah (2018). This research concerned the interaction and reaction of the main characters when they faced some internal conflicts. Furthermore, the result showed three internal conflicts faced by the main characters and five ways to resolve conflict. The writer also used Lewin's concept to classified the conflict. Furthermore, he investigates the resolve of conflicts.

The current study is different from the three studies above. This study aims to know the internal conflicts of female characters in the short stories of Kate Chopin. The female characters in Kate Chopin live in a patriarchal system that required them to comply with applicable rules—living under a rule where a woman is restricted from doing everything impacted the character's psychology. So, the writer wanted to know more about this.

## **2.2 Structuralism Approach**

Literary works are imaginative thoughts of an author who is usually inspired by society. Even though literary works result from one's imagination, literary works still have elements that construct them, such as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The existence of these two elements eventually gave birth to the principle of structuralism in literary research. This approach emerged in 1950 in France. Aristotle was one of the figures who introduced this approach and was using for the

first time by Ferdinand De Saussure. Structuralism began in linguistics and spread to anthropology, philosophy, literary criticism, and other fields.

The basis of structuralism is thinking about the world with the response and description of structures. Tyson (2001: 221) said that the Structuralism approach to literature has focused on three specific literary studies: the classification of literary genres, the description of narrative operations, and literary interpretation analysis.

Structuralists view literature as an independent text without any connection from things outside the text itself. The goodness of literary texts depended on language and its relationship with other elements that come from the literary work itself. Elements that include intrinsic elements are character, characterization, setting, plot, theme, point of view, style of writing, and mandate. These elements are related to each other and form a complete meaning in a text.

### 2.2.1 Plot

Plot is an essential part of a literary work of fiction. According to Kenney, “Plot makes us aware of events not merely as elements in a temporal series but also as an intricate pattern of cause and effect” (1966: 14). The meaning of causal here is an event that caused or became the impact of various other events and cannot be ignored because it will affect the whole work. Not much different from what is said by Dibell, “Plot is built of significant events in a given story—significant because they have important consequences” (1988:5).

Plot is often referred to as the heart of a story. This is not without reason because the reader cannot understand a story if they do not understand its plot. According to Freytag (1900:114), literary works have five essential elements: introduction, rise, climax, return or fall, and denouement. The introduction is part of



the plot in which the story began. This section is usually filled with an introduction to the character and setting of the story. The second part of plot is rise. In this section, conflict was introduced. The reader began to know or guess what conflicts might be present. Then there is a part of the plot called conflict, wherein in this section, the conflict has started. The peak position of conflict in literary work is called climax. Climax is the highest point of tension in a storyline, often depicted by a confrontation between the protagonist and antagonist. After climax, there is an element of plot called return or fall. In this section, the tension from the story's central conflict decreases. After the tension decrease, the storyline reached the final part, which was called denouement. Denouement referred to the part of the story when the plot resolved itself excitingly and cleverly.

### 2.2.2 Theme

Every literary work, such as a short story, does not only aim to entertain the reader, but there is a message that the author often wanted to convey through that work. Kenney said, "theme is the meaning of the story" (1966:88). Most of the themes are not mentioned explicitly by the authors. Therefore, sometimes readers have different interpretations regarding the theme of a work. Themes are also the main issues expressed by an author in a literary work. The theme is developed through characters and conflicts in the story. Theme and morals of the story are two things that are often related. However, these two words do not mean quite the same thing. As stated in Kenney, "The word theme means something that can be derived from the story and is in that sense rather like a moral. But a theme can be a good deal more complex than a moral and may have no direct value as advice at all" (1966:89).

### 2.2.3 Character

The term "characters" referred to the actors of the story. While characterization is related to the traits and attitudes of actors, which can be interpreted differently by readers. As Jones said in Nurgiyantoro (1995: 165), characterization represents a person in a story. Nurgiyantoro argued that using the term "character" in various English literature implied two different meanings: a character in the story presented and the character's attitudes, interests, emotional desires, and morals. So, a character can mean 'actor of the story,' and it can be 'characteristic.'

### 2.3 Psychoanalytic Criticism

Psychoanalysis is one of the literary criticisms developed from Freud's theory. Psychoanalysis is a branch of science developed by Sigmund Freud and his followers as a study of human psychological functions and behaviors. Freud's understanding of the mind is based on methods of interpretation, introspection, and clinical observation, and is focused on resolving subconscious conflicts, mental tensions, and other psychic disorders. Psychological criticism is the study that viewed the literary work as a psychological activity (Endraswara, 2008). The use of psychology in literature aimed to understand the psyche of a person. In literary works, psychoanalytic criticism examined the author's psychology or characters in a story. Wellek and Austin (1956: 90) explain that literary psychology has four meanings. First, literary psychology is the psychological understanding of the writer as a person or type. Second, an assessment of the creative process of the written work. Third, the analysis of psychological laws applied in literary works. And fourth, literary psychology is also defined as the study of the impact of literature on the psychological condition of the reader.

According to Boag (2017), the theory of human mind was developed by a therapist from Austrian, namely Sigmund Freud, who divided levels of awareness into three, namely unconscious, preconscious, and conscious. He also said that human behavior is more determined by the subconscious. After dividing the human personality, based on Bertens (2006: 33-36), Freud returned to divide the human personality structure such as:

### 2.3.1 Id

According to Freud's psychoanalytical theory of personality, the *id* is a personality aspect of latent psychic energy that fulfills essential impulses, wishes, and desires. The *id* worked based on the concept of gratification, which requests absolute fulfillment of need. *Id* is an innate human trait that has existed since birth. This system is tasked with fulfilling instinctive things. In other words, *Id* is the impulse of an object, where it can fulfill the thrust. The *id* is the impulsive (and unconscious) part of our psyche, which responded directly and immediately to basic urges, needs, and desires. *Id* worked with pleasure principle, and this principle aims to eliminate or reduce things that can hinder the intended pleasure (1920). *Id* demanded to be fulfilled immediately, regardless of the consequences. *Id* is unable to distinguish between right and wrong.

### 2.3.2 Ego

The ego is 'that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world.' (Freud, 1920: 25). The ego grew to mediate between the unrealistic id and the real natural world. It's the personality decision-making part. Ideally, the mind functioned based on rationality, while the id is unpredictable and irrational. Unfortunately, the ego worked contrary to the concept of reason, seeking

out practical formed forms filling the demands of the id, frequently delaying or postponing gratification to prevent detrimental repercussions for society.

Like an id, the ego wanted enjoyment (i.e., stress reduction) and rejected discomfort, but unlike an *id*, the *ego* is concerned with creating a practical technique for enjoyment. The *ego* has no concept of right or wrong; it is good simply if it reaches its end of satisfying without causing harm to itself or the *id*.

The ego engaged in secondary process thinking, which is rational, realistic, and oriented towards problem-solving. If the action plan does not succeed, it will be rethought before a solution is found. This is known as reality checking, which allowed a person to control his or her desires which shows self-control through the mastery of the ego.

### 2.3.3 Superego

Based on Bartens (2006: 36), the role of the super-self is to regulate the urges of the *id*, particularly those that society forbade, such as sex and violence. It also had the role of persuading the *ego* to turn to moralistic targets rather than only practical ones and aspire to excellence. The *superego* consisted of two systems: the consciousness and the perfect self. Consciousness can punish the ego by inducing feelings of remorse. For example, if the *ego* gave in to the *id*'s demands, the *superego* can make the individual feel bad by guilt.

The perfect self (or ego-ideal) is an abstract image of who you should be, which reflected career ambitions, handling other individuals, and functioning as a part of society. The super-self may punish action that fell short of the perfect self by remorse. The super-self will even award us with an ideal self when we act 'properly' by making us feel proud. Conversely, an action that falls short of the perfect self



may be punished by the super-self by remorse. The super-self will even award us with an ideal self when we act 'properly' by making us feel proud.

If a person's perfect self is too high a norm, whatever the person does will disappoint. In childhood, ideal self and conscience are largely determined by parental values and how you have been brought up.

## **2.4 Conflict**

The conflict of a character, either those of a protagonist or other roles of character, is part of the ingredients of the story. The character's conflict, expressed or narrated in a fictional novel, is typically a representation of the actual human person's conflict in the real term. Conflicts develop in the story into incidents that make up the story. If there is no confrontation, there is no such thing as an event that progresses the plot.

According to Kenney (1966:19), the disputes that the fiction itself is dealing with include several kinds of confrontation. The events of conflict in the real world, narrated in a fictional novel, are categorized in various ways, including conflict dependent on the kind of origin they derive and the kind of human dimension conflict.

Further, the description of the disputes, either based on the origins from which they derive and the essence of the aspects of the human conflict, as seen below:

### **2.4.1 Internal Conflict**

According to Kenney (1966:19), the conflict between the single man is called 'internal conflict'. It is also known as a 'man vs. self' conflict, Internal conflict is an interpersonal battle that takes place within an individual, triggered by their feelings, fears, contradictory impulses, or mental disorder. It also can be layered with external

conflict, such as man vs. nature, man vs. man, man vs. supernatural, or man vs. society. Internal conflict appears to be a struggle to balance two conflicting powers within the same entity.

Inner conflict is caused within the individual. This conflict arose as a result of two or more motives or goals to be achieved at a time. Based on Engler (2014:193), She classified internal conflict into

a) Approach-approach conflict

This happened when a person had to choose between two desirable alternatives. Approach-approach occurs when a person has to choose between two desirable outcomes, such as a choice between completing college and a full-time work bid.

b) Approach-avoidance conflict

This happens when a person has to cope with both positive and negative sides. When a person experiences equal degrees of desire and repulsion against a target or opposing goals. Approach preventive conflict is one of the three primary forms of conflict defined by psychologist Kurt Lewin in 1948. When a person is indecisive and ambivalent about achieving the desired objective that has a contrary result. For example, a person wanted to do something, but fears the consequences. This disagreement is also the most difficult to overcome. In this kind of conflict, we are faced with a common objective that has both positive and negative implications. Another example is that we might want a new I but realize it will be too expensive.

c) Avoidance-avoidance conflict

Avoidance-avoidance conflict is one of the three main types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin in 1948. The other two are approach — approach dispute and approach — avoidance dispute. This conflict involves choosing between undesirable alternatives or outcomes that a person tends to avoid. For example, a person who does not like his job but is afraid of quitting and unemployment. This happens when each of the competing alternatives has negative consequences, that is, they are equally repulsive.

d) Double approach-avoidance

Double approach-avoidance conflict is internal conflicts that a person who has two different desires and desires both have a positive and negative impact. This conflict is more complex than the three conflicts above because one has to choose from one's equal desires.

The four types of internal conflict above can occur in all people who have two or more different desires. Approach-approach conflict can occur when two forces push in the opposite direction, for example a person is faced with two things that he or she is equally fond of. Avoidance-avoidance conflict is a conflict that occur when facing two different negative motives, for example a person is faced with two things that he or she does not like. Furthermore, approach-avoidance is a conflict that occur when an individual faced two situations that have positive motives and negative motives, for example a person is faced with a choice that contains elements that he or she enjoys and does not like.