

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S CONFLICTS IN THE NOVEL *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY* BY OSCAR WILDE

First Author ¹Esther Charenina Yulia Mamesah Second Author ²Sony Junaedi

e-mail: ¹estheryuliamamesah42@gmail.com, ²sony-junaedi@untagsmg.ac.id,

Affiliation ¹English Department Faculty of Languages and Cultures University of 17
Agustus 1945 Semarang

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*", a novel by Oscar Wilde. The topic of the research is the conflicts that happen in the character, and how the main character's build the conflicts which are portrayed in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The purpose of this study is to analyze the conflicts. There are two kinds of conflict, namely internal conflict and external conflict, but this study only focuses on internal conflict. The methodology of this study used the descriptive qualitative method. A research method that emphasizes the elements contained in literary works such as characters, plot particularly about the internal conflict. This research uses Objective approach by M.H Abrams, intrinsic theories by Wellek and Warren. The results of this study, first, the writer explain about the internal conflicts are analyzed that is including physical conflicts, psychological conflicts, mental conflicts, moral conflicts, emotional conflicts. This study focuses on the conflicts that happen in the main characters. Meanwhile the main character's builds the conflict has through the following steps: a) The beginning of conflict; b) The rising of conflict; c) The climax of conflict; d) The falling of conflict; e) The ending of conflict. Then, what are the conflicts experienced by the main characters in the novel. The writer concludes that the conflicts in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, especially the internal conflicts that exist in the main character using the theory that has been mentioned above.

Keywords: Main Character, Conflict, Intrinsic Theory, The Picture of Dorian Gray.

INTRODUCTION

A conflict is disagreements about something and usually leads to many problems. When people are at odds, there are serious arguments that have not resulted in an amicable resolution. Our lives contain tensions, but conflicts are caused by causes and

result in conflicts. Especially when we experience conflicts with people around us even those we care about. A conflict in a literary work is a lack of agreement between two or more characters. People needs to understand that everyone has different personalities, perspectives, behaviors, reactions to something, opinions, and solutions. When there is disagreement, there is conflict. Conflict may be experienced directly when we are involved in it, or indirectly when we are not directly involved in it, but can be affected by conflict. Conflict always happens in our daily life. If we have a conflict in real life, so novel has it to read if the conflicts run well. Without conflict, a novel will make no sense. If the conflicts are handled correctly, the readers are interesting to read. A novel conflict is an essential component. In addition, conflict is very interesting to be analyzed. Because of it, the writer decides to analyze the conflict, particularly the internal conflict from the main characters in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.

In this study, the writer finds some interesting conflicts in the main character personality. When the first time the writer reads this book, it may be difficult to understand, but because the writer's curiosity is great to know what the contents of the novel are and what conflicts occur with the characters in the novel and there are some interesting pearls of wisdom to read, finally the writer reads and decides that this novel will be the subject in this research. Actually, there is a lot that can be discussed through this novel, one example, the writer analyzes the main character of the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the existing conflicts, but the main focus of this study is the internal conflicts contained in the novel. In this study, the writer focuses on the intrinsic elements. According to Wellek and Warren (1963, p. 139) an intrinsic element is "the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves". These intrinsic elements consist of character, plot, theme, point of view, style, and mandate.

METHODOLOGY

In this study, the analysis that will be used is the descriptive qualitative analysis method. So, first it will be explained about the descriptive research. Descriptive analysis is relevant to all types of research. It can stand alone as a complete research project or suppleme causal analysis. (Loeb, S., Dynarski, S., McFarland, D., Morris, P., Reardon, S., & Reber, S, 2017).

This study uses descriptive library study, applying the way to collect the data and describe conflict faced by main character in novel of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. Descriptive research study is the way to obtain information about status of phenomena which there are at the time of the study. The writer describes one of the intrinsic elements of novel. In this research the writer analyzes the internal conflict in the novel.

DISCUSSION

Internal conflict was struggle that took place in the character's mind because of the dual desires or different wishes and choices. Sometimes the character had to deal with her own feelings or mixed feelings. Man vs. Self conflict is internal battles in which the characters fight within themselves; these are internal matters that influence their actions, motivations, and interactions with other character overall data can be consulted in the appendix. internal conflict is man's struggle with himself, his conscience, his guilt, or simply deciding what to do. In the following, the writer explains the various types of internal conflict:

Physical conflict

A situation in which a person is motivated to engage in two or more mutually exclusive or incompatible activities. It happens when the overt, verbal, symbolic, or emotional responses required for one motive are incompatible with those required for another.

As the finding in following table:

Table 1. Kinds of Internal conflicts are faced by the main character in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Finding
"How sad it is!" murmured Dorian Gray with his eyes still fixed upon his own portrait . "How sad it is! I shall grow old, and horrible, and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. It will never be older than this particular day of June.... If it were only the other way! If it were I who was to be always young, and the picture that was to grow old! For that -- for that-I would give

everything! Yes, there is nothing in the whole world I would not give! I would give my soul for that!" (Wilde, 2019, p. 41)

Dorian has just seen his finished portrait and wishes for something he has no idea will come true. Although he does not expect his wish to be granted, the timeless portrait grim reminder of the temporary nature of beauty magnifies Dorian's desperation to find a way to slow down the aging process. His statement that he would trade his soul for eternal youth reveals how much he fears his own morality.

Finding
Dorian Gray stepped up on the dais with the air of a young Greek martyr, and made a little moue of discontent to Lord Henry, to whom he had rather than taken a fancy. He was so unlike Basil. They made a delightful contrast. And he had such a beautiful voice.
"Just like, I should fancy, and very depressing. I began to wonder what on earth I should do when I caught sight of the play-bill. What do you think the play was, Harry?" (2019, p. 73)

From the data above shows in page 29 Dorian's desire to stay young, which he then fears if the picture gets old while he wants to always look young with a beautiful voice. In page 73 Dorian Gray actually an innocent person because he has fears when he talks about marriage but he is confused about what he should do when preparing everything.

Psychological or mental conflict

Psychological conflict or mental conflict refers to situations in which a person is motivated to engage in two or more mutually exclusive or incompatible activities or man's struggle with himself, his conscience, his guilt, or simply deciding what to do. Like finding of conversations in novel through the following table:

Finding

"No, you did not. You said it was because there was **too much of yourself in it. Now, that is childish.**" (2019, p. 13)

Through the finding above, it shows that he was annoyed that Basil Hallward did not answer honestly when asked about the meaning of Dorian Gray's painting not being explained clearly, he instead explained about himself. Dorian thinking about whether it is true that the praise given by Lord Henry to Dorian regarding his good looks, but Dorian is sure he will find out how he controls himself when people are comfortable.

Finding
In a moment, He know the precise psychological moment when to say nothing. He felt intensely interested. (Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray, 2019, p. 32)
"Then had come Lord Henry, with his strange panegyric on youth, his terrible warning of its brevity. " (Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray, 2019, p. 32)

In page 32 Dorian gets compliments about his physical perfection from Basil and Henry. He feels that the compliment from Basil makes him realize that he already has the beauty perfection. The compliment from Henry leads him to change his soul with his portrait paints by Basil.

Moral conflict

Moral conflict refers to a struggle between two opposing values. Characters may consider an action or behavior that goes against their morals in order to achieve a goal or meet expectations. For example:

Finding
"So, I have murdered Sibyl Vane, " said Dorian Gray, half to himself, "murdered her as surely as if I had cut her litle throat with a knife. (2019, p. 142)

In this part, Dorian felt guilty for killing Sibyl Vane with his words when they met at a show, Dorian saw Vane appear on stage, but that made Dorian dislike and was disappointed, finally leaving Vane in the makeup room in a crying statte at the time. This is one of bad morals, because Dorian killed the Sibyl Vane with his words when

they last met at a show, caused by Dorian not liking the appearance of the Sibyl and finally made Dorian and Sibyl memperdebatkan itu.

Emotional conflict

Emotional conflict is the existence of a range of conflicting feelings about a situation that has recently happened or is about to unfold.

Finding
<p>“If you let any one has it but me, Basil, I shall never forgive you!” cried Dorian Gray; “and I don’t allow people to call me a silly boy.” (2019, p. 44)</p>
<p>“I was brutal, Harry---perfectly brutal. But it is all right now. I am not sorry for anything that has happened. It has taught me to know myself better.” (2019, p. 139)</p>
<p>Dorian Gray stepped up on the dais with the air of a young Greek martyr, and made a little moue of discontent to Lord Henry, to whom he had rather taken a fancy. He was so unlike Basil.They made a delightful contrast. And he had such a beautiful voice. After a few moments he said to him, “Have you really a very bad influence, Lord Henry? As bad as Basil says?”</p> <p>“Because to influence a person is to give one’s own soul.” (Wilde, 2019, p. 29)</p>

The quote in page 29 shows Dorian’s desire to stay young, which he then fears if the picture gets old while he wants to always look young. In page 139 also Dorian feels tired and becomes brutal but he tries to control his emotional nature and learns to know his own person, even though it’s not easy but he still tries to control himself. Immediately Dorian Gray’s emotional changes were seen. At first, he was a person who might be said to be innocent, but because he was influenced by Lord Henry instigation. He became brutal, doing everything with passionate emotions. One thing he wants to maintain is good looks, he wants to always look young.

Table 2. How the Main Character’s Build the Conflict in Novel *the Picture of Dorian Gray*

a) The Beginning of Conflict

Finding
If it were I who was to be always young, and the picture that was to grow old! For that -- for that-I would give everything! (Wilde, 2019, p. 29)

In order to recognize more deeply the origins of this conflict, the writer must consider in more specific terms this form of "arrangement". The writer's vocation tends to pick up, because underlying diversity or vivid fiction, he or she may see a recurring pattern. The beginning of the story in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, the writer sees from what came first in this story. The beginning conflict happens between Dorian Gray and Basil Hallward.

The beginning of conflict happened between Dorian and the painting drawn by Basil Hallward. Dorian becomes angry as he draws the picture, fearing that he will age and the painting will remain unchanged. As a result, he subconsciously requests that the painting age rather than him. He says in the text above. The quotation demonstrates Dorian's desire for eternal youth, which he later regrets it.

This story is explicitly set in a classical setting, which is presented to her in broad strokes before any specific action or characters are introduced. She should note that the beginning serves an expository function while also implying (more explicitly in "The Picture of Dorian Gray") sources of instability in the initial situation.

b) The Rising of conflict

Finding
"So I have murdered Sibyl Vane ," said Dorian Gray, half to himself, "murdered her as surely as if I had cut her little throat with a knife. (2019, p. 142)
Dorian said nothing, but rose from the table, and passing into the next room, sat down to the piano and let his fingers stray across the white and black ivory of the keys. After the coffee at Lord Henry, said, "Harry, did it ever occur to you that Basil was murdered?" (Wilde, 2019, p. 302)

As the elements tending toward instability in the initial situation themselves into what she recognizes as a pattern conflict, the writer moves from the end of the beginning of the middle. The forces that cause conflicts emerge in the rising action, and the facts revealed in the exposition section are clarified.

After abandoning his relationship with Sibyl Vane, Dorian observes a change in his appearance. He devotes himself entirely to the yellow book and the contrast between his outward purity and his inner depravity grows. In page 302 the writer see that Dorian becomes so dishonored that he is stunned by the portrait change and kill his best friend Basil Hallward when he tells Dorian to pray (he even admitted to it). After killing Basil, he pretends nothing happened and celebrates.

c) **The Climax of conflict**

Finding
“As soon as he got behind him, he seized it and turned round. Hallward stirred in his chair as if he was going to rise. He rushed at him and dug the knife into the great vein that is behind the ear, crushing the man’s head down on the table and stabbing again and again. There was a stifled groan, and the horrible sound of some one choking with blood.” (2019, p. 226).
“How quickly it had all been done! He felt strangely calm, and walking over to the window, opened it and stepped out on the balcony...Every year—every month, almost—men were strangled in England for what he had done. There had been a madness of murder in the air. Some red star had come too close to the earth.... And yet. What evidence was there against him? Basil Hallward had left the house at eleven. No one had seen him come in again.” (Wilde, <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> , 2019, pp. 227, 229).

From the finding above, the climax is the turning point of the story, when the protagonist makes a big decision that determines the outcome of their story and who they are. The beginning of this phase is marked by the fact that the protagonist has finally overcome the initial hurdles and ready to engage the enemy.

The writer finds climax of conflict in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are as follow: the climax of the novel is when Dorian murders Basil Hallward, his best friend (he even admitted it), when he is stunned by the changes in the portrait and tells Dorian to pray. After killing Basil, he pretends like nothing happened and parties with Lord Henry.

d) The Falling of Conflict

Finding
“He struggled madly for life, and by a terrible effort wrenched the tightening fingers away. In a second he heard the click of a revolve, and saw the gleam of a polished barrel, pointing straight at his head, and the dusky form of a short, thick-set man facing him... “You had better confess your sin, for as sure as I am James Vane, you are going to die.” (2019, p. 271)

The falling actions of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are as follow: Dorian goes to an opium den to relieve the stress and guilt from killing Basil. Then, he is tracked down by James Vane, brother of Sibyl Vane, but escapes with a face that never gets old and says he’s too young to be the lover of the late Sibyl Vane.

e) The ending of Conflict

Finding
“He looked round and saw the knife that had stabbed Basil Hallward. He had cleaned it many times, till there was no stain left upon it. It was bright, glistened. As it had killed the painter, so it would kill the painter’s work and all that meant. It would kill the past, and when that was dead, he

would be free. It would kill tis monstrous soul-life, and without its hideous warnings, he would be at peace. He seized the thing, and stabled the picture with it. (2019, pp. 317-318)

In the last part of work of fiction, the epilogue includes everything from the climax to the ending or the outcome of the story and the ending of the story is not always a happy ending, but also can be sad ending. The ending conflict of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as follow: Dorian Gray stabs the portrait, therefore killing himself because of the mysterious bond between him and the portrait.

Table 4. Conflict from the Main Character of ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’ Novel

No.	Naration and Dialogue in ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’	Conflict
1.	In a moment, He know the precise psychological moment when to say nothing. He felt intensely interested. (Wilde, 2019, p. 32)	Man Vs Self
2.	Said Dorian Gray ‘Basil, I am tired of standing,’ cried Dorian Gray suddenly. ‘I must go out and sit in the garden. The air is stifling here.” (Wilde, 2019, p. 33)	Man Vs Man
3.	“He has certainly not been paying me compliments. Perhaps that is the reason that I don’t believe anything he has told”. (2019, p. 33)	Man Vs Self
4.	Be afraid of nothing.... A new Hedonism – that is what our century wants. You might be its visible symbol. Withyour personality there is nothing you could not do. (Wilde, 2019, p. 36)	Man Vs Nature

5.	Dorian Gray turned and looked at Basil and he said “I believe you would, Basil. You like your art better than your friends. I am no more to you than a green bronze figure. Hardly as much, I dare say.” (2019, p. 41)	Man Vs Man
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CONCLUSION

This is “*Analysis of The Main Character Conflicts in the Novel the Picture of Dorian Gray*”. The main purpose is to analyze the main character’s conflicts in this novel. Particularly to analyze the internal conflict that happen by the main character. To analyze the conflicts, the writer needs to know that character means a person presented in a dramatic or narrative work. There are two kinds of character, major and minor. The major character of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel is the major figure in the story and it is sometimes called the protagonist. The main character of minor of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is called antagonist. In this novel the mainly concerns about the development of its character significantly Dorian Gray.

The writer also discuss about the internal conflict are faced by the main characters in the novel. After the writer finds the finding listed in chapter IV, the writer wants to show what internal conflicts are analyzed that is including physical conflicts, psychological conflicts, mental conflicts, moral conflicts, emotional conflicts. This analysis is based on Abram’s theory that is objective approach and the intrinsic element by Wellek and Warren, in particular, the writer takes the characters, plot, and conflict.

The main character’s build the conflict in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel is the beginning, the rising, climax, falling, and the ending of conflict. The contribution of main character to build the plot is when the main character internal conflict by the super ego aspect. Dorian Gray is imprisoned by Basil’s effect on his super ego, which is physical beauty that has no bearing on Dorian’s dark side. When Lord Henry flatters Dorian and declares that youth is everything, an ambitious spirit is shown. It needs someone who is already physically perfect to sustain it. Dorian then decides to reconsider engaging social life.

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