

## The Influences of Conflicts Toward Social Aspects in *The Casual Vacancy* Novel by J. K. Rowling

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### **Abstract:**

*This thesis explores the influences of conflicts toward social aspects in The Casual Vacancy novel by J. K. Rowling. There are two objectives of this research; 1) To find out the forms of conflicts in the novel The Casual Vacancy by J. K. Rowling and 2) To explain the conflicts influences the social aspects in the novel The Casual Vacancy by J. K. Rowling. In researching a literary work related to social. The researcher uses Sociology of Literature approach, conflict theory by Lewis Alfred Coser and Social Aspects. The methodology in this study is qualitative research by taking data from quotations in the novel which the researcher conveys descriptively. The result of this research is internal conflict showing the conflict influences the social aspects, it is social relationship. The second result of this research is internal conflict showing the conflict influences the social aspects, it is criminality. Conflict that occurs between two different groups, which will strengthen the conflicting group by providing clear boundaries with other groups. These two conflicts influence social aspects with insignificant result. It means a way of viewing situation, condition and issues in the society can show internal and external conflicts in daily life.*

**Keywords:** Conflict, Social Aspect, Novel

### **INTRODUCTION**

Conflict is one of the things that is an inseparable part of human life. sometimes even a determinant of a person's life path is conflict. The conflict itself is very broad in scope. In social science, conflict theory is very popular because conflict is a very common social

problem that occurs, anytime and anywhere. The rationale of conflict theory according to sociologist Talcott Parsons, “Because the social structure of society is not a perfect integration, but there are values that are different and even contradictory”. (Ratna N. K., 2013, p. 497)

Therefore, humans cannot be separated from conflict, as well as those contained in this novel. Such as domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, infidelity, drugs, parent and child problems. These problems are almost the same as the problems in our lives. which exists and may always appear in our society if not handled properly. Researchers are interested in researching this problem because it is related to the life of our society, using the conflict theory and social aspects. We as human can't expect people to behave well but to behave in certain ways in particular situations. Each social situation entails its own particular set of expectations about the “proper” way to behave. Such expectations can vary from group to group. One way in which these expectations become apparent is when we look at the roles that people play in society.

Social interaction is a behavior that can be categorized as a social action. Where social action is the process of actors involved in making subjective decisions about the means and ways to achieve certain goals that have been chosen, the action is about all types of human behavior, the action regarding all types of human behavior, which is directed to the behavior of others, the past, the present and the expected in the future. Max Weber stated “human individuals in society are creative actors and social reality is not a static tool rather than a forced social fact.” (Ilyas, 2012, p. 79)

The researcher chose this object to understand the conflict aspects in the literary work through understanding the character, for example, in society where there are other deviations and social aspects that occur.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The researchers will use the social action theory by Max Weber in analyzing this research, because story of the novel shows conflicts dealing with several facets of issues that are related to the social action will be the term to analyze the main topic of this research. Through social sphere of the conflict.

### **Sociology Of Literature**

Swingewood stated that sociology is a scientific and objective study of human beings in society and the study of social institutions and processes. Sociology seeks to answer questions about how society is possible, how it works, and why it survives (Wiyatmi, 2014, p. 8). Both sociology and literature have the same object of study, namely humans in society. Both seek to understand human relations and the processes that arise from these relationships in society. There are three approaches that are generally taken, namely the sociology of the author, literary works, and readers. The three types of sociology of literature are proposed by Wellek and Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (wellek & austin warren, 2016, p. 100). Researchers use the sociology of literature approach because the focus of attention on the

sociology of literature is on the content of literary works, goals, and other things implied in the literary work itself and related to social problems (2016, p. 45). Sociology of literary works examines literature as a mirror of society. What is implied in a literary work is considered to reflect or redefine the reality contained in society.

### **Conflict**

Coser stated, “that conflict is part of society and even the basic side of social life. Conflict is more important to explain than consensus. This is related to the criticism of American sociologists who have begun to forget the problem of conflict, which is busy developing functionalism. This happens because conflict is a dysfunction to be avoided and is more interested in applied themes” (Sehandi, 2014, p. 125)

Coser raised interesting themes, both internal and external conflicts, then explained them in detail. There is Coser's attempt to integrate the theory of functionalism with the theory of conflict in which the combination is stronger than stand alone. Coser's thinking was motivated by the thoughts of classical sociologists, including Georg Simmel and Sigmund Freud. Lewis Coser suggests conflict by dividing it into two parts:

1. Internal conflict: problems that occur in a character who experiences struggles within themselves without being caused or influenced by other people around them. A conflict that arises in a group that has a very intimate relationship.
2. External conflict: problems that occur in a character who experiences struggles within himself because of other factors outside the character. Conflict that occurs between two different groups, which will strengthen the conflicting group by providing clear boundaries with other groups.

### **Social Aspects**

Social aspects is a consideration of important values between literature and society to understand the issues of literary work related to social reality in the society. Soelaeman states social aspect is a way of viewing situation, condition and issues in the society (Solaeman, 2008, p. 173). Social aspect differentiated into three parts as follows:

1. Culture that are religion, norms, education, politic.
2. The Social sphere are social relationship, social conflict and class, profession, population, criminality and possibly prostitution.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research uses descriptive qualitative method, According to Moleong (Moeleong, 2014, p. 5) the qualitative research is research procedures which produce descriptive data in the form of words written in the novel. In doing the research, the researcher conducts that the qualitative which is used for reading and marked it carefully, finding the sentence, collecting and categorize the forms of conflicts.

There are two of data sources in this research, primary data source and secondary data source. It means that, the data have correlation with the object of the research and which are played as the main data for conducting the research. The primary data source are the novel. The researcher uses some of the conflicts in the novel. Secondary data sources are basic data or complementary data related to literature studies to support the validation of primary data such as novels, e-books, thesis or relevant journals related to the research discussion, and some information from the internet.

The steps used in this study were data collection, data analysis techniques were carried out by library techniques, the researcher reading the novel and find the sentences, then marked it with sticky notes and highlighters, and taking notes. The researcher decided the topic that was going to be discussed. After deciding the topic, the researcher formulated research problem. after categorizing research problem, the researcher conducted a library study to support the topic. The library technique is a research technique that uses written data sources to obtain data. The results of this are referred to as data sources. The written sources used were chosen according to the problems and objectives in the study of literature, especially in the study of conflicts theory and social aspects. The research tool for literary works is the novel *The Casual Vacancy* by J. K. Rowling. In every research there need to be a validation so that the research were proven to be real and not a form of plagiarism. Therefore, the trustworthiness of data analysis were present so that the validation of the research exist. According to Denzin (1978).

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

In accordance with the research question, the results that will be discussed in this study are the form of conflict contained in the novel influences the social aspects in the novel *The Casual Vacancy* by J. K. Rowling. This discussion is inseparable from the theory used, namely conflict theory by Lewis. A. Coser and Social aspects by Soelaeman as the supporting theory. In this study The researcher was able to identify the forms of conflict. Of the two forms of conflict in the theory, the researcher identified two forms of conflict experienced by Coser, namely the internal conflict and external conflict.

### **Forms of Conflicts in the novel *The Casual Vacancy* by J. K. Rowling**

#### **1. Internal Conflict**

‘Well?’ Simon snarled at Paul. ‘I don’t think I—’ ‘You don’t think? You don’t think you told anyone?’ ‘No, I don’t think I told any—’ ‘Oh, this is interesting,’ said Simon, pacing up and down in front of Paul. ‘This is interesting.’ (Rowling, 2012, p. 205)

Simon was angry because he saw the announcement on the website. Simon said that someone must have leaked that his computer was stolen. He asked Andrew but he said he wasn't the one who leaked it. Then he asked Paul his second child with hesitation Paul answered neither he nor he, he didn't even tell that they had a new computer. And Paul, who was emotional, slapped until the book Paul was holding fell from his hand.

Then he screamed and hit Paul's head, the boy looked down but black fluid dripped from his left nostril. because they were confused, it was impossible for the announcement to spread itself, there must be someone who leaked it. From the excerpt above shows conflict between Simon and Paul. Because this conflict which is included in the family is an internal conflict.

## 2. External Conflict

‘Can you imagine Collin running for election?’ Tessa asked, her sodden tissues crumpled tightly in her fist. ‘Coping with the likes of Aubrey Fawley and Howard Mollison? Trying to fill Barry’s shoes, telling himself he’s got to win the battle for Barry – all the responsibility- (Rowling, 2012, p. 87)

Crying made Parminder feel a little better, and also Tessa who was busy wiping his face. Parminder was relieved that after Barry's departure, Tessa was his only true friend in Pagford. Political conflict because it is very common as Aubrey Falley, Howard Mollison, Colin, fought by any means in order to win seats to replace the board members Barry. Tissue wet with tears clotted and squeezed in Tessa's hand. She immediately felt betrayed and began to cry. Though she had entered the clinic thinking he would comfort Parminder, she was the one who expressed her worries. This excerpt shows conflict among group Aubrey, group Howard and group Collin. Because this conflict among group Aubrey and group Howard so this conflict include in external conflict.

### **The Conflict Influences the Social aspects**

Religion is the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods. Religion is a form of culture in social sphere. Conflict influence religion in this novel occur by the differences of religion. Yet it was acceptable for Parminder to flaunt her sari in church. It was not as though Parminder did not have normal clothes, for she wore them to work every day. The double standard of it all was what rankled; not a thought for the disrespect it showed to their religion, and, by extension, to Barry Fairbrother himself, of whom she was supposed to have been so fond. (Rowling, 2012, p. 108)

Shirley's eyes were downcast and her hands clasped as if praying. But she wasn't really praying, she was thinking about the conversation between Howard and Parminder. The conversation angered Shirley at Parminder's lack of respect for Shirley's religion. This excerpt shows conflict between Shirley and Parminder. Shirley was angry with Parminder, because Parminder was often disrespectful to Shirley religion. Shirley is Christian and Parminder is Hindu. Therefore, it can be concluded that because Shirley is angry that Parminder doesn't respect Shirley's religion. So this conflict include religion in in forms of culture.

## **CONCLUSION**

The result of this research is internal conflict showing the conflict influences the social aspects, it is social relationship. It shows 24% or equals to 7 out 30 data. It happens

when the character has some tensions and negative feeling that are the result of the individual's desire to increase his welfare, power, prestige, social support or other rewards. Since many of the awards are rare, a degree of competition is inevitable. The second result of this research is internal conflict showing the conflict influences the social aspects, it is criminality. It shows 17% or equals to 5 out 30 data. They could happen when the character experiences struggle within themselves because of other factors outside the character. Conflict that occurs between two different groups, which will strengthen the conflicting group by providing clear boundaries with other groups. These two conflicts influence social aspects with insignificant result. It means a way of viewing situation, condition and issues in the society can show internal and external conflicts in daily life.

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