

INTERNAL CONFLICT OF MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL 'IT ENDS WITH US' BY COLLEN HOOVER

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses internal conflicts of the main characters in Colleen Hoover's Novel *It Ends With Us*. The focus of this research is how to depict inner conflict in Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us*. The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with a goal approach. The results of this study found an analysis of the main character's inner conflict of the main character, Lily expresses all her frustration through the journal she made when she was 15 years old. He tells in detail what happened 10 years ago, which makes him sad and recalls what happened in the past.

Keywords: Lily, *It Ends with Us*, Novel, Conflict, Inner conflict

INTRODUCTION

Basically, every human being is a social being who has the ability to adapt to the surrounding environment, one of which is interacting with fellow humans. However, each individual has its own character and human nature as a social being, so there will be interactions among these characters that cause intersection or conflict. People facing unresolved problems will cause conflict. These conflicts arise from mental, emotional, cultural, needs, interests, and behavioral differences among individuals or groups in society. Each individual has a different conflict.

Conflict is a process that begins when one side has the perception that another side has negatively affected it, something that becomes a condition which is the starting point of a conflict. This definition includes various conflicts that people experience in organizations, incongruence of goals, differences in interpretation of facts, disagreements caused by behavioral expectations and so on. In addition, other definitions are flexible enough to cover various levels of conflict from overt and violent acts to subtle forms of disagreement. (Wahyudi, 2015, p. 1). Conflict also appears in literary works.

Literary works are created by people. People use literary works as media to express their ideas, feelings, or the descriptions of someone or something. Literary works have significant influences in the society. Literary works can be used as an intellectual movement, entertainment, art symbol of traditions or beliefs. (Suwandarsih & Agustin, 2023, p. 71)

One of the several types of literary works is the novel. According to Sumardjo in Agustina, which states that the novel in literature is a form system. In this system there are elements that form it and the function of each element.

In the novel *It Ends With Us* by (Hoover, 2017), there are several conflicts that occur, one of which is the inner conflict experienced by the main character in the novel. From (Agustina, 2015) Inner conflict is the type that is most closely related to individual emotions to the highest level of unrest. Conflict can arise from two causes; because of role overloads or because of person roleincompatibilities. In the first condition, a person gets an "excessive burden" due to the status (position) he has, while in the second condition a person does not have sufficient suitability to carry out the role in accordance with his status.

Based on the background above, it can be concluded that the writer is interested in analyzing the conflict of the main character in Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us*.

DATA SOURCE

Source of data used in this research is primary data. Primary data sources are the main sources of research that are processed directly from the source without going through intermediaries (Siswantoro, 2005: 54). The primary data source in this study is the novel *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover. Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us* was published by Atria Books in 2016. The data in this study will be in the form of physical and mental conflicts experienced by the main character in Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us* in the form of quotations of words, sentences and phrases. This study focuses on analyzing the conflict in the main character by using Stanton's theory which is divided into 2 categories; physical and inner conflict. After that, the data was collected and analyzed qualitatively.

METHODS

The method used by the author is descriptive qualitative method. This is in accordance with the explanation of Bogdan and Taylor (Moleong, 2004) who define qualitative research as a research strategy that describes the results of descriptive data such as speech, writing, or observed behavior. This method makes it easier for the writer to analyze the internal conflict in Colleen Hoover's novel *It Ends With Us*.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Characters

According to Sutyono in (Mulyati, 2013) argued that character is an element of prose works, giving many new features to existing prose writing conventions including; ideological figures, problematic figures, independent figures, and imaginary figures.

The creation of imaginative characters, the basis of all successful fiction, is one of the highest goals of literary art. A novelist uses characters for characterization purposes. A character may do something "uncharacteristic" just to continue the plot planned by the author. A character may also be associated with an action or object for a purpose related to the theme of the novel. Also a character might say things just so the reader can be told something. (Aziez dkk, 2010, p. 62)

Last, according to (Lidiawati, n.d.) explain that characters is characters are an important of some element in a story because events occur caused by them. Beside creates the events, characters also make them relate to other events.

Main Character

According to (Nurgiyantoro, 1995) the main character is the character that takes precedence in the storytelling in the novel. The main character is also present as an actor who is subject to events or conflicts. Even in certain novels, the main character is always present in every incident and can be found on every page of the book. However, in other novels, the main character does not appear in every incident, or is not directly appointed in each chapter, but in fact the events or chapters are still closely related.

Next, according to (Simangunsong & Mizkat, 2021) explains that the main character is most told actor in the novel. In addition, they is also told by many other characters and is always present as an actor or subject to events or conflicts.

Last, the main character is one of the interesting elements in the novel. Each number has been adjusted accordingly. The events that occur will be presented by the characters in the novel. So that the conflicts and problems carried out by the main character will have an impact on the supporting characters or additional characters and the plot that develops. (Ananda et al., 2022)

Conflict

Conflict is a source of tension, both conflict originating from outside (external) and originating from within or inner (internal). Conflict occurs when a person has two or more desires that are of the same strength but conflict with each other. Usually in life, so often humans experience conflict or contradiction, especially conflict that comes from within or what is commonly called inner conflict. (Wahyuni, 2017)

According to Stanton in (Nurgiyantoro, 1995) the form of events in a story can occur in physical or mental conflict. Physical conflict involve physical activities such as interactions between story characters and something outside themselves, such as other characters or the environment. Meanwhile, internal conflict are something that happens within oneself, as well as from the mind or heart.

Inner Conflict

Inner conflict is a conflict that humans experience with themselves, it is more of an internal human problem. For example, it occurs due to conflicting desires, beliefs, different choices, expectations, and other issues. (Nurgiyantoro, 1995, p. 124)

Connection between inner conflict and the formation of human personality. human. In addition to being a controlling tool, the mind functions as a guiding tool, to bring a person from an ordinary situation to a person who will be easily recognized by society easily recognized by the community. For example, a responsible person, disciplined, consistent, fair. Interpersonal skills include the ability to understand other people's to understand other people's moods, feelings, motivations, and intentions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the novel *It Ends With Us*, the author found several result that are fit the focus of research in the analysis conflict which portrayed internal conflict. Here are the excerpts and explanation about the analysis internal conflict main character in the novel *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover.

Inner Conflict

Data 1

“I smile, equally saddened and confused by this guy. I’m not sure that i’ve ever spent time with someone like him before. Someone of a completely different lifestyle and tax bracket. I probably never will again. But i’m pleasantly suprised to see that we aren’t all that different.” (Hoover 2016:22)

Based on the data, Lily has mixed feelings with Ryle's appearane. Will she be reunited with a man like this, or not. Because he felt that his social status was very different from Ryle's. Her mix feeling shows her inner conflict in the sentence ***“I smile, equally saddened and confused by this guy. I’m not sure that i’ve ever spent time with someone like him before.”***

Data 2

“... I love my mother, don’t get me wrong. But i moved to Boston to be my own. And having her in the same city would make me feel less independent.” (Hoover 2016:32)

The data above shows that Lily loved her mother very much, but she moved to Boston because she wanted to live alone. However, when her mother decided to live there too she felt less confident. Her inner conflict shows in the sentence ***“But i moved to Boston to be my own. And having her in the same city would make me feel less independent”***.

Data 3

“I should know better than to hold preconceived judgements, but she doesn’t look like she’d be satisfied with a minimum wage job. Her purse probably cost more than this building” (Hoover 2016:35)

The data above shows that Lily is hesitant to recruit Allysa as her employee. She thought that Allysa could not be paid a minimum salary, seeing how she dressed and her purse was more expensive than the building, shows in the sentence *“but she doesn’t look like she’d be satisfied with a minimum wage job. Her purse probably cost more than this building”*.

Data 4

“I just can’t believe i did something so stupid. If i broke it, i’m screwed. I just spent my entire inheritance on a building that i won’t even be able to renovate for months.” (Hoover 2016:38)

The data above explains that Lily was amazed at herself for doing something stupid. She fell down the stairs and sprained his leg because she wasn't careful when moving things. In fact, she used all the inheritance from her father to buy this building and did not want to waste her time on useless things.

Data 5

*“I think i like her more now that my father has passed away. I know it’s because i held a lot of resentment toward her for never leaving him. Even though a lot of that resentment has faded when it comes to my mother. **I still have the same feelings when i think of my father.**”* (Hoover, 2016:47)

Lily mumble that she liked her mother better now when her father was gone. Because before her father died, her mother didn't want to leave him and that made Lily hate her mother. But even though his father had died, she still hated him when he remembered her father shows in the sentence *“I still have the same feelings when i think of my father”*.

Data 6

“It all hits me at once. The anger... the irritation... the half glass of champagne i had in the kitchen. I’m so mad, i can’t even think straight.” (Hoover, 2016:68)

The data above explains that the feelings that Lily is currently feeling are united, because she is confused by Ryle's attitude which makes her curious. In addition, in Ryle's kitchen there was a very large painting of herself which made Lily even more confused.

Data 7

*“I drop the journal on my chest. **I’m suprised to feel tears running down my cheeks. Every time i pick up this journal i think i’ll be fine that it all happened so long ago and i won’t still feel what i felt back then.**”* (Hoover, 2016:153)

The data above shows that Lily opened the journal she had made about Atlas again and she suprised she was crying when she opened the journal and didn't want to feel what she felt in the past shows in the sentence *“I’m suprised to feel tears running down my cheeks. Every time i pick up this journal i think i’ll be fine that it all happened so long ago and i won’t still feel what i felt back then.”*

Data 8

"I wince at his word, trying to not let them penetrate..." (Hoover, 2016:175)

The data shows that Lily winced at the time Atlas said he wished they meet had happened a year ago, but she didn't want to penetrate. Maybe now they are in a relationship. But in fact, they met when they both had partners.

Data 9

"But for the rest of the bus ride, i was so angry. I was angry that Katie would say something so ignorant just to hurt someone she thought was beneath her. I was also hurt that Atlas appeared to be used to comments like that." (Hoover, 2016:187)

The data above shows that Lily was very upset and hurt by Katy's words that said Atlas was homeless and smelly, those words also seemed to hurt Atlas, but that had become commonplace for Atlas. Shows in the sentence *"i was so angry. I was angry that Katie would say something so ignorant just to hurt someone she thought was beneath her. I was also hurt that Atlas appeared to be used to comments like that."*

Data 10

"It breaks me. It rips me apart from the inside out. All my heart wants to do is wrap tightly around his." (Hoover, 2016:306)

The data explains that Lily was hurt by Ryle did to her, he pushed Lily down because of the effects of drinking alcohol. Lily also swore to herself, if this happened again she would walk away from him.

Data 11

"I swear, sometimes i get so mad at her for staying with him. I know i'm only fifteen and probably don't understand all the reasons she chooses to stay, but i refuse to let her use me as her excuse..." (Hoover, 2016:83)

The data above shows that Lily is sometimes very mad with her mother, who always maintains their relationship with her father. In fact, her father was always abusive towards his mother. but they persisted on the grounds of their child's happiness, even though Lily was really depressed by what her father did to her mother.

Data 12

"My face immediately grows warm, and i refuse to allow my self to mope. I force myself off the bed. I have work to do. I can't be upset that i'm not enough to make a guy want to remap all of his life goals." (Hoover, 2016:97)

The data above shows that Lily found herself crying after reading the journals she made when she was 15 years old. He wished he could go back to that time and repeat what happened in the past. However, she refused to mope because she still had many goals in life that he had to achieve.

Data 13

"I don't know. I barely know the guy. I know him enough to know that sex with him. Won't be enough for me, though. But how i do i know sex won't be the only thing he wants?." (Hoover, 2016:120)

The data explained that Lily wanted to know what Ryle wanted apart from having sex, because this was a new thing for Lily to feel this way. Even Lily wished she wanted Ryle for more than one night, which meant wanting to have Ryle.

Data 14

"I suddenly feeling uncomfortable as the tension grows thicker between the two of them. Ryle doesn't even take a drink of his coffee. He walks toward Allysa and pours it out in the sink. He standing right in front of her, but she won't even look at him." (Hoover, 2016:126)

The data explains that Lily was in the middle of Ryle and Allysa when they were arguing. That made Lily uncomfortable and wanted to get out of the room to avoid the fight they had made. Shows in the sentence *"I suddenly feeling uncomfortable as the tension grows thicker between the two of them."*

Data 15

"I don't know what he meant by that. I don't know if his mom died, or if she give him up for adoption. We've been friends for a few weeks now and i still don't really know anything about him or why he doesn't have a place to live." (Hoover, 2016: 132)

The data above shows that Lily is confused about why Atlas left home and became a homeless. They have been friends for several weeks, but until now Lily has not found the right reason from Atlas.

Data 16

"His word made my heart feel like the mulch he had just laid out. I didn't even know what to say to that. Does he really think about himself?" (Hoover, 2016:135)

The data explained that Lily's heart feel doubtful what did he say, but Lily wondered if he really thought that way of himself.

Data 17

"Anyway, my mother got that real scared look in her eye when he started honking and she told me to take all her stuff to the table while she moved her car out." (Hoover, 2016:140)

The data explained that Lily saw her mother was very scared and panick when her father honked to order her to get the car out of the garage, because her father was going to parking his car in the garage, while Lily's mother's car was parked outside the garage. That made Lily's father angry and her mother went straight to the garage to get the car out and asked Lily to put all the stuff she brought to the table. Show in the sentence *"my mother got that real scared look in her eye when he started honking and she told me to take all her stuff to the table while she moved her car out."*

CONCLUSION

Based on the research data, there are 17 data that the writer took to analyze the main character's internal conflicts which were described analytically by the writer. In this data, Lily poured all her anger through the journal she made at the age of 15. She recounted in detail what happened 10 years ago, which made her feel sad and recalled what happened in the past. She is also not good at expressing her emotions directly, more to keep them.

From these results, the author describes the internal conflicts experienced by the main character and applies them using Stanton's theory.

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