

## IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICT IN SHORT STORY *THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME* BY RICHARD CONNELL

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### ABSTRACT

The title taken in this study is Identification of Conflict in Short Story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell. The purpose of this study is to identify the types of conflict experienced by the main character in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell. In this research, the writer started by collecting data by noting things related to the title of this research. The results of the research in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* show that conflict plays an important role in human life as a means of changing humans for the better. In this study, there are two conflicts experienced by the main character, namely internal conflict and external conflict, external conflict is divided into two, namely physical conflict and social conflict. The approach used in this study is an objective approach with the research method used is a descriptive qualitative research method which is carried out by describing or giving an overview of the object being studied through the data collected as it is.

**Keywords:** External conflict, Internal conflict, *The Most Dangerous Game*, Richard Connell

### INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, humans cannot live alone or meet their own needs. As social beings, humans always need and cannot live without other humans. Every human being tends to communicate, interact and socialize with other humans. In addition, humans are creatures that are always involved in differences, contradictions, and competition which are called conflict creatures. Humans who are creatures that interact with other humans in a society, will definitely experience social problems (Lidiawati, 2021, p. 2). The contemporary view of conflict is based on the notion that conflict is something that cannot be avoided as a logical consequence of human interaction, but the problem is not how to reduce conflict, but how to handle it appropriately so as not to damage interpersonal relationships and even damage the organization (Rosana, 2015, p. 216). Conflict at a certain level is needed as a means of human change for the better.

Human changes caused by conflict are often poured into literary works, one of which is in short stories. Short stories are the result of the author's images, thoughts, imaginations and feelings which are usually relatively short which can be read in one sitting and are shorter than novels. Nurgiyantoro (2013) stated that short stories present shorter stories than novels, both in terms of the series of events that are disclosed, the number of characters, the content of the story, and the number of words used. Short stories provide learning to their readers through messages conveyed by the author, namely through events or conflicts experienced by the characters in the story. Conflict in a literary work plays an important role in supporting the content of the story. Without conflict, the story will not live and attract readers because there are no events that are felt. One of the short stories that has an interesting conflict is the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell which the writer uses as the object of this research.

In this study, the writer will identify the conflict experienced by the main character in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game*. Because through this conflict there are various messages conveyed by the author which can then be used as learning by readers that will be useful in everyday life.

Based on the background above, it can be concluded that the writer is interested in researching the conflicts contained in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game*. So the writer takes the title Conflict Identification in Short Story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell.

## DATA SOURCE

The data source used in this research is the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell. This research is focused on analyzing the conflicts experienced by the main character in this short story.

## METHODS

The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research according to Bogdan & Taylor is a research procedure capable of producing descriptive data in the form of speech, writing, and behavior of the people being observed (Nugrahani, 2014, p. 4). Nugrahani also stated that the purpose of qualitative research is to understand the conditions of the context towards a detailed and in-depth description of the conditions of a natural context that occur in the field of study as they are. Descriptive method is a method that aims to make systematic, factual, and actual descriptions, pictures, or drawings regarding the facts, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena investigated (Wiyatmi, 2017, p. 56).

This study uses an objective approach. The objective approach is one of the research activities that approaches the object of research by being oriented towards literary works or texts, without relating them to the author, reader or reality in the context (Wiyatmi, 2017, pp. 15–16).

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### Characters and Characterizations

Characters are individuals created or invented by the author who experience the events in the story. In general, characters are in the form of humans, but can also be in the form of animals or humanized objects (Alfin, 2014, p. 151). Characters are an important element in the story. According to Aminuddin (2002), a character is an actor who carries out an event in a fictional story so that the event can become a complete story unit. Characterization is the depiction of the characters/actors of the story through their traits, attitudes, and behavior in the story. In fiction, characterization is closely related to the plot, because a convincing plot lies in describing the character of the characters who take part in it. (Widayati, 2020, p. 18).

The main character or central figure is a character who experiences many events in the story. The main character is divided into two, namely the main protagonist and the main antagonist. The protagonist is a character who brings positive character or conveys positive values. While the antagonist character brings a character that is contrary to the protagonist or conveys negative values (Alfin, 2014, p. 151).

### Plot

The plot according to Stanton is a story that contains a sequence of events, however, each event is only connected by causation, one event causes or causes another event to occur (Widayati, 2020, p. 42). These events in the story are realized through the actions, behavior, and attitude of the main character. A person's desire to behave in an action is based on the person's beliefs and evaluation of the results generated by his behavior. As based on the *Theory of Reasoned Action* proposed by Ajzen and Fishbein, assumes that behavior is determined by the individual's desire to perform a certain behavior (Mahyarni, 2013, p. 13).

### Conflict

Conflict according to Wellek and Warren is something dramatic referring to a bet between two balanced forces and implies countermeasures (Djumadin & Bunga, 2020, p. 85). Nurgiyantoro (2013) divides the conflict in the story into two types, namely internal conflict and external conflict. External conflict has two categories, namely physical conflict and social conflict. Physical conflicts occur between humans and nature or humans and the environment, while social conflicts occur between humans and other humans. Internal conflict occurs in the heart and mind and in a person's psyche or also called inner conflict.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell, the writer will identify the types of conflict contained in the short story based on Nurgiyantoro's theory of conflict. The types of conflict are internal conflict and external conflict.

### **Internal Conflict in short story The Most Dangerous Game by Richard Connell**

In the internal conflict experienced by the main character in the short story The Most Dangerous Game by Richard Connell, the author analyzes the conflict that occurs between Rainsford and himself which is often called inner conflict.

#### **Data 1**

*“He struggle up to the surface and tried to cry out, but the wash from the speeding yacht slapped him in the face and the salt water in his open mouth made him gag and strangle.”*(Connell, 2012, p. 4)

In the narration above, there is a situation where Rainsford fell from the ship due to losing his balance. Rainsford fell into the sea and tried to rise to the surface in a panic. Against his panic Rainsford screamed hoping one of his friends on the boat could hear him and tried to swim after the ship. With all his strength Rainsford tried to swim as hard as possible to reach the ship even though the ship slowly started to move away. He tried to stay calm and not let the panic get in his way.

#### **Data 2**

*“Some wounded thing—by the evidence, a large animal—had thrashed about in the underbrush, the jungle weeds were crushed down and the moss was lacerated, one patch of weeds was stained crimson. A small, glittering object not far away caught Rainsford’s eye and he picked it up. It was an empty cartridge.”* (Connell, 2012, p. 6)

Based on the data above Rainsford found something that made him wonder and guess what might have happened. As a hunter, Rainsford knew the signs he found. With his mind filled with wonder, Rainsford tried to find what he could find for a clue as to what was really going on. Rainsford guessed that it must have been a large animal, the hunter who had hunted the animal must have had great courage to be able to hunt down the animal with light weapons.

#### **Data 3**

*“Where there are pistol shots, there are men. Where there are men. There is food,” he thought. But what kind of men, he wondered, in so forbidding a place?* (Connell, 2012, p. 6)

The data above is a situation when Rainsford was lost alone in the forest with a hungry stomach and he heard gunshots. He thought the gunshots must have come from someone who fired them. But inside Rainsford had doubts and wondered what kind of person was in such a terrible place.

#### **Data 4**

*“Mirage,” thought Rainsford. But it was no mirage, he found, when he opened the tall spiked iron gate. The stone steps were real enough; the massive door with a leering gargoyle for a knocker was real enough; yet above it all hung an air of unreality.* (Connell, 2012, p. 7)

The data above shows that Rainsford was very amazed to see a large building that almost resembled a palace building standing firmly in the middle of the forest. His feelings were amazed but his mind wasn't quite sure what he was seeing in front of him. Rainsford proved time and time again that the building was real but still in his mind this made absolutely no sense.

**Data 5**

*"The bed was good, and the pajamas of the softest silk, and he was tired in every fiber of his being, but nevertheless Rainsford could not quiet his brain with the opiate of sleep. He lay, eyes wide open."* (Connell, 2012, p. 17)

The data above shows the feeling of uneasiness that Rainsford was experiencing after his chat with General Zaroff. Rainsford couldn't believe that he was on a cursed island that might have been his death. The facts about General Zaroff's human-hunting activities were hard for his mind to fathom. With anxiety filling his head, the extremely comfortable bed couldn't make him fall asleep.

**Data 6**

*"You'll find this game worth playing." The general said enthusiastically. "Your brain against mine. Your woodcraft against mine. Your strength and stamina against mine..." "And if I win—" began Rainsford huskily. "...my sloop will place you on the mainland near a town." The general read what Rainsford thinking.* (Connell, 2012, p. 19)

Based on the data above, it can be concluded that Rainsford was confused about what he should do. General Zaroff asked Rainsford to hunt with him as a condition for Rainsford to get off the island as soon as possible. If he agreed it would be like giving his life to General Zaroff. But if he refused, he could never get off the island.

**Data 7**

*"Across a cove he could see the gloomy gray stone of the chateau. Twenty feet below him the sea rumbled and hissed. Rainsford hesitated. He heard the hounds. Then he leaped far out into the sea..."* (Connell, 2012, p. 26)

The data above is a situation when Rainsford was being chased by General Zaroff's hunting dogs. When Rainsford arrived at the edge of the cliff, he began to have doubts about the steps he was about to take. Directly below it was an extremely roaring sea. Rainsford thought for a moment after which he decided to jump into the sea.

**External Conflict in short story The Most Dangerous Game by Richard Connell**

In the external conflict experienced by the main character in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game* consists of physical conflict and social conflict which occurs between human and other human in social environment.

**Physical Conflict**

In the physical conflict experienced by the main character in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game*, the author analyzes about the conflict between Rainsford and nature.

### Data 8

*"...Desperately he struck out with strong strokes after the receding lights of the yacht, but he stopped before he had swum fifty feet."* (Connell, 2012, p. 4)

Based on the data above, when Rainsford fell into the sea, he panicked and tried to fight the deep and cold Caribbean night sea by continuing to try to swim to catch up with the oncoming ship. However, no matter how strong human power and strength is when compared to machine power, human power will not be able to surpass it.

### Data 9

*"with his remaining strength he dragged himself form the swirling waters. Jagged crags appeared to jut up into the opaqueness, he forced himself upward, hand over hand. Gasping, his hands raw, he reached a flat place at the top."* (Connell, 2012, p. 5)

The data above describes Rainsford's struggle in trying to escape from the dark and deep sea. Rainsford fought against the sea waves and with the rest of his strength Rainsford managed to get out of the sea with his remaining energy barely running out so that all he could feel was fatigue.

### Data 10

*"...as he stepped forward, his foot sank into the ooze. He tried to wrench it back, but the muck sucked viciously at his foot as if it were a giant leech. With a violent effort, he tore his feet loose."* (Connell, 2012, p. 24)

Based on the data above, in the middle of the hunting done by Rainsford and General Zaroff, in the middle of the forest Rainsford was trapped in quicksand in a place called death swamp. In the midst of his activities which are being hunted by General Zaroff, Rainsford encounters a new problem which makes Rainsford make even harder efforts to be free from the quicksand.

### Social Conflict

In the social conflict experienced by the main character in the short story *The Most Dangerous Game*, the author analyzes about the conflict between Rainsford and General Zaroff.

### Data 11

*"I wanted the ideal animal to hunt," explain the general.*"So I said, 'What are the attributes of an ideal quarry?' And the answer was, of course, 'It must have courage, cunning, and, above all, it must be able to reason.'" *"But no animal can reason," objected Rainsford* (Connell, 2012, p. 13)

The data above shows the conflict between General Zaroff and Rainsford. This difference of opinion on General Zaroff's object of hunting makes no sense to Rainsford. General Zaroff wanted a game that could reason, but Rainsford insisted that as intelligent as any animal, no animal could reason.

**Data 12**

*"I can't believe you are serious, General Zaroff. This is a grisly joke." "why should I not be serious? I am speaking of hunting." "Hunting? Great Guns, General Zaroff, what you speak of is murder."* (Connell, 2012, pp. 13–14)

The data above shows another clash between General Zaroff and Rainsford. Rainsford thought that what General Zaroff had said about reasoning animals he meant humans was a joke, a joke Rainsford found horrible. But what General Zaroff had said about the human hunt was true. Human hunting which is currently a very exciting game for General Zaroff.

**Data 13**

*"I refuse to believe that so modern and civilized a young man as you seem to be harbors romantic ideas about the value of human life. Surely your experiences in the war—" "Did not make me condone cold-blooded murder," finished Rainsford stiffly.* (Connell, 2012, p. 14)

The data above showed that General Zaroff did not expect Rainsford to have thoughts that conflicted with him especially about the value of human life. However, killing is still killing. For Rainsford, whatever the reason, if it involved the lives of innocent humans, then that matter could not be forgiven.

**Data 14**

*"...you've a genuine new thrill in store for you, Mr. Rainsford." "Thank you, I'm a hunter, not a murderer." "again that unpleasant word. But I think I can show you that your scruples are quite ill founded."* (Connell, 2012, p. 14)

Based on the data above, there is a difference of opinion between Sanger Rainsford and General Zaroff. Rainsford who was a hunter was just doing normal hunting, but General Zaroff was doing a different kind of hunting. Since his arrival to the remote island, General Zaroff began to change his hunting activities. When someone came to his island, General Zaroff would make that person his hunting object. In the dialogue above, General Zaroff tries to convince Rainsford that his hunting activities will create a different sensation that will make him excited and passionate. But Rainsford didn't agree about the hunt at all because what General Zaroff was doing was murder.

**Data 15**

*"General," said Rainsford firmly, "I wish to leave this island at once." "I wish to go today," said Rainsford. "Tonight," said the general, "we will hunt—you and I."* (Connell, 2012, p. 18)

The dialogue that took place between Rainsford and General Zaroff indicated that Rainsford intended to leave the cursed island as soon as possible, but in this situation General Zaroff did not let Rainsford leave just like that. General Zaroff gave conditions to carry out hunting activities before Rainsford left with Rainsford who was the object of his hunt. If Rainsford refused to do so then he could never leave the island.

## Data 16

*"I am still a beast at bay," he said, in a low, hoarse voice, "Get ready, General Zaroff." The General made one of his deepest bows "I see," he said. "Splendid! One of us is to furnish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this very excellent bed. On guard, Rainsford."*(Connell, 2012, p. 27)

The data above is a situation where after Rainsford decided to throw himself into the sea and swim to General Zaroff's palace, he met General Zaroff to challenge him to a final battle. It was this final battle that would determine the victor of the hunting activity that had previously been carried out by Rainsford and General Zaroff.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of this study it can be concluded that there are two types of conflict experienced by the main character, namely internal and external conflict where external conflict is divided into two types of conflict, namely physical conflict and social conflict.

In the internal conflicts experienced, the writer found 7 data showing that Rainsford as the main character experienced several inner conflicts which made him conflict with himself about different thoughts and sometimes made him hesitate in deciding something. In the external conflicts experienced, the authors found 8 data with 3 of them showing physical conflicts experienced by Rainsford where this type of conflict is a conflict that occurs between humans and nature or the environment that is in conflict with the character. On the analysis of physical conflict data that Rainsford experienced, Rainsford tried to survive by fighting nature such as saving sea waves, from quicksand, and cliff heights that could have made him unable to survive. Meanwhile, the other 5 data show social conflicts that occurred between Rainsford and General Zaroff, where this type of conflict occurs between humans and other humans in a social environment.

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