# THE SOCIAL CONFLICT EXPERIENCED BY THE MAINCHARACTER IN NOVEL CHARLES' DICKENS' NOVEL"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

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#### Abstract

This study discusses social conflict in the novel Great Expectations. Every paragraph has a conflict in it. Readers should look more deeply at each meaning in the novel to make it easier tounderstand. The theory used in analyzing this novel is the theory of social conflict by Lewis A Coser(2002), which categorizes it into three elements, namely Conflict concerning social statuses, Conflict of interest, and Conflict of role. The problem of this research is to find out the social conflict (conflict concerning social statuses, conflict of interest and conflict of role) in the noveland also to find out how it affects the reader. The are 13 cases identifying of Social Conflict: 7 data identifying of conflict concerning social statues, 3 data identifying conflict of interest, and3 data identifying conflict of role. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative because the data analyzed is in the form of sentences. The social conflict in the novel is the storyof the main character. The mode in the novel is personal distance, written and spoken. The influence of social conflict on readers is closely related because it is often found in everyday lifeto help people conclude various kinds of conflicts that are often encountered.

Keywords: Social Conflict, Discourse, Novel

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Literature is a type and result of creative art work in which the objects are human beings and their lives and the medium is language. Literature, as a creative work, must be capable of providing a beautiful and foaming creation to channel theneeds of human beauty (Semi, 1988: 8). Therefore, literary works cannot produce the exact same results even with the same object or vice versa. Literary works are experiences. In this case it means that literary works cannot be separated from the life experiences of their authors. Literary works are human personal expressions in the form of concrete images that evoke enchantment with language tools, such as experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and belief (Sumardjo and Saini,1997). In this case, it is clear that the author's literary works are impacted by their experiences, ideas, feelings, passion, and beliefs. By using these thing the author isable tomake literary works in accordance with his thoughts.

In this thesis, the writer analyses famous and 19<sup>th</sup> century novels. The novelis an essay consisting of a person's story that is described very long and clearly. Novels usually consist of fiction and non-fiction novels, fiction usually revolves around something that is beyond human reason, whereas non-fiction usually consists of a person's true story that is raised as a motivation that can encourage someone. The novel expresses a concentration of life at a tense moment, and a strictconcentration of life (Semi, 1988: 32). In the novel, the researcher raises a problemthat we often encounter among ourselves and the community, namely the problem of social conflict. Every person or community must have social conflict. Social

conflict exists because of something that is contrary to one's heart and mind. In this novel the author reveals the social conflict experienced by the main character, the novelist describes the social conflict experienced by the main character due to the pressure from various parties.

Conflict in general is a form of conflict or difference in ideas, opinions, understandings or also interests that occur between two or more parties. Conflict cannot be avoided in human life. Because, basically every human has a conflict. Itbased on interest that different to each other. Conflict is an existing state of disagreement or hostility between two or more people. The novel I am going to analyses is Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (born February 7, 1812 in England) is a famous romance writer and novel during the reign of Queen Victoriaof England. Many of his books are now appointed as films.

Dickens was interested in social work throughout his career and was knownacross the world as one of the most significant and well-known novelists of the Victorian era. In 1833 Dickens began contributing his stories. A Dinner at PopularWalk is Dickens first story and becomes a story published in the newspaper for a year. From April 1836 to November 1837, The Posthumous of Papers from the Pickwick Club was published monthly. Pickwick remained one of the most popularworks of the time after being published in book form in 1837. Following the successof Pickwick, Dickens began a full-time career as a novelist, producing works of increasing complexity at an incredible rate: Oliver Twist (1837-39), Nicholas Nickleby (1838-39), The Old Curiosity Shop and Barnaby Rudge as part of the JamMater Humphrey series (1840- 41). Bildungsroman genre novel written by CharlesDickens is very interesting to be thoroughly researched. The novel which became one of the most famous novels made me interesting to read it, to find out what storymade this novel one of the best-selling novels in the world. Many previous studies that I found discussed this novel, starting from the discussion of the character, the values contained therein and much more. So I thought about discussing social conflict to be my research.

The researcher chooses the topic of social conflict because it is important tounderstand and be useful in our lives. We usually find conflict in people's lives as well as ourselves, therefore we need understanding by conveying. As with literary works, we must properly interpret the entire contents of literary works so that they are easier to understand.

## **Review of Related Literature**

## Discourse Analysis

Language is used by people to collaborate, communicate, and create things like institutions, marriages, and reputations. Additionally, we use it to deceive, profit, injure others, and destroy institutions, marriages, and reputations. Discourseis one of the language studies. About discourse analysis, there are many writers who explain the notion of discourse itself. Yule (1996, p.129) states that discourse analysis is the study of the science of language use in relation to social and psychological factors that influence the communication. In addition, Kress explainthe discourse is more detail than Yule Kress (1985, p.27) in Sinar (2002, p.6) states: "Discourse is a category that belongs to and derives from the social domain, and text is a category that belongs to and derives from the linguistic domain. The relationbetween the two is one of realization. Discourse finds its expression in text. However, this is never a straightforward relation, any one text may be the expression or realization of a number of sometimes competing and contradictory discourse".

Brown and Yule (1983, p.1) argue that discourse analysis is an analysis of the language used. Therefore, it is not limited to describing linguistic formsindependent of their intended purpose or function to serve human affairs. Discourseanalysis includes the study of written and oral interactions. Discourse analysis refers to the research of how language functions in relation to its environment. Through text analysis, we not only know what the content is, but also how the message is conveyed using the words, phrases, or sentences it conveys.

#### Social Conflict

Literary works as a reflection of social reality, of course, cannot be separated from conflict. Maneeke Budiman in his essay entitled Literary Conflict (2003:110)states that the history of literary relations with conflict is as old as the age of literature itself since its existence in the world. The relationship between conflict and literary works is an inseparable combination. The emergence of conflict in literary works has existed since they existed. Conflict is a very important part in literature. Furthermore, Budiman said that literature is not obliged to report the occurrence of a conflict somewhere at any time, additionally, it must preach the truth about itself. However, this does not imply that literature is devoid of conflict.. Literature is rich in conflict, but the main problem is what kind of conflict is in literature and how the conflict is presented through literature.

Conflict in literary works has indeed become inseparable. Even literature also shows how to deal with these conflicts. That way, writers are required to not only revolve around the problem of writing style and technique, but pay more attention to the problem of presenting conflicts and their solutions. Conflict is a symptom that cannot be separated in society. In this context, conflict is simply interpreted as something that is natural and instinctive. This means that conflict comes within a person and cannot be separated in one's life. Conflict between the dominant structure and the minimal structure as a structural conflict in a dynamic society (Syahputra 2006). The motive is the mastery of resources in society, like resources in politics and economics.

There are two important thing conflict theory according to Nurgiyantoro (2002) namely: External conflict and Internal conflict:

#### 1. External Conflict

External conflicts occur when a character encounters something that exists outside of himself (with the environment or with the human environment).

- a. Physical Conflict (elemental conflict) an elemental conflict results from a disagreement between a character and the surrounding environment.
- b. Social conflict, on the other hand, is a conflict brought on by humaninteraction or issues that develop because of human interactions.

#### 2. Internal Conflict

Internal conflict, also known as mental conflict, is a conflict that manifests in acharacter's heart and spirit. Internal and external conflicts in a story can occur in various forms. Thetwo conflicts can be a major conflict or an additional conflict or commonly called a supporting conflict. In a story, supporting conflict must be related or support the main conflict.

In general perspective, conflict is defined as a dispute, conflict or dispute that is identical with violence. The notion of an identical conflict with violence originates from thoughts that assume that conflict only includes physical, such as rebellion, revolution, and war between nations. This assumption is not wrong and also true, because there are conflicts other than physical namely verbal conflict. Verbal conflict occurs when the disagreement or difference has not reached the useof physical objects. Oral conflicts can take the form of debates, polemics, differencesof opinion and so on which are only limited to attacking each other with words. In this context, conflict can be understood as a fight for social discourse, not for practical interests. Conflict does not only occur sharply in the field, but also occursin the realm of public discourse. Each group always interacts, overlaps and overlaps over the dominance of thepublic (Syahputra, 2006).

### Kinds of Social Conflict

Lewis A. Coser divides categorizing social conflict into three groups (in Chris,2002:64-74). (a.) conflict concerning social statuses, (b.) conflict of interest, and (c.) conflict of role are the three types of social conflict. According to conflict sources, the following explanation categories are at disagreement with one another:

#### a. Conflict Concerning Social Statuses

The term "social status" refers to a person's place in society within a given group and culture. Many persons may hold the title of priest, for example, but only one job. A social class and a social group are formedby a collection of social positions. circle. Occupation (for example, doctor of medicine or academic lecturer), profession (associations and organizations members), and family are all examples of social roles that people can hold (parent, sibling, etc). A position conflict is a social dispute that occurs as a result of the interaction of social positions (Kristina, 2007:54-64).

#### b. Conflict of Interest

When a person (whether an individual or a corporation) has a vested interestin one or more decisions, there is a conflict of interest. For example, there is alf (1) a person is in a relationship with another, there is a conflict of interest that requires them to make decisions on their behalf, and (2) that person hasa (special) interest that interferes with the correct judgmental exercise in that connection (Davis and stark, 2001:8).

#### c. Conflict of Role

A role conflict arises when two or more roles map to two or more statuses. When faced with a situation where we must fulfill multiple duties, we experience role conflict being pushed in multiple directions. as we try to respond to the various statuses we have. Role conflict can last for a short period of time or for an extended period of time, and it can also be linked to situational situations. A situation in which a personis required to perform two incompatible responsibilities. For example, if a manager is forced to terminate a coworker who happens to be a personal friend, he or she will face role conflict (Mifflin:2005).

#### Factor Affect Social Conflict

The struggle over sources of ownership, social prestige, and power, which are scarce and unequally distributed in society, is at the heart of social, economic, and political relations, according to sociologists (Elli M. Setiadi 2011, p 361). Inequality is defined as the unequal allocation of social resources within a community. This disparity in division causes certain parties to struggle to obtain itor increase it for those who acquire relatively little or little social assets. While thosewho have obtained the distribution of social assets are trying to maintain and can also add to it. The party that tends to maintain and add to it is called the status quoor the party who tries to get it is called the status need

Basically, the causes of conflict are simply divided into two, namely:

- a. Horizontal plurality, It is a culturally diversified community structure interms of ethnicity, religion, race, and social compounding in terms of disparities in jobs and professions such laborers, traders, employers, public servants, military, journalists, and intellectuals. Because each of these cultural aspects has its own qualities, and each of those cultural seekers wants to preserve those cultural features, horizontal-cultural pluralism produces problems. In a society with this structure, conflict might lead to civil war if there is no consensus on the principles that keepit together.
- b. Vertical plurality, Divided community systems based on income, education, and power Because a small minority of people have wealth, established education, considerable power and authority, while themajority have no or little wealth, low education, and no power and authority, vertical plurality can lead to social strife. This societal split is a fertile ground for social conflict (Elly M. Setiadi 2011, p. 361). However, some sociologists describe many factors that cause conflicts, including:
- a. Differences in the position and individuals' beliefs have caused conflicts between individuals. In conflicts such as these there are clashes of establishment, and each party also tries to destroy its opponents. Destruction here is not always interpreted as physical destruction, but can also be interpreted in the form of symbolic extermination or eliminate the thoughts of opponents who arenot approved.
- b. Cultural differences, cultural variations contain more than just lead to conflicts both between people and between groups. Various ethniccultures will result in a variety of personality traits and behavior patternsamong a broad group of people. In addition, cultural differences will lead to ethnocentrism, which is the attitude shown to other groups that the group is the best. If each group in social life has the same attitude, then this attitude will trigger conflict between adherents of culture.

Due to differences in interests, groups will compete and conflict for the opportunity and means to pursue the aims of each other's diverse interests. The differences in stance, culture, interests, etc. mentioned above often occur in situations of social change.

Therefore social changes can indirectly be seen as a cause also (increase) in social conflicts. Rapid social changes in society will result in changes in the systemof values that apply in society. And changes in values in this society will cause differences in the founding of the community.

#### Novel

#### 1. Definitions of Novel

A novel is a story that describes the plot's circumstances and characters. Literature (Novel) is a broad representations of life and social reality that aims to imitate ideas about nature and the inner or subjective world of individuals, as well as literary work (Wellek and Warren,1970,p.4). Real places, people, and events maybe included. In addition, a novel is a work of art that incorporates elements from contemporary life. Literary works that tell the story of a person's life experiences.

Bartholomew (1989, p.987) stated that, the novel is a narrative of considerable length and complexity, describing characters and presenting as well as sequential organization of action and reason. Novels are narrative or stories that arecreated in purpose (Cole at all, 1990, p.52).

Based on the above definition, the novel can be classified as a nonscientificliterary work. However, this does not imply that the novel cannot contribute to the advancement of knowledge in terms of personal and social dimensions. Its ideas represent valuable knowledge for our social lives.

## 2. Elements of Novel

#### a. Theme

According to Menrath (2013), a theme is the message or core idea of a literary work as part of art. The reader discovered this inadvertently. A variety of motifs may revolve around the story's central theme. Love war andpeace, modern-day loneliness, communication issues, men and women,nature and industry, and so on are examples of literary themes. As a result of themes, a story becomes more focused and conical.

#### b. Plot

Plot is a series of stories made up of stages of events that build a story and are presented by the actions in the story (Abrams in Siswanto, 2008, p.159). The plot immerses the reader in the lives of the characters and helps the reader understand the choices that the characters make.

#### c. Character

Character is what makes a tale human; it's what draws us in and makes us feel bad for them. (Langhlin, 1989, p.375). The term "character" refers to thepeople who appear in fiction, such as heroes and love interests.

## d. Setting

The place, period, and conditions of the action are referred to as the setting of a literary work. Intangible contexts are times (day, month, and year), conditions, or a historical era (Stanton, 2007, p.35). Place, time, and action all have an impact on setting, which is a literary component.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

#### Research Desain

The research design is a critical aspect of conducting research. The information in this study was gleaned from the novel Great Expectations. There are two types of research methods: qualitative research and quantitative research. The author employs qualitative research methods in this study because they allow the author to collect and analyse data for this study in greater depth. Furthermore, according to (Sugiono, 2014), qualitative research methods or interpretative methods are methods for interpreting data gathered in the field.

## Source of Data

Primary data sources and secondary data sources are the two sources of information used by the author. The Great Expectation novel by Charles Dickens served as the study's major data source. Secondary data is evidence drawn from various papers and literary publications about novels.

## Procedure of Collecting Data

There are three procedure of collecting data that I uses in this research:

- a. Reading the novel frequently to get more comprehension.
- b. Listing a sentences or paragraph that related with the analysis.
- c. Collecting and reading some thesis, journals, and articles that are relatedand support the object that want to analyze.

### Technique of Analyzing Data

The descriptive qualitative method was employed in this study. This is connected to the character's structural characteristics in the book Great Expectations. The researcher examines and analyzes the structural components of the main character in this novel utilizing this descriptive technique. Additionally, researchers in this study employed Lewis A. Coser's sociological approach to literature. Researchers looked at the novel's treatment of societal tensions, how themain character handles the challenge she encounters.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Findings

In this study, the author presents data analysis based on the many types of social conflict, the contributing elements to social conflict, and how social conflictaffects the central characters in Charles Dickens' novel.

## Kinds of Social Conflict

a. Conflict concerning social statuses

Extract 1:

"I don't! said my sister. I'd never do it again! I know that. I may truly say I'venever had this apron of mine off, since born you were. It's bad enough to be blacksmith's wife (and him a Gargery) without being your mother." (page11)

In the extract above contains conflict concerning social statuses because here Mrs. Joe explained his position and activities in the house as a mother and a wife. Where the position plays an important role in the life of Mr. Joe and Pip.

#### Extract 2:

"Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt kept an evening school in the village; that is to say, she was a ridiculous old woman of limited means and unlimited infirmity"

The sentence above also shows the position of Mr. Wosple as an educated person because he could run a school, which at that time only rich people could afford to go to school but Mr. Wosple builds a school for underprivileged children.

#### b. Conflict of Interest

Extract 8

"I live in a state of chronicuneasiness respecting my behavior to Joe." (page 483)

In the sentence is a conflict of interest, because the main character dependson someone to solve the problem. If someone responds, it indicates that there is a conflict of interest. Extract 10:

"I determined to ask Joe why he had ever taught me to call those picture-cards, Jacks, which ought to be called knaves. I wished Joe had been rather more genteelly brought up, and then I should have been so too." (page 108)

Another conflict of interest is as above, someone tries to use the main character to forget his own problems. by always being beside the main character.

c. Conflict of RoleExtract 12

## "If I could have kept him away by paying money, I certainly wouldhave paid money." (page 313-314)

The sentence above shows a role conflict that is faced with anxiety where inthe past the main character was a poor person, after getting luck he is now different. Now he is confused should position himself to be rich or poor.

#### Extract 13:

"For, the tenderness of Joe was so beautifully proportioned to my need, that I was like a child in his hands. He would sit and talk to me in the old confidence, and with the old simplicity, and in the old unassertive protectingway, so that I would half believe that all my life since the days of the old kitchen was one of the mental troubles of the fever that was gone. He did everything for me except the household work, for which he had engaged a very decent woman, after paying off the laundress on his first arrival." (page 660)

Another role conflict is where family and friends are the only characters that are needed by the main character. Here it can be seen that there is a role conflict.

## The Ways the Main Characters Handle

Extract 14

"As I had grown accustomed to my expectations, I had insensibly begun to notice their effect upon myself and those around me. Their influence on my owncharacter, I disguised from my recognition as much as possible, but I knew verywell that it was not all good." (page 483)

The sentence above explains that the conflict experienced can be resolved by itself because the conflict that comes actually comes from each of us.

#### Extract 15:

"you and me was ever friends. And when you're well enough to go out for a ride - what larks!"

"O God bless him! O God bless this gentle Christian man!' Joe's eyes were red when I next found him beside me; but, I was holding his hand, and we both felt happy."

How the main character handles the social conflict that exists within himby making peace with himself and also making peace with the people around him.

#### 2. Discussion

The results indicated social conflict in the novel, namely 13 social conflictdata found in the novel. Related to the research focus, the type of social conflict consists of 7 data identified as conflict concerning social statues, 3 data identified as conflict of interest, and 3 data identified as conflict of role.

a. Conflict Concerning Social Statues used in the novel Great Expectations

This type of social conflict has a meaning where social status in society is very important. This type of social conflict is found in 7 cases in the novel (data 1,2,3,4,5,6, and 7) for example, in data 5 using the sentence "She was dressed in rich materials, satins, and lace and silks, all of white. her shoes were white." and in data 6 used the sentence "my name, he said, is jaggers, and I am a lawyer in London. These two data involve the meaningaccording toKristina "A position conflict is a social dispute that occurs as a result of the interaction of social positions". Thus the sentence above can be classified intosocial concerning statues.

## b. Conflict of Interest used in the novel Great Expectations

The second type of social conflict also has a meaning where conflictsof interest in society are strongly attached, because humans are social creatures. This types of social conflict is found in 3 cases in thenovel GreatExpectations (data8,9, and 10). For instance in data 8 "I live in a state of chronic uneasiness respecting my behavior to Joe." and on data 9 "who I am. Cried Miss Havisham, striking her stick upon the floor and flashing intowrath so suddenlythat Estella, up at her in surprise, who am I, for God's sake, that I should be kind?" The data has a meaning where each character has a common interest and is mutually beneficial to each

other.

### c. Conflict of Role used in the novel Great Expectations

The last types of social conflict has a meaning where a person can have morethan one role in his life. This types of social conflict was found in 3 cases in the novel (11,12, and 13 data). For example in data 11 "whichI meant say thatwere not a question requiring a answer betwixt yourself and me, and which you know the answer to be full well No. You know it to be No, Pip, and wherefore should I say it?" and data 13 "For, the tendernessof Joe was so beautifully proportioned to my need, that I was like a child inhis hands. He would sit and talk to me in the old confidence, and with the old simplicity..." the data explains that the situation can affect a person's role.

### The ways the main characters handle

The results of the study show that the social conflict contained in thenovelshows that the conflict comes from each character. So that thecharacters use themselves to handle the conflicts that occur in them. Asin 3cases in the novel (14,15, and 16). For examples in data 14 "As I had grownaccustomed to my expectations, I had insensibly begun to notice their effectupon myself and those around me. Their influence on my own character, I disguised from my recognitionas much as possible, but I knew very well thatit was not all good." and on data 16 "when suffering has been stronger thanall other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used tobe..." The data explains that all conflicts that occur in characters can be healed by peace within oneself, trying to make peace with life's destiny andmaking peace with the people around.

#### **CONCLUSION**

After analysing social conflict in the novel Charles Dickens "Great Expectations", the researcher concludes that to understand the story we mustfind social conflicts in each text, because each text has different conflicts concerning social statuses, conflicts of interest, and conflicts of roles. We must also pay attention to the use of language by participants, both spoken and written language. From the results of this study, the researchers concluded that: 1. The social conflicts in the Great Expectation novel consist of several types of conflicts, namely individual conflicts, family conflicts, community status conflicts, and conflicts between groups, individual conflict is where Pip tries to find his own identity. A family conflict where Pip, Joe, and his older sister often argue and are rude to Pip. A societal status conflict whereeveryone is curious about Miss Havisham and with everything Miss Havisham has society so curious. Conflict between groups when several police officers and the public try to find escaped convicts. 2. The influenceof social conflict in Charles Dickens' novel "Great Expectations" is individual conflict, the use of language and sentences in thenovel is easy to understand so thatreaders can understand easily. Social status conflicts are conflicts that we often encounter around us, usually social status conflicts consist of positions held by someone that causes envy within. Conflict of interest occurs when a person puts hisown interests firstwithout considering and observing his surroundings, resulting inselfishnesswithin the individual. Role conflict is a conflict that comes within a person where as long as they live they hold more than one social status in society, for example in life when children have to work at the same time.

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