CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Analysis

*My Sister's Keeper* is a novel written by Jodi Picoult. It tells the story of 13-year-old Anna, who sues her parents for medical emancipation when she is expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate, who is dying from leukemia. From the beginning of this novel we can see that Anna’s has to face conflict with herself between sacrificing herself for her sister or struggle to get right for her own body. Not only in the beginning, but the whole of the story of this novel full of conflicts that makes this novel become interesting to me. In other words, we can say that conflicts develop the plot of this novel.

So, in this thesis the object of the analysis are the conflicts of leading character, Anna. The reason why I choose to analyze the conflict because in this novel we can find a lot of conflicts that makes the characters in this novel fight to each other, especially because the characters of this novel belong to one family. So, it makes the novel very interesting because we can see how the characters respond to the conflicts and also their ways in facing the opponents which are their own family itself.
In *My Sister's Keeper* Jodi Picoult has masterfully covered yet another controversial topic and complicated conflicts that makes this novel very interesting. It tells about a young Kate who is diagnosed with a severe form of leukemia. Her parents then have a baby, Anna, who is genetically selected to be a close donor match for Kate. From her birth onward into her early teens, Anna is called upon to undergo increasingly invasive and dangerous procedures to provide blood, bone marrow, and other tissues to sustain her older sister's life. Now, a kidney is needed, and Anna brings a lawsuit against her parents, claiming the right to her to make her own decision about what medical procedures can be performed on her. Anna's mother Sara, an attorney, decides to represent her own daughter Kate at the trial.

In this novel we can find many conflicts that appear around leading characters. Conflicts are connected with plot and plot is part of intrinsic elements. Tennyson in his book *An Introduction to Drama* explains the plot as an important element in fiction including drama. He further clarifies that plot is closely connected to conflict.

There are some very difficult questions raised in this story that creates conflicts around leading characters. *My Sister's Keeper* examines the conflict of what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another?
In *My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity. Picoult also paints a powerfully emotional picture of a family in turmoil. She adds additional tension to the story through brother Jesse, whose drug taking and criminal tendencies add even more burdens to an already overwrought situation. The story also includes the love and hatred relationship between Anna's lawyer and her legal guardian.

The narrative switches from character to character so that the reader hears the voices of each family member, as well as that of Anna's lawyer and of the legal guardian appointed to watch out for her interests. Sara's narrative includes flashbacks on the history of Kate's illness, Anna's role in providing medical support, the constant threat of Kate's death takes on the family. There are several shocking twists to the plot that make the story even more riveting. So, that’s the reasons why I choose conflict to be analyzed in this novel.

As we know that novel is a part of literature. So, it is good for us to know what literature is. The word ‘literature’ derives from the Latin ‘littera’ (‘letter’) which primarily refers to the written or printed words. Literature is the artistic expression of feeling and emotion which poured into words. Literature sprang up from the imaginative mind of the writers and by using their creative imagination, everything happened around their community can be put into literary work. Literature also sprang up from the imaginative mind of people who had the talent to create stories.
They perceived what was happening around them from natural phenomena to the lives of people in their community.

Literature has three genres namely drama, poetry and prose. The word “drama” derives from the Greek word “dran” which means “to do” or to act”. Poetry is meaningful arrangement of words. The word prose derives from the Latin word “prosa”, which is literary translated to “straightforward”. Prose is the ordinary form of written language.

Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs (1995:2) classify prose into two, fiction prose and non fiction prose. Fiction is made based on the author’s creation and imagination. For example novel, short story, romance, biography, parables, and myth. Non fiction is literay works which describes or interpret facts, presents judgements, and opinions. It includes essays, newspaper, encyclopedia, magazines, and so on.

A novel (from the Italian novella, Spanish novella, French nouvelle for “new”, “news”, or short story of “something new”) today is a long narrative in literary prose. Novel is the further development of romance. A novel is defined as a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and usually presenting a sequential organization of action and scenes. (Quoted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel). According to Richard Taylor in his book *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981:46) novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflects something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct.
1.2 The Statement of Problem

As I explain before in the background, we can see this novel full of conflicts. In this thesis, I would like to analyzing the leading character, Anna, the conflicts that Anna has to face and how the conflicts happened. Then I formulate the question to answer:

1. What conflicts that Anna has to face?
2. How is the conflict growth?

1.3 The Objective of Analysis

The objective of analysis is the statements about activities and objects that are going to be found based on the problem of analysis. There are two objectives found in these analysis, they are:

1. To show the conflicts that Anna has to face.
2. To explain the the development of the conflicts.

1.4 The Scope of Analysis

In this thesis, my analysis will focus on the conflicts of Anna as the leading character with other major character and the conflict itself.
1.5 The Significance of Analysis

The significance of this analysis contains theoretical and practical intention. Theoretically, it may enrich the knowledge about literature especially novel. This analysis is expected to make the readers able to understand about literature especially novel. Practically, the readers can understand *My Sister’s Keeper* and the conflict that find in this novel.

1.6 The Method of Analysis

In analyzing the novel *My Sister’s Keeper* by Jodie Picoult the element of plot is analyzed. With using plot we also know the process of the conflict itself. In analyzing this novel I use the methodological procedure that we know as data collecting and selecting procedure. First, I choose the novel *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodie Picoult. After that I read the whole of the story several times and then select data and taking some notes quotation on dialogues.

The second is data analyzing procedure while the novel have been choosen is being analyzed based on intrinsic elements such as plot.

1.7 The Theoretical Approach

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1967:73,81,110) in their *Theory of Literature* mention two approaches in analyzing literary works; they are intrinsic and
extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach or textual analysis is an approach which analyzes literary work based on the text and the elements such as characters, plot, theme, setting, theme, style and point of view. While extrinsic approach is an approach which analyzes the literary work from external factors such as biography, autobiography, history, psychology, and so on.

In analyzing this thesis, I use intrinsic approach or textual analysis especially plots. Because plot is part of intrinsic approach and plot is closely connected to conflict.

1.8 The Theoretical Review

In analyzing conflict, I use the theory of Lewis Coser and the theory of psychological conflict by Kurt Lewin. Why I choose the theory of Kurt Lewin in analyzing this thesis? It is because both psychology and literature have human being as their object. They study about human behavior or character and human development. Psychology and literature have a close relationship because literature consist of the psychology of the character who conducts a story while everything that relates to the characters such as attitude or behavior and morality are part of psychology. So, psychology of the character are conveyed or written down on a story by the writer by using this theory it will help me to analyze the conflict more specific.

Besides knowing the relation between psychology and literature, it will be better if we know the meaning of psychology of literature. Psychology of literature is
a study of literature which values a literary works as an activity of the psyche. The writer uses his feeling and emotion in his works. It is also happens on the readers, they will use their feeling and emotion in reading the literary works because the works are coming from the experience of the writer himself and the experience of other people. So, that’s the reason why I choose to use the theory of Lewin’s.

Lewis Coser defines conflict as a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure, or eliminate their rivals. According to Coser conflict divided into two, they are realistic conflict and non realistic conflict. (Quoted from id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theory of conflict)

1. Realistic conflicts, comes from the disappointment of the special demands that occur in relationships and estimate the possible benefits of the participants, and which aimed to the object which is considered disappointing. For example, the employees on strike for their demands in the form of increased wages or salaries raised.

2. Non-realistic conflicts, conflicts which are not derived from the goals that antagonistic rivals, but from the need to ease the tension, at least from one side. Coser explains in an illiterate society that revenge usually through such witchcraft, black magic and others.

According to Coser there is a possibility someone involved in a realistic conflict without hostility or aggression. For example: Two lawyers which have seen
closed friends when they were student. After graduation and became a lawyer, they faced a problem that requires them to face each other in court. Each aggressively and thoroughly protect the interests of his client, but after leaving the court they forget the difference and go to a restaurant to talk about the past.

But if the conflict develops in intimate relationships, then the separation (between the realistic conflict and non-realistic) would be more difficult to maintain. Coser said that, the closer the relationship will make the greater the sense of love that already built in, so it makes the greater tendency to suppress rather than express a sense of hostility. While the secondary relationships, such as with business partners, a sense of hostility can be relatively freely expressed. But it does not always happen in the primary relationships in which the total involvement of participants can makes disclosure of such feelings that can be danger to the relationship. If the conflict is truly beyond limits it can explosions that endanger the relationship. For example: the conflict between husband and wife and also conflict between lovers.

Coser strongly opposed the sociologists who always see the conflict only in a negative view of it. The difference is a normal event that could strengthen the social structure. Thus Coser reject the view that the absence of conflict as an indicator of the strength and stability of a relationship.

In *My Sister’s Keeper* we can see that realistic and non realistic conflict appears in this novel. Realistic conflict can be shown when Anna report and fight her mom in the court to get right for her own body. Non realistic conflict can be shown
when Anna fight with herself in making decision whether she has to save her sister or keep fight to get right for her own body.

According to Kurt Lewin suggested that conflict can be described by two opposing tendencies: approach and avoidance. (Quoted http://www.biology-online.org/dictionary/Approach-avoidance_conflict)

- Approach-Approach Conflict is a psychological conflict or a situation of indecision where an individual is confronted having to choose between equally desirable alternatives. Approach-approach conflict is one of the three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin in 1931. It happens when a person has to choose between two desirable outcomes, such as a choice between finishing college and a full-time job offer. This conflict is often the easier to resolve than the two other conflicts, which are avoidance-avoidance conflict and approach-avoidance conflict.

- Approach-Avoidance Conflict is a psychological conflict or a situation of indecision and vacillation when an individual is confronted with an event or an object that has desirable and undesirable qualities. Approach-avoidance conflict is one of the three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin in 1931. It is when an individual is indecisive and ambivalent in pursuing a desirable goal that has an undesirable outcome. For instance, a person wants to do something but fears the consequence it entails. This conflict is often the more difficult to resolve.
In this kind of conflict, we are faced to a single goal that has positive and negative aspects. Another example, we might really want a new i-phone, but realize it will be too expensive.

- Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict is a psychological conflict or a situation of indecision and vacillation when an individual has to choose between two undesirable alternatives. Avoidance-avoidance conflict is one of the three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin in 1931. The other two are approach-approach conflict and approach-avoidance conflict. This conflict involves choosing between undesirable alternatives or outcomes in which a person tends to avoid. For instance, a person who dislikes his job but fears on quitting and unemployment.

1.9 The Review of Related Literature

To support the writing of this paper, I use the thesis of Miranda Siregar. Her title is *The Conflicts of the Characters in Mark Twain’s The Adventure of Tom Sawyer*. In her paper, she explains about the plot as important element in fiction including drama. From this paper I know that plot is closely connected to conflict. As an ordered chain of events, plot simplifies the conflict may be divided into large group that is internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict explores that an individual is in conflict with himself. While external conflict covers is in conflict characters and society.