AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS’ CONFLICTS IN DAN BROWNS’S NOVEL “THE DA VINCI CODE”

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Abstrak

INTRODUCTION
The Background of the Analysis

Literature is supposed to be an imaginative creation which is far from factual truth. It has been widely known of its three genres. They are novel, poetry, and drama. Novel is a narrative kind of fiction writing, poetry is written down in lines with rhythm is dominant and so rhyme scheme, and drama is aimed at presenting on the stage.

According to Edgar Robert (1993: 1) says that literature is the art of written works. Literature is writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings and attitudes toward life. Yet many of the things which we know call literature began life without being written at all.

The focus of analysis is conflict that faced of the main characters. Meanwhile, the conflict itself according to Edgar Robert and Henry E. Jacobs (1995: 88):

The controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects is conflict, which refers generally to people or circumstances that a character (often the protagonist) must face and try to overcome (often the antagonist). Conflict brings out the extremes of human energy, causing characters to engage in the decisions, actions, responses, and interactions that make up most stories.

In reference what they say about the conflict above, the writer found that generally people that often protagonist characters in story is always faced with people that often antagonist characters with the conflict which is they try to overcome. The conflicts between them are varieties. They must take a decision of options in that conflict.

The novel that the writer would analyze describes the attempts of Robert Langdon, Professor of Religious Symbology at Harvard University, to solve the murder of renowned curator Jacques Sauniere of the Louvre Museum in Paris. A baffling cipher is found near his body. Sauniere grand-daughter, Sophie Neveu and Langdon as the main characters attempt to sort out the bizarre riddles and are stunned to discover a trail of clues hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. The unraveling of the mystery requires solutions to a series of brain-teasers, including anagrams and number puzzles. The
The ultimate solution is found to be intimately connected with the possible location of the Holy Grail and to a mysterious society called the Priory of Sion, as well as to the Knights Templar. The story also involves the Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei.

The writer analyzes the main characters' conflicts in the novel *The Da Vinci Code* uses three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin. They are Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, and Approach-Avoidance Conflict.

### The Problem of The Analysis

The focus of analysis is internal and external conflict in reference to this. The problems are:

1. What are Robert and Sophie’s Approach-Approach Conflicts?
2. What are Robert and Sophie’s Avoidance-Avoidance Conflicts?
3. What are Robert and Sophie’s Approach-Avoidance Conflicts?

### The Purpose of the Analysis

The purpose of this analysis is to identify main characters conflict in this novel with three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin. They are Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, and Approach-Avoidance Conflict.

### METHOD OF THE ANALYSIS

A library research is used to collect some data to support the analysis, finding the related data to the research then narrowing the collecting data of the library research to the related element which are conflict and character. In composing this journal and to analyze the conflict found from the main characters in this novel. First of all, the writer reads the novel written by Dan Brown entitled *The Da Vinci Code*, while identifying and marking the conflicts of the main characters that found as the data from the novel that used as the data source to analyze, then when the data is collected, the data will be selected to the most significant data that will be used in this journal based on three major types of conflict described by psychologist Kurt Lewin. They are Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, and Approach-Avoidance Conflict.

### Theoretical Review

#### Character

Character is very important element in literary works such as novel, drama, or even poems. The character can be human, or even animal. In a novel, the character usually dominated by human as the character, while the character in a novel has his or her own personality equal to human. The personality of the character will lead the character to act such emotional, behavioral, and all the logical things that deals with the problems which be faced by the character. Therefore, the character of the novel mostly has a value of a human in real life.

The character according to Robert (1993: 20) states that:

Characters are the person present in dramatics of narrative work, who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the moral and dispositional
qualities that are expressed in what they say in the dialogue and what they
do in action.

A character is a reasonable facsimile of a human being, with all the good and bad
traits of being human. Characters are usually presented through their actions, dialect, and
thoughts, as well as by description.

According Robert (1993: 131) says that in a novel, the character can be defined as
a verbal representative of human being. Through their action, speech, description, and
commentary, the authors portrayed characters who are worth caring about rooting for, an
even loving, although there are also characters to be laughed, dislike or even hated.

Finally, character is interest to be discussed for the very personal reason that we
want to see how other people live, how they make decisions and react to responsibility,
and how they pursue their goals.

Main Character

In reading the novel, usually the author will present several characters for the
reader that will appear in the novel when the reader read the entire story of the novel.
However, all the characters that the author of the novel present to the reader has different
function and role to each characters that the author created in a story. Occasionally, there
are some characters may dominate the entire story, and the other characters may not. The
characters whose appearance is the most frequently appear in the story usually hold the
most important part of the story in the novel, and their traits as the center of the action
and the theme of the story. These characters are called as the main characters.

Here are list and short analysis of the main characters of the novel written by Dan
Brown entitled *The Da Vinci Code*:
1. Robert Langdon
2. Sophie Neveu Saint-Clair

Minor Character

The minor characters can be defined as the supporting characters of the major
characters that their function is to illuminate the major characters. The appearance of
minor characters is usually infrequently. It is so much different from the appearance of
the main characters in the story who always dominate for the entire story. The minor
characters role are also seems not important as the role of the main characters, although
the minor characters sometimes related to the major characters directly.

Here are list of the minor characters of the novel written by Dan Brown entitled
*The Da Vinci Code*:
1. Sister Sandrine Bieil
2. Jerome Collet
3. Bezu Fache
4. Remy Legaludec
5. Jacques Sauniere
6. Sir Leigh Teabing
7. Andre Vernet
8. Silas
9. Bishop Aringarosa
Conflict

Conflict is necessary to every fiction works. There is usually one major conflict. In stories, there could be several conflicts. Conflict adds excitement and suspense to a story. The conflict usually becomes clear to the beginning of a story. As the plot unfolds, the reader starts to wonder what will happen next and how the characters will handle the situation. Many readers enjoy trying to predict the final outcome.

The excitement usually builds to a high point, or climax. The climax is the turning point of the story. Something has happened to resolve the conflict.

Conflict is also the essential part to the plot, without conflict there will be no plot. The plot is how the author arranges events to develop his basic idea. It is the sequence of events in a story or play. The plot is a planned, logical series of events having a beginning, middle, and end. The story usually has one plot so it can be read in all at once. The conflict triggers the order of the plot to move to the next order of the plot, so the movement of the order of the plot is determined by conflict in a story, especially in novel.

Conflict, in theories of personality is usually considered as a state of discomfort or stress caused by an individual’s experiencing two or more desires or needs that are incompatible. The essence of conflict is that the individual is unable to obtain the incentive for one of his motives without frustrating one or more other motives. Sometimes a conflict occurs simply because there are limits to the number of goals that can be achieved at the same time, two or more motives arise simultaneously but each requires a different kind of goal-seeking behaviour. More difficult conflicts occur when the satisfaction of the one motive precludes the satisfaction one another, when goal achievements are mutually exclusive. However, the most difficult conflict occurs when the satisfaction of and also intensifies another motive. This occurs when attainment of a goal actively weakens or reserve previous goal achievement.

Definition of Conflict

Conflict occurs when a man fails to fulfill his desire. It is natural to human since they have to face the obstacles that lie between their desires and their goals or dream, and when the satisfaction of human’s desires is rather impossible to reach that is the moment when human undergo the conflict. The conflict of the human happened because human has a limited and restricted capacity to satisfy most of his need. When human endure the conflict, this can cause human to react and brings out the extremes of human energy, human may take action, decision, response, and interactions toward the conflict which they are facing.

In a facing works, conflict of the characters occurs between the characters and also between the characters against the outside force. They include the conflict of one individual against another individual, the conflict between an individual against the outside forces such as: nature (disaster), community, society, culture and behavior, ideas, etc. Conflict also can be happened in one individual against himself, this conflict is when the character experience by some kind of inner conflict.

According to Robert (1995: 1694) states that the conflict is:

The opposition between two characters, between large group of people, or between protagonist and larger forces such as natural objects, ideas,
modes of behavior, public opinion, and the like. Conflict may also be internal and psychological. Conflict is a situation which is a person must give up one goal in order to achieve. Since every one has had some experience with conflict, it is immediately evident that there must be more than one kind of conflict.

Psychologist Kurt Lewin say that conflict as a situation of “tension” which was caused by a number of factors including the degree to which the needs of a person were in a “state of hunger or satisfaction”. Examples of those basic needs he identified included “sex and security”.

Types of Conflict

Psychologist have devoted a great deal of effort to the analysis of and experimental investigation of conflict behavior. In summarizing some of our knowledge about conflict, the writer will use a helpful classification that was first proposed by Kurt Lewin. He describes three basic types of conflict. They are Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidence-Avoidence Conflict, and Approach-Avoidence Conflict.

1. Approach-Approach Conflict

Approach-Approach Conflict occurs when someone is faced at the same time with two attractive goals. It is situation of indecision where an individual is confronted having to choose between equally desirable alternatives. For example, 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 person is forced to choose whether he has to satisfy his desire or to make a decision between two attractive subject.

When we experience Approach-Approach Conflict, we often have difficulty in making decision. After the decision made, we have doubts about it. This will lead us to stress which would not exit if we did not make decision.

Approach-Approach Conflict is one of the three conflicts which is generally easy to resolve, the alternatives involved are both pleasant, and any frustration that ensues is like to be temporary rather than enduring. (http://Approach-approach conflict-definition from Biology-Online.org.mht)

2. Avoidence-Avoidence Conflict

In Avoidence-Avoidence Conflict someone is faced with equally undesirable demands that, like or dislike, he must choose between. With either choice he is not going to be happy. It is situation of indecision and vacillation when an individual has to choose between two undesirable alternatives. For example, a person who dislike his job but fears on quitting and unemployment.

The essence of Avoidence-Avoidence Conflict is that it almost involves an imposition from outside rather than a pure conflict between the individual own motives. This conflict, in other words, is generated in part by the situation confronting the individual rather than from within the person himself. Moreover, when Avoidence-Avoidence Conflict occurs, it can often be resolved by attempts to escape from or change the situation, which if successful, result in conflict resolution without ensuing frustration.
of any motives. (http://Avoidence-avoidence conflict-definition from Biology-Online_org.mht)

3. Approach-Avoidence Conflict

In this kind of conflict, someone is faced with a situation that is both aversive and attractive. It is situation of indecision and vacillation when an individual is confronted with an event or an object that has desirable and undesirable qualities. For example, a person wants to do something but fears the consequence it entails. This conflict is often the more difficulty to resolve.

Unlike the two other kinds of conflict above, the Approach-Avoidence Conflict does to tend to lead to enduring or even more easing frustration. Someone who is experiencing this kind of conflict neither can postpone one motive (as in the first kind) nor escape the conflict (as in the second kind). Indonesia people proverb about “buah simalakama” is a suitable saying to illustrate this conflict: “If you eat you will loose your father, if you do not eat you will loose your mother”. Any response to the situation will produce frustration.

Approach-Avoidence Conflict is a most important source of frustration. Since adult people have greater complexity of motivational pattern, and greater potential for inconsistensity and contradiction. This kind of conflict is more frequently experienced in adulthood than childhood. (http://Approach-avoidence conflict-definition from Biology-Online_org.mht)

An Analysis of The Main Characters Conflicts

1. Robert and Sophie’s Approach-Approach Conflicts

Robert Langdon is a Professor of Symbology at Harvard, is honest and trustworthy. Langdon came to Paris to give his lecture on religious symbology. The police investigating from French Judicial Police come to his room at the Ritz in Paris. The agent tells Langdon that Sauniere is dead and shows him a picture of Sauniere’s body.

Sophie Neveu is a Cryptologist with the French Judicial Police. She is also Sauniere’s grand-daughter. She met Langdon at the Grand Gallery of the Louvre. As soon as Sophie arrives, she gives Langdon a message to call the U. S. Embassy, which has been trying to contact him with news. However, Langdon discovers that the number she has given him is not the U. S. Embassy at all, but Sophie’s own answering service with a recording telling him that he is in trouble.

She tries to convince Langdon to leave the museum with her and go to the American Embassy for protection while they figure out what happened to her grandfather. In this chapter Sophie gives choice to them:

Langdon’s eye went wide. “You want me to run?”

“It’s the smartest thing you could do. If you let Fache take you into custody now, you’ll spend weeks in a Frenc jail while DCPJ and the U.S. Embassy fight over which courts try your case. But if we get you out of here, and make it to your embassy, then your government will protect your rights while you and I prove you had nothing to do with this murder.” (Brown, 2003: 85)
Sophie wants Langdon leaves the museum but she needed him too. She feels dilemma.

…Sophie needed Langdon for herself, and it was this dilemma that left Sophie only one logical conclusion. I need to get Langdon to the U.S. Embassy. (Brown, 2003: 86)

They feel confuse to choice between chooses. It is situation of indecision where an individual is confronted having to choose between equally desirable alternatives. When they experience Approach-Approach Conflict, they often have difficulty in making decision. After the decision made, they have doubts about it. This will lead us to stress which would not exist if we did not make decision.

2. Robert and Sophie’s Avoidance-Avoidance Conflicts

In Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict someone is faced with equally undesirable demands that, like or dislike, they must choose between. Langdon and Sophie are happened Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict.

When Sophie gives a message to Langdon so that he does not react to this message. Finally, Langdon tells Fache that according to the embassy, a friend has had an accident. He may not tells Fache about the message because Langdon is in trouble.

…do not react to this message. Just listen calmly. You are in danger right now. Follow my direction very closely. Filled with uncertainty, Langdon had decided to do exactly as Sophie advised. He told Fache that the phone message was regarding an injured friend back home. Then he had asked to use the rest room at the end of the Grand Gallery. (Brown, 2003: 71)

Sophie feels guilty turning Langdon into a fugitive only to abandon him, but she saw no other option. She does it because she needed him to answer the puzzle from her grandfather.

Sophie felt guilty turning Langdon into a fugitive only to abandon him, but she saw no other option. (Brown, 2003: 109)

In other chapter, Langdon is faced choose again. Silas hold Langdon at gunpoint and demands the cryptex, but Langdon threatens to smash it on the floor and ruin the papyrus inside unless Silas lets Sophie and Teabing go. Since the Teacher has has Reamy instruct Silas not to shoot anyone, Silas doesn’t know what to do. The Teacher has also told Remy not to show his face, but Remy takes Teabing at gunpoint and makes Langdon gives Silas the cryptex.

“I disagree.” Langdon raised the cryptex high over his head.
“I will not hesitate to smash this on the floor and break the vial inside.”
(Brown, 2003: 387)

3. Robert and Sophie’s Approach-Avoidance Conflicts

In this kind of conflict, someone is faced with a situation that is both aversive and attractive. It is situation of indecision and vacillation when an individual is confronted with an event or an object that has desirable and undesirable qualities.

Langdon leaves the hotel, and Jerome Collet, an agent of the French Judicial Police, drives him across Paris to the Louvre. After the agent leave Langdon alone, he think something.
As Langdon stood alone and watched the departing tail-lights, he realized he could easily reconsider, exit the courtyard, grab a taxi, and head home to bed. Something told him it was probably a lousy idea. (Brown, 2003: 20)

In other chapter, when Sophie must choose the choose to answer the puzzle from her grandfather, she also think how Langdon can go out from the Louvre. Sophie remembers that her grandfather liked to create anagrams of famous paintings. She did not think much of the painting at the time. She realizes that the Mona Lisa would be a good place for him to leave her a message and than he would have been able to visit the painting before he died.

_He easily could have visited the Mona Lisa before he died._

Sophie gazed back up the emergency stairwell and felt torn. She knew she should usher Langdon from the museum immediately, and yet instinct urged her to the contrary. (Brown, 2003: 107)

**CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION**

**Conclusions**

The conflict in a novel is necessary. Conflict adds excitement and suspense to a story. The conflict usually becomes clear to the beginning of a story. As the plot unfolds, the readers start to wonder what will happen next and how the characters will handle the situation. Many readers enjoy trying to predict the final outcome. The conflict also needed in order of plot faster to the next order.

After analyzing the conflict of the main characters found for the novel “The Da Vinci Code”, it can be drawn that the types of conflicts from theory of Kurt Lewin involve in this novel. The writer found the examples Approach-Avoidance Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, and Approach-Avoidance Conflict.

**Suggestion**

Based on the analysis, it can be found a moral suggestion concern with how should the characters face their conflict. The conflict that found from the novel is triggered by a natural events that really exist in our real life. The conflict can not be avoided, but it must be faced wisely. All the types of conflict based on theory Kurt Lewin could happen in our life. Depends on the human thinking how to solve the problem with the choose between. The writer hopes when human is faced with the problem always to think firstly before make a decision so that does not feel guilty on the decision.

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