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Conflicts Faced by Main Characters in "Red, White & Royal Blue" Movie

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ABSTRACT

One of the most essential elements in developing a story is the existence of conflict, a story without conflict certainly does not be able to create a storyline. This study entitled "Conflicts Faced by Main Characters in Red, White & Royal Blue Movie". The aims of this study is to investigate the types of conflict faced by main characters in "Red, White & Royal Blue" movie. The data in this study was taken from a romance movie entitled "Red, White & Royal Blue" directed by Matthew Lopez. The method used in collecting data was documentation method with note taking technique. In analyzing data, this study used descriptive qualitative method. Then, informal method is used in presenting the data. Theory used to support this study is types of conflict theory proposed by Kenney (1966) which used to find out what types of conflict faced by the main character in the "Red, White & Royal Blue" movie. The results of the study showed that main characters, Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry faced two types of conflict, namely internal conflicts and external conflicts in the "Red, White & Royal Blue" movie. The external conflicts faced by the main characters occurred between man against man and man against society. Meanwhile, the internal conflict occurred between the main characters and themselves.

Keywords: *Conflict, Main Character, Movie*

ABSTRAK

Salah satu unsur yang terpenting dalam mengembangkan sebuah cerita adalah adanya konflik, sebuah cerita tanpa konflik tentunya tidak akan mampu menciptakan sebuah jalan cerita. Penelitian ini berjudul "Conflicts Faced by Main Characters in Red, White & Royal Blue Movie". Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki jenis konflik yang dihadapi oleh karakter utama dalam film "Red, White & Royal Blue". Data dalam penelitian ini diambil dari film roman berjudul "Red, White & Royal Blue" yang disutradarai oleh Matthew Lopez. Metode yang digunakan dalam pengumpulan data adalah metode dokumentasi dengan teknik catat. Dalam menganalisis data, penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Kemudian metode informal digunakan dalam penyajian data. Teori yang digunakan untuk mendukung penelitian ini adalah teori jenis konflik yang dikemukakan oleh Kenney (1966) yang digunakan untuk mengetahui jenis konflik apa saja yang dihadapi tokoh utama dalam film "Red, White & Royal Blue". Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tokoh utama Alex Claremont-Diaz dan Pangeran Henry menghadapi dua jenis konflik, yaitu konflik internal dan konflik eksternal dalam film "Red, White & Royal Blue". Konflik eksternal yang dihadapi tokoh utama terjadi antara manusia melawan manusia dan manusia melawan masyarakat. Sedangkan konflik internal terjadi antara tokoh utama dengan dirinya sendiri.

Kata Kunci: *Konflik, Karakter utama, Film*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a medium that has played a significant role in human life for centuries. The creation of literary works will continue to increase and will never stop being a topic of discussion. Pickering and Hoeper (1981) stated that the development of literary works is a distinctively human creative process, born from the perpetual human urge to comprehend, communicate and ultimately distribute experiences. Literature itself appears in various forms. According to Klarer (1999) there are categories within the the primary literary genres; they consist of fiction (which includes novels and short stories), drama (which includes comedy and tragedy), and poetry (which includes narrative poetry and lyric poetry). However, as it developed, literary elements were not only found in the form of fiction such as prose, poetry and drama. This can also be found in non-fiction forms such as Memoir, Essay, Biography, and Autobiography. However, one distinction between fiction and non-fiction is the components that compose them.

In its creation, literature requires several important components so that it can exist and develop over time. These two components are known as intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. According to Wellek and Warren (1984) Extrinsic elements consist of the author's surroundings (social, economic, and political), vision of a nation's existence, diverse works of art, belief systems, etc. On the other hand, according to Semi (1989), intrinsic elements are including character, conflict, setting, and figurative language. Intrinsic elements are the basic elements in every literary work that are essential to build the foundation of a literary work from inside. One of those essential elements is known as character.

According to Barnet et al (1988) a character is an identified individual who occurs within a work of literature such as a prose, poetry, or drama, including the main character and secondary character. A main character in a story is the one who the reader follows throughout the story. Nurgiyantoro (2015) defined the main character as the one whose story takes primacy. They are the most common characters in stories, either as perpetrators or as survivors of events. In other word, conflict and main character are two things that cannot be separated. Additionally, Bernardo (2018) defined main characters are essential to the development of the conflict. The main character is the character whose conflict appears the most in a story. In the story, main character would fail to develop effectively without the existence of conflict.

Stanton (2007) defined conflict as a physical, ethical, psychological, and fatal disagreement between people, animals, or even inside ourselves. According to Kenney (1966) there are two types of conflict namely, internal and external conflict. internal conflict or “self-conflict” is a struggle that occurs within the character's thinking. Meanwhile, external conflict is a conflict occurred between the main character in the story and something external, such as another character (man against man), a community of people (man against society, or the environment surrounding them (man against nature). Conflict is required to keep audiences interested in the following story. If the conflict is not constructed properly, the story may appear dull. Conflict teaches numerous moral ideals regarding the challenges in the story and how the characters deal with them. Conflict acts as a crucial component since conflict takes away society's interests.

In relation to modernization of literature, Ramrao (2016) stated that movie and literature have some similar elements, namely the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. In other word, movie contains various intrinsic element in them, including conflict. However, people continue to overlook the significance of conflict and its resolution as a coherent whole, resulting in a great deal of uncertainty and diverse interpretations of the story. A story can only grow as a result of a succession of conflicts; therefore, this study chose to investigate the conflict faced by the main character in the “Red, White, and Royal Blue” Movie. Since conflict is an essential feature in literary works, the purpose of this study is to help readers comprehend the different forms of conflict and how they could potentially be resolved.

METHOD

The data source of this study was taken from a movie entitled “Red, White and Royal Blue” which was released in 2023 and directed by Matthew Lopez. This movie was chosen as

data source because the main characters, Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry, are two men in a romantic relationship and both are well-known public figures in the government of their country. Alex is the son of the President of the United States and Henry is the grandson of the King of United Kingdom, which means he is a prince. Romantic relationships between two men are still discriminated against by society in everyday life, even though stories about same-sex couples have become increasingly popular in recent years, especially in the entertainment industry in various countries. As a result, it is interesting to investigate further the conflict between characters of the same gender who are in a romantic relationship and how they resolved each conflict. Especially since both characters hold influential positions in their government of their respective countries, namely a prince and son of president.

The data was collected using the documentation method with note taking technique. According to Creswell (2014) note-taking technique is the practice of recording information from different sources by writing down the data needed. Several steps were used to acquire the data: First, find the movie; second, watch and understand the movie; and finally, mark the utterance in the movie that showed the conflict.

The data was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method to obtain a brief explanation of the social conflict faced by main character in the selected movie. Qualitative research is descriptive which the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. This study used theory by Kenny (1966) to analyzed the conflict in the movie. There are three types of conflict according to Kenny, namely internal conflict and external conflict (man against man, man against society, and man against nature).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The finding shows that several types of conflict were found in the "Red, White and Royal Blue" movie based on types of conflict theory by Kenney (1966) namely internal and external conflict. Internal conflict or self-conflict is a struggle that occurs within the character's thinking. Meanwhile, external conflict is a conflict occurred between the main character in the story and something external, such as another character, a community of people, or the environment surrounding them. Based on analysis using Types of conflict theory by Kenney (1966), External conflict (man against nature) was not found in the movie, The total of data found in movie is 14; internal conflict occurred 4 times, man against man conflict occurred 8 times, and man against society occurred 2 times. The details and explanation of the data is presented below:

Data 1

Alex: **"Hey. Here's an idea. How about we skip the party tonight and go do touristy things instead?"**
Nora: "No. Are you crazy? I want to see Buckingham Palace, don't you?"
Alex: **"Mm."**
Nora: "Okay, you've been yucking my yum all day. What's going on with you?
Alex: **"It's... it's the whole Prince Henry comparison thing."**

This conflict could be identified as internal conflict because the conflict only occurred inside the mind of one character. This can be seen from this utterance, **"Hey. Here's an idea. How about we skip the party tonight and go do touristy things instead?"** Here Alex is trying to find a way to not attend the party because he is tired of always being compared to Prince Henry. He tried to escape from this party by asking Nora to visit a tourist destination instead. But on the other hand, Alex is a representative of his country. So, he cannot leave the party because he has an important duty for his country.

Data 2

Henry : "Do you ever wonder who you'd be if you were... an anonymous person in the world?"
Alex : "I was an anonymous, working-class kid for most of my life. And then my mom became president. Who would you be?"
Henry : "Be a writer. Live in Paris. I'd certainly date more."
Alex : "Yeah, cause it's so hard for a prince to get a date."
Henry : **"People I date don't interest me, and the people who interest me, I can't date."**
Alex : "Oh, my God, Henry, I have no idea what you're talking about."
Henry : **"Christ, you're as thick as it gets." (Henry suddenly kissed Alex)**

Type of in this data could be classified as internal conflict because the conflict only occurred within one character. This conflict started when Henry saw Alex kissing his guests at a New Year's party which made him leave the party. Seeing Alex kissing several random girls made Henry get mixed feelings about his feelings for Alex This conflict caused Henry to state, **"People I date don't interest me, and the people who interest me, I can't date."** He tried to give Alex a hint that he did not like women, but Alex still did not understand the meaning of Henry's sentence.

Data 3

Alex : "Tell me something, Your Majesty."
Henry: "Yes, Alex?"
Alex : **"Uh, did your parents send you to snobbery school or does looking down on people just come naturally to you?"**
Henry: **"Well, in your case, I would say it's rather inevitable."**
Alex : **"We are the same height!"**
Henry: "If you say so, Alex. Great to see you."
Alex : "You, too, Your Majesty."
Henry: **"Actually, it's Your Royal Highness. Your Majesty is reserved for the king."**
Alex : **"Oh, thank you for the etiquette lesson."**
Henry: **"You are desperately in need of one."**
Alex : "You know what?"

This conflict could be identified as external conflict specifically man against man because the conflict occurred between two characters in the story, namely Alex and Henry, which takes the form of a verbal dispute. This conflict started because Alex kept asking things that annoyed Henry, this can be seen from this utterance **"Uh, did your parents send you to snobbery school or did looking down on people just come naturally to you?"** Henry, who was not happy with the question, responded with an answer that made Alex also annoyed, causing a verbal dispute between them. Since no one was willing to give in to this dispute, they drew attention of people around them.

Data 4

Ellen : "Darling, you've done some pretty stupid things in your day, but this..."
Alex : "Takes the cake?"
Ellen : **"Oh, you hear that, Zahra? He's opening with a joke. I sent you to London with some pretty simple instructions. Represent the family at the royal wedding and don't cause an international incident."**
Alex : **"Henry shoved me."**
Ellen : **"An urge I currently share with the prince. We have spent the last three years negotiating a new trade deal with His Majesty's government. Before this weekend, I had a higher approval rating than the prime minister. Hell, I was outpolling the Spice Girls. And overnight, you've managed to undo all that."**

Alex : "Ma, you know by next week, no one will be talking about this anymore. And really, no reasonable person is gonna even pay attention to that article."

This conflict can be identified with external conflict, man against man because it occurs between two characters in the story, namely Alex and his mother. This conflict started with a commotion that occurred between Alex and Henry which caused international news, making his mother disappointed. This can be seen from the utterance **"I sent you to London with some pretty simple instructions. Represent the family at the royal wedding and don't cause an international incident"**. His mother, who is president, is afraid that this news could affect the negotiations between countries that she has been negotiating with the royal government for the last three years. Meanwhile, Alex thinks this news will be forgotten by people next week. Thus, causing conflict between Alex and Ellen in the form of opinion differences.

Data 5

Henry : "What's going on? Is it Grandpa?"
Beatrice : **"Your emails to Alex have been hacked. They were posted overnight to Reddit. The Mirror and The Sun ran them this morning. And now security photos of the two of you at the V and A have been popping up."**
Henry : "How many of our emails?"
Beatrice : "All of them. I'm so sorry, Henry."
Henry : "I need to call him."
Shaan : **"I'm afraid you can't, sir. I've taken the liberty of confiscating your phone as a precaution."**
Henry : "You've done what?"
Beatrice : "They've taken my phone and laptop as well."
Henry : "No. You can't do this."
Shaan : "Orders from the palace, sir."
Henry : **"No, I give the orders in this palace!"**
King's Equerry : **"These orders are from Buckingham Palace, sir. It is believed that this is the work of certain rogue elements within the media."**

This data show an external conflict in the form of man against society because it occurs between a character and a group of people. in the story, the conflict happened between Alex and Buckingham Palace. People from Buckingham Palace acted as external forces in this conflict that against Henry and Alex secret relationship. This conflict arose because all of Henry's emails to Alex were hacked and shared on Reddit and even photos of the two of them were also spread. This can be seen from the following interaction **"Your emails to Alex have been hacked. They were posted overnight to Reddit. The Mirror and The Sun ran them this morning. And now security photos of the two of you at the V and A have been popping up."** People at Buckingham Palace considered this news to be a threat to them, giving rise to man against society conflict between Henry and Buckingham Palace.

Data 6

Phillip : **"The less you say, the better it'll be for you."**
Henry : **"I do not need your advice, Philip."**
Phillip : "Yes, well, you continue to make a mockery of yourself, and in return..."
(King James arrived)
King : "During the Second World war, our intelligence services initiated a clandestine disinformation campaign against our enemies. While we employed it as a wartime necessity, there are a number of unscrupulous governments who routinely concoct wholesale fabrications about prominent people in order to further their own national

interests. I wonder, Henry. Do you suppose that might explain these unseemly reports?"

Henry : "It's all true, Grandpa."

King : **"Nevertheless, I have directed palace communications to issue a firm denial of these accusations."**

Henry : **"They are not accusations. They are the truth."**

This data can be identified as an external conflict in the form of man against society because it occurs between a character and a group of people. In the story, conflict occurs between Henry and his family. Henry's family, namely his grandfather and older brother, act as external forces in this conflict that oppose the relationship between Henry and Alex. All the news and accusations that appeared on social media regarding Alex and Henry's relationship made his grandfather want them to stop contacting each other in order to maintain the royal image and protect Henry. but Henry straightened out his grandfather's opinion by saying, **"They are not accusations. They are the truth."** which indicates the news is true and Henry is indeed in a romantic relationship with Alex. Disagreement of opinion in this scenario is a sign of an external conflict occurring

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of this study. it could be concluded that Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry as the main characters in the movie "Red, White and Royal Blue" faced two types of conflict throughout the story, namely internal and external conflicts. The external conflicts faced by the main characters were mainly in the form of conflict man against man because they were usually involved in conflict with other characters. There are also two conflicts man against society found faced by the main characters in the movie. However, the external conflict in the form of conflict between man and nature was not found in the movie. This is relevant to the story of the movie, which is not about natural disasters or associated with nature. Instead, it focuses on the relationship between Alex Claremont-Diaz, Prince Henry, and several other characters in the movie, Prince Henry, and also other character in the movie. In relation to the internal conflict, both Alex and Henry also faced some internal conflict that happened within themselves. Based on the explanations provided above, it is possible to conclude that internal conflict and external conflict are closely connected. They can interact to cause conflict that the main character faced in a movie. Furthermore, it is essential to understand how the conflict emerges since conflict is a crucial aspect that raise a story forward while also completing the story as a whole.

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