



Inner Conflict of Characters in The Novel “*Santri Pilihan Bunda*” by Salsyabila Falensia

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the forms of inner conflicts of the characters in the novel “Santri Pilihan Bunda” by Salsyabila Falensia. The method used was a qualitative research method, with data taken from this novel. The data collection technique used reading and note-taking techniques. The data analysis involved data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Based on the analysis of the novel, the results showed that there were nine characters who experienced inner conflicts, namely Aliza Shaqueena Iqala, Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan), Zero, Rana, Zena, Kanaya, Mrs. Mira, Lintang and Mawar. The forms of inner conflicts experienced by the characters in the novel were divided into twelve forms: anxiety, frustration, guilt, anger, shame, sadness, fear, distress, disappointment, hurt, depression, and regret.

Keywords: *inner conflicts, characters, novels*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the result of human embodiment and creation of what they see and the emotions that exist in human thought that is written down. A literary work is a fictional text that contains other meanings within it. This is due to a number of factors that contribute to the writing of the text. The background of the writing can be references read by the author, personal experiences of the author, or even situations that arose when the text was written. After capturing the symptoms of the psyche, the author will incorporate his psyche into his work. The literary text will project the personal experiences and lives of the people around the author (Endraswara, 2013).

A novel is a literary work in the form of prose, an essay that tells about the life of a person and the people around him by emphasizing the character and nature of each character. Novels have an influence on society. This is because novels usually center on life issues. Issues related to the fulfillment of a number of life needs are closely related. In addition to the needs of life, behavior is also very influential in achieving the desired life. The strength of literary works is determined by the presentation of the arrangement of events, the thoughts of the characters, the problems faced, and the series of events associated with character development (Fananie, 2002). A character in a story has a personality and problems, as in life. The problems faced by the characters can be internal (individual) or environmental (social) problems.

A literary work can be produced from events or problems in the environment that are recorded in the author's soul. These events and problems have a big impact on the psyche, and finally the author describes the phenomena of life that exist in his works, causing conflict and inner tension. Conflict is a problem that a person faces with himself or with other people. A novel can be said to be successful if it can awaken the reader's emotions in living the story so that the reader is carried into the story. Of course, to produce this success requires involvement in it, namely the involvement between the author and the characters about what the characters will do, what they think, how the characters feel, and why the characters act like that so that it creates problems or also called conflicts.

Conflict is a conflict experienced by the characters in the novel, both within and outside themselves. This conflict occurs due to differences in desires, ego conflicts, and other problems that cause tension in the story (Suratno, 2019). Conflict is a difference or dispute between two people or social groups caused by differences in interests and efforts to achieve goals in a way that opposes the opposing party, accompanied by threats or violence Soerjono Soekanto (in Pratiwi, 2020).



Inner conflict is a conflict caused by a conflict that occurs within the character. The conflict occurs because of two or more ideas or conflicting desires to control oneself, and this conflict has an impact on one's behavior (Santika, 2022). Inner conflict is a conflict that occurs in the heart and mind as well as in the soul of a character. Inner conflict occurs because of the conflict between desires, beliefs, different choices, expectations and various other problems (Nurgiyantoro, 2015). Conflict occurs so that the story develops. Inner conflicts can be identified through a person's mental feelings, character, and experiences. They can also be seen from a psychiatric point of view. Literary psychology is used to analyze characters to study this psychiatric aspect. Characters in stories, like ordinary people in everyday life, have different thoughts and characters. The forms of internal (inner) conflicts can be divided into ten, namely: (1) depression, (2) anxiety, (3) obsession, (4) frustration, (5) guilt, (6) inadequacy, (7) fear, (8) anger, (9) hurt, and (10) insecurity (Muis, 2009).

The novel to be analyzed in this research was "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia. This novel tells about the characters Angkasa or Kinaan and Aliza who face inner pressure. The character Angkasa or Kinaan experienced trauma due to a misunderstanding between him and his family until he was expelled from his house because his parents did not want to consider him a child anymore; he was also considered dead by his own mother. On the other hand, Aliza's character experienced so much inner pressure that she was depressed because she was matched and required to immediately marry Kinaan, a student chosen by her mother until they had to get married without love. In line with the description above, the researchers' interest and curiosity arose to conduct research with the title "Inner Conflict of Characters in the Novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia".

2. METHODS

The method used in this research was a qualitative research method because it can clarify every aspect of the research by describing in detail not in the form of numbers. The data analyzed were in the form of words, sentences, pictures, and so on in accordance with the issues discussed. The data source was the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia. The data collection technique in this research used reading and note-taking techniques. The data obtained must be read and recorded to keep important information to allow conclusion drawing so that the results can be used as a reference for other relevant studies. The data analysis technique in this study referred to the theory of Miles and Huberman (in Sugiyono 2018), involving data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the research, there are twelve forms of inner conflict experienced by the characters in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia as follows:

3.1 Anxious

Anxiety occurs when a person feels worried and insecure, as if something is stuck in the feeling that indicates suspicion or fear associated with unpleasant events that will occur either in real life or just in one's mind. The result of this feeling is that the soul feels disturbed, feels disappointed and gloomy. The form of inner conflict of anxiety in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts.

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

"Kinaan", Aliza called, throwing her bag in a random direction, when she saw that the man's face had been branded with purplish-blue. The tip of his lip still had a reddish spot, making Aliza worried beyond belief (Falensia, 2023, p. 187).

Based on the quote above, Aliza felt anxious about Kinan's injured condition. Aliza felt very concerned about Kinaan's injured condition. She painstakingly treated the wound, showing her affection. Aliza became upset because Kinaan did not answer her questions seriously and instead acted casually. This created a conflict within her, where she wanted to show her concern but was disturbed by Kinaan's attitude which seemed to ignore her concerns.



b. Mrs. Mira

“Mother has seen Zero walking with another woman, holding hands, too”. Mira wasn't lying. She really did see her daughter's boyfriend walking intimately with another girl. From then on, she disliked Zero (Falensia, 2023, p. 9).

Based on the quote above, Mother shows concern for Aliza's relationship with Zero, based on her own experience and the information she has. Bunda's belief that the other man she chose for Aliza is the best, contradicts Aliza's desire to choose her own path in love.

3.2 Frustration

Frustration is a symptom in which a person feels disappointed and dissatisfied. This feeling can occur because a person feels dissatisfied with their current situation, or fails to plan what they have planned. Of course, this also contributes to tension and anger. Frustration is mostly caused by behavioral substitution or an unconscious desire to make someone fail. The form of frustration of inner conflict in the novel “*Santri Pilihan Bunda*” by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts.

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

Aliza pressed the notification, still with the call still connected to Dewi. Dewi sent a picture, which of course made Aliza even more devastated. Aliza sat down limply, the cell phone in her hand she just dropped. Tears were already collecting on both of her beautiful eyelids. She sat weakly, hugging her knees tightly. (Falensia, 2023, p. 233).

Based on the quote above, Aliza feels frustrated because the people around her believe untrue rumors. She felt blasphemed by her friends and distressed by the accusation of being pregnant out of wedlock spread by Zero. Aliza struggles with feelings of devastation and helplessness when facing this situation. The slander worsened her emotional state, making her feel even worse.

b. Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan)

"Murderer."

"You're a murderer, Sa."

“Go away, we're not your family anymore”.

“Don't ever show up in this family.”

“You are not my son. Go away, murderer!!!”

“Arghhh!” cried Kinaan with a gasp as the dream again haunted his mind. He held his head tightly, replaying the past events that until now had made him remember. (Falensia, 2023, p. 98).

Based on the quote above, Kinaan was frustrated as she was haunted by recurring nightmares about traumatic events in her past: she was accused of murder and rejected by her family. This shows the deep psychological wounds she had yet to heal. Kinaan grappled with painful memories of her past, which continued to haunt her mind even in her sleep.

3.3 Guilt

Guilt is a feeling that arises in a person because of doing something that makes him feel guilty, either intentionally or unintentionally. Guilt can arise from a person's thoughts or behavior that is always carried by their feelings in life. The inner conflict of guilt in the novel “*Santri Pilihan Bunda*” by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts.

a. Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan)

“Umi... sorry, Umi”, Kinaan softly grasped and kissed the top of Umi's hand several times. She prostrated herself at the feet of the person who had taken care of her while she was here, she really felt guilty for not being honest from the beginning. (Falensia, 2023, p. 281-282).

Based on the quote above, Kinaan felt guilty for not being honest with Umi and Abi from the beginning. This guilt drives her to apologize fervently and promise to take care of them. This conflict shows the struggle between feeling unworthy of their love and affection and the desire to make amends.



b. Zena

"I'm sorry, *Bang*, I was wrong", said Zena with both eyes already holding back tears. Aliza just silently listened, occasionally rubbing Zena's back. "I lied to Mom and Dad", she continued (Falensia, 2023, p. 278).

Based on the quote above, Zena feels guilty for lying to her parents and hiding the truth. This creates a deep feeling of discomfort and regret in her, especially when she realizes that her actions have caused bigger problems. This makes her emotional and feel responsible for the complexity of the situation that has occurred.

3.4 Anger

Anger is an emotional feeling that is usually caused by feeling disrespected, feeling insulted, feeling hurt, feeling ignored, disagreeing, being upset, and facing difficulties to achieve goals. This anger can take the form of physical action or disrespectful speech, such as swearing. The form of anger as an inner conflict in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts:

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

"Your problem with me, don't bring Ranaaa!" Aliza screamed in disgust.

Zero chuckled sarcastically. "Care about me? NO!", he said.

Once satisfied with the action, Zero walked out of the maze leaving Aliza behind. Aliza secretly wanted to follow Zero. She wanted to get out of this narrow maze and beat up an evil man like Zero who has brought others into troubles (Falensia, 2023, p. 116).

Based on the quote above, Aliza felt angry and unacceptable because Zero involved her brother in their problems. This anger is clearly seen when she screams with emotion. Aliza's desire to follow Zero and beat up a man as bad as Zero shows a strong emotional drive due to her anger.

b. Zero

"WHO IS HE?!", Zero snapped, which made Aliza a little startled. She really didn't like being yelled at. She was whiny. Her heart was too soft to be intimidated like that.

"I'M HER HUSBAND", Kinaan said with emphasis.

Bugh!

Zero laughed sarcastically. "Who are you, claiming to be her future husband!". Kinaan didn't say much, he just raised one eyebrow which made Zero even more furious (Falensia, 2023, p. 28).

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Zero was influenced by his anger rather than genuine feelings of love. Zero was unhappy with Kinaan's presence, especially when Kinaan claimed to be Aliza's future husband. This challenged Zero's position and rights as someone who was close to Aliza. Zero was filled with anger because the situation was not to his liking. He vented it in an aggressive way towards Aliza and Kinaan. Zero violently pushed Aliza's body and hit Kinaan.

c. Kanaya

"Bastard, if Aliza's kid does anything, you'll pay the price!", she screamed, throwing another fist at Zero (Falensia, 2023, p. 226).

Based on the quote above, Kanaya was furious with Zero for causing Aliza to bleed as a result of being pushed roughly by Zero. Kanaya wanted to vent her anger by beating Zero but realized that Aliza needed immediate help.

d. Mawar

"Are you satisfied?!", she screamed angrily at Angkasa. Now, they are in the hospital. The bad news made Angkasa feel very guilty. Why didn't he just let Baska scratch his body and just let him die as long as Bian lived?

"Are you satisfied, Angkasa?!", she screeched again (Falensia, 2023, 291).

Based on the quote above, Mawar felt angry with Angkasa because he was the cause of Bian's death. He vented all his anger to Angkasa, even going so far as to say very hurtful things. Mawar said that she regretted



giving birth to Angkasa and wished it was Angkasa who got hurt or died, not Bian. This shows the deep inner conflict between her love for her children and the despair that arises because of a situation she cannot control.

3.5 Shame

Shame is a common occurrence in everyday life. Shame is one aspect of a wide range of human emotions, resulting in a decrease in one's self-esteem due to a perceived violation of social, legal or religious norms. Feelings of shame can be considered a mild form of fear, which is characterized by withdrawing the body to avoid interacting with new people. The inner conflict of shame in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts:

a. Zero

Zero couldn't take it, he was completely embarrassed by the girl in front of him. He smiled sarcastically, still pretending to be charming by pulling his hair. Zero then approached Aliza, the girl slowly backed away (Falensia, 2023, p. 224).

Based on the quote above, Zero felt humiliated in front of all the students, especially because his image as the respected student council leader was starting to crumble. His inner conflict arose when he tried to maintain his pride in front of the crowd by pretending to be calm and charming, even though he was actually very upset.

3.6 Sadness

Sadness is an emotion characterized by feelings of disadvantage, loss, and helplessness. One sign of sadness is crying. When a person is sad, they often become less energetic and withdrawn or avoidant. The form of inner conflict of sadness in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpt by the character Aliza Shaqueena Iqala:

"Just three days, Za", Kinaan softly let Aliza cry in her arms (Falensia, 2023, p. 309).

Based on the quote above, Aliza felt sad and heavy-hearted to be left by Kinaan even though it was only for three days. Although the separation was temporary, she felt the worry, the impending longing, and her inability to deal with the distance with Kinaan, indicating a strong emotional attachment to Kinaan.

3.7 Fear

Fear is an emotional response to threat. Fear is a basic survival mechanism that occurs in response to a certain stimulus, such as pain or the threat of danger. The form of inner conflict of fear in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts.

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

"You're not an insult", she said, looking frightened (Falensia, 2023, p. 240).

Based on the quote above, Aliza experienced fear when facing Angkasa, who looked tough and emotional. She struggled against her fear with her mixed feelings between fear of the situation and a sense of security when with Angkasa.

b. Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan)

"Za, don't go, I'm scared", he said looking at Aliza meaningfully (Falensia, 2023, p. 183).

Based on the quote above, Kinaan was afraid of losing Aliza due to a situation that she could not fully explain. She tried hard to maintain their relationship even though she was emotionally fragile. Kinaan felt that the wounds from her past were still too painful to reveal, so she chose to keep her story to protect herself. However, this also made her vulnerable to misunderstandings with Aliza.

3.8 Distress

Distress is a feeling that forces one to do something or accept a reality that one does not want or expect. Inner pressure can arise when a person is forced to do something in a hard, urgent manner. The form of depressed inner conflict in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts by the character Aliza Shaqueena Iqala:



"Do you want to sell me?", she asked with a distressed look on her face (Falensia, 2023, p. 6).

Based on the quote above, Aliza felt pressured by a situation that seemed strange to her, especially when her bundle introduced herself in front of the guests. She began to suspect the purpose of the meeting and felt worried that she would be sold or matched. However, on the other hand, she was also curious about what was really going on, giving rise to an inner tension within her.

3.9 Disappointment

Disappointment is a feeling of dissatisfaction because desires and expectations are not met or do not match expectations. Disappointment can be caused by many things, starting from small things, to grow big and eventually torment one's feelings. Failure to achieve the targets we have set is the main cause of disappointment. The form of inner conflict of disappointment in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts:

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

"Mother has seen Zero walking with another woman, holding hands too". Aliza moved away from her mother. She looked disappointed at her mother's words (Falensia, 2023, p. 9).

Based on the quote above, Aliza tried to defend her relationship with Zero, expressing her love and belief that Zero was the right person for her. However, she was confronted by her mother's accusations about Zero's behavior that has ever been caught with another woman, which made Aliza feel disappointed. The pain of feeling misunderstood and her mother's accusations add depth to this inner conflict.

b. Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan)

Angkasa looked down. "You guys already think I'm dead, right?" (Falensia, 2023, p. 278).

Based on the above quotation, Angkasa felt disappointed and alienated after realizing that her family may regard her as if she was dead and unappreciated. In addition, because of the disappointment and heartache he experienced, he was in a dilemma to decide whether to forgive and return home or keep his distance.

c. Lintang

"Why run away from the problem, Saa?", he snapped again. Disappointment can be heard in the man's voice (Falensia, 2023, p. 190).

Based on the quote above, Lintang was disappointed with Kinaan for constantly running away from problems and avoiding the consequences. She felt that Kinaan had given up on the situation even though many people still cared and supported him.

3.10 Hurt

The feeling of hurt arises when someone intentionally or unintentionally insults, is rude, or acts insolently towards them. In addition, hurt feelings can also be caused by rejection, failure, or one's inability to get what they want. The form of inner conflict of hurt in the novel "*Santri Pilihan Bunda*" by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpts:

a. Aliza Shaqueena Iqala

"You can't get enough of hurting me!" screeched Aliza right in front of Zero's damn face (Falensia, 2023, p. 115).

Based on the quote above, Aliza was hurt both physically and in her heart. The physical beating she received from Zero caused her pain, but her heartache was even deeper, as she felt abused and disrespected. This created a conflict within her.

b. Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan)

Kinaan's chest ached to hear that. It was not entirely Aliza's fault. She can't fight fate, if it's this way, it's this way (Falensia, 2023, p. 227).



Based on the quote above, Kinaan felt hurt seeing Aliza feel sad and helpless to change the situation. Although she tried to be strong in front of Aliza, deep down in her heart, she struggled with a deep sense of loss and sadness.

3.11 Depression

Depression is a symptom when a person is in a state of sadness. What characterizes depression is the feeling of failure in a person. A person who is depressed tends not to talk much, is not enthusiastic, and tends to pull themselves away. Depression in the novel *“Santri Pilihan Bunda”* by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpt:

“Remember when I asked you about Zero? That’s when Kinaan found out all about Zero. Zero was an only child who was always forced to succeed in the way his parents made him. Making Zero depressed due to the pressure from his parents. Zero was forced to take care of a company which he did not like and was difficult to manage (Falensia, 2023, p. 303).

Based on the quote above, it can be seen that Zero was depressed due to the pressure from his parents to manage a company in a field that he did not like and was difficult to master to pay off family debts. He felt trapped between fulfilling his parents’ expectations and his desire to live life according to his own dreams. This makes him depressed because he does not have the freedom to determine his life path.

3.12 Regret

Regret is an expression of feelings about regret for having acted rashly and not thinking about all the consequences that will occur. The feeling of regret can make a person experience loss and inner conflict in themselves. This feeling of regret always comes at the end of the action. The feeling of regret in the novel *“Santri Pilihan Bunda”* by Salsyabila Falensia can be seen from the following excerpt by Mawar:

Mawar asked the Creator. Punish her, but please not by taking Space. She regretted, really regretted, being late (Falensia, 2023, p. 331).

Based on the quote above, Mawar felt that she had been a bad mother to Angkasa, which made her feel responsible for Angkasa’s loss. Mawar realized that her past hatred towards Angkasa was unreasonable. She felt she had no ability to repair their relationship as this regret came too late.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion described in the previous chapter, the conclusion of this study is that there were nine characters in the novel *“Santri Pilihan Bunda”* who experienced inner conflicts: namely Aliza Shaqueena Iqala, Kinaan Ozama Elfatih (Angkasa Armaghan), Zero, Rana, Zena, Kanaya, Mrs. Mira, Lintang, and Mawar. The forms of inner conflicts included anxiety with four data findings, frustration with nine data findings, guilt with nine data findings, anger with sixteen data findings, shame with three data findings, sadness with eight data findings, fear with eighteen data findings, distress with five data findings, disappointment with eight data findings, hurt with five data findings, depression with one data finding, and regret with one data finding.

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