ANALYSIS OF EXTERNAL CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE POUND COMIC ON WEBTOON

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ABSTRACT

This study is to find out the types of external conflict faced by the main character in the pound comic on webtoon, and to handle the conflict with five style management strategies faced by the main character in the pound comic on webtoon. The data sources of this study were taken from webtoon. This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The data were analyzed based on the theory proposed by Kenney (1966), about types of conflict and the supporting theory proposed by Thomas and Kilmann (1970), about conflict management strategy. The result of this study showed the source of external conflict happened in the comic, there are man against man and man against society. The conflict also identified the strategy used by the main character in the pound comic on webtoon to handle the external conflict such as, competing, collaborating, compromising, accommodating, and avoiding.

INTRODUCTION

Language is defined as a means of communication between humans in a particular community. Language and literature depend on each other. Literature is a reflection of human life which implicitly comments on the relationship between humans, the environment, and the creator, this illustrates how humans are involved in a conflict. This makes our awareness and existence a part of the world, environment and society. Literature is a socio-cultural phenomenon related to the author and human life. In

addition, literature is an expression of the human soul. It applies basic human feelings such as fear, anger, disgust, joy, sadness, disappointment, etc. (Culler 1997: 27; Wallek and Warren, 1948: 22). Literature comes from Latin, namely the art of writing, literary works can be divided into two elements. These elements are non-fiction literary works while fiction literary works are one of the imagination of the author, a creation, not history or actual facts. Examples: poetry, novels, dramas proposed by Nurgiyantoro (2007: 2)

Conflict is one of the intrinsic aspects of literary works that have an important role in the story because it makes the story interesting. From several similar studies (Sari, 2018; Hanna, 2016; Nugroho & Viladinia, 2018) found that conflict is useful for building storylines, as well as for increasing the level of attractiveness of literary works, an important part in the story. Kenney (1966:21) stated that the character is the actor of the story and conflict is the struggle between the protagonist and the opposing forces. He also added that a character is clearly relevant to us and our experiences if he is like ourselves or like other people we know. A conflict can be reflected through the characters in the story (Dewi, 2019). In addition, other research on characters (Ermalina, 2015; Thamrin & Wargika, 2013; Patmarinanta & Ernawati, 2016; Puspasari, 2019) found that viewers can also learn better about a character's personality from the way they react or resolve the conflicts they face. The most interesting part of comics when people read comics is that the storyline in the comic itself always follows every event that occurs, especially the conflict presented by a character. The conflict itself involves two different characters such as the protagonist versus the antagonist, both of which are characterized by the main character and additional characters. Conflict can arise from various sources, but basically every conflict arises because the character cannot satisfy his needs and desires (Sari, 2013; Thamrin, et al., 2013; Truman, 2017). While Cattrysse (2010: 83), in his research, found that a protagonist must have a dramatic goal to be achieved in the story, to make the story interesting. Several types of conflict can be present in one story. There are two types of conflict, internal conflict is a conflict that comes from within the characters in a literary work, and external conflict is a struggle between a literary or dramatic character and an outside force such as nature or another character, which drives the plot action of a struggle between a person and an outside force. Comic is a special magazine for children with stories told in pictures of the Oxford Dictionary (2008). Among these literary works, in today's technological era, the works that are most favored by comic fans and teenagers to adults are webtoon.

This study focuses on analyzing the external conflicts faced by the main characters and the types of conflicts faced by the main characters and the conflicts resolved by the main characters in the comic *Pound* in the

webtoon. In this comic there are many conflicts that occur by the main character. However, many readers are still confused about comparing each element of conflict in comics, so it is very difficult to analyze conflict in comics. The specific things that are the focus of this research 1) To find out the external conflicts faced by the main character in the *Pound* comic in the webtoon and 2) how the main character resolves the conflict in the *Pound* comic in the webtoon. By analyzing this comic, the researcher is expected to be able to enrich the reader's knowledge about conflict and its elements.

METHODS

The data in this research were taken from the comic on webtoon entitled *Pound* written by Tony Karnowski. This comic was re-published in 2018. This comic has 60 episodes with two season episodes. The first season is 30 episodes and the second season is 26 episodes and 4 parts from the one character in this comic. In the process of collecting the data, this research used the observation method analysis. It describes the conflict analysis of the main character in the *Pound* comic on webtoon. The data were collected in two steps. First is reading and understanding the comic. The second is finding out the statement and the conflict, especially the external conflict, source and management strategy based on the theories used. The analysis of the data in this research used descriptive qualitative method by using the theory proposed by Kenney (1966) to focus in the type of external conflict, and the second theory to analyze the conflict management strategy by the main character in the comic *Pound* on webtoon was proposed by Thomas and Kilmann in (1970).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

This research used the formal and informal method to present the analysis, It used the table to classify the external conflict and five conflict management strategies in the comic. The descriptive analysis was used to analyze the external conflict and conflict management strategy applied by the main character. There are main theories and supporting theories used to analyze the data. The main theory was proposed by Kenney (1966) to focus on the type of external conflict of the main character. External conflict is conflict that comes between characters with something outside him may be from the environment. It can be a conflict between man against man, man against nature and man against society. The supporting theory proposed by Thomas and Kilmann (1970) was used to handle the conflict such as, competing, collaborating, compromising, accommodating, and avoiding.

DISCUSSION

The data source from the comic *Pound* on webtoon, this research was focused on the type of external conflict faced by the main character in the comic. Such as, conflict between man against man and man against society. From the data, it was two type of external conflict between man against man occurred when a character struggles with another character, while it was two type of external conflict between man against society occurred when man fight against institution such as slavery or intimidation. Bellow is the explanation of them:

Man Against Man

The conflict between man against man was pointing to the main character against other characters in the story.

1. Conflict between Leo and Match Commentator in WFL (World Fighting League) ring

In this case there was a conflict between Leo Guerrero and the match commentator, when Leo was fighting against his enemy in a ring called Boulder Black. In his battle, Leo fought all out with his enemy until finally, Leo won the battle. But the match commentator said that Leo was the winner and he was entitled to a cash prize if he fought one more time. But Leo denied it and Leo thought it was his last match and like it or not he had to compete again for the cash prize.

Data 1: episode 2 Comic on Webtoon

The picture and the conversation showed the communication between Leo and Match Commentator. It has a conflict in the WFL (World Fighting League) ring.

Match Commentator : **Your winner and one fight away from our $5,000 cash prize..Leo!**

Leo   : **You told me that was it. Last round, I want my money.**

Match Commentator   : **Yeah, like I said. Win that to get into the last round. Then the prize money, don't get hasty. Look, the kid in the crowd loves it.**

Based on the theory proposed by Kenney, (1966), the conflict happened above was an external conflict the type of this conflict was man against man which was happened between Leo and Match Commentator, in this case the conflict happened when Leo won the match between Boulder Black, but the Match Commentator said Leo was entitled the cash prize if he fought one more time and be the winner.

Based on the theory proposed by Thomas and Kilmann, (1970), the conflict management strategy used to solve the conflict above is competing. In this case the Match Commentator is not cooperative and tries to exploit the situation selfishly to Leo then Leo fights again so he could win the fight and get a cash prize.

2. Conflict between Leo and Mr. Clark in the cafe

The story occurred when Leo wanted to enter a nightclub and he was not allowed to enter. Then a man named Mr. Clark came and asked Leo to chat at a cafe. Mr. Clark knew about Leo's dilemma at that time and knew that his brother Leo was sick. Leo was annoyed to hear this when Mr. Clark found out that brother Leo was sick. Mr. Clark knew that Leo was a great fighter and he needed money for his brother's very expensive medical expenses. Mr. Clark offered to help but Leo ignored it and wanted to leave. Then Mr. Clark showed a paper which contained a match contract for a great fighter like himself and the prize money if he won the fight in the WFL match.

Data 2: Episode 10 Comic on Webtoon

The picture and conversation showed the communication between Leo and Mr. Clark. It has a conflict in the café

Mr. Clark : **Your brother's sick.**

Leo : **How did you know about that?**

Mr. Clark : **Relax Leo. There's always a sick brother or father or great aunt. I can see the desperation in your face. I've seen you fight. You're good. You could be great. But you're not in this for the glory.**

Leo : **Okay, say my brother is sick. Say doctors are expensive. Say I do need money. What exactly are you offering?**

Mr. Clark : **The opportunity of a lifetime.**

Leo : **Heh. You almost had me.**

Mr. Clark : **I'm here to help.**

Leo : **That'd be a first. You can hustle someone else, man. I'll find another bar running fights. It's a big city.**

Mr. Clark : **Does this look like a hustle to you, Leo?**

Leo : **Hustle never looks like hustles, that's why. Is this legit?**

Mr. Clark : **Real as the paper it's printed on. The WFL wants you, Leo Guerrero. There's plenty of syndicate run fights in crap holes all over the city. So you can keep killing yourself for a few hundred bucks a week. That seems like it'll work out fantastic for you. Or maybe if you run out of bars, you might I want to try winning some real fights.**

Based on the theory of Kenney, (1966) the conflict that occurred above was an external conflict. This type of conflict was man against man that occurred between Leo and Mr. Clark, in this case Mr. Clark invited Leo to chat in a cafe and Mr. Clark knew the dilemma experienced by Leo and knew that his brother was sick. The conflict occurred when Mr. Clark found out that brother Leo was sick and Mr. Clark offered a match contract to a great fighter like Leo but Leo ignored and wanted to leave Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark said that there were prizes for fighters who could win games in the WFL.

Based on the theory of Thomas and Kilmann, (1970) the conflict management style used to handle the above problems was accommodating. In this case, Mr. Clark knows about the dilemma that Leo was experienced because his younger brother was sick and Leo was angry to hear it because Mr. Clark knew the problem he was experienced and left Mr. Clark but Mr.

Clark showed a paper containing a contract for a match in the WFL and there was a prize for the fighter who won the match. Leo accepted the contract and it was also in the interests of his younger brother.

Conflict Between Man and Society

Social conflict was the opposite statement that occurred in society between a person and a group or two groups. The social conflict found in the comic was the opposite statement between a person and a group or many people.

1. Conflict between Leo, Detective Vera and Boss of the Syndicate place of illegal fighting

The story occurs when Leo had won all the battles to the boss's place from the illegal fight to take the prize money after winning all the battles but there was a conflict between Leo and the syndicate boss then Vera who came and arrested all the members of the syndicate that organized it. The illegal fight, but the boss of the syndicate denied that it was Leo who was guilty and told detective Vera to arrest him but on the other hand Vera knew that Leo was innocent and was instead invited to help him investigate the illegal fight.

Data 1: Episode 4-5 Comic on Webtoon

The picture and conversation showed the communication between Leo, Detective Vera and Boss Syndicate. It has a conflict in the illegal fighting.

Leo   : **Alright. Time to get paid. I want my money. I won it. Fairly. Three times, if you want to get technical. Show about you hand it over, and we don't need to make it four.**

Boss Syndicate   : **That's the issue with your condition, right? Big**

	flashy fighters, but the comedown is rough. And after that show out there, I doubt you got much bite behind that bark. Now, because I take pity on those without an abundance of wit, I'll explain once more. You didn't make a deal with me, so whatever you think you won doesn't mean anything.
Detective Vera	: **Pretty sure you're wrong. That makes it my money.** **Prize pool in an illegal metahuman fight? That looks like evidence to me.**
Boss Syndicate	: **Now detective, you have no proof that's what..**
Match Commentator:	**Boss! That kid's on his way here! The one who won all the illegal metahuman fight! He wants his prize money.**

Based on Kenney's theory, (1966) the conflict that occurred above was an external conflict, the type of conflict was a conflict between men and society, namely the conflict between Leo, Vera and the boss of a syndicate member who was holding an illegal fight, in this case the conflict occurred when Leo who had won all the fights to get the prize money and came to the boss of the syndicate to ask for a reward from the fight but the syndicate boss did not give the money, then detective Vera arrived who catch all members of the illegal fighting syndicate. The syndicate boss and Leo were surprised to see the arrival of Detective Vera and a conflict between the three of them occurs until Leo is caught.

Based on the theory of Thomas and Kilmann, (1970), the conflict management style used to deal with the above problems was collaborating. In this case when a conflict occurred between Leo, the boss of the syndicate and the detective Vera, the boss of the illegal fighting syndicate denied that he was guilty of the case and instead appointed Leo as the suspect. There was a collaboration between Vera who caught Leo and invited him to help investigate the illegal fight.

2. Conflict between Leo and Society in the WFL (World Fighting League) event on top of an apartment building.

The story occurred when Leo and Vera came to the WFL event which was held on top of an apartment building. At the event, Leo and Vera in the elevator had a chance to talk about their destination there after arriving at the top of the building, Leo fell and accidentally hit a waiter who was carrying a drink and the drink fell over Tamiko's girlfriend, Randy and there was a conflict between Leo and Randy because he was seen many people, Tamiko broke up the feud and in the end they made peace.

Data 2: Episode 13-14 Comic on Webtoon

The picture and conversation showed the communication between Leo and Society in the WFL (World Fighting League) event.

Randy   : **What the hell do you call this?**

Leo   : **Uh.. Crudites?**

Randy   : **Think you're a funny kid?**

Tamiko   : **I don't need you to beat an apology out of him.**

Leo   : **Beat? Anything to say? It's my first fancy party.**

  Sorry man, it was an accident.

Randy   : **Sorry? Hah. Not yet. But you sure are.**

Leo   : **Hey, relax man. It was an accident.**

Randy   : **I'm plenty relaxed. Always am before a fight.**

Security of WFL   : **Sir, do you want to make this an official challenge?**

Tamiko   : **Come on, Randy. You saw him on the train, right? Everyone's watching. You don't want to risk losing this fight. He's not worth it.**

Based on Kenney, (1966), the conflict that occurred above was an external conflict. The type of conflict above was between a man and a man, which occurred between Leo and Randy on top of the WFL event building. In this case, Leo hit the waiter who was carrying the drink and the drink spilled about Randy. The conflict occurred and was divorced by his girlfriend, Tamiko, because he was seen by many people. They reconciled by accident.

Based on the theory of Thomas and Kilmann, (1970) the conflict management style used to deal with the above problems was compromising. In this case, when Leo hit the waiter who was carrying his drink and his drink spilled on Randy and there was a conflict between the two of them, Tamiko intervened because he was seen by many people and they made peace for a wise solution for the good of both parties because Leo had no element of peace.

CONCLUSION

From the previous data there are some points that could be presented. The data which has been analyzed by the writer was focused on the type of external conflict and the conflict management strategies to handle the conflict. There are two types of external conflict faced by the main character, between man against man and man against society. There are three conflicts between man against man faced by the main character. First, when the main character fights against his enemy in the world fighting league. Second, when the main character met with someone and he knew about Leo's problem. Third, when the main character comes late to the training place. There are two conflicts between men against society faced by the main character. First, when the main character comes to the WFL event, he has problems with other characters. Second, conflict happened when the main character came to the syndicate boss to take his money because he won the fight. Leo Guerrero as the main character had to face many kinds of conflict where the main character faced many other characters in this comic.

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