



An Analysis of External Conflicts in Joker Movie

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify knowledge about literary studies, especially the intrinsic elements of a literary work, which is limited to the type of external conflict in Todd Phillips' Joker movie. The formulation of the problem in this study are (1) How does the character resolve the conflict in the Joker movie. This study uses a quantitative and qualitative descriptive method to provide a clearer picture of the problem under study. The data from this study were taken using the observation method through four stages, namely watching the Joker movie. Then, find and record the type of external conflict spoken by the characters in Joker movie. Reading the Joker movie script and finally, the writer categorizes the analysis of the types of data findings based on the type of external conflict. There is only one type of external conflicts found, namely man against man. The types of external conflicts can be distinguished based on the data found. The results show that there are 3 types of external conflicts found in the Joker movie.

1. INTRODUCTION

A lot of people choose art as their hobby or occupation. There are several forms of art that can be done and part of the art can be said to be literature. Literature is a portrait of life and describes real human life. Literature is usually written by people, for example, drama, prose, and poetry. Through literature, people can express or explain their experiences, feelings, or ideas, such as writing novels, poetry, plays, films and movies. However, not only that but literary works can also be done for other people who cannot write literary works, because in general what often happens in their daily lives they can enjoy various types of literary works, such as by watching dramas, films, and novels, movies, etc.

It can be said that literature is a thing that lives with humans and is a reflection of humans, which becomes the basis of criticism implicitly commenting on the relationship between humans, the environment, and the creator. In this case, it describes how people are involved in a conflict and how they can find a solution to the conflict. This can express our awareness of our existence as part of the world, environment and society (Wallek and Warren, 1948: 22). Literature can also be said as a socio-cultural phenomenon that has a relationship or is related to the author and human life. Literature is a term that is literally used to describe or explain written or spoken material. Literary form is a literary work that presents the world of fiction and the real world. There are many that fall into the literary form, including novels, poetry, plays, short stories, films and movies.

As it is known that the movie is one part of literature, where the part written by the person who wants to make the story of the movie is the script of the movie. A movie is a recording of moving images that display and tell a story. Several movie industries make a work of movie with a variety of different movie genres. Movies can also influence people and attract people's attention to know everything related to the movie. Schmidt and Bogarad (2006) stated, with the advent of motion pictures and television, has supported the change in human viewing habits forever. The part of the movie also has elements of literary works, such as characters, themes, plots, settings, and conflicts.

Conflict is a part that is closely related to human life. In general, humans are social creatures who will interact with each other and not everything always go well or peacefully. As for a condition where there will be something that is experienced by one person with another related to a disagreement which is often called a conflict. Conflict is a problem that arises because of a difference of opinion and conflict usually occurs between individuals and groups or someone who may have to decide or make a decision between two different things. However, conflicts that often occur in everyday life do not always have a negative impact. With conflict, humans can learn from conflict and get the best solution to every problem that occurs in everyday human life. According to Kenney (1966:19), the conflict that is of concern to fiction itself varies. A story may deal with conflicts within humans (eg, desires vs. obligations), conflicts between man and man,

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man and society, between man and nature. Conflicts that occur can be divided into two types, namely internal conflicts and external conflicts. In general, external conflicts occur outside of characters, such as conflicts that arise or occur between one person and the environment or conflict between one person and another.

Resolving a conflict that occurs in everyday life requires conflict resolution that can help control conflict. In resolving a conflict various ways are used to deal with the problems that occur. Depending on [Thomas & Kilmann](#) in their book *Conflict Mode Instrument* (1970), there are five major styles of conflict management to support the resolution of conflict situations that occur, namely: (1) Competitive means conflict resolution that defends your rights. Maintain a position that you believe is right or try to be victorious. (2) Collaborative is conflict resolution which involves when an individual tries to cooperate with others in terms of finding some solution that fully satisfies their concerns. (3) Compromise is a conflict resolution in a way when an individual has a goal to find a mutually agreed and wise solution that partially satisfies both parties. (4) Avoidance is conflict resolution in the form of avoiding a problem that occurs diplomatically, by postponing a problem until a better time. (5) Accommodating is conflict resolution that contains aspects of self-sacrifice, this is done to satisfy the interests or demands of other parties by sacrificing the needs or desires of oneself.

There are many literary works, the author chooses movies as a source of analysis data. In this study, the author analyzes the resolution of external conflicts faced by the characters in the Joker movie. There is one problem in this study that the researcher wants to reveal, namely (1) How do the characters resolve the external problem. The purpose of this study was to reveal how the characters in the Joker movie solve the problems that occur in the movie entitled Joker. The movie was published in 2019 and directed by Todd Phillips. Furthermore, the reason the author chooses how to resolve external conflicts in the Joker movie to be analyzed is that basically, humans will not escape problems so humans must learn from conflict and how to resolve conflicts that occur correctly because basically, not all conflicts have a negative influence on people's daily lives. The author chose this movie because the Joker movie describes the tense situation and differences of opinion between the poor and the rich that occurred in a city called Gotham City, and the Joker movie is unique because the conflicts that occur in the movie cannot be easily guessed by the audience so that it has more attraction and attention from the audience. In addition, this movie has been awarded as one of the best films and received several awards, one of which is the Golden Lion award in 2019.

There are several studies conducted on conflict analysis that is reviewed for guidance in this study. Those are from [Anggreni \(2019\)](#) entitled "An Analysis of Conflict in The Movie Venom by Ruben Fleischer.". Second review from [Hermanto \(2017\)](#) entitled "The Conflict Analysis of The Main Character in The Lion King Movie". Third review from [Artawan et al \(2020\)](#) entitled "The External Conflict Faced by The Main Character in Five Feet Apart Movie". Fourth review from [Rahim et al \(2002\)](#) entitled "Toward a Theory of Managing Organizational Conflict". Fifth review from [Saptra \(2008\)](#) entitled "Conflict Analysis in Stomberg's Movie Maleficent". The last review from [Wijayanti et al \(2019\)](#) entitled "Conflict Analysis of Novel Main Character: A Discourse Perspective". Based on some previous studies, the similarity of this study and previous studies are equally analyzing the conflict. Meanwhile, the difference in this study can be seen from the data source. The data source of this study was taken from a movie entitled Joker. The genre of this movie are crime, thriller and drama-theme movie. This data source was chosen because the data source from the research results of the movie entitled Joker was chosen because the Joker movie presents the story of a man who is simple but has a mental disorder, is seen as strange and is hurt by those around him so that he turns into a bad person and tries to solve the problem of the chaos made by him.

2. METHODS

The data of this study was completely retrieved from the Joker movie directed by Todd Philips which was released in 2019. The duration of this movie is two hours and two minutes. The Joker film is told in English and tells the sad story of Arthur Fleck, 40, who is the main character in the Joker movie who works as a clown and stand-up comedian. Arthur Fleck lives with his single arents, his mother, Penny Fleck. Arthur suffers from a mental disorder that causes him to laugh at inappropriate times and often makes others feel annoyed and finds him strange so Arthur turns into evil and creates chaos by committing crimes, revenge after knowing the facts about his true identity and secrets hidden by his mother. This movie is based on a fictional city called Gotham city in 1981, which is one of the most densely populated cities. The city is slum, dirty, full of crime and unemployment, depriving segments of the population and impoverishing the population. Joker movie is cast by several famous Hollywood movie players such as Joaquin Phoenix, Frances Conroy, Robert De Nero, Brett Cullen, Zazie Beetz. The author chose this movie because the Joker movie storyline is very interesting and controversial. After all, this movie discusses an unusual mental health storyline. The Joker movie has many influences on the audience, both positive and negative

influences. Such as the problems faced by a person with a mental disorder and how to overcome the problems that occur. Furthermore, the movie was named one of the world's highest-grossing movies of 2019, and the movie is booming in various circles. There is a main character named Arthur who becomes the Joker. In this movie, the figure of Arthur is played by an American actor named Joaquin Rafel Phoenix. He has received many awards and nominations, including the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, and Two Golden Globe Awards.

This research employed an observation method, namely by conducting direct research, while the steps for data collection are as follows (1) Watching the Joker movie, the first step in collecting data is the writer watching the movie entitled Joker. (2) Finding and observing the type of conflict, the next step the author categorizes the type of external conflict based on the theory of experts. After finding the data, the writer records every data found. (3) Reading the movie script, the third step the writer reads the online movie script to ensure the data is valid. (4) Categorizing the types of data, and finally, the authors categorize the types of each data found based on their constituent elements.

After the data has been collected thoroughly, the next step is to analyze the data. Data analysis was carried out by using a method, namely a descriptive qualitative method to create a picture that was systematically related to the external conflict being studied. This finding is discussed by identifying the external conflict faced by the character, theory based on [Kenney \(1966\)](#). In the next stage, the data that has been found is presented in the form of formal and informal methods. The formal method is a method that analyses a finding by using a table as a reference, but in general, the formal method tends to be related and requires assistance from the informal method which uses descriptive sentences as a reference to discuss and explain each data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of this study answering the research problems that have been proposed previously. In conducting the research, the author found several external conflicts and how to resolve these conflicts. From the results of the analysis, it was found that there are 3 external conflict data that can be divided into one type, namely man vs man. One type of external conflicts, the most frequent is the man vs man conflict with conflict strategy management accommodation and avoidance with a total of 3 times.

Table 1. The Percentage Conflict Found in *Joker* movie

Types of Conflict	Frequency	Percentage
Conflict between Arthur and Social service agency External Conflict (Man vs. Man)	1	33%
Conflict between Arthur and Detective (Man vs. Man)	1	33%
Conflict beetwen Arthur and Two Detective (Man vs Man)	1	33%
N	3	100%

[Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) shows the types, frequency and percentage of external conflicts and conflict management strategies found in the *Joker* movie. Found as many as 3 external conflict data and 3 types of conflict management strategy as conflict resolution occurred in the *Joker* movie. From [Table 2](#), there are 2 types of conflict management strategies used by characters in the *Joker* movie that aim to resolve the external conflicts contained in the *Joker* movie. The first conflict management strategy is conflict avoidance management strategy with a total percentage

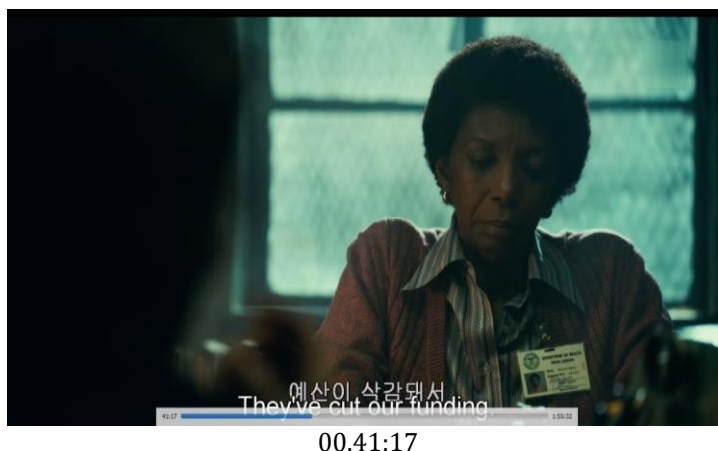
Table 2. The Percentage Conflict Management Strategy

Management Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Accomodation	1	33%
Avoidance	2	67%
N	3	100%

According to [Kenney \(1966:19\)](#), external conflict is the conflict between characters and outside forces. The external conflict can be in the form of a fight, argument or disagreement, or simply opposition in which two sides are present. An external conflict is shown through action. The conflicts that are included as external conflict are physical conflict and social conflict. A physical conflict is a conflict caused by the clash of actions between the character and the environment. Then, social conflict is conflict, which is related

to the social conditions in the society, between characters with a social relationship such as war, operations, quarrels, and others. It can be a conflict between man against man, man against nature, and man against society.

Data 1 Conflict between Arthur and Social worker agencies (Man vs. Man)



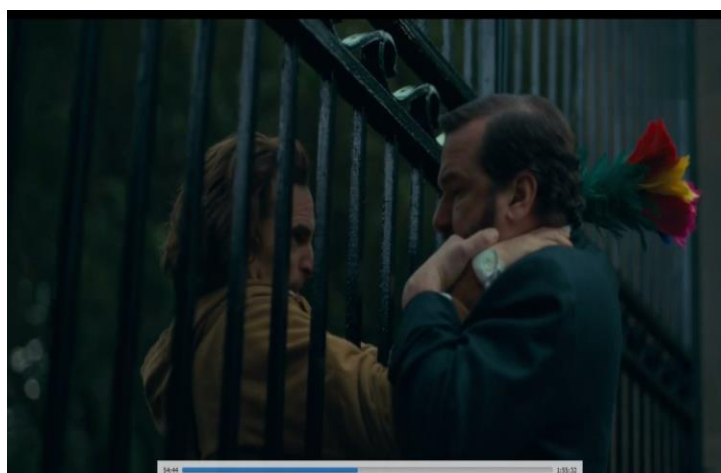
The conflict between Maud and Sonny arises as in the dialogue quotation below.

- Arthur : You don't listen, do you? I don't think you ever really hear me. You just ask the same questions every week. "How's your job?", "Are you having any negative thoughts?". All I have are negative thoughts. But you don't listen anyway. I said, "for my whole life I didn't know if I even really existed." But I do. And people are starting to notice.
- Social Worker : They've cut our funding. We're closing down our offices next week. (*Arthur looks around, just noticing some moving boxes stacked against the wall*)
- Social Worker : The city's cut funding across the board. Social services is part of that. This is the last time we'll be meeting. (*Arthur nods, not hating the idea*)
- Arthur : Okay.
- Social Worker : They don't give a shit about people like you, Arthur. And, they really don't really give a shit about people like me either.
- Arthur : (*Arthur sits there for a moment. And then it dawns on him*)
How am I supposed to get my medication now? Who do I talk to?
- Social Worker : I'm sorry, Arthur.
(*Arthur just stares at her, taking it all in*)

Based on the conflict that happened above, it can be categorized as external conflict. According to [Kenney \(1966:19\)](#), the conflict between man and man occurs when the character struggle against another character. The conflict happens between Arthur and the social worker agency. From the picture above, it can be seen that Arthur is on a return visit to meet a social worker who is his place to consult about the weird things that have happened to him. But when he wanted to consult and ask for his medicine again, he felt that the thing happening to him was getting weird. However, he actually got information from the social worker who said that Arthur could no longer come and consult the place because the agency would be permanently closed. At first, Arthur was confused and wondered why the place had to be closed because that place was the source from which to get the medicine. However, after the social worker explained that his funding would also be stopped so that Arthur could not do anything and just gave up and ignore it. The dialogue below makes the picture of the incident clearer.

In this situation, the management strategy used by Arthur and the social worker was categorized as an **Accommodating** strategy. According to [Thomas & Kilmann \(1970\)](#), the Accommodating being adopted is the indecisive and cooperative-the opposite of competing. When accommodating, a person ignores his worries in order to satisfy the concerns of others. There is an element of self-sacrifice in this mode. Whereas when Arthur asked the social workers for medicine, it was precisely the unfavorable information that he had heard that the social worker agency would be permanently closed and funding stopped. On the other hand, the social worker is quite worried about the situation because Arthur will not be able to consult while the social worker will no longer be able to give medicine to Arthur. The social worker cannot help Arthur anymore because of the things that have been determined by the social worker agency. Arthur can only surrender and ignore it because Arthur does not have much authority.

Data 2 Conflict between Alfred Pennyworth (Thomas Wayne's butler) (Man vs. Man)



00:54:44

The conflict between Arthur and Alfred Pennyworth arises as in the dialogue below:

- Alfred : Well, it's not funny. Do I need to call the police?
- Arthur : No, please. My mother's name is Penny Fleck. She used to work here, years ago. Can you tell Mr. Wayne that I need to see him?
- Alfred : (color drains from his face; beat) You're her son?
- Arthur : Did you know her?
- Alfred : (Doesn't say anything)
- Arthur : (Arthur puts his face right up against the bars, whispers so the boy can't hear him) I know about the two of them. My mother told me everything.
- Alfred : There's nothing to know. There is no them. Your mother was, was delusional. She was a sick woman.
- Arthur : No. No, just let me speak to Mr. Wayne.
- Alfred : (Alfred leans in closer to Arthur, almost looks like he feels some pity for him). Please just go, before you make a fool of yourself.
- Arthur : (Blurts out) Thomas Wayne is my father

Based on the conflict that happened above, it can be categorized as external conflict. According to [Kenney \(1966:19\)](#), the conflict between man and man occurs when the character struggle against another character. The conflict happens between Arthur and Alfred Pennyworth. From the data above, Arthur found out that Thomas Wayne was his biological father based on the contents of his mother's letter he had read. He plans to find and meet directly with Thomas Wayne to ask the truth about his biological father. After travelling by train, he arrived at Tomas Wayne's mansion and met a boy who was Thomas Wayne's biological son, Bruce Wayne. He thought that the child was his younger sibling. They stared at each other bordered by the gate of the house without making a sound. Arthur made a gesture by tugging at the corner of Bruce's lips which looked like a big smile. Someone came over to them who turned out to be the butler, named Alfred Pennyworth. Alfred Pennyworth thinks Arthur will hurt the son of his little boss and keep them both. The butler scolded Arthur, and after knowing Arthur's purpose for coming he insulted Arthur's mother and said her mother had a mental illness, namely delusions. and that was what made Arthur angry with the bodyguard.

The management strategy used by Arthur and Alfred Pennyworth is categorized as avoiding strategy. In this situation, an **avoiding** management strategy was being adopted. The avoiding is unassertive and uncooperative. When avoiding, an individual does not immediately pursue his or her concerns or those of the other person. He or she does not address the conflict. Avoiding might take the form of diplomatically sidestepping an issue, postponing an issue until a better time comes for that, or simply withdrawing from a threatening situation. This strategy is seen in this conflict when Arthur is in front of Thomas Wayne's house and meets a small child who is Thomas Wayne's biological child. He also meets Thomas's bodyguard. The bodyguard insulted him and said that Arthur's mother, Penny, had delusions and that Arthur was not Thomas Wayne's real son but an adopted child. Arthur was angry and tried to injure the bodyguard by choking the bodyguard's neck and after the boy saw him, Arthur paused for a moment then fled by leaving Thomas's house while running.

Data 3 Conflict between Arthur and two detectives (Man vs. Man)



The conflict between Arthur and Alfred Pennyworth arises as in the quotation below:

Arthur wreaks havoc by wearing makeup like a clown in a clown costume too. At that time, the situation of Gotham city was getting worse with many people demonstrating, Arthur was seen dancing on the stairs. At that time, Arthur was also wanted by the detective because of the murder he had committed. Two detectives saw Arthur and called him, but Arthur actually escaped by running towards the train where many passengers wore clown masks. The detective chased after Arthur until the train. A large number of passengers made the condition so crowded. While laughing, Arthur suddenly took a passenger's mask forcibly and the passenger actually scolded the wrong person. There was an argument on the train. After a while, the police found it difficult to calm the passengers and shot down one of the passengers and made the other passengers chase the police into hospital because they were seriously injured.

In this situation, an avoiding management strategy was being adopted. Avoiding is indecisive and uncooperative. When avoiding, one does not immediately pursue his or the interests of others. He did not handle the conflict. Avoidance can take the form of diplomatic avoidance of trouble, delaying the problem until the time is right or simply withdrawing from a threatening situation. This strategy is seen in this conflict when Arthur is on a train station and being chased by two detectives. After taking someone mask that made it difficult for the detective and others to recognize him. Arthur causes chaos in the train and there is a chaotic scene by the community Arthur just left, smiling broadly after exiting the train station carriage.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the conflict data analysis above, it can be concluded that the external conflict reflected by the characters in the *Joker* movie is that there is only one type of conflict, namely, the conflict between man vs man. In accordance with the results of data analysis regarding external conflicts used in the *Joker* movie, there is only one type of external conflict that can be categorized based on the type of external conflict based on the theory proposed by Kenney (1966). From the data found, it can be concluded that there is one type of external conflict, namely man vs man in *Joker* movie. The total number of external conflicts found in the *Joker* movie contains 3 data consisting of 3 external conflicts, man vs man. From this analysis, it was found that there are 3 data categorized as conflicts between man vs man by 33% percent, conflicts that occur throughout the selected movie are conflicts between Arthur and the social worker agency, conflicts between Arthur and Alfred, and conflicts between Arthur and two detectives. The conflict management strategies used by the characters in the *Joker* movie in resolving conflicts that occur in the movie are found in two ways, namely accommodating and avoidance. The avoiding strategy is found 2 data and 33% data percentage with 67% percent conflict strategy management and the accommodating strategy is only found in 1 data with 25% percent and conflict strategy management with 33%.

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