

# ANALYSIS OF CONFLICTS IN ORHAN PAMUK'S NOVEL "SNOW"

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**Abstrak:** Konflik merupakan salah satu elemen penting yang membangun sebuah cerita. Keberadaan konflik selalu dapat memperkaya sebuah cerita. Dengan adanya konflik, cerita dapat dibangun dengan lebih kompleks, syarat isi dan penuh pesan. Pada bagian awal artikel ini akan membahas mengenai teori-teori yang membahas tentang konflik. Kemudian, bahasan akan mencakup konflik-konflik yang terdapat di novel karya Orhan Pamuk, Snow. Konflik yang ditemukan berupa konflik internal dan konflik eksternal.

**Kata kunci:** Konflik, teori konflik, konflik internal, konflik eksternal.

## Introduction

In some respects a novel is like a short story. Both are prose fiction, both deal with truth, both deal with problems and conflict. In both the elements of structure are founded: plot, characterization, situation and theme. The basic difference between a novel and a short story is length and complexity. A novel is longer than a short story in written and quantity.

According to Singleton in his book "An Introduction to Literature" that Novel is prose fiction of considerable length showing characters in action and capable of greater complexity both character and plot than the story (1966; 194). While Jones (1968: 80) says that in some aspects a novel is not like short story, except that both deal with problems and conflicts. Both of them have aim to entertain and to inform representing the life of human being imaginatively. Therefore thought novel is about imaginary people and events such as individual human being who live in particular time and place in series or events. It can show important information about the reality of live.

The writer analyses a novel and tries to focus on conflicts, because an exciting thing of novel is conflict. Conflict is an important element of novel and kinds of action in novel. A good story is a story which can tell what is going and appeal to the emotion of the reader, his feelings, of joy and sorrow, pity, fear eager, in other words it can get the reader involved emotionally in what is happening.

A novel entitling "snow" which is written by Orhan Pamuk as the source of analyze because it is interesting story which has shown great concern in human relationship, an idea and human conflict either in internal or external conflict. Beside that this novel got a Nobel Prize and it makes people all over the world eager to know what is happening with this (especially about conflicts). Therefore the writer focuses to analyze about the conflicts.

In this novel "snow" is found a lot of conflicts between the main character with other characters or among the characters themselves and

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between the characters with their surroundings. For this reason, the writer wants to analyze the conflict which one of the intrinsic elements of the novel "snow"

## Discussion

In this section, firstly we are trying to discuss some theories related with the analysis of the novel "snow" written by Orhan Pamuk and secondly the theories which are important to use to analyze about the conflict because they can support to the analysis of it.

### A. Theory of Conflict

This section discusses some important theories related with a novel, because they will give clarify to the reader. Hartiningsih (2001: 12) states that there are two elements of the novel. They are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. However, only the relevant elements which are going to be discussed in this analysis, namely: conflict.

A part of elements in fiction is conflict. Conflict always comes to the life of human beings. It is inevitable that human being has to undergo what is called conflict in his/her life. The word of "conflict" is taken from Latin words "contra" meaning against and *fligare* meaning to strike. Conflict is a part plot and becomes a story interest for readers actually the back bone of the story. Conflict provides the readers with pattern and direction and gives them the sense of a story. A story without conflict will not arouse and maintain the reader's interest in a story. Therefore it is very important in a novel and even it is said as the "heart of novel". Furthermore Prof. Budi Darma had ever stated in lecturing an Advanced Literature subjects in Postgraduate Program Unesa some meetings ago that "to be really a good novel, a novel must contain conflicts". Conflict is a necessary element of fictional literature. It is defined as the problem in any piece of literature and is often classified according to the nature of the protagonist or antagonist.

According to Kennedy (1983: 50) conflict in drama in fiction occurs in any clash of wills, desires or powers whether it would be a conflict of character against character, character against society, character against some nature force or character against some supernatural entity.

While Barnett (1998: 77) says that conflict is at the head of the section, and inflicts no action of any meaning full sort take place until some conflict are introduced. Conflict is just as crucial to sort stories and to other kind of narrative, such as autobiography. In the same case, Crow has a same thought about conflict that it is opposing derives sometimes set up tension often are in compatible with represent, unsatisfied drive or need.

Jones in his book entitling "Outline of Literature" states that there are three kinds of conflict (1968: 122). They are as follows:

- a. Physical conflict is a conflict between human being and nature and environment.
- b. Social conflict is a conflict between one person and another.
- c. Psychology conflict is a conflict between man and himself, his conscience, his guilt, or simply trying to decide what he is going to do.

Kennedy (1983: 62) states that there are two kinds of conflict, namely:

- a. *Firstly*, internal conflict happens because the contradictory between a person his/her own impulse or inside of the human soul as internal problem. A conflict of a man with himself, his conscience, his guilt or simply trying to decide what is going to do, in such a story unwed pregnant girl trying to decide whether to have an abortion, place her child up for adoption, or raise alone, brave against fear and anxiety, contradiction between two willingness.
- b. *Secondly*, it is external conflict. It happens because the contradictory between a person with something outside a person himself/herself. A man has an external conflict when he has conflict with an outside force. It is divided into two parts, they are: 1. Physical or element conflict is a conflict man against nature or environment, for example; (a) a woman fighting to survive in a cyclone, ( b) the struggles of a man climbing a mountain, (c) the struggle of a sailor to survive in a frightening wave ocean. They are the examples how a man against nature. An area was swept in a flood suddenly, until there was no one live and the owner was lost, wouldn't become object of story. It would become news, no story. It will be a good story, if there are people survive in flood, so there are relation between people and nature. 2. Social conflict is a conflict of a man against men. It happens because the contradictory between people with others as affect a human relationship. For example; (a) a child is an conflict with his parents, (b) two women seeking to marry the same man, (c) a detective pitted against a criminal, (d) matters concerning working, labor, oppression, war

Certainly, the conflicts are interrelated each other, whatever the conflict, or however basic conflict may be combined, such as though a man maybe in conflict with nature ads he climbs a mountain (element), he may be in conflict with another man (social), and he may also be climbing to prove to himself that he is not a coward (psychological).

Conflict is the tension or problem in the story; a struggle between opposing forces. Types of conflicts are external conflict and internal conflict. Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch, literary critic and author, was first to classify plots as *seven basic conflicts*: Man against Man, Man against Nature, Man against Himself, Man against God, Man against Society, Man caught in the Middle, Man & Woman.

In relation to high modernism, high modernist text typically featured non-linear and non-causal forms, stream of consciousness point of view, unreliable narration, and expressive forms (Castle, 2007:22). Habib (2005:476) states that "pauses" of the narration of the omniscient narrator is to reflect on the story and to mediate between the story and the reader.

## **B. The Analysis of Conflict in Novel "Snow"**

In this paper, the writer is going to analyze kinds of conflict dealing with Orhan Pamuk's novel. Factually there are two kinds of conflicts, they are internal conflict and external conflict. External conflicts contain social conflict and physical conflict, while internal conflict consists of psychology,

mind and idea. They are full of contradiction, fighting and struggle, opposite and arguing.

Conflict is something that unpleasant, but every people faced it. Perhaps it is part of human life. Literature tells about story surround us. Intricate conflicts happen in our life. In the case, dealing with the conflicts in this novel, factually this novel posse Derrida's values covering ethics, sovereignty, humanism, and religion as what Stocker states in his book entitled *Philosophy to Derrida on Deconstruction*. (2006: 119-143)

Most people are trying hard to avoid conflicts, and what to get their live and relationship with others are peaceful without a complication. There is no one because it cannot be separated with human life. It means that they are seldom being successful in avoiding conflicts in their daily life and literature thrives on it. Conflict is at the base almost all literature.

Usually a conflict involved with the others or more than one. It can be included in internal and external conflict and build a union. In this novel "Snow" here, the writer just emphasize to the main character, Ka. This story is interesting to analyse because the conflict(s) in "Snow" is very complicated. There are possibility and suspicious among them.

#### **a. Internal conflict**

Internal conflict happens due to the contradictory between a person with his own conflict. For example a conflict of a man with himself, his conscience, his guilt or simply try to decide what is going to do, such as examples which are stated in the examples above. Ka, as the main character, has conflict with his belief because he does not belong to a certain religion. Beside that he has conflict with his love.

##### **a.1. Ka's belief**

Ka claims himself as secular, although in some instance he still remember God, like his utterance, "The snow reminds me of God" (p. 89). Ka does not show his own tendency whether he supports the Islamic values or secular ones. It happens when Ipek asks him to come to Sheikh Saadettin to make him aware of his existence as a human being. He felt a sense of comfort with the Sheikh and begin to accept his new poems as gift from God. Below Ka's conversation with the Sheikh:

"Are you atheist?"

" No."

"Are you a Jew?"

" No."

"Are you Muslim? "

"Yes. Glory to be God. I am." (He smiled).

"Why are you smiling? "

"I too fear God."

"It took me two days to get here, two days on snowy, stormy road. Do you know that according Holy Koran, women must cover their head?"

"Yes, its true."

"Congratulation, sir."

"Can a law imposed by the state cancel out God's law?"

"That's very good question. But in a secular state, this matters are separate."

"That's another good straight answer, sir. May I kiss your hand? Please, sir, don't be afraid.

Does the word secular mean godless?"

"No."

"How can you explain why the state is banning so many girls from the classroom in the name of secularism, when all they are doing is obeying the laws of their religion?"

....

Ka looks doubt related with his belief. Ka is also framed by self-doubt and God-doubt as question of his atheism constantly arouses. However, he actually fearful that Islam does not accept half measures, and he is confused with split identity:

Once again, Ka found himself overcome with the fear that he would find so shaming afterward. He also dreaded the things he knew they would say about him if he left. "So what I shall do, your Excellency?" he asked. He was just about to kiss the Sheikh's hand again when he changed his mind. He could tell that everyone around him for this. "I want to believe in God you believe in and be like you, but because there's Westerner inside me, my mind is confused." (p. 105)

Even when he thinks he believes, Ka clearly has a different conception of godliness, as he is reminded by one of the Islamic leaders when he describes it. To make clearer, the following is his conversation with Sheikh:

"I grew up in Istanbul, in Nisantas, among society people. I wanted to be like the Europeans. I couldn't see how I could reconcile my becoming a European with God who required woman to wrap themselves in scarves, so I kept religion out of my life. But when I went to Europe, I realized there could be an Allah was different from the Allah of the bearded provincial reactionaries."

"Do they have a different God in Europe?" asked the Sheikh jokingly,...

"I want a God who doesn't ask me to take off my shoes in his presence, and who doesn't make me fall to my knees to kiss people's hand. I want a God who understand my need for solitude."

"There is only one God," said the Sheikh. "He sees everything and understand everyone-even your need for solitude. If you believe in him, if you knew he understood your need for solitude, you wouldn't feel so alone." (p. 106)

## **a.2. Ka's love**

Ka is confused with his love because of Ipek's answer. She did not give a certain answer, like he wishes. In fact as usual Ka and Ipek made love when they met, for example in the Snow Palace Hotel. There is dialogue between Ka and Ipek dealing with their love and dream of happiness.

But Ipek asked Ka, "Did you really come here for the election and the suicide girls?" Honestly, Ka replied, "No. ... I come here to marry you." At this moment Ipek cried and said that the

director of Institute of Education wasn't letting covered girls into the classroom. That was why the dear man was killed."

Then Ipek told Ka that Mukhtar wanted to remarry and this is a *conflict*.

After they had spent the full night of making love, they got up. Ipek left and Ka asked, "When can we meet again?" "I'm not coming in yours if my father is in the hotel," said Ipek. "Why don't I move to another hotel? Then we could see each other right away," said Ka. (p. 24)

Here the story starts again with far long event. The story is about the love between Ka and Ipek. Ka was so wondered whether Ipek might have another lover. Ka felt so uncertain and jealous. This is a kind of conflict in his mind between continuing or leaving his love with his beautiful friend, Ipek, who had recently separated / divorced from her husband, Mukhtar Bey. Since he fell in love with her quickly and really loved her he wanted to marry her.

Ka also heard from Z Demirkol about Ipek's affair with Blue while Kadife knew about it but did not tell Ka. This is another *conflict*. Blue used to be his friend, and Ka loves Ipek very much. A conflict in Ka's love but there is no resolution. The conflict is between Ka with his own thought, which is very difficult to finish.

Z Demirkol said that Ipek Hanim used to be Blue's mistress. Their relationship dated back four years. At the time Ipek was still married to Mukhtar Bey. Mukhtar invited Blue to organize the city's Islamist youth, but Ipek and Blue fall in love. "This a lie," Ka thought. The first person who knows the affair is Kadife. Blue is still visiting Kars and meet Ipek. This is what Ka wonders. Z Demirkol said, "I didn't ring you here to upset you." "... Please don't cry." (p.386-387).

## **b. External conflict**

In this novel, the conflict is complicated and spreads everywhere. Not only in Ka as the main character, the conflict happens but also in Ipek's family and even in among characters and in their surrounding, it could happen. The contradiction or opposite here happens because of the different perspective in their mind. They are; between male and female, secular party and Islamist party, secularist and Islamist, and Western and Eastern.

Through Ka's character and inner struggle bringing up the dialectic of religion and extremism echoed in the novel. "Snow" serves an introspective look at what occurs in a country as it confronts the secular, the western, and the fundamentalism of religious fanaticism. To make them clearer the following some kinds of conflicts happening:

### **b.1. Male versus female**

In this novel "Snow" Pamuk through the main character and characters want to show about the portrait of Arab, Muslim, and Middle Eastern Women especially in Turkey. But now the people Turkey especially in Kars have changed or have been influenced by western

feminist since Turkey is integrated with Europe. In the case it is suitable with Cheslers' statements in his book "The Death of Feminism" that:

"It is clear from my personal interviews and from the literature that some feel they have been abandoned by western feminists in the name of multicultural correctness. Others feel that western feminists do not understand them on their culture. Some think that women in the west-especially those who criticize Islamic gender and religious apartheid-are colonialist and racists. (2005: 131)

Here female wants to show his power to man. In the case, like Ipek shown to his husband, Muchtar and her boy friend, Ka. She also wants to get an equal freedom. As the example, like Kadife's freedom and the suicides girls' freedom. She likes having equal right and position to man's in organization, like Kadife wanting to get equal right and position as a man in her position as a leader.

### **b.2. Political secularist versus political Islamist**

Different flag, different mind. It is clear enough that the secular politic wants to represent liberal, modern and western world, while the Islamist party represents traditional and eastern world. With the differences can arise conflicts like in this novel "snow" narrated below:

"I read in the Turkish papers that he (Blue) a militant political Islamist," said Ka, "I read other nasty things about him, too."

Necip quickly interrupted him. "Political Islamist is only name that Westerners and seculars give us Muslims who are ready to fight for our religion," he said. "You're secularist, but please don't let yourself fall for the lies about Blue in the secular press. He hasn't killed anyone, not even in Bosnia, where he went to defend his Muslims brothers, or in Grozny, where a Russian bomb left him crippled." (p. 72)

From the dialogues we know that there is conflict (political interest) making most of Muslims did not believe anymore to Westerners and seculars, and even accused them lied and betrayed by expressing that Political Islamist is only name that Westerners and seculars give us Muslims who are ready to fight for our religion.

### **b.3. Secularist versus Islamist**

In reality, secular country is modern country and it is considered as powerful country. Therefore secularists are also considered as powerful people who always dominate all business in the world. In this novel, the characters do some activities that prove this condition, such as banishing the people who try humiliating the Islam's rules. Furthermore Islamic fundamentalists, which are considered as terrorist and brutal like; suicide. Factually, these people always show these activities to fight with their ways to face secular people.

A conversation between Ka and Necip happens at a television program at the National Theatre. Before Necip dies, Ka has a conversation with him in which he testifies to a belief in God that sustains many of the locals, but also to the fear that arises from this tension and the idea that only Westerners can question God. Necip tells

Ka about a dream he has had, in which he fears his own disbelief in God and that if it is true he will die. He further illuminates his fear by confessing:

I look it up in the Encyclopedia once, and it said that word atheist comes from the Greek *athos*. But *athos* doesn't refer to people who don't believe in God: it refers to the lonely ones, people whom the Gods have abandoned. This proves that people can't ever really be atheists, because even we wanted it, God would never abandoned us here. To become atheist, then you must first become a Westerner. (P. 153)

However, the main character and the characters in the novel "Snow" oscillate between secularist and Islamist until Ka appears on the scene to explain that one can have a mystical union with God and still have an open worldview.

#### **b.4. Westerner versus Easterner**

In fact the western people are more powerful than the eastern people. But in this novel shows that the eastern have powerful than the western. They try to fight their ideology with the western ideology with their way. With this reason they banish the people who humiliate and endanger the fight of Islam. It shows in the incidents of, such as; (1) the murder of the director of the education Institute, (2) the murder of Gruner Burner, and (3) the murder of Ka. They intimidate the atheists like the intimidation of the director.

In this novel, there is an opposite among the characters and even the main character show their existence one to another if he is westerner or easterner. It can be seen from these dialogues:

"I wanted to be a Westerner and a believer," said Ka. (p. 153). These are the expression of the identity by the main character, Ka:

"We're not speaking to Europe," he said, "We're speaking to all humanity. Our friends shouldn't be surprised to learn we have been unable to publish our statement-not just in Kars and Istanbul but also in Frankfurt. The people of Europe are not our friends, they're enemies. And it's not because we're their enemies, it's because they instinctively. (p. 293)

These are Blue's statements that opposed the westerner:

"Europe's not my future," said Blue with a smile. "As long as I live I shall never imitate them or hate myself for being unlike them." (p. 294)

"I wish to prove to the Europeans that in Turkey, too, we have people who believe in common sense and democracy." (p. 295)

Turget Bey is one character who wants to be accepted by the West. It seems to him that if he can get the West then surely not only will the East be legitimate, but the westerner will also not be the "other".

"It can break a man's pride." (p. 300)

"Even if they gave me a visa to Germany I wouldn't go." (p. 300)

"If the first Western man I met in the street turned out to be a good person who didn't even despise me, I'd still mistrust him,



just for being a Westerner, I'd still worry that he was looking down on me." (p. 300)  
It's as if they're saying, I'm so sorry, I'm not a Westerner". (p. 301). While at the same time shouting, "We will never be Europeans". (p. 301)

### **b.5. State versus people**

This novel shows that the people have conflicts among them since the government authorizes the rule, forbidding of scarf wearing in public place. It makes apart of people of Islamic Fundamentalists against the government's witness. More importantly, the struggle built in the novel depicts mirrors the political and social struggles of many Muslims today. The girls committing suicide because of head scarves wearing ban, show this struggle. What Teslime has done to hang herself with her scarf, for example, purely show the protest against the secular system of modern Turkey set by Attaturk.

From so many suicides, there is only one suicide done by Teslime to prove the protest against the rule, forbidding women to wear scarf in the public place. Below is the dialogue narrated to express a proof about the conflict between states with the people:

"You do realize, don't you, Kadife, that when you act like an individual and commit suicide, the Europeans will applaud you? Don't think you haven't already turned some heads with your animated performance in the so-called secret meeting at the Hotel Asia. There are even rumors that you organized the suicide girls, just as you did the head-scarf girls."

"There was only one suicide who was involved in the head-scarf protest, and that was Teslime."

"And now you mean to be the second?"

"No, Because before I kill myself, I'm going to bare my head."  
(p. 433)

Even the headscarves girls have strong identity. It can be seen from page 18. The authorities had outlawed the wearing of head scarves in educational institutions across the country, a lot of women refused to comply. Certainly it was they who taught her to think of the head scarf as a symbol of "political Islam". For this reason, the girls thought if they do not wear headscarves, their life will have no meaning and they wanted no longer to live.

### **Conclusion**

Through the novel "Snow", Orhan Pamuk wants to portrait the real life in Turkey that in there a lot of events especially conflicts taking place. "Snow" consists of so many conflicts represent their real lives. From these conflicts it becomes a good novel. For this reason conflict is a necessary element of fictional literature. It is defined as the problem in any piece of literature and is often classified according to the nature of the protagonist and antagonist. It is the tension or problem in the story; a struggle between opposing forces. Types of conflicts are internal conflict and external conflict.

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## **Conclusion**

The effective way to understand the drama is not only to read it closely but also to perform it on the stage. Because not all students have the similar competence to understand the drama text. Therefore, to gain the similar understanding, it is better to perform it, and give the students the worksheet to measure their level of understanding. Besides, they can understand with the content, performing drama can be the media for the students to express their talent to act. They also can entertain their friends through their performance on the stage. They will understand the dramatic elements by performing art.

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