

## EMOTION AND CONFLICT IN ALICE SEBOLD'S *THE LOVELY BONES* NOVEL

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### ABSTRACT

This research discussed emotion and conflict by Jack's character in *The Lovely Bones* novel by Alice Sebold. The purposes of this study were to find the types of emotion experienced by Jack's character and to find conflict caused by Jack's emotion. This analysis includes to qualitative research method and a psychological approach. This research used *The Lovely Bones* novel as the source of data. The data derived from the dialogues and narration that represent emotion and conflict toward Jack's character. The theories used in this analysis were the theory of emotion by Paul Ekman and the types of conflict by Lewis Coser. The result of this thesis showed that Jack as one of character in the novel shown various types of emotion. Those emotions are happiness, sadness, anger, fear, and surprise. In this case, that emotion caused conflict such as person versus self and person versus person that happened by Jack's character in the novel.

**Key words :** Psychology, emotion, conflict

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini membahas emosi dan konflik oleh karakter Jack dalam novel The Lovely Bones karya Alice Sebold. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis-jenis emosi yang dialami oleh karakter Jack dan untuk menemukan konflik yang disebabkan oleh emosi Jack. Analisis ini mencakup metode penelitian kualitatif dan pendekatan psikologis. Penelitian ini menggunakan novel The Lovely Bones sebagai sumber data. Data berasal dari dialog dan narasi yang mewakili emosi dan konflik terhadap karakter Jack. Teori yang digunakan dalam analisis ini adalah teori emosi oleh Paul Ekman dan jenis konflik oleh Lewis Coser. Hasil dari tesis ini menunjukkan bahwa Jack sebagai salah satu tokoh dalam novel menunjukkan berbagai jenis emosi. Emosi itu adalah kebahagiaan, kesedihan, kemarahan, ketakutan, dan kejutan. Dalam hal ini, emosi itu menyebabkan konflik seperti orang lawan diri dan orang lawan orang yang terjadi dengan karakter Jack dalam novel.*

**Kata kunci:** Psikologi, emosi, konflik

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Human behavior is certainly influenced by emotions that can cause conflicts. Emotions are related to a personal psychological state and mood expressed in the form of certain behavior. Ekman said that emotion always consists of feelings, behavior, and physiological change and always occurs in a particular context that influences it. Emotions play an important role in determining how a person thinks and acts.

Furthermore, everyone has a different attitude and feeling from each other. Different attitude and feeling toward something can be a factor cause conflict in human life. Wellek and Warren stated that conflict is something dramatic referring to the battle between the two forces balanced, implying their action and counteraction. According to Coser, conflict has two types there is internal conflict that exists inside the character and external conflict that happens to one character with something outside him/herself.

A person's emotions can affect how he thinks and act, then from the way of thinks and actions can cause a conflict. There are many novels that tell about emotion and conflict, one of the novels is *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. In this case, this research focuses on Jack's character and the various emotions and conflicts he experienced. This research also has limitations the researcher used the theory of emotion by Paul Ekman which classifies emotions into six such as happiness, sadness, fear, disgust, anger, and surprise. It also uses the theory of conflict by Lewis Coser's internal and external conflict.

The researcher chose *The Lovely Bones* novel because the first is the researcher interested in Jack's character. While the second is the novel shows the various types of emotions experienced by Jack about how a father feels who lost his family. The researcher wanted to prove what are types of emotion experienced by Jack and what are the conflicts caused by Jack's emotions in the novel.

The objectives of this research were to find out the types of emotions experienced by Jack and to find out conflicts caused by Jack's emotions in *The Lovely Bones* novel. This research is expected could describe and give an understanding of emotion and conflict theory in literature and how it is applied in the novel. This research is also expected to give more information and explanation about Ekman's theory of emotion and theory of conflict by Coser. Hopefully, this research can be an inspiration and reference for future researchers.

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Literature**

Originally, the term "literature" was taken from Latin "Litterature" is derived from "littera" (letter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing. Klarer said literature is a whole of written expression, but that not every written document can be categorized as literature (Klarer, 1). It simply explained that literature is about whatever is written, it means that in the

simple way literature as the expression of thought and feeling of the author that they pour into literary work.

## **2. Character**

Character is the important element of a novel. According to Abrams, a character is a person represented in a dramatic or narrative work interpreted by the reader as being particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person says and their distinctive ways of saying it the dialogue and from what they do the action (32). Bernardo in *Types of Characters in Fiction* divided several types of characters in a story, such as main character, minor character, protagonist character, antagonist character, flat character, round character, static character, dynamic character, anti-hero character, foil character and symbolic character.

## **3. Characterization**

The element which helps the author to categorize the characters into some of the representations in the story called characterization. As Kay said in *Discovering Fiction* characterization can be defined as the way the author creates character through physical descriptions, speech, thought, action, and observation from other characters (60).

According to Kenan in *Narrative Fiction*, there are two common ways that the author can use to characterize the characters in a story. In this case, the characterizations are displayed in the direct and indirect presentation: "(1) Direct presentation provides the names of characters trait by an adjective, an abstract noun, or possibly some other kind of noun or part of speech. (2) On the other side, indirect presentation refers to what the character says or does in the next. In other words, rather than mentioning a trait, it displays and exemplifies in various ways" (Kenan,61).

Specifically, Kenan in *Narrative Fiction*, some of these ways will be enumerated in the following discussion:

### **a. Actions**

The action of each character in the novel can be determining the characterization of a character. A trait may be known by non-routine actions and habitual actions. Both non-routine and habitual action belong to the following categories such as the act of commission is something performed by the character, the act of omission is a something which the character should do but the character does not do that the action, and contemplated acts or in the character's mind is not happens or intention of the character (Kenan, 61).

### **b. Speech**

There are many facts/truth that can be revealed through the character's speech. A character's speech in conversation or as an activity of the mind can be indicative of how trait character through content and through its form. (Kenan, 65).

**c. External appearance**

External appearance used for determining how a character's personality. For example 'his brown eyes expressed sadness and innocence'. Such explanations may function as disguised definitions. This happened when a non-visual quality is attributed to one part of a character's physique. (Kenan, 67).

**d. Environment**

A character's environment can be used to determine the characterization. A character's physical surroundings such as room, house, street, town, etc. As well as his character's environment such as family and also the social class is often used trait-connoting metonymies (Kenan, 68).

**4. Psychological Theory**

This theory was established by Sigmund Freud, an Austrian neurologist, who lived from 1856 until 1939. Freud's theories involved many things including such as psychoanalysis, dreams, emotions, and also personality. "Psychology is defined as 'the scientific study of behavior'. By behavior, the researchers variously defined psychology as observable responses, inner experiences such as thoughts, feelings, or both" (Glassman, 44). Psychology studies such phenomena as perception, cognition, emotion, personality, behavior, and interpersonal relationships.

In *Theories of Personality* book by Duane said as follow: "Freud's original conception divided personality into three levels: the conscious, the pre-conscious, and the unconscious. The conscious includes all the experiences of which we are aware at any given moment. Freud considered the conscious to be a limited aspect of personality because only a small portion of our thoughts, sensations, and memories exists in conscious awareness at any one time. More important, according to Freud, is the unconscious, that larger, invisible portion below the surface. This is the focus of psychoanalytic theory. Its vast, dark depths are the home of the instincts, those wishes, and desires that direct our behavior. The unconscious contains the major driving power behind all behaviors and is the repository of forces we can not see or control" (45).

It can be concluded that Freud divided personality into three levels such as the conscious, the pre-conscious, and the unconscious. The conscious includes all the experiences of which we are aware of to be a limited aspect of personality. The unconscious has the major power behind all behaviors and is the forces we can not see or control.

**5. Emotion**

Ekman in his book *Emotion Revealed: Recognizing Faces and Feelings to Improve Communication and Emotional Life* said: "Emotion is a process of a particular kind of automatic appraisal influenced by our evolutionary and personal past, in which we sense that something important to our welfare is occurring. Then, a set of physiological changes and emotional behaviors begins to deal with the situation. Words are a way to deal with our emotions, and

humans do use words to express their emotions, but they cannot reduce emotion to words” (Ekman,30).

Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that emotion is a feeling that is expressed in words in which we sense that something important to our is occurring. Under this theory, Ekman distinguishes six basics of emotions expression such as happiness, sadness, disgust, anger, fear and surprise.

## **6. Conflict**

In a story conflict is one of part the important element, without conflict, the story will be flat and will not be interesting. In Allan’s book *Conflict and Critical Theories*, Lewis Coser said that conflict has two types there are internal conflict that exists inside the character (person versus self) and external conflict happen to one character with something outside himself (person versus person, person versus nature, person versus society and person versus fate) (218).

## **C. RESEACRH METHOD**

### **1. Research Design**

The method in this research is selected by considering its appropriateness with the research object. According to Goddard and Melville, “Qualitative research is especially important in the behavioral sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior” (3). Related to this statement, this research is used in qualitative research.

### **2. Data and Source of Data**

According to Siyoto and Sodik, data source in qualitative research is displayed in the form of verbal or written words that are observed by the researcher. And the object that is observed until in detail can be captured the implied meaning in the document or the object itself (28). The definition of data is an empirical fact collected by the research to solve problems and answer (Siyoto and Sodik, 67). In this research, the data source is a novel entitled *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. Meanwhile, the data are the dialogues and narration that represent emotion and conflict toward Jack’s character.

### **3. Research Instrument**

The instrument of this research is the researcher herself. As Patton state, in qualitative inquiry, the researcher is the instrument (qt. in Steward 293). Therefore, the credibility of qualitative research findings relies to a great extent on the researcher’s skill (Steward 293).

### **4. Data Collection**

The researcher applied the systematic ways to collect the data. First, the researcher read the novel. Second, the researcher focused on Jack’s emotion

and conflict. Third, the researcher highlighting and writing all of data that represent emotions and conflict toward Jack's character.

## **5. Data Analysis**

In this analysis, the researcher used data analysis technique from Miles and Huberman it requires data analysis into three steps, they are data reduction, data display, conclusion drawing and verification:

### **a. Data Reduction**

Data reduction is a form of analysis that aims to sharpen, categorize, focus, discard, and organize data until the researcher draw valid and verified conclusions in findings. In this first step, the researcher sorted the raw that had been collected in *The Lovely Bones* novel which described emotions experienced and conflict by Jack's character. Then the researcher removed the unnecessary data and simplified the current data as well in order to make the analyzing process easier.

### **b. Data Display**

Miles and Huberman suggested that the data display must have been well-organized and it possible to draw conclusions. In this step, the researcher displayed the collected data from the first step in the form of dialogue and narration. Then displayed the data which relates to emotions and conflicts by Jack's character on the novel to make the evaluation process easier before deciding the next step.

### **c. Conclusion Drawing**

Miles and Huberman explain that similar to the process of analysis, drawing conclusions also have to be verified. In this step, the researcher drew the conclusion based on research question and the purposes of this research.

## **6. Triangulation**

Denzin (1970) states that triangulation is not a validation strategy, but as an alternative to validation. Then, in 1978, Denzin identified the types of triangulation into four types of triangulation such as data triangulation, investigator triangulation, theory triangulation and methodological triangulation. Based on four types of triangulation, the researcher applied two of them. Those are data triangulation and theory triangulation.

## **D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Types of Emotion Experienced by Jack in *The Lovely Bones* Novel**

The analysis focuses on the types of emotions experienced by Jack in the novel. The researcher found that there were five types of emotion experienced by Jack's character. Accordingly, the analysis presented below:

#### **a. Happiness**

Here is the example of happiness experienced by Jack's character.



“My father took Buckley’s hand and stood him in front of Len, who solemnly bent down to my brother.”

“I hear you’ve made me chief of police,” Len said.

“Yes sir.”

“I don’t think I deserve the job.”

**“You more than anyone, “my father said breezily. He loved it when Len Fenerman dropped by”** (Sebold, 133).

In this dialogue, emotion of happiness showed when Jack said "You more than anyone" was proof that he was expressing his happiness. Jack also relieved to be able to meet with detective Len who believes that Jack was not alone in dealing with his problem. The researcher found that Jack was characterized as had emotion of happiness the indirect presentation. The indirect presentation, the characterization of happiness was found through the character’s speeches. It was found in the character’s conversation. It was depicted by Jack’s conversation with detective Len when he expressed his happiness about the fact that detective Len more than anyone, Jack believed with detective Len. Through Jack's statement that he said breezily about detective Len more than anyone, there were characteristics of happiness experienced by Jack.

## **b. Sadness**

Here is the example of sadness experienced by Jack’s character.

“My father nodded. **“You won’t see Susie anymore, honey. None of us will.” My father cried.** Buckley looked up into the eyes of our father and did not fully understand” (Sebold, 70).

In this part, the emotion of sadness showed when one day Buckley always asked the whereabouts of his sister. Then Jack tried to explain to Buckley with a parable in a game that they were playing at the time. Jack tried to explain to Buckley about his sister was dead and until finally, Jack cried because he was unable to hold back his sadness. The researcher found characterized indirectly in ways such as the character’s actions. In this case, the emotion of sadness was characterized by the character’s action. It happened when Jack tried to explain to Buckley about Susie’s death. Through Jack's action, such as act of commission or something performed by the character. In this part after Jack explains, he cried because unable to hold back his sadness. Jack's cry was an action he did after he tried to explain about Susie's death.

## **c. Anger**

Here is the example of anger experienced by Jack’s character.

“My father thought of Ruana Singh: **“When I was sure, I would find a quiet way and I would kill him”** (Sebold, 127).

In the first quotation, the emotion of anger showed when Jack feels suspicious of someone he thought was a suspect in Susie’s case, a feeling of revenge that he also felt when he thought about Ruana Singh. Words of swearing and desire to revenge that Jack said in his heart, express of anger emotion by Jack.

In this case, the researcher found that the emotion of anger was characterized by Jack's character in the indirect presentation. It was displayed in the story in one way such as the character’s speeches. This emotion of anger was only displayed through the character’s mind. It was proved in one of the data when Jack thought in his mind by saying silently about to kill Ruana Singh, when he was sure if Ruana Singh was the one who killed his little girl.

#### **d. Fear**

Here is the example of fear experienced by Jack’s character.

**“He would now be hyperaware of the movements and the whereabouts of his young son, of his wife and of his remaining daughter”** (Sebold, 38).

In the quotation, feeling worried that something bad might happen to his family made Jack always monitored every activity carried out by his family. He was very afraid of losing his family again. The reason Jack oversaw his family's activities was because of fear and worry that he would experience the same situation when he lost his little girl.

The researcher found that Jack revealed the emotion of fear through the direct presentation. In the direct presentation, one of the data was found when Susie said that Jack became hyperaware of the movements and whereabouts of his family. In this part, the characterization of the emotion of fear was directly stated by Susie’s utterances of Jack. Through her utterances, the readers would come to a clear understanding of the emotion of fear.

#### **e. Surprise**

Here is the example of surprise experienced by Jack’s character.

**“Mr. Salmon, we have found only a body part. My father stood in the kitchen and a sickening shiver overtook him.** How could he tell that to Abigail?”

“So you can’t be certain that she’s dead?” he asked.

“Nothing is ever certain,” Len Fenerman said” (Sebold, 20).



In the dialogue above, the emotion of surprise experienced by Jack when detective Len and the police told him that they found one of part Susie's body. Hear about that makes Jack surprise and his body was trembling. Jack's tremble body was a sign of the physical responses experienced by Jack after hearing something unexpected.

The researcher found that it was characterized indirectly through one way such as the character's speech. The representation of Jack's surprise emotion was found in the character's speech. It was found both in the character's conversation and mind. Specifically, the first character's speech was Jack's conversation with detective Len. It happened when detective Len told him he found only a body part, at that time Jack was very shocked and he was trembling. Through Jack's conversation with detective Len, it could be known that emotion of fear experienced by Jack.

## **2. Conflicts caused by Jack's Emotion in *The Lovely Bones* novel**

The researcher analyzed the conflict caused by Jack's emotion in the novel. After analyzing, the researcher found out that there were two types of conflict arising from Jack's emotion. They were person versus self (Internal conflict) and person versus person (External conflict). This analysis is presented below:

### **a. Person versus Self (Internal Conflict)**

Here the example of anger emotion by Jack caused a conflict Jack versus himself.

“My father thought of Ruana Singh: **“When I was sure, I would find a quiet way and I would kill him”**. He had not told this to Abigail because the advice made a sort of baseline sense that would frighten her into telling someone, and he suspected that someone might be Len (Sebold, 127).

From the quotation, the emotion of anger by Jack caused conflict in Jack versus himself. When Jack thought about Ruana Singh, who was the first person suspected of being the suspect. Jack decided his own solution to kill Ruana because he wanted revenge for Susie's death. He decided to find a solution and the solution was to kill Ruana Singh.

In this case, the researcher found that conflict Jack versus himself caused by the emotion of anger. It was also characterized indirectly in the character's speeches. In conflict Jack versus himself that the researcher found toward Jack's character. This conflict was only displayed through the character's mind. It was proved in one of the data when Jack thought in his mind by saying silently about to kill Ruana Singh.

## **b. Person versus Person (External conflict)**

Here the example of surprise emotion by Jack caused a conflict Jack with detective Len.

**"Listen Jack, "he said. "It's about George Harvey."**

**"My father brightened. "I thought you said you had no news."**

"I don't. I have something I need to say on behalf of the station and myself."

"Yes,"

**"We need you stop making calls about George Harvey."**

**"But..."**

"I need you to stop. There is nothing, no matter how much we stretch it, to connect him to Susie's death. Howling dogs and bridal tents are not evidence." (Sebold,133).

In the dialog, the emotion of surprise by Jack caused conflict in Jack versus detective Len when Jack and detective Len had a different think about who is the suspect in Susie's case. Detective Len felt that there was not enough evidence to arrest George Harvey as a suspect. The difference of opinion between Jack and detective Len caused a conflict that caused Jack to feel if detective Len wanted to stop the investigation of George Harvey.

The first conflicts Jack versus a person caused by the emotion of surprise experienced by Jack. The researcher found that conflict caused by the emotion of surprise was showed in the indirect presentation. Indirect presentation, it was displayed through the character's speech. In this case, conflict Jack versus detective Len was found in Jack's conversation when detective Len told Jack that they could not call up police officers to discuss George Harvey whom he suspected of being a murder suspect in Susie's case.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

From this research, Firstly, based on Ekman's theory there are five of six emotions that emerge from Jack's character in the novel. Those five emotions were happiness, sadness, anger, fear, and surprise. These emotions arise from various events experienced by Jack and the most dominant emotion is sadness emotion.

Secondly, based on Coser's theory of conflict, there are two types of conflicts first is internal conflict such as person versus self and the second is external conflict such as person versus person, person versus nature, person versus society, and person versus fate. However, there are two types of conflicts experienced by Jack, namely person versus self in which the character struggles to overcome his/her problem and person versus person

when a character struggles against another character and almost always caused a conflict.

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