

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

A human being cannot be separated from the problem in their lives. Problems are the process of life that plays a role in the shaping of the character of human beings. In life, human faces many problems such as the problem of love, the problem of work, the problem of family, the problem of themselves. People attempt to find a solution to that problem in order to make their life better. Yet in life, human faces these situations, because is it normal for people in life.

Problem or some people say conflict is to fight hard or to try hard to do something. Conflict is experienced by everyone: teenagers, young adults, and adults. Conflict can be in several situations, such as conflict with people, conflict with the environment, and conflict with themselves. Conflict can be found in literary work. It can be in novel, drama, and short story.

Based on her biography from Biography.com Editor, Lois Lowry is an American writer credited with forty-five children books. One of her novels that depicts about conflict is *The Giver*. She has won two Newbery Medals, for *Number the Stars* in 1990 and *The Giver* in 1994. For her contribution as a children's writer, she was a finalist in 2000 and U.S. nominee in 2004, as well as finalist in 2016, for the biennial international Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest recognition available to creators of children's books. *The Giver* takes the reader to a future community where there's no war and poverty but everyone's lives are tightly controlled. A young teen named Jonas is the only person with access to memories of the past. *The Giver* was seen as controversial by some for its depiction of infanticide and

euthanasia. Others, however, heaped praise on this remarkable work, and Lowry won the 1994 Newbery for the novel. A film adaptation of *The Giver* was released in 2014.

The Giver sets in a society which at first appears to be utopian but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. The society has taken away pain and strife by converting “Sameness”, a plan that has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives. Jonas is selected to inherit the position of Receiver of Memory, the person who stores all the past memories of the time before Sameness, as there may be times where one must draw upon the wisdom gained from history to aid the community’s decision making. The Community lacks any color, memory, climate, or terrain, all in an effort to preserve structure, order, and a true sense of equality beyond personal individuality, when Jonas was appointed as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas felt something was wrong with the system in the community. Therefore Jonas wants to make the community run properly.

From the explanation above, the writer chooses to analyze this novel because the writer found something interesting in the novel which is depiction of infanticide and euthanasia. And then the writer interested about the main character of the novel to changes his life after he selected to inherit the position of the Receiver of Memory.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of Study

The study will focus on discussing the character’s conflicts in *The Giver*. The scope of research will limit the problem to analyze the main character’s conflicts.

1.3 Formulation of Problem

The writer identifies the problem of this research as follow

1. How are characters and setting in *The Giver*?
2. How are the main character’s conflicts in *The Giver*?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

The discussion about *The Giver* has been held by previous researcher Yildirim (2017) a thesis entitled *Raising Historical Consciousness in the Novel “The Giver”, a Dystopic Work According to Social Studies Teacher Candidates*. The purpose of this study to examine the views of social sciences teacher candidates regarding raising historical consciousness thought the dystopic novel *The Giver*. This main purpose of this study is to draw attention to the significant contributions that dystopic works can make on historical consciousness and education. These studies are examined through qualitative research method. As a result, it can be reach the following conclusions: Dystopic novels can be used to historical and democratical consciousness, considering the novel *The Giver* has significant contributions in providing cognitive, social and cultural acquisition, dystopic novels can be used in educational stages for providing these acquisitions.

The other researcher is Meyrasyawati (2016) an article entitled *Deconstructing Human Being’s Nature in Lois Lowry’s The Giver*. This study aims to deconstruct the nature of human beings is not able to directly contradict that human beings is opposed to not human beings in the novel *The Giver*. This study is a qualitative research which applies Jacques Derrida’s theory of Deconstruction in its analysis. The result is a warning to human when human lose their human nature, they tend to behave more like robots because they have no more rationality, emotions, and desires. This condition considered as destruction human soul and therefore must be avoided and ensure that they do not lose their nature of human beings.

Also Setyorini and Idris (2017) an articles entitled *The Practice of Ideological State Apparatuses in Lois Lowry’s The Giver*. This study particularly focuses on a prominent issue of Ideological States Apparatuses (ISA) which is operated within *The Giver’s* society. This

study applying Althusser's theory of states apparatuses. The results reveal that the novel draws ISA as a tool to control and to maintain the dominance in this dystopian community. The ISA operates through training system, particular rule of language used by the community, media censorship, and family's role.

The writer analyzes the same novel with structuralism theory. This research is different from the previous researcher because the writer discusses the conflict of the main character in *The Giver*.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

This analysis uses structuralism theory to analyze setting influence main character in the novel *The Giver*. According to Roberts in his book, *Writing About Literature*, "The principle of structuralism stems from the attempt to find relationship and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete" (269). The elements in literary works are character, setting, plot, point of view, style of language and theme. All these elements have connection to each other. For this research the writer only focuses on character, setting and plot.

According to Roberts, a character is "A verbal representation of a human being presented to us by the author through the depiction of action conversation, description, reaction, inner thought, and reflections, through action, speech, description, and commentary. Author portrays characters who are worth caring about, rooting for and loving, although there are also characters you may dislike, laugh at, or even hate"(66). Based on this quotation character in a story is a figure who is described as having how human personality and portrayed through the character interactions with each other and through the actions in story.

Robert states' setting is "The natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own. Character may be helped or hurt by their surroundings, and they may fight about possessions and goals. Further, as

characters speak with each other, they reveal the degree to which they share the customs and ideal of their time.” (108). It means the setting is all the things that are surrounding the characters which known and owned and the setting have a big influence on the character.

Nature is “an obvious location for the action of many narratives and plays. It is therefore important to note natural surroundings (hills, shorelines, valley, mountains, meadows, fields, trees, lakes, streams), living creatures (birds, dogs, horses, snakes), and also the times, seasons, and conditions in which things happen (morning or night, summer or winter, sunlight or cloudiness, wind or calmness, rain or shine, sunlight or darkness, snowfall or blizzard, heat or cold)—any or all of which may influence and interact with character, motivation, and conduct. (Roberts, p.108-109)

Manufactured is “area private home, public buildings, and various possessions. Both interiors and exteriors are common, as are possessions such as walking sticks, garden paths, park benches, necklaces, boxes, pistols, clocks, and hair ribbons. (Roberts, p.108-109)

Culture is “that complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society” (Taylor, 1871, p.7). It means that cultural is everything that man acquired from society. Knowledge, belief, art, moral, law, custom that grown in society and then absorbed and became a habit to man. O’Reilly (1989) affirms that culture is the set of central norms which characterize an organization and which shape the behavior of individuals and groups within the organization. It means that culture is central norms that characterize an organization and culture does shaping an individual and a group with organization/society. Knowledge is acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation; general erudition and acquaintance or familiarity gained by sight, experience, or report. Moral is of, relating to, or concerned with the principles or rules of right conduct or the distinction between right and

wrong; ethical and founded on the fundamental principles of right conduct rather than on legalities, enactment, or custom.

Besides characters and setting, plot also influence to conflict. According to Maden in his book *Exploring Literature Writing and Arguing about Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Essay*, plot is “the structure of the story, it is the pattern of twists and turns the story takes” (62)



Source: The Write At Home Blog

Based on the quotation and diagram above plot is series of event in the story. Plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. According to Harmon and Holman in their book *A Handbook to Literature tenth Edition*, exposition is “the introductory material that creates the tone, gives the setting, introduces the characters, and supplies other facts necessary to understanding. Rising action is the part of a plot that has to do with the complication of the action. It begin with the exciting force, giants in interest and power as the opposing groups come into conflict, and proceeds to the climax. Climax is the point of highest interest, whereat the reader makes greatest emotional response; climax designates the turning point in the action. Falling action is it follows the climax, beginning often with a tragic force, exhibits the failing fortunes of the hero and the successful efforts of the counter players, and culminates in the catastrophe. Resolution is the events following

the climax and falling action.”(171-172). The plot is an explanation about the storyline of how the story begins, how the story gets a climax, and how the ending story.

Conflict is defined as a clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills. In the clash, the main character may be pitted against some other persons or group of persons. He may be also in conflict with some elements in his own nature.

According to Roberts, “the controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects in conflict which refers to people or circumstances that a character must face and try to overcome”. Which means the conflict is related to the character's self. The conflicts are the struggle that must experience by characters. On the other side, there will be no conflict without characters. There are two conflicts. The first one is external conflict that happens between two or more people or group of people in the form of contrasting ideas and opinions. The other conflicts are the internal conflict which is a situation of choice in which the options are difficult, dangerous, and impossible or a dilemma that creates a natural conflict that individual character frequently confronts” (94-95). In relation to the topic of analysis is the writer analysis about conflicts, external conflicts of the main character and internal conflict of the main character.

1.5 Method of the Research

For this research the writer has chosen the novel entitled *The Giver* by Lois Lowry as the object of the research. To understand the text the writer uses close reading technique. This research uses qualitative object. According to Maden in his book *Exploring Literature Writing and Arguing about Fiction, Poetry, Drama and the Essay*, a close reading “is not once reading, it is re-reading” (55). It means that the writer reads the text several time as far as the writer catches the intention of the author through the novel and analyzes it by his own interpretation.

Furthermore the writers, reads and understand a several books, article, journal, or essay to supporting the research and also search on internet to find other source. In analyzing the data, the writer starts from analysis the main character traits and the other characters traits in the novel. Next the writer analysis the settings which is the natural, manufactured and cultural. Then the writer analysis the plot and conflict, there are two types of conflict that writer found as represented in the novels: internal conflict and external conflict.