THE STUDY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S CONFLICT IN RELATION TO CHARACTER AND SETTING IN *THAT CAMDEN SUMMER* BY LAVYRLE SPENCER

THESIS

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to study of the main character's conflict in relation to character and setting in *That Camden Summer* by LaVyrle Spencer. Using structuralism theory, the writer found a relationship among intrinsic elements such as character, setting and plot. This research is using close reading method. Based on the result, the writer found Roberta has external conflicts that were influenced by her and other characters traits.

Key words: conflicts, setting, plot, character

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Problem or conflict is an argument disagreement, differences in principles, opinions or even interesting about something. Conflict does not only happen because big things like war, but also because little things like debates, fights or even gossip.

Every person must have a difference in opinion. For example someone in the selection of clothes, the A and the B. Tastes of A and B must be different, and there will be a difference in giving their own opinion which will lead both of them to debates.

Man created by God surely has a different nature. There are grumpy, taciturn, active, troublemaker, lazy, and others. This is the nature of the differences that sometimes trigger 2 or more to contradict each other.

Many conflicts that human should faces in their life such as conflict of family, conflict of economy, conflict of society and others. This can be experienced by anyone young and old, men women and even among toddlers can have conflict. Conflicts can occur anywhere and anytime. Conflict can also be found in a story such as novels, drama, short story and other. This conflict can be seen in the literary work that is novel That Camden Summer by LaVyrle Spencer. Therefore, the writer decided to analyze this novel as a research object.

LaVyrle Spencer was born July 17, 1943 is an American best-selling author of contemporary and historical romance novels. She has successfully published a

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number of books, with several of them made into movies. Twelve of her books have been *New York Times* bestsellers, and Spencer was inducted into the Romance Writers of America Hall of Fame in 1988. Her first novel is *The Fulfillment* (1979) and has made into movie with name *The Fulfillment of Mary Gray* by CBS TV Movie (1989). But she is retired from writing in 1997 and now life with her family in Stillwater, Minnesota. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LaVyrle_Spencer

The novel tells about a newly free-thinking divorced woman named Roberta Jewett return to her hometown of Camden, Maine and she discovers that small-town folk consider a divorced woman little more than a prostitute. Condemned by her mother and scorned by neighbors, Roberta nonetheless perseveres in her struggle to forge a good life for her girls and herself. Behaving like no "respectable" woman in her hometown such as gets a job as a nurse, learns to drive and buy her own car make Roberta having many struggles from entire town. But she is fight it with all her power to prove that she can life and responsible to her family and even better than others. And when she meets a widowed carpenter Gabriel Farley, she learns to open her heart to man and to love again. Right now, it is for real happiness forever.

From the explanation above, the writer will analyze the conflict of the main character.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

The study is focused on the scope of studying the conflict in related to character and setting. The writer will limit the problem to analyze the main character's conflicts of LaVyrle Spencer's *That Camden Summer*.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The writer identifies some problems of this research as follow:

1. How are the characters and setting in relation to conflict *That Camden Summer*?

2. How are the main characters' conflicts with other characters in *That Camden Summer*?

1.4 Theoretical Framework

The writer will use structuralism theory in this research. According to Roberts, *Writing about Literature*, "principle of structuralism stems from the attempt to find relationships and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete." (269). It means intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements of literary work have related each other and even supporting each other.

Intrinsic elements consist of plot, setting, character, point of view and theme. These elements are important to construct a literary work. The writer is only take character, setting and plot that is give influence the main character's conflicts and to analyze it in this research.

1.4.1 Conflict

Conflict is an inherent incompatibility between the objectives of two or more characters or forces (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_(narrative). According to Roberts, "the controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects is conflict which refers to people or circumstances that a character must face and try to overcome. 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 one is 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 confront" (94-95).

For example: the conflict takes the shape of anger, hatred, envy, argument, avoidance, gossip, lies, fighting, and many other forms and actions. Conflicts may also be abstract such as opposes larger forces like natural objects, ideas, modes of behavior, or public opinion.

Internal conflict is a struggle occurring inside the character itself or character mind: man Vs self. External conflict is between a character and outside of character. Three elements of external conflict: (1) Man Vs Man: character and other character or protagonist and antagonist, (2) Man Vs Nature: a character struggle with nature (nature disaster, animals, etc), (3) Man Vs Society: a character with society or a group of people.

Conflicts and characters are also interrelated in literary works. Thomas and Killman (TKI, 1974) said "conflict is situations in which the concerns of two people appear to be incompatible whether individual or relationship with others". H. Porter Abbott" There may be multiple points of conflict in a single story, as characters may have more than one desire or may struggle against more than one opposing force." It can be said that a little thing of incompatibility, desire or struggle are shaping the traits of the character and traits of this form can be a conflict.

Plot is also important to influence the conflict in the story. Plot, in fiction, the structure of interrelated actions, consciously selected and arranged by the author (http://www.britannica.com/art/plot). According to Madden in *Exploring Literature*

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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).

Plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. According to Harmon and Holman, *A Handbook to Literature Tenth Edition*, "exposition is the introductory material that creates the tone, gives the setting, introduce 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 begins with the exciting force, gains in interest and power as the opposing groups come into conflict, whereat the reader makes greatest emotional response, climax designates the turning point the action, the crisis at which the rising action reverses and becomes the falling 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).

Using this theory, the writer has to find exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution in the novel *That Camden Summer*. The writer will used closed reading method to find its.

1.4.2 Character

According to Roberts, character is "a verbal representation of a human being presented to us by authors through the deception 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

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loving, although there are also characters you may dislike, laugh at, or even hate" (66). With this quotation, character in a story is portrayed from human being personality and the interactions and action of character in story.

For example: characters may be ambitious or lazy, serene or anxious, aggressive or fearful, thoughtful or inconsiderate, open or secretive, confident or self-doubting, kind or cruel, quiet or noisy, visionary or practical, careful or careless, impartial or biased, straightforward or underhanded, "winners" or "losers", and so on.

Character in literary works is not only seen from the character physical but also character traits. In this case, the writer only analyzed the characters through behavior or traits. There are two ways to distinguish the character of nature, which directly and indirectly. Direct characterization is the author tell directly trait of the character. Indirect characterization is the author shows thing reveal trait of the character. There are five methods of indirect characterization: (1) Speech: what does the character say? How does the character speak? (2) Thoughts: What is revealed through the character's private thought s and feelings? (3) Effect on others toward the character: What is revealed through the character's effect on other people? How do other characters feel or behave in reaction to the character? (4) Actions: what does the character do? How does the character behave? (5) Looks: what does the character look like? How does the character dress?

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson800/Characterization.pdf

1.4.3 Setting

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The setting is the context in which the story takes place, which includes the time, the place, and the social environment. Setting of time: time can range from season of year to exact minute. Any signs of the time of year provided, whether direct or hidden, should be analyzed for the possible purpose for this time of year chosen over another.

Setting of place: This relates to broad categories such as a country, state, region, city, and town, as well as to more specific locales, such as a neighborhood, street, house or school. Other locales can include shorelines, islands, farms, rural areas, etc.

Setting of social environment: social influences can range widely and affect characters in many ways. The social era of a story often influences characters' values, social and family roles, and sensibilities. http://www.writersdigest.com/tip-of-the-day/discover-the-basic-elements-of-setting-in-a-story.

Characters and setting are interconnected in a literary works. Trait of the character past is formed not only the place and time but also cultural, social, environmental and others. It is also the base of the established of character traits in the future and what happens as a result of the trait. "Setting is also has functions such as giving an influence on the traits of character or theme and have the ability to bring emotional tone and mood that surrounds the character" (Stanton, 1965:19)

Roberts said in his book, setting is "a work's natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own. Characters may be either helped or hurt by their surroundings. And they may fight about possessions and goal. Further, as characters speak with each other, they

reveal the degree to which they share the customs and ideal of their time."(66). It can be mean everything such as animal, plant, books or music and others around the characters can possibility to influence the personality of characters. Thus characters are shaped by the setting and the character's trait also has relationship with conflict.

For example: private homes, public buildings, and various possessions: interiors and exteriors, anything inside and outside of buildings. Outdoor places: natural surroundings (hills, shorelines, valleys, mountains, meadows, fields, trees, lakes, streams), living creatures (birds, dogs, horses, snakes) and also the times, seasons and so on. Cultural and historical conditions and assumptions can be as setting.

With explanation above, the writer is analysis the conflicts but only external conflicts of the main characters because in *That Camden Summer* does not have internal conflict of the main characters in this research.

1.5 Method of Research

In this research, the writer is use the close reading to understand the research object in novel *That Camden Summer* by LaVyrle Spencer. According to Madden in *Exploring Literature Writing and Arguing about Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Essay*, a close reading "is not once reading, it is a re-reading" (55). Re-reading is to a read something such as magazine, newspaper, book, etc. more than one time or several times.

To understand the data, the writer must read the novel for several times to get the author purpose inside the novel. After that the writer will collect the important data to supporting the research and analyze it based on theory the writer uses.