

Conference Paper

Conflicts in Arafat Nur's Novel Tanah Surga Merah: Freud's Psychological Approach

Donny Adiatmana Ginting

STKIP Al Maksum Langkat, Stabat Indonesia

ORCID:Donny Adiatmana Ginting: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2720-7979>**Abstract**

This study focuses on revealing the conflicts in the novel *Tanah Surga Merah* written by Arafat Nur. The research uses the conflict theory proposed by Cascio (2005). The conflict theory consists of internal conflict and external conflict. In analyzing the conflict, the author uses a psychological approach proposed by Sigmund Freud. This research is conducted by applying the descriptive approach proposed by Khotari (2004). The data are solely derived from the novel *Tanah Surga Merah*. The research findings show that there are three quotations of internal conflict and four of the external conflict. Two quotations consist of man vs man, and two quotations consist of man vs society conflicts. Concerning Freud's psychological criticism, *ego* dominates the personality of the protagonist, which causes internal conflict. Moreover, in the external conflict, *id* dominates the personality of the protagonist, which causes external conflict. Based on the findings, the *id* causes conflict in internal conflict and external conflict in the novel.

Corresponding Author:
Donny Adiatmana Ginting
donyginting26@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

The novel is one of three major forms in English literature. A successful novel is a novel that brings the readers to enjoy the events that are depicted by the writer. The readers will enjoy the novel if the novel is successful in delivering the events. The events in the novel will be energetically alive if the characters in the novel play naturally. The characters, especially the protagonist characters, are the essential elements in the novel. The protagonist depicts what acts should be done, how and why to feel, and to decide something. For example, social problems, abuse of power, and individual deviation are added as additional elements that may influence the main characters in the novel. These are the basic elements that may produce conflicts in the main characters. Pane (2018: 404) states that conflict in literature refers to the different drives of the characters or forces involved. Conflict may be internal or external—that is, it may

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occur within characters' minds or between a character and exterior forces. Conflict in literature aims to convey the feeling, the sacrifice, and the tension that occur in the story.

Based on the above condition, this research tries to reveal the protagonist's conflicts in the *Arafat Nur's* novel *Tanah Surga Merah*, by the name of Murad. He is the essential character in the novel and he plays the leading part of the story. *Murad* is a fugitive; he always worries about himself. He grows long goatee on his face to hide his identity from red party members. Besides, the protagonist changes his name as *Muaz* and moves from one place to another place as the way of defending himself since his enemies are looking for him and try to murder him. The conflict arises when he shoots a man, one of the chairmen in red party members. He is also the founder of an orange party, one of the competitors in the political field in *Aceh*. However, in the past, he is one of the founders of the red party members that are established by the Aceh Freedom Movement (GAM). The reason for establishing an orange party is the red party has gone a long way from the main goals, to support and to develop the economic and social life of Acehnese society.

The conflict experienced by Murad is an important issue in the novel *Tanah Surga Merah*. In literature, conflict constitutes the central issue that becomes the core elements seen by the readers. The conflict happens because literature depicts the problems indirectly in social life. The social problems usually happen due to abuse of power and social deviances. Cascio (2005:1) also states that conflict in the narrative is divided into two types: internal and external conflict. Internal conflict consists of man vs self. Meanwhile, external conflict consists of man vs man, man vs society, man vs nature, man vs machine, and man vs fate or supernatural element.

The conflicts that arise in the novel will be analyzed by Sigmund Freud's psychological approach (1856 – 1939). The reason for using the psychological theory is that the researcher wants to know what conflict is, how and why the conflict occurs in the novel from the psychological perspective. Freud's theory is the psychological approach that is always used to analyze psychological problems in literary works. This theory is divided into three sections, namely: id, ego, and superego.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Conflicts

Cascio (2005: 1) states that conflict in a narrative is created when the main character wants something. When something else gets into the protagonist's way, a conflict arises.

All stories contain conflict, and some people disagree about how many types of conflict there are. These discrepancies depend on individual narrative circumstances, but there are cases in which you should recognize a total of seven different types of narrative conflict.

2.1.1. Internal Conflicts

Man vs Self

Man vs Self is the only correct version of internal conflict you will find in literature. In this mode, the conflict takes place within the mind of the main character and often involves the character making a decision between right and wrong, or other mixed emotions. However, this struggle also exists in the form of a character battling mental illness.

2.1.2. External Conflict

A. Man vs Man

Man vs Man is probably the most common form of external conflict and is also known as interpersonal conflict. This model lies at the heart of all dramatic arts and places the struggle directly between the protagonist and the antagonist; otherwise, it is known as the good guy and the bad guy. In a man vs man conflict, the protagonist wants something, and the antagonist obstructs the protagonist from getting what he wants.

B. Man vs Society

This mode of external conflict occurs when the protagonist is placed at odds with a government or cultural tradition. This type of conflict applies to societal norms, as well. For example, if a child gets in trouble with his parents for sneaking out of the house at night, he is in conflict with the societal tradition that children are expected to obey their parents.

C. Man vs Nature

Man vs Nature pits the main character against the forces of nature - in the form of a natural disaster or a similarly dangerous situation - and is often associated with literary naturalism, which hinges on the idea that nature is indifferent to humanity.

D. Man vs Machine

Man vs Machine means that a person is in direct combat with robots in the context of science activities, or it could mean that technology stands in the way of the protagonist getting what he wants. In the science-action version, the same attributes of a man vs man conflict apply. However, if a person struggles to keep a job that a new machine can do better, the physical struggle is against the machine, but the emotional struggle is against the society that breeds technology.

E. Man vs Fate

Man vs Fate exists in any story in which the protagonist is struggling against a god or gods. It is sometimes considered as part of Man vs Self when focuses on an internal, moral struggle, but should be considered separate in the context of epics.

2.2. Sigmund Freud's Theory: The Structure of The Human Personality

According to Freud in Guerin (2005: 153), the mental process of the human is divided into three psychic zones, namely: the id, the ego, and the superego.

1. **The id** is the reservoir of libido, the primary source of all psychic energy. It functions to fulfill the primordial life principle, which Freud considers to be the pleasure principle. Without consciousness or semblance of rational order, the id is characterized by a tremendous and amorphous vitality. Speaking metaphorically, Freud explains this obscure, inaccessible part of our personality as chaos, a cauldron of seething excitement with no organization and no unified will, only an impulsion to obtain satisfaction for the instinctual needs, following the pleasure principle. He further stresses that the “laws of logic-above all, the law of contradiction do not hold for processes of the id. Contradictory impulses exist side by side without neutralizing each other or drawing apart. Naturally, the *id* knows no values, no good, and evil, no morality.

The id is, in short, the source of all our aggressions and desires. It is lawless, asocial, and amoral. Its function is to gratify our instincts for pleasure without regard for social conventions, legal ethics, or moral restraint. Unchecked, it would lead us to any lengths-to destruction, and even self-destruction satisfies its impulses for pleasure. Safety for the self and others does not lie within the province of the id: its concern is purely for instinctual gratification, heedless of consequence

2. Because of the *id* dangerous potentialities, other psychic agencies must protect the individual and society. The first of these regulating agencies, which protects the individual, is **the ego**. It is the rational governing agent of the psyche. Though the ego lacks the strong vitality of the *id*, it regulates the instinctual drives of the *id* so that they may be released in nondestructive behavioral patterns, and though a large portion of the ego is unconscious, the ego nevertheless comprises what we ordinarily think of as the conscious mind.

3. The other regulating agent, which primarily functions to protect society, is the superego. Mostly unconscious, **the superego** is the moral censoring agency, the repository of conscience and pride. It is, as Freud says in *The Anatomy of the Mental Personality*, the representative of all moral restrictions, the advocate of the impulse toward perfection, in short, it is as much as we have been able to apprehend psychologically of what people call the higher things in human life. Acting either directly or through the ego, the superego serves to repress or inhibit the drives of the *id*, to block off and thrust back into the unconscious those impulses toward pleasure that society regards as unacceptable, such as overt aggression, sexual passions, and the Oedipal instinct.

The *id* is dominated by the pleasure principle and the ego by the reality principle; the morality principle dominates the superego. We might say that the *id* would make us devils, that the superego would have us behave as angels (or worse, as creatures of absolute social conformity), and that it remains for the ego to keep us healthy human beings by maintaining a balance between these two opposing forces. It is this balance that Freud advocates not a complete removal of inhibiting factors.

3. Research Method

This research is library research proposed by Khotari (2004). The design of the research is descriptive qualitative research. Khotari (2004:7) states that “descriptive research includes surveys and fact-finding inquiries of different kinds.” In this research, the data are the utterances and quotations in the novel *Tanah Surga Merah* written by *Arafat Nur*. The data concern the types of conflict experienced by the protagonist of the novel, namely: internal and external conflicts. To analyze the quotation in the novel, the researcher should prepare the steps to analyze the quotation. The first is that the researcher has to read the novel. After reading the novel, the researcher classifies the utterances and quotations into two sections: internal conflict and external conflict. After collecting the data, the researcher is starting to analyze the data, especially the utterances. The researcher uses content analysis as a technique for analyzing the

data. Ratna (2004:48) states that “content-analysis consists of analyzing the contents of documentary materials such as books, magazines, newspapers and the contents of all other verbal materials which can be either spoken or printed.”

4. Result and Discussion

4.1. Analysis of Internal Conflicts

4.1.1. Man vs Self

1. The Self Disguise

As a fugitive, I accused a murderer certainly made me unable to calm down. Even though the sideburns and beard have already been loaded with a few cheap-thresher-hairdressing creams that I bought at a Riau, I took full effort for the past three months; I am still worried that the person hanging around this terminal still recognizes me. There is no way I am going to knock out all my eyebrows and mustaches, and I can not change the shape of my hard jaws. (Nur, 2016: 10)

The above quotation shows the internal conflict of the protagonist. The internal conflict happens because the protagonist wants to show himself to the others (the id), but he admits if the people who know him as a murderer (superego) and, therefore, he tries to disguise himself by shaving his goatee. It is a way to disguise himself from the others (ego). However, he is already cutting his goatee, but he worries if the people still know him. If the people know him, they will kill him because he will be the potential to create the condition of Aceh getting chaos because he is accused as a murderer. Police and enemy do not let him stay in Aceh. In conclusion, the ego defeats the id and the superego because he is disguising from the others by changing his appearance and shaving his goatee.

2. The Decreasing of Faith

I realized, ever since I was a fugitive, my faith has decreased. I am always overwhelmed with despair, sadness, and profound disappointment in this world. My great love for the land of birth is a very messy one. However, I still love my land with all of my life and soul. (Nur, 2016:21)

The above quotation shows the internal conflict of the protagonist. The internal conflict happens because since the protagonist is a fugitive, his faith has decreased. He is in sadness and deep disappointment, especially in his hometown, Aceh. He gives all of his life to struggle for the land of his birth (the id). However, he only gets misery. The people accuse him as a murderer, and they want to kill him. He faces all of the obstacles, he admits if he still loves his land of birth (the ego). In conclusion, the id defeats the ego because he still loves his land of birth; however, he faces many obstacles, and he feels deeply disappointed with the land of his birth.

3. The Return of The Protagonist

This is my home, this is my village, and this is my country, how can I not come back? I can not live anywhere else. I can not live in another place. Always remembered here, and my soul is so tormented. (Nur, 2016:27)

The above quotation shows the internal conflict of the protagonist. The internal conflict happens because he realizes that he always remembers his home, Aceh. He loves his home. He realizes if he cannot live in another place, and his soul is tortured while he remembers his home (the id). However, he knows if there are many people, especially the red party members who want to kill him if he returns to his home (the ego). Finally, he decides to return home full of obstacles and risks. In conclusion, the id defeats the ego because the protagonist decides to return home. However, he knows there are obstacles to be faced, and the enemy wants to kill him.

4.2. Analysis of External Conflicts

4.2.1. Man vs Man

1. Suardin

It is very difficult to believe that this city is now led by *Suardin*, a fellow soldier who had previously raped a girl in the village. The problem ended with peace, the victim's family forced to remain silent, and if only dare to reveal this case or report it to the police, of course, their heads are hollowed out by bullets. *Suardin* became mayor for the full support of the Red Party, which always won elections after the rebels reconciled with the government. *Suardin* and red party people, besides occupying almost all the important positions in

local government, they are also everywhere, like pests of *walang sangit* surrounding the fruitful rice plant. That is why I force to flee far from this land I love. (Nur, 2016: 12)

The above quotation shows the external conflict of the protagonist. The external conflict happens the protagonist is difficult to believe if *Suardin* now leads the city. *Suardin* is a former soldier of *gam* members. *Suardin* has ever raped the young girl in his village. The problem ends with peace because the victim's family is forced to be silent. If the victim's family reports the case to the police, they would be ended with bullets. (the ego). In contrast, *Suardin* can be a major in the city because he receives the full support of the red party. After the agreement between the rebels and the government, the red party is the representative of the rebels; they control and all of the local government in *Aceh*, including the city, which is led by *Suardin*. The red party also controls society. The red party claims if they are the party of God (Superego). It is a condition that influences the protagonist to leave his hometown. If *Suardin* and his friend know the protagonist stays in the city, they will kill him. In this utterance, the superego defeats the ego because the protagonist's character is forced to leave his hometown.

2. Shooting the Rapist

However, the reason why I murder *jumadil* is when one night he wants to rape *Fitri*, a girl who was a close relative with my family. *Fitri* has repeatedly complained that a man who has had three wives and still likes to take a trip to *Medan* forces him to marry. Every time he came, he brought millions of money, even promised to make a house. *Jumadil* threatens and frightens the *Fitri* man by putting his gun on the table, even though he acts as if it were not intended to be shown. I, who had long held back, began to carry an old Belgian old gun that I did not share when a peace agreement with the government first. The weapon I tucked at the waist just in case, and really did not think I would immediately find a man about to rape *Fitri* as soon as I arrived at his house before Isha prayer. Incidentally, both parents of the girl are not at home; all residents are visiting a neighbor's house that will hold a party celebration. Upon hearing the screams from within, my blood was instantly on. I broke through the door and instantly threw a shot at *Jumadil's* body that looked at me in terror - until five bullets were left out, all on target. I deliberately pointed to her genitals so that the essential tool was shattered,

as I learned later through the talk of the people because the newspaper news did not explain to that point, except to mention only the wound in the groin.
(Nur, 2016:24-26)

The above quotation shows the external conflict of the protagonist. The external conflict happens while the protagonist is visiting *Fitri's* house; he hears if there is screaming coming from the *Fitri's* house. He comes to the screaming, and he breaks the door. He looks that *Jumadil* wants to rape *Fitri*, and *Jumadil* is surprised when the protagonist is looking at him. The protagonist directly shoots at *Jumadil*; five bullets are all out, all on target. The protagonist also shoots at the genital of *Jumadil* (the id). In this utterance, the id defeats the ego because the protagonist directly shoots at *Jumadil* (the id) without asking or arresting *Jumadil* (the ego). Besides, because of the shooting, the local newspaper releases news which judges the protagonist as a murderer (the superego).

4.2.2. Man vs Society

3. The Pressuring of The Government

My country has been ruined by the hands of colonizers and stupid leaders so that no matter how hard the peasants work, they will never be able to prosper. The controllers of power continue to harass the people, riot for the sake of political tactics and intrigue, no effort is made by the government for the prosperity of the people, all for their interest.

(Nur, 2016: 123)

The above quotation shows the external conflict of the protagonist. The external conflict happens because the protagonist realizes if the condition of Acehnese is lacking of prosperity. They will never change their condition because of the stupid leaders controlling them (the id). In contrast, all the leaders only think about themselves. They also make political tactics and intrigues. All of the efforts are held by the leaders as a way to keep their power in that region (the superego). This is a condition that insults the protagonist to fight against the leaders of the region. Through his eyes, he sees that the leaders only think about themselves without thinking about how to increase the prosperity of the Acehnese (the ego).

4. The Fake Promise

I will reveal the governor’s promises during the general election about two years ago, that if Saini and Sakir are elected, they will take care of orphans and the *duafa*, dispatch pilgrims to cruise ships and provide pilgrim fees for Acehese children who have matured, and natural resources, re-mining, making Aceh as Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. They also promise to provide free education for Acehese children from elementary school to university, to give a million rupiah every month to every family, to improve the welfare of the people, to create new jobs, to overcome poverty - all of which is nothing more than mere nonsense. (Nur, 2016: 271)

The above quotation shows the external conflict of the protagonist. The external conflict happens because the protagonist is disappointed with the government, especially the governor. He reveals all of the governor’s promises during the campaign about two years ago. If the governor is elected, he will make *Aceh* like *Brunei Darussalam* and Singapore. He will take care of orphans, listing the natural resources of Aceh (the id). Nevertheless, the promises are nonsense. The government does not keep its promises. He gives fake promises to Acehese society without thinking about the condition of society. He only thinks about himself (the superego). It is a condition which insults the ego of the protagonist.

The above quotation shows the gap between the id and the superego. The id deals with the pleasure principle is contrary to the superego that deals with the moral principle in the society. However, the government as the representatives of society, is immoral and only thinks about their interest.

The research findings are depicted in the following tables

The Conflicts	Theme	The physical zone (id, ego and superego)
Internal Conflict Man vs Self	The Self Disguise	Ego
	The Decreasing of Faith	Id
	The Return of The Protagonist	Id
External Conflicts Man vs Man	<i>Suardin</i>	Superego
	Shooting the Rapist	Id
Man vs Society	The Pressuring of The Government	Ego
	The Fake Promise	Id

Based on the findings of the internal conflict, there are three themes and the id dominates two themes, and one theme is the ego. In the external conflict, there are

four themes and the id dominates two themes, one theme is the ego, and another theme is the superego. In conclusion, the id dominates the personality of the protagonist in the novel.

5. Conclusion

Based on the above findings in the *Arafat Nur's Novel, Tanah Surga Merah*, the conclusion is the conflicts that occur in the novel consist of two major parts, internal conflict and external conflict. The internal conflict consists of three themes, namely: the self-disguise, the decreasing of faith and the return of the protagonist. Concerning the Freud Psychological approach, the id dominates two themes of conflict, and the ego one theme of conflict. The influence of id makes the protagonist hardly to control himself without thinking logically. For example, the protagonist decides to return to his hometown, the police and the enemies would try to murder him.

In the external conflict, there are four themes of conflict in two major parts, namely: man vs man and man vs society. Man vs man consists of two themes, namely: *Suardin* and shooting the rapist. The id and the superego influence the physical zone of the protagonist in relation to the Freud Psychological Approach. Shooting the rapist is one of the top events that is influenced by the id while the protagonist is angry and directly shoots at the rapist.

Man vs society consists of two themes, namely: the pressuring of the government and the fake promise. Concerning the Freud Psychological approach, the ego and the id influence the physical zone of the protagonist. The fake promise is an example that is influenced by the id and the protagonist is disappointed with the government.

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