FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN KEVIN KWAN’S “RICH PEOPLE PROBLEM”: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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Abstract

The objective of the research was to analyze the family conflict that was reflected in the novel Rich People Problem. This research used a sociological approach and social action theory. This research used a qualitative research. This research was taken from the novel "Rich People Problem" written by Kevin Kwan’s. This research rose the following problems: 1). The type of family conflict reflected in Kevin Kwan's novel "rich people problem.? 2). What was the cause of family conflict in the novel Rich people problem.? So that it can be known the causes and types of family conflicts contained in the novel Rich people problem. The result of the research was that there were two kind family conflicts, first types of family conflict was the internal and external, second cause of family conflict was the language difference and tradition and heritage.

Keywords: Family, Conflict, Novel, Sociological Approach

Abstrak


Keywords: Keluarga, Konflik, Novel, Pendekatan sosioologikal.
1. INTRODUCTION

As proposed by Anderson (1991:16), the concept of today's family can also be formed based on the imagination and bonds of feelings that are built between members in the family without requiring their physical presence at the same place and time. A family is a collection of two or more people who live together with legal, emotional, and individual ties to each other that are an important part of relating to the family. According to Benton (1997:122) states that a dysfunctional family is any condition that interferes with the healthy functioning of a family. Every family must have experienced a difficult condition, whether it was illness, death, or economic problems, but what distinguishes whether a family is healthy or not is in how to respond to problems. If healthy families return to normal functioning after the crisis has passed, problems in dysfunctional families tend to become chronic so that children do not get the care and needs they deserve.

According to Goode (2003:91) does not give a definition of divorce Specific. Instead, he raises issues that are more general and he thinks are more important from just a matter of divorce, namely chaos in the household. According to Goode, family chaos can be interpreted as the breakup of a unit family, breaking or breaking the structure of social roles if one or more members fail to fulfill their role obligations fully. Like marriage, divorce is a process in which involves many aspects such as emotions, economic, social and social recognition official by the community through law what happens is part of the door emergency that doesn't need to be used unless in a state of dysfunctional family divorce gives many adverse effects; long-term from dysfunctional families, such as: resilience ability, height level of intelligence/intelligence, locus internal control, ability to recognize opportunities for change, awareness of ability have more life/future Good.

Because of the many problems in the family that occur such as a lack of harmony, increasing divorce rates, problems that occur in marriage greatly affect the couple's relationship and optimal development of children, social problems are also the cause of dysfunctional family problems, dysfunctional can reduce life patterns, so this social problem become an ongoing problem. In Rich People Problem, the author wants to examine family problems that occur, in fact not only poor people who have problems, many rich people have problems, one of the problems that the author wants to discuss in the Rich People Problem novel is about Rachel and Eleanor's family, and Rachel's problem with Kerry's mother. The problem will be discussed both internally and
externally in the family. Then the thesis will be entitled Family Conflict Reflected in Kevin Kwan’s Novel “Rich People Problem”; A Sociological Approach.

Based on identification above, this study focus on the analysis of Family Conflict Reflected in Kevin Kwan’s Novel “Rich People Problem”; A Sociological Approach. The analysis is limited on the types and causes family conflict reflected in Kevin Kwan’s Novel “Rich People Problem”. Other subject matters which are not related to this study will not be discussed.

2. METHODOLOGY

In this thesis, the writer applies method of research. The writer used qualitative research. According to Crossman (2017:5), qualitative research is type of social sciences that collect with non-numerical data and interpret the meaning from these data which help us to understand the social life through the study. There are some steps in qualitative research 1) determining the object of the study, 2) data and source of the data, 3) technique data collection, 4) technique data analysis.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this study, the author has examined the types and causes of family conflict in the novel rich people problem. This study uses a sociological approach. There are 2 types of conflicts that occur in the Rich People Problem novel, internal conflicts and external conflicts. Internal conflicts are divided into 2, namely socioeconomic status and family structure; external conflicts are divided into 3 a) gender b) temperament c) self-regulation processes. occurs in rich people, the problem is caused by lack of communication in the family, which can lead to conflict and a high selfish attitude can also trigger family conflict in rich people. Problems that cause conflict in the family are differences in language, tradition and heritage.

a. Conflict between Rachel and Eleanor's family

Socioeconomic status begin Eleanor hired a private investigator to check up Rachel. Eleanor's explanation about Rachel with her husband is captured in the following dialogue:

*Philip was baffled. "Doesn't everybody's family ultimately originate from Mainland China? Where would you rather he be from? ice land?"*  
"Don't be funny with me? Her family comes from some ulu ulu village in China that nobody has ever heard of. The investigator thinks that they were most likely working class. In other words, they are PEASANTS!"  
*Kwan (2013:103)*
"You are not seeing the big picture. This girl is obviously a cunning, deceitful GOLD DIGGER! You know as well as I do that your son can never marry someone like that. Can you imagine how your family is going to react when he brings this gold digger home?" Kwan (2013:104).

That dialogue explains that Eleanor does not want Rachel to have a relationship with her son, even her daughter-in-law. The dialogue shows the existence of economic aspect. In the dialogue shows social classes and status group.

b. **Conflict between Rachel Chu and Her Mother (Kerry Chu)**

In this novel, there is a relationship between mother (Kerry Chu) and her child (Rachel Chu). The relationship is based on deceitfulness. Her mother lies about Rachel's father. Kerry tells Rachel that her father was died a long time ago, but now she knows the truth that her father still alive and now he is in prison. This fact is reflected on the following dialogue:

"You're liar! A kidnapper! You've deprived me from knowing my father, my real family. How could you Mom" Kwan (2013:472)

The dialogue above explain about relationship between mother and children is very important and fundamental. The good relationship or not between mother and children greatly affects the relationship itself. The favorable relationship that based on affection and honesty will make conflict controllable. While, if the relationship based on deceitfulness will appear miserable conflict, indeed it can disintegrate relationship between mother and children. A conflict should resolve as soon as, in order to do not disintegrate social and cultural norms that happen between them. After analyzing the collected data, the writer found that there were 3 (three) conflicts, namely: 1. language differences, 2. traditions and heritage, and 3. differences in origins 4. Rachel and Nick's way of solving problems. In the next sub-chapter the conflicts mentioned earlier will be explained one by one.

c. **Language Difference**

This first conflict begins with the differences in the language used by Rachel and Nick's family. Nick (main character) tries to introduce Rachel (main character) to his grandmother in Cantonese (one of the dialects used by Nick's family), while Rachel talks to grandmother Nick in English. This action disappointed Nick's grandmother because parents usually have a tendency to use their own local language more. Actually, Rachel can speak Chinese but in this case it states that Rachel forgot to use her Chinese (that was...
not intentional). As a woman who grew up, lived, and worked in America, it was normal for Rachel to use English spontaneously because English was the primary language of use in her country. However, Rachel is not quite proficient in two Chinese Dialects, Cantonese and Hokkien even though she was born in Taiwan (a Chinese-speaking country). He still didn't understand and couldn't speak both in the dialect. Nick's family, especially his grandmother, usually speak Cantonese or Hokkien. Things like this can trigger a conflict between Rachel and Nick's family. Because of this problem, Nick's grandmother is not very interested in Rachel. On page 106, it is written that Nick's grandmother suddenly ignored Rachel and started talking to the others.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion from this thesis are:

a. Types of family conflict in the novel Rich People Problem is internal and external conflict.

b. Causes of family conflict in the novel is diference language, tradition and heritage.

c. Family conflict reflected in Kevin Kwan’s “Rich People Problem” when viewed from sociological approach, family conflict in the novel is to find out its structure, then it is used to understand more deeply social phenomena.

5. REFERENCES


