
The External Conflicts Faced By Simon In *Love, Simon* Movie Script

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Abstract : *The title of this paper is The External Conflicts Faced by Simon in Love, Simon Movie Script. This study is aimed at analyzing external conflicts faced by Simon as the main character. The data of this study were taken from Love, Simon movie script. In collecting the data of this study, the documentation method and note-taking technique were applied. The data were analyzed by applying descriptive qualitative method. Then in presenting the result of the data analysis, the informal method was applied. Theory of conflict (Kenney, 1966, p. 19) were used to analyze the data. The result of this study shows that the external conflicts faced by Simon occurred between man vs. man and man vs. society. Simon had external conflicts with other characters included Martin, Abby, Nick, Nora, Leah and Blue. Furthermore, the external conflict between Simon and the society happened between Simon and students at school.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the imaginative art of human's imagination and life experience. According to Wellek and Warren (1956, p. 3) literature is representation of human's imagination, thought, perception, life and feeling. Literary works could be viewed based on personal perception. There are some kinds of literary work, those are drama, short story, poetry, movie and novel.

Nowadays, one of the most popular literary works is movie. Movie is an expression of human's feelings through visual communication played using sound and moving features (Rabiger, 2003, p. 9). Movie has its own script called movie script which is defined as a piece of writing created by screenwriters for movie or television show. These scripts could be original works or adaptations of previous published literary works. The movie script also contains a background, characterization, plot and theme of the movie.

Characters are important intrinsic elements in literature work because characters influence the story through its personality, motivation, and attitude. Henderson (1977, p. 9) stated characters are people or things who are believable and consistent to present the story creates by the author. Characters are related to the association of characters with the plot of the movie and whether there is any change of character during the story. Character that dominates every part of event in the story is called a main character, the writer mentions the main character repeatedly as a subject who does the action in the story or as an object who receives the action (Nurgiyantoro, 2002, pp. 176–

177). The author consciously inserts the behavior, moral values and personality to fictional figures. Personality is the characteristic of the characters that may influence by situation and condition.

A problem between two people or group is called conflict. The conflicts of character in the story either a protagonist character or of other rules of character are made up to develop the story. An event of something unpleasant happens in the story experiences by the characters is referred to conflict (Fitzgerald & Meredith, 1993, pp. 11–20). Kenney (1966, p. 17) stated conflict happens from the end of the beginning to the beginning of the middle of the story. Kenney (1966, p. 19) proposed there are four types of conflict, namely man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society and man vs. himself. Conflict happens because there are differences of character's personality and status.

This study only focused on analyzing the external conflicts faced by Simon. This study chose *Love, Simon* movie script written by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger as the data source. *Love, Simon* is about a high-scholar boy who is trying to manage both his relationship with his family and friends after his e-mails with an anonymous guy get leaked.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theory of Literature

Literary theory is the underlying principle attempted to understand literature. Kenney (1966, p. 5) stated literary works are analyzed by identifying the separate elements such as plot, setting, character, point of view, theme and style. Furthermore, the elements are investigated to discover the relation among element and to determine the elements as a whole. These elements cooperate with each other in order to make a good story.

The first element is plot. Plot is the arranging of events according to demands or their casual relationships. In other words, plot is the complex pattern of cause and effect. The pattern of plot could be seen from beginning, middle and end. The story begins in the beginning then moves further as the conflict occurs from the end of the begging to the beginning of the middle. Last, the end of the story consists of everything from the climax to the denouement, or outcome of the story (Kenney, 1966, pp. 13–19).

The second element is character. Character is the most important intrinsic element of the story because characters carry the story from the beginning to the end. The types of character are divided into simple character and complex character. Simple or flat character has a lack of human's personality and does not show any changes as the story goes. Meanwhile, complex or round character has a complex personality and undergo the personality development (Kenney, 1966, pp. 24–29).

The third element is setting that reveals where and when the events happen (Kenney, 1966, p. 38). The actual elements of setting include geographies, occupations and modes of characters' existences, time in which the events occur and the moral, religious, emotional, intellectual and social environment of characters. The scenery, topography and detail of the room are called geographical location. The time setting of the story could be occurred in historical period and season of the year (Kenney, 1966, p. 40).

Point of view is the fourth element of the story. Point of view is the perspective from which the story is told. The writers use point of view to deceive the understanding of the readers because through the different point of view, the readers could experience different perspective (Kenney, 1966, p. 55). The story could not be told in the same way through different point of view. In other words, different point of view means different story. By meaning, the readers find the implication

of the whole story.

The fifth element is style. It is the way authors express themselves and as the characteristic that distinguish the author with others. Style could be said as the author's personality through literary device such as personification, imagery and metaphor (Kenney, 1966, p. 62).

The last element is theme that is the underlying meaning of the story (Kenney, 1966, p. 88). The authors try to convey the idea of the story to readers through literary works. The meaning is not hidden and it is not illustrated clearly in the story. Theme is supported by the whole story and hidden in the backside of the story.

Theory of Conflict

Kenney (1966, p. 17) stated conflict occurs from the end of the beginning to the beginning of the middle of the story. Kenney (1966, p. 19) proposed kinds external conflict happened between man vs. man, man vs. nature and man vs. society. External conflict is the struggle faced by the character outside himself. The conflict occurs between character and another character or characters, character and the nature or the character and society. External conflict is divided into three types, those are man vs. man, man vs. nature and man vs. society.

Man vs. Man conflict occurs between character and another character or characters in the story. This conflict may be occurring because of the struggles of social differences, moral cases, verbal emotion or physical conflict. Man versus man conflict commonly happens when the hero fights a villain. Man versus nature occurs between the characters and nature. In this external conflict, the characters are against the forces of nature, such as tsunami and flood. Man versus society conflict happens when character has a strong belief against environment, community and moral principles in society such as laws, cultural traditions and norms. The characters are forced to adjust himself or herself in performing an action or making a decision based on what the society believes. On the other hand, the characters may also act based on their beliefs or what they feel right in reaching their goals. This external conflict happens when the characters cannot fit with a particular social condition in a society such as racism or not accepted by society.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study applied descriptive qualitative method to answer the research questions of this study in which the writer presents the data, analyzes the data, interprets the data and solves the problem without statistics procedure (Narbuko & Achmadi, 2003, p. 44). The data of this study were collected in form of words to answer the research questions.

Data Source

The data of this study was taken from the movie script of *Love, Simon* by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger. The movie released on March 22, 2018 by 20th Century Fox in the United States was based on the novel by Becky Albertalli entitled *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. *Love, Simon* is a comedy romantic story of the main character named Simon Spier who is a high school boy and struggling with his sexuality. *Love, Simon* movie script was chosen as the main data of this study because it contained enough data to be analyzed in this study, namely the external conflict.

Method and Technique of Collecting Data

This study applied the documentation method which refers to written form, such as transcription, magazine, note, book etc. (Rahmadi, 2011, p. 84) and note-taking technique in

collecting the data. In order to collect the data, the movie script of *Love, Simon* was downloaded from the website www.scriptsbug.com on the internet. Then the downloaded script was read for several times to observe the external conflicts faced by Simon. While observing the external conflicts through reading, the note taking method was also applied to type down relevant data of the external conflicts face by Simon found in the movie script. The note taking was done digitally by copying and pasting the relevant dialogues which also included the number of the page to Microsoft Word 2013.

Method and Technique of Analysing Data

The descriptive qualitative method is applied in analyzing the data found in *Love, Simon* movie script. Narbuko and Achmadi (2003, p. 44) stated in descriptive qualitative method, the writer presents the data, analyzes the data, interprets the data and solves the problem without statistics procedure. After the data of external conflicts faced by Simon were collected, the relevant theories were applied to classify and analyze the data. The relevant data of the external conflict faced by Simon was analyzed by applying the theory of conflict proposed by Kenney (1966, p. 19).

Method and Technique of Presenting Data Analysis

In presenting the result of the data analysis, this study applied the informal method in which the data analysis was presented through words or sentences (Sudaryanto, 2015, p. 241).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

External conflict is the struggle faced by the character outside himself (Kenney, 1966, p. 19). The external conflict faced by Simon as the main character occurs between character versus other characters and the character versus society. This section is the analysis of the external conflicts faced by Simon as the main character. The external conflicts face by Simon are as follows:

Conflict between Simon and Martin

The conflict between Simon and Martin started when Martin took a screenshot of Simon's e-mails with Blue. This conflict was classified as external conflict because it happened between Simon and other character named Martin (Kenney, 1966, p. 19).

Martin : It'll probably interest you to know my brother is gay.

Simon struggles to keep his voice from trembling.

Simon : No, Martin. That does not interest me to know.

Simon takes his paint and turns to go.

Martin : Simon, calm down. I'm not going to show anyone.

Simon stops, turns back around to face Martin.

Simon : Show anyone what?

Martin can't meet Simon's eyes. Simon starts to panic.

Simon : Did you print my e-mails or something?

Martin : No, I ... took a screenshot.

Simon : Why the hell would you take a screenshot of my e-mails?

(Aptaker & Berger, 2016, p. 25)

The bell rang when Simon replied to Blue's e-mail. Simon was in a rush after he sent a reply to Blue's e-mail by using the computer in the library. Martin used the computer right after Simon

and the computer screen showed the g-mail account and the e-mails. Martin found out that Simon is gay as he read Simon's e-mails with Blue. Martin decided to approach Simon then told him about the e-mails. Simon realized Martin knew his secret. Simon tried to hold himself, he made sure his voice was not trembling to hide his actual emotion. Unfortunately, Simon could not hide it anymore when Martin had his e-mails as he said to Simon that he would not show anyone about it. It was the starting point of the conflict between Simon and Martin.

Conflict between Simon and Nora

The conflict between Simon and his little sister occurred after Martin posted the screenshots of Simon's e-mails on Creeksecrets Tumblr. According to Kenney (1966, p. 19), this conflict was external conflict as it happened between Simon and other character. Nora saw the post then she immediately showed it to Simon. Martin just exposed Simon was gay along with invitation to all male students in Creekwood High School. The post said everyone who had interest in Simon could contact him. Simon's face turned white as he read the post that looked like he was the one who posted it but actually it was not him. Simon raised his voice when Nora tried to give him a solution. This condition started the external conflict between Simon and Nora. It could be seen from the following quotation:

Nora : I already reported it. They'll take it down.
 Simon : Everyone has already seen it though. (then) It's true. I'm gay.
 Nora is stunned. But she tries not to make a big deal of it.
 Nora : Oh. (then) So what are you gonna do now?
 Simon : I don't know.
 Nora : You could deny it—
 Simon : I'm not going to deny it. I'm not ashamed—
 Nora : Well, you haven't said anything until now, so—
 Simon : (snapping) So what? What the hell are you talking about?
 Nora's face crumples into tears. Simon realizes she's completely overwhelmed.
 Simon : Nora, I—
 Nora : It's not my fault!
 She hurries out in tears. Simon feels bad but he has bigger things to worry about.
 (Aptaker & Berger, 2016, pp. 79–80)

Nora already reported the post but Simon was not satisfied about that because everyone already saw it. Now, the whole school knew that Simon was gay and also his little sister knew it. Simon took the rumor and said to his sister that it was true, he was gay. Nora was surprised but she realized it was not the right time to talk about it, she was worried about Simon. Nora told Simon to deny it but Simon disagreed because his sexuality was not something to ashamed of. Simon snapped to Nora because she still convinced Simon to deny it. Simon realized his action afterwards but Nora already left from his room with tears on her face.

Conflict between Simon and Blue

The post that exposed Simon's sexuality spread quickly among Creekwood students and led Simon to face a conflict with Blue. The conflict between Simon and Blue was categorized as external conflict because it happened between the main character and another character (Kenney, 1966, p. 19). Simon was afraid that Blue would never contact him anymore after he saw the post.

Blue was on Christmas vacation, thus Simon was sure he had not seen the post yet. The conflict between Simon and Blue started when Simon tried to tell Blue what was happening. Below is the starting point of the external conflict between Simon and Blue.

Simon : I know you're going off the grid and you probably won't see this until you're back, but something's happened. You're going to find out who I am. But please don't freak out and stop writing to me. Please, Blue. As soon as you get this, I need you to promise me you won't disappear.

(Aptaker & Berger, 2016, p. 80)

Everything happened was out of his control and Simon did not want to lose Blue, the person he met online. Simon tried to reach Blue because he did not want Blue to get scared after their e-mails leaked. They used pseudonyms while e-mailing each other. Even though Blue would know Simon was the person he had been e-mailing for months, Simon still did not want Blue to stop sending e-mails to him. Blue replied Simon's e-mail but it was not something Simon wanted to happen. The data below showed the conflict between him and Blue was getting worse at this time.

Conflict between Simon and His Father

The conflict between Simon and his father occurred at the moment he decided to tell his family about his sexuality. Students at Creekwood High School already knew about his disrespectful coming out accident and Simon made up his mind to tell his family about his sexuality. His mother and sisters were fine but his father seemed he needed more time to accept the truth. The conflict between Simon and his father could be seen below:

Everyone turns to Jack, waiting for him to say something.

Jack : Gay, huh? (then, forced brightness) So which one of them did it?

Alice looks like she's going to kill her father.

Simon : Did what?

Jack : Which one of your old girlfriends turned you off women? Was it the one with the eyebrows or the overbite?

(Aptaker & Berger, 2016, p. 83)

The conflict between Simon and his father was classified as external conflict as it occurred between Simon and another character (Kenney, 1966, p. 19). Simon's father forced himself not to ruin the atmosphere when Simon came out to his family. His father even threw a joke "*So which one of them did it?*" but it was not the time to be joking around. Simon just did not get his father sense of humor and none of his ex-girlfriends turned him into gay. The external conflict between Simon and his father happened because his father could not accept him as a gay.

Conflict between Simon and Nick

The conflict between Simon and Nick started when Nick found out Simon tried to separate him from Abby. This conflict was categorized as external conflict because it occurred between Simon and another character (Kenney, 1966, p. 19). Simon was clueless that his friends would know all his lies, so he tried to act like usual. Simon saw the expressions they made and realized there was something serious to talk. The external conflict between Simon and Nick could be seen below:

Nick : Simon, we need to talk.

Simon realizes that Leah looks very emotional. And Abby looks very angry.

Nick : Abby and I hooked up on New Year's Eve. And now we're like, together.

Simon : (nervous) Wow. That's awesome.

Nick : Yeah. It is. But then we got to talking about why it took us so long.

Simon goes white. He knows where this is going and he tries to get ahead of it.

Simon : You guys—

Nick : Why did tell Abby I had an ex-girlfriend who I cheated on?

(Aptaker & Berger, 2016, p. 94)

Nick stated his relationship with Abby and Simon looked nervously happy with his friends' relationship. Simon pretended he did not know what he has done, then Nick suddenly said why it took so long for him and Abby to be together. Simon could not hide his surprised look when Nick knew Simon talked bad about him to Abby.

Conflict between Simon and Abby

Abby and Nick were dating but they were curious why it took so long. Abby and Nick talked with each other and found out Simon tried to keep them apart. The conflict between Simon and Abby occurred when Simon explained why he had to make a bunch of lies. Simon knew Nick was into Abby and if they dated each other, Martin would not hesitate to leak Simon's e-mails. He should keep them apart by telling a lie to Nick about Abby. Abby could not accept Simon talked bad behind her and said she hooked up with many guys. The conflict could be seen in the data below:

Abby : And why did you tell Nick I hooked up with a ton of jacked black guys at my old school?
 (Aptaker & Berger, 2016, p. 94)

It showed when Abby asked Simon the reason behind his lies, it was the starting point of the conflict happed between Simon and Abby. The conflict was categorized as external conflict because Simon had a conflict with another character (Kenney, 1966, p. 19). Abby had never done something Simon said about her. She recalled her memory of everything Simon planned to make her getting close with Martin.

Conflict between Simon and Leah

Simon had a conflict with Leah. According to Kenney (1966, p. 19), this conflict was classified as external conflict because Simon faced a conflict with another character. Simon pursued Leah to listen to his explanation. Simon knew he was wrong for making those lies. Simon thought Leah was in love with Nick and it caused the conflict between them getting more serious as could be seen in data below:

Simon : Can we talk? (off her silence) Leah, please. I know what I did was messed up. I knew you were in love with Nick and I—

Leah : Stop it!

Leah pulls her bike over. Simon parks, gets out, approaches. Leah closes her eyes and lowers her voice.

Leah : You are insanely stupid, Simon. I was never in love with Nick. (more) (then) I was in love with you.

Leah angrily brushes away tears. Simon stares at her, totally blindsided.

Simon : What? But we're ... us.

Leah : Yeah, well. Sorry.

(Aptaker & Berger, 2016, pp. 104–105)

Simon approached Leah and tried to explain what happened to her. Leah was disappointed with Simon and she refused to hear Simon's explanation. Leah was angry but she tried to control herself. Then she confessed her feeling to Simon, she fell for Simon not Nick. Simon totally got the wrong idea about Leah.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of the external conflict faced by Simon as the main character, the external conflict was divided into man vs. man and man vs. society. Simon did not face any man vs. nature conflict. The external conflict started when Martin blackmailed Simon using the leaked e-mails. Simon had external conflicts with other characters included Martin, Abby, Nick, Nora, Leah and Blue. The external conflict between Simon and the society occurred between Simon and students at Creekwood High School.

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