

**CONFLICT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN FILM OF *THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON***

**BY**

**Sang Ayu Made Dewi Krisnawati**

**email: krisnawatidewiss@yahoo.com**

**English Department Faculty of Letters & Culture Udayana University**

**Abstrak**

*Jurnal ini berjudul “Conflict of The Main Character in The Film The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menganalisis siapa tokoh utama, menganalisis aspek psikologi dari tokoh utama, mengidentifikasi jenis dari konflik dan bagaimana cara tokoh utama mengatasi konflik tersebut di dalam film karya David Fincher. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Myers (1992) untuk mengidentifikasi jenis konflik yang terjadi pada pemeran utama, Deets dan Stevenson (1986) untuk mencari cara yang digunakan untuk mengatasi konflik yang terjadi. Untuk mengidentifikasi aspek psikologi pada pemeran utama di dalam film The Curious Case of Benjamin Button menggunakan teori dari Bernhardt (1953).*

*Kata kunci: karakter, konflik, psikologi*

**1. Background of The Study**

Literature is the form of human creativity consisting idiom, feeling-idea, spirit and experience using the language as the media and having positive impact to life. Literary work can be used as the reflection of condition when and where the literary work was made. Literary work makes people able to experience the new life trough the story with their imagination. Many people would agree that literature is a word artfully arranget to stimulates feeling and impact understanding. Literature can be divided into three genres:fiction, poetry, and drama. A good work of literature must both entertain and enlighten the readers (Warren and Wallek, 1986 : 107).

Conflict was chosen as the topic of this study because conflict is also as one of the important aspect in the story itself. Many literature work must have conflict in it because without it, the story would not be interesting. The other reason why conflict is

chosen as the topic of this study because as we know nowadays, conflict probably has become the biggest issues in this country, inside the government. Society, family and many more. Therefore hopefully, doing analysis on conflict could open our perspective about what conflict is, and what is the best way to solve it.

## **2. Problem of the Study**

Based on the background, there are two problems that be discuss in this writing, they are :

1. Who the main character in the film “The curious case of Benjamin Button”?
2. What kinds of conflict were faced by the main character in film “The curious case of Benjamin Button”?
3. How does the main character resolve the conflict?

## **3. Aims of the Study**

Based on the problems above, this scientific writing has some aims. They are :

1. To identify who is the main character in the film “The curious case of Benjamin Button”.
2. To identify and describe kind of the conflict was faced by the conflict.
3. To analyze how the main character resolve the conflict.

## **4. Research method**

A method is a procedure or a process adopt to determine the data and then analyze. In this study the methology was divides into three categories. It contains data source, method and technique of collecting data and method and tecnique of analyzing data. Each of the items is explained more detailed as follows.

### **4.1 Data source**

All the data analyze in this writing were taken from film “The curious case of Benjamin Buuton” directed by David Fincher and was produced by Kathleen Kennedy. The film was written by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord. The film was

adapted from the short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald with the same title. Benjamin Button who acted by Brad Pitt is the main character of the story. This film contain of conflict among the characters, Benjamin had a strange growing up, he begins to biologically grow younger. However, the conflict suddenly happened when Daisy got pregnant he realized that her perhaps could not be a father for his daughter.

#### **4.2 Method and technique of collecting data**

The method that used in collecting the data was documentation method. A film “The curious case of Benjamin Button” was selected because it contained the point of conflicts that was interested to analyze. The observation of data source was the most important element. There were three technique in collecting the data. Firstly, watching the film “The curious case of Benjamin Button” and reading the script movie at the same time to make the conversation compatible to each other. Secondly, classifying every conflict experienced by the main character in the film using the theory from Kenney (1966). Last step was note taking and classifying the conflicts that were found in the novel.

#### **4.3 Method and techique of analyzing data**

The film was analyzed per conclit. In analyzing the data, descriptive – qualitativemethod would be applied. The data that have been collected would be identified first and then classified in accordance with their type of conflict. There were two types of conflict found in the film. There are external and internal conflict. There were two types of conflict found in the film. There are external and internal conflict. After knowing the types of conflicts found in the film, the it would be analyzed based on the theory of conflicts found in the film. The it would be analyzed based on the theory of conflict, such as : avoidance, pacification, competition, compromise, and creative integration.

## 5. Conflict of The Main Character in The Film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

### 5.1 The Main Character

Benjamin Button who acted by Brad Pitt is the main character of the story. In the end of World War 1, Benjamin was born in New Orleans. His mother dies shortly after giving his birth and his father Thomas Button took him out and abandoned in the porch a nursing home. Benjamin had a strange growing up, he begins to biological grow younger.

### 5.2 Types of Conflict

- External Conflict

External conflict occurs when a person faces someone else or situation that is working against one's desire or goal. Dispute between the main character and another character or nature. According to the sentence in bold is represent to show the conflict of the story. When Daisy got pregnant he realized that her perhaps could not be a father for his children. Because he was born with unusual circumstances, he grew younger and younger.

BENJAMIN.	What if it has.....what if its like me?
DAISY	Then we'll love it all the more
BENJAMIN .	<b>I want to be father ...not a little brother ...I don't want To be picked up from elementary school by my kid.....I don't want anyone babysitting me.....</b>
DAISY	<b>I'm going to make this work ..this is what I want, and I Want it with you.....</b>
BENJAMIN	<b>You know there's nothing I Wouldn't do for you.....</b>

- Internal conflict

According to the sentence in bold is represent to show the internal conflict of the story. Benjamin struggles within himself. Benjamin is a man who has a strange physical growt. The internal conflict occurred when Benjamin decided to leave his daughter and Daisy. Benjamin fights within his own mind, he thought that Caroline should have a real father, although he wanted to be her father. It can be shown when Benjamin narrated his story by himself that he sold everything he had for both of them.

**BENJAMIN. Isold the summer house on Lake Pontchartain.....I sold myShare on Button's Button....I sold the saiboat....I put it all into an account for your mother... and before you would ever remember me.....**

BENJAMIN. I want you to know I love you..

BENJAMIN. I left, so that you and your mother could have a life

### 5.3 The Resolve of Conflict

- The resolve of external conflict

Benjamin stayed in Paris, helped Daisy with anything she need. He stayed in Paris for awhile, just look out for this daughter. Although he was born with unusual circumstances, he wanted to be father for his own child, even he knows that he will growt younger and younger everyday.

- The resolve of internal conflict

Benjamin regressed psychological as well as psysically, sometimes fighting and struggling with his unique with his unique condition. Benjamin has

a strange growing up, he begin to biologically grow younger. Daisy is adamantly optimistic and assures Benjamin that she can care for him and baby, but Benjamin is not vonvinced. He tells her that she would be disappointed with such a life and that the baby deserves a father and not a playmate.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis and discussion, the following points can be presented as conclusion :

There are two kind of Conflict was faced by main character in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Butto*. Those are external and internal conflict. Conflict is a natural part of any communication relationship. It is an inevitable part of life for a variety of different reasons, internal conflict is something that the character in the novel brings to the story and external conflict occurs when a person faces someone else or situation that is working again one's desire or goal, dispute between the main character and another character or nature.

Benjamin Button as the main character in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* has internal conflict within himself. Benjamin had strange growing up, he begins to biologically grow younger. Benjamin regresses psychologically as well as physically, sometimes fighting and struggking with his urque condition. External conflict faced by Benjamin is when Daisy get pregnant he realized that her perhaps could not be a father for his chilren. Because he was born with unusual circumstance, he grow younger and younger.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bernhardt. 1953. *Practical Psychology*. Canada :McGraw –Hill Book Inc.
- Charlina. 2007. *The Analysis of Conflict in The Da Vinci Code*. Denpasar: Udayana University Press.

- Dewi. 2007. *The Conflict of Jennifer Parker in Rage of Angels*. Denpasar: Udayana University.
- DiYanni. 1994. *Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama and the Essay*. New York: Steven Pesinger, Inc.
- Griffith. 2006. *Writing Essays About Literature*. Boston: Thomson Corporation.
- Hamzah. 1985. *Pengantar Bermain Drama*. Bandung: Rosda Karya
- Kenney. 1966. *How to Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press.
- Kennedy. 1991. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*. New York: Harper Collins Publisher, Inc.
- Knickerbockers. 1963. *Interpreting Literature*. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston.
- Lusiana. 2006. *Conflict of The Main Character in Desire of The Heart*. Denpasar: Udayana University Press.
- Moner. 1998. *NTC's Dictionary of Literature Terms*. Chicago: NTC Publishing Group.
- Morgan. 2003. *Conflict in Fiction* :Foremost Press.
- Myers, Gail E. and Michele F. Myers. 1992. *A Laboratory Approach*. Singapore: McGrawHill, Inc.
- Reaske. 1970. *The Guide College Writer's Guide to the Study of Literature*. New York : Random House.
- Roth. 2008. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. (available from : [www.imbds.com/scripts/curious-case-of-benjamin-button,-The.html](http://www.imbds.com/scripts/curious-case-of-benjamin-button,-The.html))
- Stanford. 1995. *Conflict and the Story of Our Lives: Teaching English For Violence Prevention*. 84:38-42.
- Stanley, Deetz and Stevenson Sheryl L. 1986. *Managing Interpersonal Communication*. University of Michigan. Harper and Row.
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Warre. 1962. *The Theory of Literature*. London Cox and Wyman Ltd.