

THE ANALYSIS OF CONFLICTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS AND SETTING IN RAINBOW ROWELL'S *ELEANOR & PARK*

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INTRODUCTION

Setting is a representation of the time, place, and atmosphere of a story. In literary setting is element part of the intrinsic element that very important in literary works, setting also can influence conflicts and traits of the characters in the story because it is natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own. Besides the setting, conflict is another element of literary works. Conflict is an expression of problem between individuals with other individuals, a group with other groups for several reasons.

In this study, the researcher analyzes about the effect of the setting on main characters and their conflicts in *Eleanor & Park*. This analysis has two purposes: (1) to describe the relation of the setting to the main characters and (2) to describe conflicts which occur and reflected through *Eleanor & Park*. In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses structuralism theory written by Peter Barry [1] and Barnet and Cain [2].

METHOD

The Research studied conflict in the novel *Eleanor & Park* [4] applied a literary approach Structuralism. This study focused on the influence of the setting to main characters and conflicts in the story.

This research used close reading method. According to Jacobus [3] "Close reading is the observation of detail, special use of language, and patterns of repetition, not only begins the process but the basis of interpretation. Close reading takes the form of writing, discussion, or silent observation, it should be based on a careful questioning of the text."

In the process, the text of the novel is read and re-read. The details on the conflicts and the setting that affected to the main characters searched in the text. Special words, phrases, and sentences which contains are related to the research problem are examined. The study conducted by applied a method of close reading. After that, the researcher collected and divided data into several categories. Then, the researcher interpreted it and gave an explanation of the data and made the conclusions.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The researcher analyzed the effect of the setting on both the main characters, and the plot of *Eleanor & Park* [4]. She found that the setting have impacts on the traits of both main characters and made conflicts in their lives. The first main character was Eleanor Douglas, she lived in a broken and poor family, she had a fat body, bright red curly hair and she had very different clothing style that made her schoolmates mocked her. Therefore Eleanor had indifferent, impatient, independent, and brave traits. On the other hand, the second main character was Park Sheridan, he grew up in a harmonious family and he had a strict father, and he was half Korean, which made him different from the people around him and he was tend to enjoy his own world, because of that Park has traits careful, curious, insecure and kind-hearted.

The researcher also found two conflicts that occur in both main characters. The first conflict is external conflict, this conflict occurs between Eleanor with her schoolmates, her stepfather, Park with his friends, his family, and Eleanor with Park. The internal conflict that happened to Eleanor when Park come into her

life, she liked Park but Richie's insult to her made her dilemma, Eleanor felt that her closeness to Park was not a good thing. Besides that, Park also felt dilemma when his mother hated Eleanor, he wanted to tell everything to Eleanor because he does not want to keep any secrets from Eleanor, but he chose not to tell her about his problem with his mother. After running away from Richie's house, Park drove Eleanor to run to her uncle's house in Minnesota. It would endanger him, besides, Eleanor also wanted to return to Richie's house to save her siblings and her mother, but that was a difficult decision, if Eleanor returns, probably she will be torture by Richie and she would not be able to escape again and Eleanor cannot save her family. In the end Eleanor decided to escape to her uncle's house.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The researcher found that the setting could have impacts on the traits of both main characters and create conflicts in their lives. One of the main character, Eleanor Douglas lived in a broken and poor family, she was fat, bright red curly hair and she had a different clothing style that made people around her mocked her. The second main character, Park Sheridan, who grew up in a harmonious family and he had a strict father, and he was half Korean and American Caucasian that made him different physically from the people around him and he was tend to enjoy his own world. Each setting made traits for both main characters and it was bond to the main character's conflicts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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