

A STUDY ON THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICTS IN JOSEPH CONRAD'S *LORD JIM*



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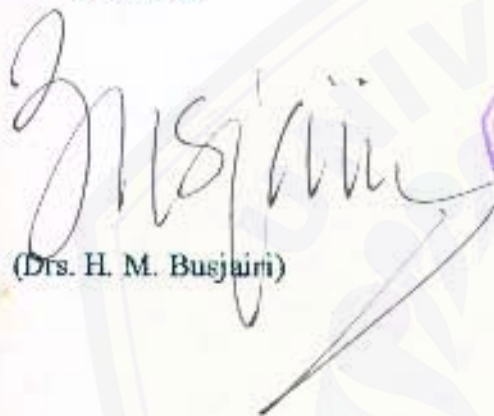
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DEDICATED TO :

♥ My beloved mother Yulia Yuliati and father J.F. Soejono
Your love are the best gift in my life;
I am proud to be your daughter.

♥ My lovely sister Ernie and my dear brother Danny
Thank you for so much love and support;
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I hope and wish that the special moments we have spent together will
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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

Literature as a product of creative process of mind is a reflection of human life, and life is the basic essence of literature. An author creates a literary work in order to be enjoyed, understood, and read by readers. By reading a literary work like a poetry, drama or novel, readers are not only getting amusement but also moral teachings.

According to Hudson, "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experience of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest of all of us (1960:10)." Based on the previous statement, literature cannot be separated from human life.

Literature is also simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (Jones, 1968:1). Therefore, through literary works, we can observe and analyze the experience and behavior of human being.

Novel as a kind of literary work beside poetry and drama has some elements such as a title, plot, theme, point of view, characterization, conflict, etc. In this thesis, the writer tries to discuss about conflicts, especially the psychological conflicts faced by the main character in Conrad's novel entitled *Lord Jim*, because they almost frequently happens in human life, included Jim's life. If psychological conflict cannot be solved, its influence can bring people into dilemma, struggle and despair. In such cases, the problems of solving a conflict can be reduced if a person is able to find the way out. Thus, if he feels that life is full of troubles, it makes him unable to enjoy his life happily.

Lord Jim, a novel written by Joseph Conrad in 1900 portrays the events of psychological conflicts that are possible to occur in one's life, where a man has

to face problems that cause psychological conflict, and in *Lord Jim*, the psychological conflict of Lord Jim as the main character is clearly illustrated. Based on the reason above this thesis entitled "**A Study on the Causes and Effects of the Main Character's Psychological Conflicts in Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim***".

1.2 The Problem to Discuss

Reading in literary work like a novel will enrich the readers's view of life. It can give amusement and moral teaching to them. By learning some characters created by the author, readers will be able to sharpen their feeling and lead them to understand about the characters's conflicts. Readers will understand as well how the characters cope with the conflicts and what kind of conflicts that happen to the them.

Joseph Conrad displayed several kinds of character's conflicts through his novel *Lord Jim*. The idea of the novel is simple enough but it is considered as a great one. The novel tells about a young man named Jim who faces many experiences and problems of life. He experiences psychological conflicts which influence the way of solving them. The conflicts, especially the causes and effects are interesting to discuss in this thesis.

1.3 The Scope of Study

The limitation of the discussion needs to be achieved a better understanding of the topic. The focus of the thesis will be on the causes of Jim's psychological conflicts especially the external causes and the internal causes, and the effects of it upon Jim's life and his surroundings during his lifetime that bring him into tragic life.

1.4 The Approach to Use

A certain approach is necessary to use in the analysis of the data and to get a clear discussion and detailed explanation that deal with the problem. The approach used in this thesis is the psychological approach.

According to Scott, there are three applications of psychological knowledge to art; it concerns with creative process, the study of the life of the author as means of understanding their arts, and to explain fictitious characters (1962: 72). From the three applications, the most suitable approach is the third one because this thesis will discuss about the main character's psychological conflicts.

To support the analysis, sociological study is used because every man is involved in his social life. There is a link that relates him with his society. It means that a person cannot be separated from his surroundings.

1.5 Hypothesis

The hypothesis of the thesis is Jim, the main character of *Lord Jim* who faces many psychological conflicts is gravely struck by his conflicts. He is not able to cope with all of the problems that cause the mental conflicts to happen. The writer wants to prove it to the reader whether or not it happened.

1.6 The Method of Analysis

The method of analysis is deductive method and it explains the materials roughly. It is followed by searching the details about the causes and effects of the mental conflicts which are related to the definition of the terms. The deductive method is used because this method is a way of making a conclusion from general understanding or events to specific ones (Hadi, 1986: 36).

1.7 The Goals of Study -

The main goal of this study is to appreciate Conrad's works especially *Lord Jim*, a great novel with a great simple idea.

There are some purposes of writing the thesis such as to increase the understanding of literary work, to present a precise description about psychological conflicts and to study about the causes and effects of the psychological conflicts. The other purpose is to enrich the writer's knowledge about literature. Finally, the writer hopes this study will be worthwhile for herself and the readers who are interested in Joseph Conrad's works, especially *Lord Jim*.

1.8 The Structure of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter One contains the introduction. It expresses and states the idea of the writer. Chapter Two concerns with the biography of Joseph Conrad and the synopsis of *Lord Jim*. Chapter Three deals with the meaning of the terms, and in this chapter the readers get information about the meaning of main character, conflict and psychological conflicts. Chapter Four or the main discussion of this thesis deals with the analysis of the main character's psychological conflicts, included the causes and effects of the conflicts. Chapter Five is the last chapter of the thesis, it deals with the conclusions of all discussions.

CHAPTER II
THE BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH CONRAD
AND THE SYNOPSIS OF *LORD JIM*

2.1 The Biography of Joseph Conrad

Joseph Conrad was born Teodor Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski on December 3, 1857, the only child of Apollo and Evalina Korzeniowski, a patriotic Polish couple of the Ukraine. The father was esteemed as a poet and a man of letters in Poland, his native land. The mother was a well-born lady with a keen mind and frail health.

When Conrad was five, his father was arrested for revolutionary plots against the Russians and exiled to northern Russia. His mother died from the hardship of prison life three years later.

Conrad's father sent him back to his mother's brother for caring and educating him. His father lived only for four years. Conrad had been a weak child, and all through his life he worried about his health. He received a good education, and on a trip through Switzerland and Italy with his tutor he decided to make the sea his career.

At the age of seventeen, he forsook Poland. He had suffered much from the Russian overlord. He reached Marseilles in October 1874, and for the next twenty years he sailed the seven seas in many ships, most of them sailing vessels.

He left Marseilles in April 1878 and first saw England in June that year as well. He was twenty-one years old and he did not know anything about English. He signed on a ship, *The Skimmer of the Sea*, and made six voyages between Lowestoft and Newcastle. He reached Singapore for the first time in 1883. Here he picked up the story of *Jeddah*, which he afterward made his plot for *Lord Jim*, although he did not begin the book until 1898.

Two of Conrad books, *Mirror of the Sea* and *Nigger of the Narcissus*, describe his life during his twenty years at sea. He became a naturalized British citizen in August

1886. Later in the same year he earned his Masters certificate and that year he began to write his first story, *The Black Mate*.

Conrad spent only eighteen months as a captain of his own vessel; then he resigned to return to England. After this, he went to Africa and almost lost his life in Congo. Here he found the story recorded in *Heart of Darkness*. Then he made two voyages to Australia, and on the second of his voyages, he allowed another person to see some of his writing—the first chapters of *Almayers Folly*.

He left the sea-life in 1894, and his first book, *Almayers Folly*, was sold to a publisher that year. From 1895 to his death, his adventures center around his fictional works.

In May 1898 he began to write *Lord Jim*, his twelfth work of fiction. Although it was not finished yet, it began to appear in *The Blackwoods Magazine* in 1899. Conrad completed it in 1900. Conrad died on August 3, 1924, at the age of sixty-seven.

2.2 The Synopsis of *Lord Jim*

This story introduces its hero, Lord Jim, a water-clerk for a firm of ship-chandlers who has lost his identity and everyone knows him simply as Jim. Jim, born and reared in an English parsons home, decides to make the sea his career and enters a training ship for officers of the merchant marine.

A few time later, an injury from a falling spar puts Jim in the hospital. On recovering, he ships as first mate on the *Patna*, an old iron tramp steamer bound for the holy places with eight hundreds moslem pilgrims. On a calm dark night in the Arabian Sea, the *Patna* runs over some floating wreckage and gets badly holed in her forepeak compartment. The sea is pressing in on the bulkhead where hundreds pilgrims are asleep. With a few life-boats and limited time, there is not any possible salvation. Meanwhile, the skipper and other officers struggle to lower a lifeboat. Jim despises their cowardice and refuses to help them.

The squall closes in and the first gust of wind hits the *Patna*. She plunges. Jim is sure it is her last tremor, so he jumps. Hours of horror follow. The other officers resent Jim's presence in the lifeboat. They watch the light of the *Patna* go out, and Jim hears the screams of the helpless passengers. He is almost ready to throw himself overboard and swim back. Before sundown of the following day, the ship *Avondale* picks up the four men and ten days later delivers them to an eastern port.

A French man-of-war has discovered the *Patna* listing badly, and has towed her into Aden. Jim must face the official inquiry alone. He insists that there was not a chance in a million that the *Patna* could survive. At the inquiry Marlow enters the scene.

Because of his interest, Marlow attends the inquiry and tries to discover why Jim has shown such weakness. A strange and dramatic circumstance brings Marlow and Jim together for the first time. Finally Marlow invites Jim to have dinner at Malabar House, and Jim relates his story.

The inquiry ends. Jim loses his certificate, and Marlow invites him to his hotel room. Marlow finds a job for him, who does well and pleases his employer. Someone has brought up the *Patna*'s affair when he has done his new job and Jim cannot endure it. Under such circumstances, Jim leaves one job to another until every person knows about his story.

Marlow finally confides Jim's problems to Stein, a fine old trader with a fabulous butterfly collection. Stein suggests that he is better going to Patusan, an isolated community in a native state. This offer delights Jim who feels that now he will bury his past and not anyone will ever find him out. Stein gives Jim a silver ring, as a symbol of eternal friendship between him and Doramin, chief of the Bugis Malays in Patusan.

Jim goes to Patusan and he is captured by Tungku Allang's men, but finally he can escape to Doramin's village where by the ring he is welcomed and protected. Doramin's son, Dain Waris, is a strong, intelligent youth about Jim's age. They work

together to put down the vandalism of Sheriff Ali and to bring Tungku Allang under control. Jim has changed, because he has loved and trust of all the Malays, has a noble and beloved friend, Dain Waris, and Jewel, who shares and provides the final requirement for his rehabilitation.

Then, again, the outside world enters Jim's sanctuary in the person of Brown, an Australian renegade who has stolen a ship in Zamboanga, he goes along the river to Patusan. Jim is absent, but the village people under Dain Waris attack the invaders and drive them to a hillock where they throw up temporary defenses. When Jim returns, Doramin, Dain Waris, and all the villagers urge him to destruct the robbers, but Jim decides to talk to Brown.

Brown knows his own vile history. He says Jim has hidden in Patusan because of fear. Jim promises Brown and his men a safe conduct down the river. Then Jim makes a deal to the Malays in which he pledges his own life as security.

Brown, advised and guided by sneaking Cornelius, leaves as planned but treacherously fires on a party of Malays under Dain Waris. The chief's son and many of his soldiers are killed. Survivors bring Dain Waris body to his father, Doramin. On the young man's hand is the silver ring which Jim had sent him as a pledge of Browns good faith. Someone takes the ring and holds it up for Doramin to see.

Meanwhile the awful news has reached Jim. His new life has fallen. The Malays will never trust him again, but Jim decides to cross the creek and climbs the hill to Doramin's village. Doramin shoots Jim on the chest. He flashes a proud and unflinching look on all the Malays and falls at Doramins feet, a hero is dead.

CHAPTER III THE MEANING OF THE TERMS

Before coming to further analysis of the thesis, it is necessary to know the meanings of some terms applied in it. The explanation of them is very useful to help the readers to understand the discussion in the next chapter. These terms are discussed in the three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter consists of the definition of the main character. The second one defines the meaning of conflict, while the third deals with the definition of psychological conflict.

3.1 The Meaning of Main Character

In this thesis the writer tries to study about the psychological conflicts faced by Jim. Thus, the meaning of character and main character need to be explained clearly.

According to Abrams, characters are the persons, in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say - the dialogue - and what they do - the action (1971: 21). From the statement, characters can be explained as the persons in a play or novel who have moral and dispositional qualities expressed in their dialogues and actions.

In the following quotation, Shaw also has several terms about the meaning of character :

This term has several meanings, the most common of which is "the aggregate of traits and features that form the nature of some person or animal." *Character* also refers to moral qualities and ethical standard and principles. In literature, *character* has several other specific meanings, notably that of a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc. (1972: 70-71).

In this quotation, character involves the aggregate of traits and features, moral qualities, ethical standard and principles of some persons, and in literature it means a person portrayed in a story, novel or play.

We can see someone's characteristics from (1) his action, (2) speech, (3) thoughts, (4) physical appearance, and (5) what others characters say or think of him (Shaw, 1972: 71).

It is clear that the definition above show that character is a person represented in a story, novel, or play which is supported by moral and dispositional qualities, ethical standard and principles, expressed by his actions, speech or dialogues, thoughts, physical appearance and what other characters say or think of him.

It is better to know the meaning of the main character itself. The word 'main character' consists of two words, 'main' and 'character'. In *The New Grolier Webster*, main as an adjective means principal, chief, or most eminent; foremost in importance, rank, or size (1974: 575). The combination of these two words means that main character is a person who has most eminent or important role represented in a story, novel, or play. The main character discussed is Jim who experiences many problems which give strong influence in his attitudes and life.

3.2 The Meaning of Conflict

To get the meaning of conflict, Shaw describes the meaning and the types of it. He states:

The opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction is called conflict. Dramatic conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of opposing forces (ideas, interests, wills) in a plot; conflict may be termed the material from which a plot is constructed.

One type of conflict is elemental, or physical: a struggle between man and the physical world. It represents man versus forces of nature.

Another type of conflict is social: a struggle between man and man. Much popular fiction is based on social conflict.

A third kind of conflict is internal, or psychological: a struggle between desires within a person. External forces may be important and other characters may appeared in the narrative but the focus is always upon the central figure's inner turmoil. (1972: 91-92).

The statement above expounds that conflict is a kind of opposition between persons or forces which sustains the action in drama and fiction and construct a plot. It is divided into three types: the elemental or physical, social, and internal or psychological conflicts. The elemental or physical conflict is a conflict which represents man versus forces of nature, for example the struggle of a man facing a sudden storm. The second is social conflict which portrays a struggle between man and man, such as a conflict between two women who love the same man. The third is psychological or internal conflict which represents a struggle between desire within a person, such as Jim's conflict in the novel, he feels flustered whether he jumps from the *Patna* and lost his self-respect as a sailor or stays in it with the pilgrims when the ship is going to sink

From the definitions which explain about conflicts above, the writer concludes that conflict is a kind of opposition, fight, struggle of a person or forces which involves emotions, interests or principles, and it is divided into three categories: elemental or physical conflict, social conflict, and internal or psychological conflict.

3.3 The Meaning of Psychological Conflict

According to Shaw, psychological conflict is a struggle between desire within a person. In this conflict external forces may be important and other characters may appear in the narrative but the focus is always upon the central figure's inner turmoil (1972: 92).

Another definition about psychological conflict is given by Jones. He says in it we find a man struggling against himself, his conscience, his guilt, or simply trying to decide what he is going to do (1968: 31).

From the two statements above, a conclusion is drawn that psychological conflict is a struggle between desires within a person. It exists in a person because of the existence of some motivations, goals or needs to be achieved. The focus of the struggle

itself is one's problems in life. If he cannot solve them, they will disturb and influence his life and mind. Thus the psychological conflict is an unstable condition within a person.



CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Everyone is sure to undergo psychological conflict in his life. Primarily, it happens when one has to select two or more conflicting choices. In such situation, one has to determine his choice and take any risk whatever will happen to him. It also influences individual's thoughts and feelings. If the conflict is unsolved, it will lead into an intensified frustration, a dilemma and despair.

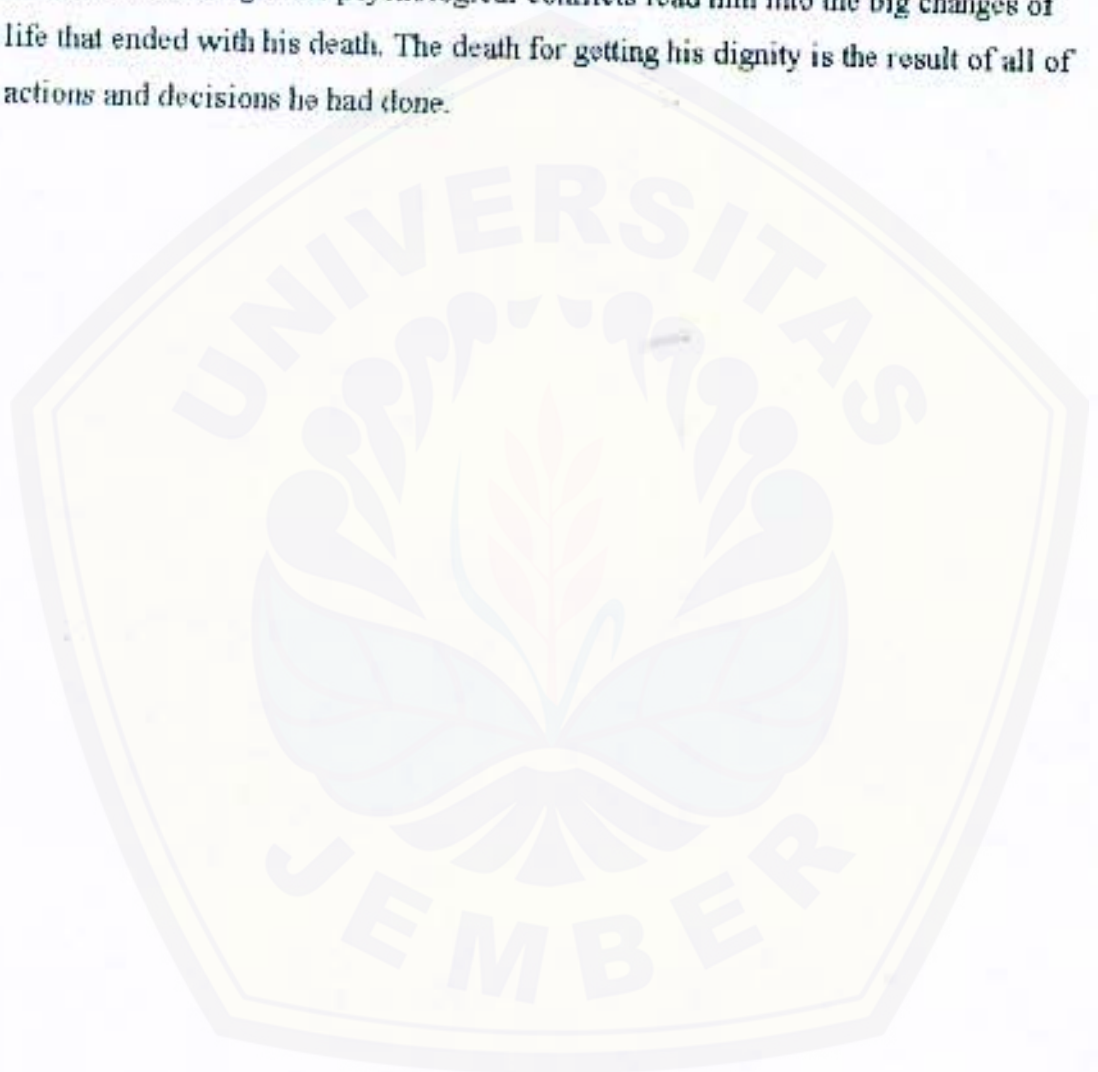
One is hoped to be responsible for the resolution of any conflicts that he experienced. The ways of overcoming the conflict depends on his ability and mental state to cope it.

Jim as the maincharacter of *Lord Jim* faces many psychological conflicts. It begins when he has to decide whether he must stay on the ship, the *Patna* or jump and abandon it like the other officers when it is going to sink. In the last moment he jumps and abandons it. His jumps from the *Patna* is also his jump into "the everlasting deep hole", the deep hole of feeling of guilty, anxiety and inferiority and he has lost his dignity. He feels that his surroundings will not forgive and will humiliate him, so he decides to go to Patusan, an isolated place. He wants to run away from the people who know about the affair.

Apparently, his effort to run away from his gloomy past does not work out. The shadow of his guilty conscience still follows him everywhere he goes. His new surroundings and new friends cannot help him to overcome his feeling of guilty because he is still haunted by his past and he cannot forgive himself. The coming of the outer world in his sanctuary always makes him afraid. He thinks that it will bring his gloomy past back into his new life. Indeed, it is only his feeling that is influenced by his guilt and anxiety, and it poisons himself in making any decisions. The fatal decision that he has taken is his decision of letting the Brown party go freely. It causes the death of

Dain Waris and many of the Bugis people. He must redeem it with his death, shot by Doramin, his own friend.

Psychological conflict may happen to everyone because man is weak and may fall into an unguarded moment and so does Jim. He has fallen into a deep hole of his guilty feeling that he cannot forgive himself. He lives in his past although he has his new life in his new surroundings. His psychological conflicts lead him into the big changes of his life that ended with his death. The death for getting his dignity is the result of all of the actions and decisions he had done.



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