

SOCIAL DILEMMA OF THE

MAIN CHARACTER

IN THE NOVEL *THE HEIR*

BY KIERA CASS

Ryan Adi Nugroho

Henny Suharyati

Ade S. Natawiria

Abstract

In this thesis, the problem discussed focuses on the influence of the social dilemma of the main character in the novel *The Heir* by Kiera Cass. Eadlyn's dilemma was a problem she faced in her own family that forced her to complete *The Selection* and her dream of becoming a royal ruler. This research uses descriptive analyst method, based on the psychological approach of *ID*, *ego*, *super ego* and research techniques based on library research. The results of the research prove that dilemma can influence the decision of the main character that makes the main character sacrifice her dreams to her parents for the sake of the kingdom rather than her own desires. The dilemma of exogenous factors experienced by the main character in the novel *The Heir* by Kiera Cass has a greater role in influencing decisions taken by the main character and it also affects the social life of the main character in the form of conflict between the main character and her family and changes in her nature, from being stubborn to being caring and compassionate.

Keywords: *dilemma, conflict, main character*

INTRODUCTION

Background

Amongst living creatures, humans have the ability to develop better and are given the mind to feel and see what is happening around them, placing themselves as social creatures in the middle of society. Abilities are influenced from within humans themselves that support humans in their changes (Walgito, 2010. 45). There are two factors that determine human development, namely nature (basic) or endogenous factors, and state or environmental factors called exogenous factors. Endogenous factors are factors brought by an individual since his mother's womb is derived from genetic fusion between a man and a woman. So, endogenous factors are hereditary (Walgito, 2010. 48). An example is genetic factors in the human body that are passed down by parents such as DNA and human blood. Exogenous factors are factors that come from outside the individual, constituting experiences, community environment, personal self improvisation, surroundings, education and so on (Walgito, 2010. 50).

The family is the most primary social environment in an individual's life. Members with each other have a very close relationship. So the role of parents as educators in the family plays a very big influence on the development of the individual itself.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND FORMULATION

The dilemma is one of the elements that often appears in fictional stories as revealed in *The Heir*, a novel written by Kiera Cass. Dilemmas derived from endogenous and exogenous factors greatly affect the social life of the main character in this story. In addition, this also influences on how the main character makes important decisions.

The Heir tells the story of a main character named Eadlyn who is destined to be the heir to the throne and ruler of women for the first time in the kingdom of Illéa. Conflicts and problems that occurred in the Illaeon royal

community resulted in the royal authorities making a scenario of issues that forced Eadyln to participate in the selection, which ended with the election of 1 of 35 youths to become Eadyln's life partners. This led to the main character, Eadyln, rejecting the idea and insisting on her dream to remain the absolute ruler of the kingdom of Illéa. On the other hand, Eadyln's parents, King Maxom and Queen America, hoped that Eadyln could ease the atmosphere in the kingdom of Illéa and follow the selection to end the conflict and get her a life partner. These are two exogenous factors which are a dilemma for Eadyln and also a problem that affects her social life as the main character.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Character is one important element in addition to other elements. With characters, the story presented by the author comes more alive. The presence of a character also distinguishes a narrative literary work from ordinary narrative paragraphs (Atmazaki, 1990. 61). Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2005. 165), revealed that the character (characters) are people who are displayed in a narrative work or drama interpreted by the reader has certain moral qualities and tendencies expressed in words and what is done in action. Characters are purely fictional. Although in the real world it does not exist, similarities with certain individuals can occur, because the author is inspired by everyday events in making his literary work. Nurgiyantoro, in his book, divides the role of characters in two parts, namely the main or core and side or auxiliary characters (Nurgiyantoro, 2007. 176-177).

The setting or setting is able to influence the life of a person or character in a story. This was revealed by Partini Sardjono in her book *Literary Terms of the Novel*. "*The setting of the novel is the background against which the characters live out their lives. In*

some novels the setting is important, while in others it is less so. The settings can be concerned with the place in which they live. These have a great effect upon personalities, actions and ways of thinking of the characters" (Sardjono, 1992. 9). Background as a dynamic element helps to develop other elements. The setting can determine the type of character of the story, conversely also certain types of characters who want a certain background as well. The setting can also reveal the character's character. Background relationships with other elements may be in harmony, or it may also be in contrast.

Conflict is a conflict between two different things, whether in action, ideas, desire, or desires. Perrine gives an explanation of the types of conflict, as in the following quotation. "*The main character may be pitted against some other person group of persons (man against man conflict); he may be in conflict with some external force, physical nature, society or "fate" (man against environmental conflict); or may be in conflict with some elements in his own nature*" (man against himself conflict). (Perrine, 1996. 42) According to Wellek and Warren, the conflict is something dramatic, referring to the fight between two balanced forces and implying action and response reactions. Conflicts can be divided into three types: one, the character's conflict with the character, two, the character's conflict with himself, and finally the character's conflict with his environment (Wellek & Warren, 1989. 285).

In addition to conflict, plot is also very important in a story. Plot, according to Atar Semi, is a functional interrelation which simultaneously marks the order of parts in the whole of fiction (Semi, 2002. 43-45). Plot is a very important basic framework. Plot regulates how actions must be related to each other, how one event has a relationship with another event, how the characters are depicted and play a role in those events which are all arranged in a unity of time.

RESEARCH METHODS

In analyzing the novel *The Heir* by Kiera Cass, the writer uses descriptive analysis research method. This method aims to explain and review literary works based on the data obtained, relating to the title of the study. While the author's data collection is collected through library research, namely from primary sources, secondary sources and books on literary theory and the internet.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eadyln experienced dilemma that made her struggle to find the best way to deal with the two problems she faced. Eadyln had to choose between following *The Selection*, which became a diversion in relieving chaos and heated conditions in the society of the kingdom of Illéa which would end with the election of a prince who would marry her, or ignore the chaos that was happening and continue to choose not to marry, and become the ruler of the kingdom of Illéa that had been promised by her parents that she had dreamed of from childhood to eighteen years.

The conflict began when Eadyln's mother convinced her to take part in *The Selection*. Eadyln tried to remind her mother about the promise she had made that she would never force her to marry for any reason. The decision forced upon her made her angry because it might ruin her dream of becoming the sole ruler of the kingdom of Illéa. She felt that following *The Selection* was not the right thing, she refused to do it and thought that this problem should not occur in her life. The conflict continued between Eadyln and her father. She strongly disagrees with her father's decision forcing her to follow *The Selection*. Her father, who was unable to provide any other choice, upset Eadyln. The *id* that is in her, which is her stubborn sense of her desires, drives her to fight against a choice that is not desired by her.

The main character's dilemma occurs when the two problems appear in her life, the problems within her own family that force her to complete *The Selection*, which is a diversion of circumstances that occur within the kingdom, and the problems experienced by herself, which is her dream of becoming the ruler of the kingdom that has been promised by her parents. In this case, she is required to choose and solve all these problems. Eadyln's *ego* chose to try to solve the problems that occurred in the royal environment. With the condition getting worse, she chose to continue to run *The Selection* for the family and the future of her kingdom. She realized that this was the last option available to solve the problem that was happening in the kingdom.

The dilemma experienced by Eadyln caused her inner pressure because of her parents' choices and desires. This also made Eadyln experience a change of attitude in her choices, still vacillating between following her parents or maintaining her position. In her family, after Eadyln's parents insisted her on following *The Selection*, Eadyln felt that no one understood the circumstances she was in which made her experience conflict with her parents.

The *id* that is in Eadyln makes him always debating the choices that have been given by his parents. He was upset with his parents who always discussed about his future and the problems of love that Eadyln had to do even though not with a heartfelt feeling. He still wants his wish

The conflict continued between Eadyln and her father. After the incident that occurred in the opening ceremony of *The Selection*, she was annoyed with her mother and younger brother who always blamed her for the circumstances. The *Id* in Eadyln made her feel that she no longer wanted to run *The Selection* especially when it is forced on her.

Eadyln was upset with her family for not thinking about her feelings and

embarrassing herself as much as she did in carrying out *The Selection*. The choice forced by her parents against Eadlyn's will made her angry towards her family and everything that happened and because of this, *The Selection* was done half-heartedly.

Eadlyn realized that what her parents wanted was not only because of their interests, but also the interests of the kingdom, she felt it was her responsibility towards her kingdom as the next ruling candidate. Eadlyn spoke with Kile who expressed his desire to give his best effort in running *The Selection*. The ego within Eadlyn, made her follow the wishes of her parents earnestly even though half-heartedly because she felt that the choice was the best choice for now.

The dilemma of parental choice forced on Eadlyn was also very influential towards her social life. Her family life was not harmonious, she was involved in many conflicts with people around her, especially with her father and mother. After several days, Eadlyn underwent *The Selection*, she often quarreled with her parents over the events that occurred during *The Selection* took place, it was because of the things that were wanted in *The Selection* which aimed to distract the public's attention, not in accordance with what was expected by Eadlyn. Like the royal community's unhappy treatment of her, she was also upset with her father and mother who did not understand the problems they were experiencing. With the problems she faced, Eadlyn had to determine which choice she had to make, stick to her position and stop running *The Selection* or stick with the situation and continue running *The Selection* until it ended to solve the problems that existed in royal society.

Eadlyn persevered in running *The Selection* with all her heart. She discovered the meaning of following *The Selection*, experiencing and meeting new friends. Eadlyn felt the excitement and excitement in her family and friends that had never occurred to

her in undergoing *The Selection*. Eadlyn, who initially had a strong desire for her dream, forgot for a moment about her ambition. Eadlyn felt harmony in her family that she could never imagine doing if she fought for the choices that her parents had forced her.

The *ids* which are the true nature of the main character is when Eadlyn tells herself about her feelings for the people around her that mean a lot to her. The *id* in Eadlyn is the pure nature of Eadlyn, which is a feeling of ignoring others and being stubborn about their desires. The original character of the main character can also be seen when Eadlyn tells herself that if all this does not mean to her she will ignore it and leave, but she is aware of what is happening to her parents and younger siblings with all the problems that are happening now. The *id* in Eadlyn is the pure nature of Eadlyn, which is a feeling of ignoring others and being stubborn about their desires. Eadlyn's *Id* is when she did not want to finish *The Selection* and did not care about this problem was defeated by Eadlyn's *ego* which was a feeling of wanting to help her parents who were experiencing deep sadness, she could sacrifice her greatest desire for the sake of the kingdom and those around her. Here, too, the *superego* was very influential on the decision taken by Eadlyn, she felt her choice was the best taken by her in the situation.

Conclusion

The dilemma contained in the text is related to the sacrifice of someone's dream for someone else. The sacrifice indicates how a person is willing to sacrifice his dreams for the sake of others. In this case, for the sake of Eadlyn's parents and for the sake of the kingdom rather than her own desires. The main character faces two problems at once, namely the problem in her own family which forces her to complete *The Selection* which is a diversion of circumstances that occur within the kingdom. While the problems experienced within herself is her desire to make her dream

come true, which is her desire to become the ruler of the kingdom that has been promised to her by her parents. This is where the dilemma lies in the main character, for these two issues are important to her. She must choose one to be resolved, because if the main character resolves the problems all at once then these two problems will not be solved properly.

Guilt within herself and her regret for what had happened in the family, especially for what had happened to her mother, made the main character prefer to solve the problem rather than realizing her dream. This is what the purpose of this research wants to convey by analyzing this novel, the main character in this story faces problems between choosing families or desires.

The guilt experienced by Eadlyn is what makes her more inclined to choose to overcome the problems that occur in the kingdom. Life that was originally very calm and harmonious turned into a life that caused a lot of conflict. This also changes the nature of the main character from being stubborn to being caring and loving.

This research proves that the dilemma faced by the main character causes her to sacrifice her dreams for the sake of the kingdom. The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is the dilemma of exogenous factors experienced by the main character in the novel *The Heir* by Kiera Cass plays a greater role in influencing the decisions taken by the main character and it also affects the social life of the main character.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atmazaki, 1990. *Ilmu Sastra Teori dan Terapan*. Padang: Angkasa Raya.

Danandjaja, James. 2007. *Folklor Indonesia: ilmu gosip, dongeng, dan lain-lain*. Jakarta: Pustaka Utama Grafiti.

Endraswara, Suwardi. 2013. *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Center Academic Publishin Service.

Fandom. 2015. *The Selection Series*. Retrived from: https://theselection.fandom.com/wiki/The_Heir on January 02, 2019

Hartoko, Dick. 1986. *Pemandu Di Dunia Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Kanisius

Johnson, Julie West. Et. Al. 1983. *Littell Literature* New York: McDougal, Littell & Company.

Mido, Frans. 1994. *Cerita Rekaan dan Seluk-Beluknya*. Jakarta: Ikrar Mandiri Abadi.

Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. 1994. *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.

Perrine, Laurence. 1971. *Story and Structure*. New york: Hartcout Brave Jovanevich, Inc.

Sardjono, Partini. 1992. *Literary Term of the Novel*. Bogor: Universitas Pakuan.

Sudjiman, Panuti. 1991. *Memahami Cerita Rekaan*. Jakarta: Pustaka Jaya.

Walgito, Bimo. 1992. *Pengantar Psikologi Umum*. Yogyakarta: Andi.

Wellek, Rene dan Austin Warren. 1989. *Teori Kesusastaan*. Jakarta: Gramedia.

Windiyarti, Dara. 2010. *Citra Diri Perempuan Dalam Kumpulan Cerpen*. Yogyakarta: Elmatara Publishing.