

ANALYSIS ON THE CONFLICTS OF MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL “THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY” BY JENNY HAN

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Abstract:

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Conflict was a central theme in many novels, driving both the plot and character development. This study aimed to: (1) identify the main character's internal conflicts in the novel “*The Summer I Turned Pretty*” by Jenny Han, (2) identify the main character's external conflicts in the novel, and (3) determine the dominant type of conflict experienced by the main character, Belly, in the same novel. The study examined two elements of conflict: internal and external. External conflict was further categorized into three types: character against character, character against nature, and character against society. The research employed a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing data sourced from “*The Summer I Turned Pretty*”. Data collection involved reading the novel, finding, selecting, classifying, analyzing, counting, and making conclusion from the data. Data analysis used the framework proposed by Kenney (1966). The results revealed 122 instances of internal conflict. For external conflicts, there were 70 instances of character against character, 9 instances of character against nature, and 4 instances of character against society.

Key words: *External Conflict, Internal Conflict, Main Character, Novel*

Abstrak:

Konflik adalah tema sentral dalam banyak novel, mendorong plot dan pengembangan karakter. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk: (1) mengidentifikasi konflik internal tokoh utama dalam novel “*The Summer I Turned Pretty*,” (2) mengidentifikasi konflik eksternal tokoh utama dalam novel, dan (3) menentukan jenis konflik dominan yang dialami oleh tokoh utama dalam novel Jenny Han “*The Summer I Turned Pretty*.” Studi ini meneliti dua elemen konflik: konflik internal dan eksternal. Konflik eksternal selanjutnya dikategorikan menjadi tiga jenis: karakter melawan karakter, karakter melawan alam, dan karakter melawan masyarakat. Metode penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data bersumber dari novel “*The Summer I Turned Pretty*” karya Jenny Han. Karakter utama yang dianalisis dalam penelitian ini adalah Belly. Pengumpulan data meliputi membaca novel, menemukan, memilih, mengklasifikasikan, menganalisis, menghitung, dan membuat kesimpulan

dari data. Analisis data menggunakan teori yang diusulkan oleh Kenney (1966). Hasilnya mengungkapkan 122 data konflik internal. Untuk konflik eksternal, ada 70 data karakter melawan karakter, 9 data karakter melawan alam, dan 48 data karakter dengan karakter lain.

Kata Kunci: *Konflik Eksternal, Konflik Internal, Tokoh Utama, Novel.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the expression of human life that is inseparable from the roots of society (Endraswara S., 2013). Literature is utilized as a reference or source of knowledge for various intellectual and entertainment purposes. Novels are literary works intended to educate and entertain the reader. Kenney (1966) defines a novel as a long narrative fiction and a replication of real circumstances. Novels come in various genres, including romance, mystery, science fiction, and historical fiction. Novels often include a complex storyline, well-developed characters, and a detailed environment. The storyline of a good novel builds on conflict, which is a crucial aspect of attracting the reader's interest.

A story might become boring and repetitive, if there is no conflict. In line with that, McKee (2010) defines conflict as a story's "heart and soul". Conflict occurs when an issue arises from the interaction between the characters, which should be solved. Wellek and Warren (1956) say that a conflict is a dramatic event between two equal powers that results in a lack of action and reaction. According to Kenney (1966), conflict is classified into two types: internal conflict and external conflict.

According to Koesnoesoebroto (1984), is a conflict that arises inside the character in a literary work. Internal conflict happens mainly within a single character, or conflict between character against self. External conflict is a conflict between characters and outside causes (Kenney, 1966). The external conflict might be a brawl, argument, dispute, or just opposition between two parties. External conflict divide into 3 types; 1) character against other characters occurs when the character struggles or conflicts with another character, 2) character against nature is external conflict that pits the hero against animals or natural forces such as a hurricane or tornado, as well as snow, 3) character against society (social conflict) occurs when characters strive against the beliefs, practices, or habits of others. The main character is usually the one with whom the reader has the closest emotional connection and who undergoes the most dramatic change or growth throughout the story. According to (Nurgiyantoro, 2013), the main character is the person whose story is essential in the literature and who is told the most about in the story.

"The Summer I Turned Pretty," as an example of a novel that adapted into a series with a tricky conflict. *"The Summer I Turned Pretty"* by Jenny Han is a young-adult romance book published by Simon & Schuster in 2009. The researcher chose Jenny Han's work *"The Summer I Turned Pretty"*

to be analyzed since no research was conducted on it, and the researcher was interested in the conflicts that occurred in the stories from beginning to ending. This study aimed to describe and reflect the internal & external conflicts also find out the most dominant type of the main character's conflict in Jenny Han's novel *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.

METHOD

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research as a method because it focused solely on a single topic. Descriptive qualitative research involves describing phenomena through words or pictures rather than numerical data (Endraswara, 2011). This research employed descriptive content analysis. Descriptive content analysis aims to offer a detailed description of a message or text (Munirah, 2015). The research object was the main character in the novel "*The Summer I Turned Pretty*" by Jenny Han. The data source was the script of the novel which contained 276 pages. The data for this study consist of words, phrases, expressions, or utterances that contain or describe internal and external conflicts. the researcher herself or with the assistance of others serves as the instrument of primary data collection. Nasution (1989) similarly asserts that the researcher acts as the main instrument in data gathering, fulfilling roles such as planner, implementer, data collector, analyzer, data interpreter, and pioneer of the research results. the researcher employs a supporting instrument, namely notes, to gather data.

In the process of collecting data, the researcher proceeded through several distinct steps; 1) reading the novel comprehensively to gain a thorough understanding the storyline and content. 2) the researcher actively sought out and identified both the internal and external conflicts that arose and confronted the main character throughout the narrative. 3) the researcher carefully selected and extracted data that was pertinent to the research questions, involved taking detailed notes. 4) the researcher identified the collected data to categorize the types of conflicts. 5) this analytical phase involved examining the notes and extracted data to uncover patterns, themes, and insights related to the internal and external conflicts experienced by the main character. The data were analyzed qualitatively and presented descriptively based on the theory of literature, using the framework proposed by Kenney (1966).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher applied William Kenney's theory while identified the internal and external conflicts in the novel "*The Summer I Turned Pretty*". The frequency data from the novel indicated a total of 249 conflicts, with internal conflicts being the most dominant at 122 instances. External conflicts were divided into character against other characters (70 data), character against nature (9 data), and

character against society (48 data). The high total of internal conflicts (122) compared to external conflicts (70 character against other character, 9 character against nature, and 48 character against society). This discovery was then organized into the table below:

Table 1. The Results of Dominant Types of Conflict

No.	Type of Conflict	Amount
1.	Internal Conflict	122
	a) Character against Self	
2.	External Conflict	
	a. Character against Other Characters	70
	b. Character against Nature	9
	c. Character against Society	48
	Total	249

1. The Internal Conflicts of the Main Character in the Novel “The Summer I Turned Pretty” by Jenny Han.

This study analyzed data on internal conflicts in the novel *"The Summer I Turned Pretty"*. The researcher applied William Kenney's theory to analyze internal conflict (character against self). To clarify the data collecting process, the researcher defined **Cp.** as a chapter and **p.** as a page. The results were as follow:

Table 2. Internal Conflict (Character Against Herself)

Data	Quote	Characteristics
1.	<i>"Go faster," I urged Steven, poking him in the shoulder. "Let's pass that kid on the bike." (Cp. 1, p. 1)</i>	Conflicting desires and needs
2.	<i>"Are you thinking about Conrad?" he asked mockingly. For once the answer was no. "No," I snapped. (Cp. 1, p. 2)</i>	Psychological struggle
3.	<i>"What happened with you and Jeremiah? You can't say something like that and not explain." (Cp. 1, p. 2)</i>	Difficult decisions
4.	<i>"Well, too bad. My contacts are here to stay." (Cp. 1, p. 5)</i>	Psychological struggle
5.	<i>"It's not that. You just look different." (Cp. 1, p. 5)</i>	Psychological struggle

Data 1

"Go faster," I urged Steven, poking him in the shoulder. "Let's pass that kid on the bike."
(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 1)

The quote primarily reflected conflicting desires and needs. Belly had a desire to go faster and pass the kid on the bike, which conflicted with the need to remain calm or patient. Belly tried to satisfy

this personal desire even though it might have disturbed Steven's comfort or decision, indicating an internal conflict between the urgent desire and the need to respect the situation at that moment.

Data 2

"Are you thinking about Conrad?" he asked mockingly. For once the answer was no. "No," I snapped.

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 2)

The main character Belly faced a psychological struggle. When asked mockingly if she was thinking about Conrad, she unexpectedly replied with a firm. The response indicated a significant internal conflict within her. Although she was usually preoccupied with thoughts of Conrad, this time she was not, which revealed her conflicting desires and needs. This internal conflict impacted her interactions, as evidenced by her sharp and defensive reply.

Data 3

"What happened with you and Jeremiah? You can't say something like that and not explain."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 2)

Belly experienced an internal conflict regarding her relationship with Jeremiah. She was confronted with difficult decisions about whether to reveal the details of their situation. This quote illustrated Belly's conflicting desires and needs; on one hand, she wanted to be honest, but on the other hand, she feared the repercussions of exposing her feelings.

Data 4

"Well, too bad. My contacts are here to stay."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 5)

This statement revealed their psychological struggle as they faced dissatisfaction from impediments, specifically the challenges and discomfort of wearing contact lenses.

Data 5

"It's not that. You just look different."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 6)

This psychological struggle illustrated Belly's difficulty in reconciling her self-image with others' perceptions, ultimately impacting her interactions and self-esteem.

The researcher found 122 data internal conflicts. Internal conflict identified in the novel are central to Belly's character development. They provide insight into her emotional world and the challenges she faced as she transitions from adolescence to young adulthood.

2. The External Conflicts of the Main Character in the Novel "The Summer I Turned Pretty" by Jenny Han.

Based on the theory of external conflicts by Kenny (1966), there were characteristics of external conflict from character against other character, character against nature, character against society.

a. Character Against Other Character

Table 2. Character Against Other Character

Data	Quote	Characteristic
1.	<i>"Belly, do you still like Conrad? From the looks of things last summer, I thought there might be something between you and Jeremiah." (Cp. 1, p. 2)</i>	Personal interactions
2.	<i>"Conrad had come to the boardwalk for her. He'd brought me because he hadn't wanted to come alone" (Cp. 2, p. 9)</i>	Emotional intensity
3.	<i>"Conrad was confused, which was annoying. 'Do you want to know her?' I asked impatiently. 'I guess.' I grabbed him...." (Cp. 2, p. 9)</i>	Emotional intensity
4.	<i>"Then Conrad and Steven stood up, circling me. 'You can't fight tradition,' Steven said. Conrad just grinned evilly." (Cp. 3, p. 11)</i>	Direct opposition
5.	<i>"He pulled on my foot, drawing me closer. Being this close to him was making me feel dizzy and nervous. I said it again..." (Cp. 3, p. 13)</i>	Personal interactions

CHAPTER 1

Data 1

"Belly, do you still like Conrad? From the looks of things last summer, I thought there might be something between you and Jeremiah."
(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 2)

Belly faced conflict when her mother probed about her romantic interests, putting her in an uncomfortable position and potentially revealing her personal feelings to her family. It showed personal interactions.

CHAPTER 2

Data 2

"Conrad had come to the boardwalk for her. He'd brought me because he hadn't wanted to come alone and he hadn't wanted Steven and Jeremiah to give him a hard time. That was it. That was the whole reason. I could see it all in the way he looked at her, the way he almost seemed to hold his breath."
(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 9)

Belly experienced heartbreak when she realizes that Conrad, whom she has feelings for, was more interested in another girl at the boardwalk. This creates an emotional conflict between Belly and Conrad, as her expectations and hopes were dashed by his interest in someone else. It described emotional intensity.

Data 3

"Conrad was confused, which was annoying. 'Do you want to know her?' I asked impatiently. 'I guess.' I grabbed him by his shirt sleeve and walked right up to the booth."
(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 9)

It expressed emotional intensity. Belly's jealousy and frustration surfaced when she confronted Conrad about his interest in the girl at the ring toss booth. This moment highlighted the tension and

conflict between Belly and the new girl, fueled by Belly's feelings for Conrad and her disappointment in his behavior.

Data 4

"He pulled on my foot, drawing me closer. Being this close to him was making me feel dizzy and nervous. I said it again, one last time, even though I didn't mean it. 'Conrad, let go of me.' He did. And then he dunked me."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 13)

Belly faced a physical and emotional conflict with Conrad when he held onto her foot and then dunked her in the pool. This moment not only showed a playful physical struggle but also an underlying tension in their relationship, where Belly's request to let go was ignored momentarily, creating a sense of conflict

Data 5

"Susannah swept me in for a hug, the close kind that's long enough to make you wonder how long it's going to last, who'll pull away first."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 15)

Belly experienced a brief, subtle conflict with Susannah during the long hug. Although it was affectionate, the extended duration makes Belly uncomfortable, leading her to internally wonder who will pull away first. It showed personal interactions.

b. Character Against Nature

Table 3. Character Against Nature

Data	Quote	Characteristic
1.	<i>"The air tasted just the same, smelled just the same. The wind making my hair feel sticky, the salty sea breeze, all of it felt just right." (Cp. 1, p. 2)</i>	Symbolism
2.	<i>"It was one of those perfect summer nights, the kind where there's a cool breeze and not one drop of rain. There would be rain tomorrow, but that night there were cool breezes and that was it." (Cp. 2, p. 8)</i>	Environmental challenges and symbolism
3.	<i>"I knew it was futile to resist, but I always tried, even though the bottoms of my feet got burned along the pavement in the process. (Cp. 3, p. 17)</i>	Physical and mental strength
4.	<i>"I hit the water with a loud smack. Underwater, I could hear them busting up. The Belly Flop was something they'd started about a million summers ago. Probably it had been Steven. I hated it.... Somebody's little sister" (Cp. 2, p. 11)</i>	environmental challenge and symbolism related to physical strength and survival
5.	<i>"We were playing cards outside on the porch, and my mother and Susannah were drinking margaritas and playing their own card game. The sun was starting to go down, and soon the mothers would have to go inside and boil corn and hot dogs. But not yet. First, they played cards." (Cp. 11, p. 33)</i>	Symbolism

CHAPTER 1

Data 1

"The air tasted just the same, smelled just the same. The wind making my hair feel sticky, the salty sea breeze, all of it felt just right."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 2)

The characteristics depicted in this context are symbolism. This is because Belly's harmonious connection with nature illustrates her internal conflict against the mundane or stressful aspects of her life, finding solace and comfort in the familiar natural environment.

CHAPTER 2

Data 2

"It was one of those perfect summer nights, the kind where there's a cool breeze and not one drop of rain. There would be rain tomorrow, but that night there were cool breezes and that was it."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 8)

The chapter set the scene with a description of a perfect summer night, indicating that nature was not a source of conflict in this instance. The anticipation of rain the next day subtly foreshadows potential future conflicts, but in this chapter, nature was benign and sets a peaceful backdrop for the unfolding personal drama. It was emphasizing environmental challenges and symbolism.

CHAPTER 3

Data 3

"I knew it was futile to resist, but I always tried, even though the bottoms of my feet got burned along the pavement in the process."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 17)

Belly experienced a minor external conflict against nature when the hot pavement burned her feet as she was dragged by the boys. This physical discomfort from the environment added to her overall struggle in the situation but was a less significant aspect compared to her conflicts with the characters. It was emphasizing physical and mental strength.

Data 4

"I hit the water with a loud smack. Underwater, I could hear them busting up. The Belly Flop was something they'd started about a million summers ago. Probably it had been Steven. I hated it. Even though it was one of the only times I was included in their fun, I hated being the brunt of it. It made me feel utterly powerless, and it was a reminder that I was an outsider, too weak to fight them, all because I was a girl. Somebody's little sister."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 11)

In this scene, the water acted as a natural element that Belly had to contend with. Her feelings of powerlessness and being overwhelmed were exacerbated by the physical sensation of being thrown into the pool, highlighting her struggle against not just the boys but also the water itself. This represented an external conflict where Belly's struggle against the water and boys underscored the environmental challenge and symbolism related to physical strength and survival.

CHAPTER 11

Data 5

"We were playing cards outside on the porch, and my mother and Susannah were drinking margaritas and playing their own card game. The sun was starting to go down, and soon the mothers would have to go inside and boil corn and hot dogs. But not yet. First, they played cards."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 33)

The setting sun signified the passage of time and how the characters must adjust their activities to the changing natural conditions. Although not a direct conflict, it showed how nature influences their schedule and actions, subtly presenting an external conflict against nature. The setting sun symbolized the passage of time and the characters' adaptation to changing natural conditions, highlighting an external conflict with nature's influence on their schedule and actions.

c. Character Against Society

Table 4. Character Against Society

Data.	Quote	Characteristic
1.	<i>"People like you shouldn't even be allowed to drive." (Cp. 1, p. 1)</i>	Societal norms
2.	<i>"The first thing I noticed about her was her shorts. They were canary yellow, and they were really, really short. The exact same kind of shorts that the boys had made fun of me for wearing two days before...better on her" . (Cp. 2, p. 8)</i>	Societal norms
3.	<i>"In the car Susannah kept smiling at me in the rearview mirror. I gave her a look like, Quit, please--but I wanted to smile back." (Cp. 2, p. 8)</i>	Rebellion or conformity and societal norms.
4.	<i>"It made me feel utterly powerless, and it was a reminder that I was an outsider, too weak to fight them, all because I was a girl. Somebody's little sister." (Cp. 3, p. 12)</i>	Rebellion or conformity and societal norms.
5.	<i>"You look thin," I told her, partly because it was true and partly because I knew she loved to hear it. She was always on a diet, always watching what she ate." (Cp. 4, p. 15)</i>	Societal norms and impact on others.

CHAPTER 1

Data 1

"People like you shouldn't even be allowed to drive."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 1)

Steven's derogatory remark towards Belly reflected societal biases or judgments, highlighting the external conflict Belly faced due to societal expectations or stereotypes based on her identity or personality. This situation illustrated the impact of societal norms on individuals' interactions and perceptions.

CHAPTER 2

Data 2

"The first thing I noticed about her was her shorts. They were canary yellow, and they were really, really short. The exact same kind of shorts that the boys had made fun of me for wearing two days before. I felt so good about buying those shorts with Susannah, and then the boys had laughed at me for it. The shorts looked a whole lot better on her."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 8)

Belly faces societal pressures and judgments about her appearance. The boys' earlier teasing about her shorts and the comparison to how the ring toss girl looks in similar shorts highlight Belly's struggle with societal standards of beauty and acceptance. This situation underscores the impact of societal norms on individuals' self-perception and interactions.

Data 3

"In the car Susannah kept smiling at me in the rearview mirror. I gave her a look like, Quit, please--but I wanted to smile back."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 8)

The subtle pressure from Susannah, Belly's mother figure, reflected societal expectations of parental involvement and approval. Belly's mixed feelings about Susannah's encouragement and her desire for independence represented a conflict between her own desires and the societal role of parental oversight. This situation illustrated the characteristics of rebellion or conformity and societal norms.

CHAPTER 3

Data 4

"It made me feel utterly powerless, and it was a reminder that I was an outsider, too weak to fight them, all because I was a girl. Somebody's little sister."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 12)

Belly's conflict against societal norms was evident in her feeling of powerlessness and being treated as an outsider because she was a girl. This highlighted her struggle against gender norms and societal roles that made her feel weaker and less significant compared to the boys. This societal pressure added to her external conflicts, reinforcing her sense of exclusion and frustration. This situation illustrated the characteristics of rebellion or conformity and societal norms.

CHAPTER 4

Data 5

"You look thin," I told her, partly because it was true and partly because I knew she loved to hear it. She was always on a diet, always watching what she ate."

(The Summer I Turned Pretty, p. 15)

Belly's observation about Susannah being thin and her awareness that Susannah loved to hear it reflected an external conflict with societal beauty standards. This societal pressure influenced both Susannah and Belly, as Belly felt compelled to comment on and notice physical appearances, indicating the pervasive impact of societal norms on beauty and body image. This situation highlighted the characteristics of societal norms and impact on others.

The researcher found that external conflicts were a significant aspect of the main character Belly's experiences in the novel *"The Summer I Turned Pretty"* by Jenny Han with 70 data of character against other characters, 9 data of character against nature, and 48 data of character against society. These external conflicts were diverse and contributed to the rich tapestry of Belly's journey, offering a glimpse into her interactions with the world around her and the challenges she faced from external sources.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded a conflict analysis of the main character in the novel *"The Summer I Turned Pretty"* by Jenny Han, the researcher found that internal conflict is a central theme, comprising 122 data of the total conflicts identified. These internal conflicts were characterized by difficult decisions, conflicting desires and needs, dissatisfaction from impediments, unequal roles, impact on interactions, and psychological struggle. The researcher also identified three types of external conflicts in the novel: 70 data of character against other characters, 9 data of character against nature, and 48 data of character against society. Belly faced direct opposition and personal interactions with other characters, environmental challenges, and societal norms and expectations. These external conflicts added layers to the story, affecting Belly's emotions, decisions, and interactions with the world around her. The frequency data from the novel indicated a total of 249 conflicts, with internal conflicts being the most dominant at 122 data.

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