

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S CONFLICTS IN THE LAND OF FIVE TOWERS BY AHMAD FUADI

Denisa Mumtazun Nabiila<sup>1</sup>, Agustina Sri Hafidah<sup>2</sup>, Saptanto Hari Wibawa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>STKIP PGRI Pacitan

[daneshaabill@gmail.com](mailto:daneshaabill@gmail.com), [hafidahagustinasri@gmail.com](mailto:hafidahagustinasri@gmail.com), [saptantowibawa@gmail.com](mailto:saptantowibawa@gmail.com)

### Abstract

The research aims to analyze the psychological conflicts of the main character in the novel “*The Land of Five Towers*”. The researcher used qualitative research. The study is conducted using qualitative research methods. This research utilizes explicit data in words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. The process of data collection employed is document analysis. The data analysis techniques include classified data following the relevant theories, interpretation of the data, and conclusion. The result of the study can be concluded that the main character’s conflict presents a psychological conflict. Psychological conflict is the character’s struggle with themselves. This conflict is then analyzed using Sigmund Freud’s theory and categorized based on the id, ego, and superego aspects.

**Keywords:** *Conflict, Main Character, Psychological*

### Introduction

As human beings, our daily experiences involve perceiving the world through sight, sound, and touch. Reading serves as a means to access information conveyed through written language. Through reading, we have the opportunity to enhance our understanding of the evolving world. Literature, characterized by its imaginative and artistic qualities, offers enjoyment and provides insights into new realms of experience.

Literature serves as a manifestation of life conveyed through the eloquence of truth and beauty. It encapsulates the writer’s documentation of humanity’s essence, encompassing thoughts, emotions, and expressions. Traditionally defined as a body of writing distinguished by inherent imaginative and artistic qualities (Luken, 2003). According to Subhan, literature is a branch of artwork that uses language as a medium to express ideas, thoughts, feelings, and experiences to educate and entertain the readers or audience (Mutiarra, 2020)

According to Abram in Nurgiyanto, the word novel comes from the Italian novella, which means a small new item and is then interpreted as a short story in prose. The theory that connects the concept of a novel to the Italian word “novella” is fascinating (Mutiarra, 2020). The idea that the novella initially referred to a “small novelty item” and evolved into denoting “a short story in prose” suggests a captivating journey of linguistic transformation. Today, as the novella aligns with the English term novelette, defining a work of fictional prose of moderate length, it reflects a nuanced balance in storytelling.

Ahmad Fuadi, born on December 30, 1972, in Maninjau, West Sumatra, is not only a novelist but also a social worker. Through his work, particularly in “*The Land of Five Towers*,” Fuadi aims to share his personal experiences. Each author has a distinct approach to crafting characters in a novel, and the same holds for Ahmad Fuadi in shaping the central figure of his narrative.

A novel comprises several elements: plot, character, theme, characterization, and conflict. The plot, as defined by Luken (2003), is the series of events that depict characters in conflict. In discussing the plot, the character becomes essential, as a character is the dynamic force driving the narrative. Tomlison (2001) defines characterization as the author’s method of enabling the reader to understand a character. Conflict, a fundamental aspect of literature, is the interaction where individuals or groups struggle over resources or social values. These elements become apparent to readers upon completing the novel, enabling them to grasp the conflicts or character intricacies embedded in the narrative.

According to Kosasih (2012), extrinsic elements exist outside the literary work, such as social, economic, political, religious, and educational factors. The extrinsic elements in a novel carry hidden meanings that require readers to comprehend the story thoroughly. This observation is noted by researchers when reading novels, short stories, and both long and short fairy tales, feeling that these extrinsic elements influence the coherence and purpose of a narrative. Readers, as appreciators of literary works such as novels, might understand a story's entire content by examining intrinsic elements, for example, quickly grasping the plot. However, the comprehension of the story becomes incomplete when readers are unaware of the extrinsic aspects of it.

Psychology, when applied, serves as a tool for assessing real human experiences, complementing literary analysis, which utilizes psychology to observe the behavior of fictional characters created by authors. The inherent nobility of a literary work lies in its ability to encapsulate life through the artistry of language. Simultaneously, the goal of psychological exploration in literature is to fathom the psychological aspects embedded in the content of a novel (Devilito & Wardani, 2016).

Three types of conflicts emerge in literary works, particularly novels: physical conflict, involving man versus nature; social conflict, where one person opposes another; and internal or psychological conflict, involving a character's struggle with themselves. Past research by Dzia Ahadini (2021) explored inner conflicts in the protagonist, Marianne, in the novel "*Normal People*" by Sally Rooney. Another study by Kuntik Ismiati (2012) focused on analyzing the main characters in "*The Return of Native*," delving into psychological, physical, and social conflicts. Another study by Kuntik Ismiati (2016) focused on analyzing the main characters in Jane Austen's novel "*Sense And Sensibility*." The researcher delved into psychological conflicts.

This research is conducted to delve into the complexity of conflicts among the main characters in the novel "*The Land of Five Towers*." The focus is specifically on the psychological conflicts experienced by the main characters. Therefore, the researcher has chosen the title of the study, "*An Analysis of Main Character's Conflicts In the Land of Five Towers Novel By Ahmad Fuadi*." The aim is to examine the psychological conflicts in "The Land of Five Towers" and provide valuable insights as a reference in literature studies, especially for students at STKIP PGRI Pacitan, particularly those in the English Department (PBI).

## Method

The study is conducted using qualitative research methods. According to Bogdan and Biklen (in Satriani, 2002:36), qualitative research is characterized by using descriptive data, including both spoken and written words and observed behaviors. This research utilizes explicit data in words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. The method of data collection employed is document analysis. The techniques for analyzing the data include reducing the data, presenting the data, and verifying the findings. The data analysis is taken from the novel "*The Land of Five Towers*" following the prologue, monologue, and dialogue. The subject is a psychological conflict of the main characters, and the object of this study is the novel "*The Land of Five Towers*."

The writers provided an overview of the data in the data collection technique. The data in this study could be categorized into two main classes. The primary data was the core information and the main focus of the study. In this case, the primary data referred to Alif Fuadi's novel "*The Land of Five Towers*." Secondary data, as additional information relevant to the research topic, was taken from the movie "*Negeri 5 Menara*," released in 2012 by Affandi Abdul Rachman. The writer also took and read reviews on the internet as supporting data sources.

The research data was arranged based on the techniques used by the writer in analyzing the data in this study: 1). The data that had been collected was then classified based on the problems that the writer examined. 2). The data was processed following the relevant theories. 3). The writer interpreted the data. 4). The writer drew conclusions from the final results

## **Findings and Discussions**

### **Id**

The id is a fundamental part of the human personality, representing the source of our most basic instincts and primal desires. The need for immediate satisfaction drives it and operates subconsciously, often pushing individuals toward fulfilling their deepest and most urgent impulses.

In the case of Alif, his id played a significant role in shaping his dreams and aspirations. He harbored a powerful yearning for freedom and adventure, a desire that manifested in his ambition to pursue a non-religious education and eventually become an engineer or an economist. This desire was deeply rooted in his id, which craved the excitement and exploration of the world beyond the confines of his traditional upbringing. The pull of the id compelled Alif to dream of a life that allowed him to break free from the expectations imposed by his environment and explore the possibilities that lay outside the familiar boundaries of his community.

However, Alif's dreams were not solely driven by a longing for adventure; they were also fueled by his id's desire to follow his interests. He felt a strong pull toward secular fields that fascinated him despite these aspirations clashing with the expectations set by his family and society. In this context, the id was the driving force behind Alif's determination to explore areas that genuinely captivated him, even if it meant going against the grain of what was expected of him. His inner drive, rooted in the id, led him to challenge the traditional path for himself and pursue his passions, even in the face of societal and familial pressures.

This internal struggle between the desires of the id and the constraints of external expectations illustrates the powerful influence the id can have on an individual's choices and aspirations. It highlights how the id can propel a person toward pursuing their true interests and seeking out experiences that fulfill their deepest desires, even when those desires conflict with the norms and expectations of their environment.

### **Ego**

The ego acts as a rational mediator within one's personality, balancing the impulsive desires of the id with the practical constraints of reality. It operates realistically, aiming to fulfill the id's urges in socially acceptable and feasible ways.

Alif's ego played a significant role when he respected his parents' wishes by pursuing further education at Pondok Madani. This decision involved a complex internal negotiation, where his ego had to harmonize the id's desire for personal freedom and individual dreams with his actual circumstances. By adapting to the pesantren's new environment, Alif strived to find a compromise between his aspirations and the community's expectations.

Furthermore, Alif's ego helped him tackle challenges at Pondok Madani, from self-doubt to adhering to strict rules and building relationships with peers. The ego equipped Alif with practical strategies and coping mechanisms to effectively handle these situations, guiding him to overcome obstacles while maintaining personal integrity and balance.

This demonstrates how the ego plays a vital role in balancing internal desires with external realities, enabling individuals like Alif to harmonize their innermost wishes with the demands of their environment, leading to a life that aligns with their true selves and fits into the social world around them.

### **Superego**

The superego, a vital aspect of personality, encompasses the moral values and ethical standards individuals adopt from their upbringing and society. It serves as the conscience, guiding behavior according to these moral principles and often pressuring conformity to what is considered right and virtuous.

In Alif's life, his superego is closely tied to his parent's expectations and the cultural values of the Minangkabau community. From a young age, Alif has been taught to strive to become a religious scholar, aligning with his family's aspirations and societal norms. However, this conflicts with his ambitions, leading to internal turmoil. The strong influence of the superego prompts feelings of guilt and pressure when faced with decisions between honoring parental wishes and pursuing his dreams.

Alif's time at Pondok Madani reinforces his superego, as the religious education there reinforces his internalized moral values. The environment emphasizes discipline, obedience, and spiritual practice, aligning with the superego's role in enforcing moral behavior. Alif feels obliged to be a diligent student despite the conflict with his id, which seeks freedom beyond religious confines. This inner conflict showcases the battle between the superego's moral compass and the id's instinctual drives, with the ego mediating between the two. This interplay demonstrates the significant influence of the superego in guiding behavior and decision-making, often prioritizing moral and ethical standards over personal desires and autonomy.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the research based on 28 instances of psychological conflict in Ahmad Fuadi's novel *"The Land of Five Towers"* reveals the complex interplay of the main character's id, ego, and superego, as analyzed through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The id is driven by Alif's desire for freedom, adventure, and personal interests in non-religious fields, often clashing with familial and societal expectations. The ego mediates these desires, helping Alif adapt to the realities of Pondok Madani, face challenges, and employ realistic coping strategies. The superego, shaped by parental expectations and cultural values, imposes moral and ethical demands, leading to internal conflicts as Alif balances his aspirations with the religious and societal norms internalized.

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