



Psychological Approach On Sacrifice Conflict Of Anna's Characters In The Novel "My Sister's Keeper"

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Abstract

My Sister's Keeper is a novel written by a New York Times Best Selling author, Jodi Picoult. The content of the novel tells the journey of a young girl making a sacrifice for her sister. This research aims to analyze the psychology of Anna about her sacrifice for her sister. The type of this research is qualitative. The emerging conflict in main actors was analyzed using content analysis emphasizing on psychological approach. After reading and classifying My Sister's Keeper Novel intensively, this study found the sacrifice conflict appeared in the novel. Based on the analysis, the novel shows internal and external conflict. Internal conflict (man vs self) of main character is a psychological conflict of Anna's character about the sacrifice by doing donor of stem cell given to her sister and external conflict (man vs man) comes from her family.

Kata Kunci:

Karakter Anna,
Konflik, Sasra
Inggris, My
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Abstrak

My Sister's Keeper adalah sebuah novel yang ditulis oleh Jodi Picoult, Penulis dengan best seller New York Times. Isi novelnya menceritakan perjalanan seorang perempuan yang melakukan pengorbanan untuk adiknya. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menganalisis psikologi Anna terkait pengorbanannya terhadap saudaranya sendiri. Jenis penelitian ini adalah kualitatif. Konflik yang timbul pada pelaku utama dianalisis menggunakan analisis konten (content analysis) yang menekankan pada pendekatan psikologi. Setelah membaca dan mengelompokkan novel yang berjudul My Sister's Keeper oleh Jodi Picoult, studi ini menemukan konflik pengorbanan di novel tersebut. Berdasarkan analisis, novel tersebut menunjukkan konflik internal dan eksternal. Konflik internal dari karakter utama (man vs self) adalah konflik psikologi Anna mengenai pengorbanan dengan melakukan donor sel induk ke saudaranya dan konflik eksternal (man vs man) yang berasal dari keluarganya sendiri.

Introduction

Literature is one of media which is used to amuse people in some form, such as written, abstract, verbalize, etc. It is also another way to express the world around us through our imagination. It contains the expression of a universal emotions or idea in attractive and appealing form. It concerns with the relation between society and people, and people with events that happen in their life, also people with imagination in selective words.

Hornby (2007) in *The Advance Learner's Dictionary of Current English* defines "literature are the writings of country or a period, especially those that have permanent value because of this beauty of form: drama, fiction, essay and poetry are usually described as literature, contrasted with technical and scientific works of journalism, and the study or practice of literature the occupation of author, and also all the writings on a special subject: as a mathematical literature, travel literature, the literature of poetry farmers".

Literature has many genres, and one genre in literature has its own characteristics. Literature is divided in three kinds based on genre, such as prose, poetry, and drama. Prose is the free writing based on the author. Furthermore, prose divided into two categories: fiction and non-fiction. Fiction consists of short story, novelette, and novel, while non-fiction consists of biography, autobiography, essay, and critic.

One of the literary works mentioned above is novel. Novel is a result of the author expression on what he sees and feels in social life, then expresses into a written form. There are many social live or aspects that reflected in the novel. As sign that novel is description of environment in life. Kenney (1966) argues that novel differs with the short story because its length, the novel is particularly deal with the effect on the character of the passage of time. One effect of the passage of the time is the development of character. Kennedy (1991) also states that a novel is a book – length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life.

There are many things that we can see from the story in the novel and become something that we can feel. As a description that the novel reflects real life that may also exist in our environment. One example of novel that we ought to read and feel is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.

Jodi Picoult (born May 19, 1966) is an American author. She was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for fiction in 2003. Jodi Picoult is the bestselling author

of eighteen novels. *My Sister's Keeper* is a 2004 novel written by New York Times Best Selling author Jodi Picoult. It tells the story about 13 year old, Anna, who sues her parents for medical emancipation when she is expected to donate a kidney to her sister, Kate. Kate needs a kidney, or she will die. Anna is the only compatible donor available. Actually, Anna was born for the purpose saving her sister's life. She was projected of genetic to be compatible donor for her sister.

This research chooses the novel in English literature as the main discussion. *My Sister Keeper's* novel is worthy to discuss because of several reasons. First, *My Sister Keeper's* novel is interesting to be analyzed due to it tells about the journey of a young sister making a sacrifice for her sister. Second, the psychology conflict that happened in Anna's character herself about sacrifice is a social phenomenon that closely related with society. Objective of the research is to find out the condition of Anna's family and Anna herself about Anna's sacrifice in the novel "*My Sister's keeper*" by Jodi Picoult and to reveal conflict that happened in Anna Sacrifice in the novel "*My Sister Keeper*" by Jody Picoult.

The story of this novel describes how the condition of life in one family, specifically Anna as donor for her sister. This research can see the opportunity to analyze the psychology of Anna about her sacrifice for her sister as long as she knows that she is born for the purpose saving her sister's life.

Method

The method of this research used descriptive content analysis. It intended to disclose the sacrifice conflict of Anna's Characters in the novel "*My sister's Keeper*". There are two kinds of data sources used in this research as follows.

1. Primary data were main data as the object of the research, in this case, the primary data is the novel "*My Sister's Keeper*".
2. The secondary data for this research were article and the books about sacrifice and conflict.

This research obtained information as much as possible in terms of the subject matter that had been analyzed by the following steps.

1. Reading and analyzing the novel "*My Sister's Keeper*" as the main source of the research.

2. Taking note and writing some important things or relevant things for research purposes when reading the novel.
3. Collecting some data that related with sacrifice. The data is collected from many sources. For instance, books, internet, etc. after that, the researcher related between novel's stories with sources.
4. Identifying and collecting the parts of the novel that gives description related to Sacrifice Conflict that is discussed in this research.

Data can be analyzed through novel characters written or spoken words (Glass & Hopkins, 1984). The collected data will be analyzed by using psychological approach. This approach is suitable to analyze the literary work such as "My sister's Keeper" because in this novel, the research chooses to analyze about the conflict that happened in main character herself, how the psychology of main character as long as she does a sacrifice in this novel. A Psychological Approach is a theory created by a psychologist. This theory is applied to different aspects of psychology and the approach basically provides an explanation of a specific topic from a certain point of view. It is important to know that a psychological approach is not a complete explanation of a specific topic.

Results and Discussion

After reading and classifying My Sister's Keeper Novel intensively, the researcher found conflicts appeared in the novel "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult. The results and discussion are presented in the description related two types consisting of starting conflict and final conflict. They are presented as follows.

1. Starting Conflict

Conflict is a struggle between two different forces-opposing forces. In this analysis appears internal and external conflict. The researcher analysis internal conflict (man vs self) of main character that is a psychological conflict of Anna's character about her sacrifice and external conflict (man vs man) of main character, that is a condition of Anna's family as long as the sacrifice.

a. Family

The family is both the fundamental unit of society as well as the root of culture. It is a perpetual source of encouragement, advocacy, assurance, and emotional refueling that empowers a child to venture with confidence into the greater world and to become all that he can be. In this novel, Anna's family also gets influence as long as Kate is known

has a cancer and Anna begin do her sacrifices, automatically her family also get effect of that. As in the quotation below:

“Kate hugs a pillow to her stomach, and tears keep streaming down her face. Her pale hair is stuck to her face in damp streaks; her breathing's too tight. I stand frozen in the doorway of my own room, waiting for instructions: Call Daddy. Call 911. Call Dr. Chance. My mother goes so far as to shake a better explanation out of Kate.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 10)

From quotation above, we can see the condition of family is on edge with bated breath and see the struggle of living Agape every day when one child is so very needy. Every time Kate fell sick so badly, the condition is so sixes and sevens. We can see on the text Anna's mom is so shock, she tries to call her husband and 911 to get a helping. Anna her selves also feel nervous, she knows that if Kate get sick she must be stand there to get instruction. Others quotation that describes the condition of Anna's family and Anna her selves:

“She looks down, so that her hair covers her face. "They don't really pay attention to me, except when they need my blood or something. I wouldn't even be alive, if it wasn't for Kate being sick.”

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p, 17)

In the quotation above describe a condition in Anna's family, how Anna fell unrespect and didn't notice by her parents. She considered herself just a body without a feeling that always stand to ready help her sister, Kate.

This is when I realize that Anna has already left the table, and more importantly, that nobody noticed.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 36)

In the quotation above describe, the condition of Anna begins to oppose her family about her sacrifice. She begins to take a silence and didn't notice each person in her home.

"Brian?" she asked. "How did Kate look to you?"

Better than Anna did, I thought, but this was not what she was asking. She wanted me to measure the yellow cast of Kate's skin against yesterday; she wanted me to read into the way she leaned her elbows on the table, too tired to hold her body upright. "Kate looks great," I lied, because this is what we do for each other.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 41)

The quotation describes, the member of family tries to motivate their self each other. Even must be a lying, it just for make the situation more comfort during Kate in illness. In order that, it can help Kate at least doesn't remember and fell her cancer. The other quotation that seems like motivate Kate, such as the quotation below.

Her eyes slit open. For a moment she struggles, unsure of where she is. "Kate," I whisper. "I'm right here." As she turns her head and focuses on me, I lift her palm to my mouth, press a kiss in its center. "You are so brave," I tell her, and then I smile. "When I grow up, I want to be just like you."

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 63)

b. Tangible Sacrifice

In the discussion about sacrifice our life. To sacrifice our live, it means you have to sacrifice everything which life gives or makes possible, all concrete and abstract things that we have. As in the quotation below.

They sat me down and told me all the usual stuff, of course—but they also explained that they chose little embryonic me, specifically, because I could save my sister, Kate.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 5)

I'm an allogeneic donor—a perfect sibling match. When Kate needs leukocytes or stem cells or bone marrow to fool her body into thinking it's healthy, I'm the one who provides them. Nearly every time Kate's hospitalized, I wind up there, too

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 7)

The text describes a thirteen-year-old Anna seeking legal emancipation so that she will not have to undergo yet another invasive medical procedure in order to save her sister's life, how Anna give her life for Kate, she donates all her organ that Kate needs for Kate's healthy. Anna always stands beside her to give and donor all things without thinking she will sick or hurt, that's all only for Kate because she conscious that she has to help Kate as her sister even she also fell so badly if always donor some of her organ, blood. That's all is tiring for Anna.

c. Intangible Sacrifice

In the discussion about family love and feelings and emotion as intangible loves. As in the quotation below.

"Because no one comes up here on a social call," he says, sitting on the arm of the couch. "And if it was something about Kate, you would've already told me."

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 11)

Based on the quotation above, it describes that how all the member of family is caring with Kate. Automatically, Anna felt that everyone in her house doesn't care about Anna anymore except Kate need something from her. Until she thinks that if Kate is not being sick, Anna is not alive, like Anna said in the text below.

"She looks down, so that her hair covers her face. "They don't really pay attention to me, except when they need my blood or something. I wouldn't even be alive, if it wasn't for Kate being sick."

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 17)

Feelings and Emotion with quotation as follows.

It made me wonder, though, what would have happened if Kate had been healthy. Chances are, I'd still be floating up in Heaven or wherever, waiting to be attached to a body to spend some time on Earth. Certainly, I would not be part of this family.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 5)

Based on the quotation, Anna seems like give up in her sacrifice. She thinks that she won't live if Kate is not being sick. She thinks she lives only for Kate, there is no reason for living except it. In this case, Anna felt nothing for family and her own life. Anna, however, feels that her only purpose, in the eyes of her parents' anyway, is to serve as Kate's donor.

2. Final Conflict

In the text below, Anna begins to stop her sacrifice, what she has doing for Kate. She asks her brother Jesse to accompany her to go a lawsuit. Then Jesse looks like disagree, he is so why Anna has a decision like that after all of thing seems like well in her donate for Kate.

"It is about Kate. Sort of." I press the newspaper clippings into my brother's hand; they'll do a better job explaining than I ever could. He scans them, then looks me right in the eye. His are the palest shade of silver, so surprising that sometimes when he stares at you, you can completely forget what you were planning to say.

“Don’t mess with the system, Anna,” he says bitterly. “We’ve all got our down pat. Kate plays the Martyr. I’m the Lost Cause. And you, you’re the Peacekeeper.”

(Picoult, *My Sister’s Keeper*, p. 14)

The quotation below describes about Anna who has face to face to a lawyer. She tells on what she does and the reason she came there. She disagrees with the reason she lives that she thinks. Shortly, she wants sue her parent for what she was asked to do for Kate as long as she lives.

There is way too much to explain—my own blood seeping into my sister's veins; the nurses holding me down to stick me for white cells Kate might borrow; the doctor saying they didn't get enough the first time around. The bruises and the deep bone ache after I gave up my marrow; the shots that sparked more stem cells in me, so that there'd be extra for my sister. The fact that I'm not sick, but I might as well be. The fact that the only reason I was born was as a harvest crop for Kate. The fact that even now, a major decision about me is being made, and no one's bothered to ask the one person who most deserves it to speak her opinion. There's way too much to explain, and so I do the best I can. "It's not God. Just my parents," I say. "I want to sue them for the rights to my own body."

(Picoult, *My Sister’s Keeper*, page: 16)

On the text below a lawyer asked again about Anna’s decision for stop her donate for Kate. On the text Anna likes still to care about her sister, she won’t Kate die but in other hand she also tiring to do all that because it never stops. In other words, if something were to happen and Kate were to die, Anna suggests her parents would no longer need or want her.

I tap my pen on the desk, and Judge—my dog—sidles closer. "What happens if you don't give your sister a kidney?"

"She'll die."

"And you're okay with that?"

Anna's mouth sets in a thin line. "I'm here aren't I?"

"Yes, you are. I'm just trying to figure out what made you want to put your foot down, after all this time."

She looks over at the bookshelf. "Because," she says simply, "it never stops."

(Picoult, *My Sister’s Keeper*, p. 19)

On the quotation below, Anna's lawyer asked his secretary to make a file for Anna. That's about medical emancipation. That's mean Anna's lawyer has agree to representing Anna to sue her parent for medical emancipation.

"What's going on?"

"That girl, Anna Fitzgerald—

"Planned Parenthood?"

"Not quite," I say. "We're representing her. I need to dictate a petition for medical emancipation, so that you can file it with the family court by tomorrow."

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 21)

"Mom?" Kate asks. "What's going on?"

"I have no idea." She unfolds the papers. I'm close enough to read them over her shoulder.

The state of rhode island and providence plantations, it says right across the top, official as can be. Family court for providence county.

In re:

Anna Fitzgerald, A.K.A. Jane Doe. Petition For Medical Emancipation.

(Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*, p. 45)

On the quotation above Anna's mom has receives a paper that is filled about Anna that has sues her for medical emancipation. She is sock about that, her own daughter has sued her, and it means all things that Anna doing for Kate will be stop because Anna doesn't want it anymore that has representative with the paper that Anna's mom read. Finally, Justice appears when the court system begins to weigh whose life has more value: Kate's or Anna's.

Conflict and Psychology

Conflict is dramatic, referring to the clash between two balanced forces and implying action and retaliation (Wellek & Warren, 1989). Thus, conflict is unpleasant and causes an action and reaction of the disputed figure in an event. Inner conflict is something that occurs in the mind, the heart of a figure (Nurgiyantoro, 1995). The form of conflict resolution according to Sayuti (2000) presents happy and sad ending. In this novel, it presents sad ending as the implied description that Anna is a thirteen-year-old girl that do sacrifice to her sister life, Kate. Kate is sick, leukemia, and really need her blood and donate her organ to supply Kate's alive. Anna internal conflict can be seen when Anna

starts to think for something that she must do to change her life. Anna try to ignore and stop how is she feels about Kate and begin to planning something.

Minderop (2013) suggests that the personality is a complex hypothetical construct. Then, Alwesor (2009) that personality is the realm of psychological studies, understanding behavior, mind, feelings and human activities that study individuals specifically. Psychological well-being is a complete achievement of an individual's function in accepting all his shortcomings and advantages (Ryff, 1989). Family-work role conflict is a type of conflict between roles that occurs when an individual's efforts to meet the demands of a role in the field of work interfere with the fulfillment of their roles and obligations in the family realm (Baltes & Kotabra, 2010).

Conclusion

This research has described Sacrifice Conflict of Anna's Characters in the Novel *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. The situation of Anna's family is totally different with other family. The occurrences of the conflict are in family. The family is a perpetual source of encouragement, advocacy, assurance, and emotional refueling that empowers a child to venture with confidence into the greater world and to become all that he can be. In the novel, Anna's family also gets influence as long as Anna doing her sacrifice until it gets conflict. In the novel "My Sister's Keeper" there are texts applying a sacrifice. While the examples or applications of principle that contained in the Novel, this research found kinds of sacrifice (tangible and intangible sacrifice) that Anna doing until it gets conflict. This novel has significant the psychological aspect. More specifically the significance of the research are to give more knowledge to the reader in analyzing literary work specifically about psychology aspect in the Novel, to attract people to read the novel, as well as to serve as a useful information for the readers who are interested on Novel. The research used qualitative method in psychology approach utilized by content analysis. It has some function for reader live wherever practical function in real life to be experience in helping their problems live and theoretical function that has writer read that exist in the novel *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. This research provides suggestion for all of the readers that have opportunity to read this research especially for literature students who interested to analyze about sacrifice conflict as follows. First, sacrifice is closely related to life, so if you want to do something related about it, first look at your own self you are totally ready or not. Because of the conflict such as violation of moral

values will be appear on it. second, family is one of reason that can be your spirit of life to survive many problems in your life.

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