

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Conflict is central to the author's view of life or his or her intended point is trying to make. The conflict can be between the protagonist and another character, the antagonist between the protagonist and nature; or the protagonist and society. According to Perrine (1993:42), "A conflict occurs between a main character and other characters and environment, nature, and society or destiny and between a character and him or herself which can be in form of physical, mental, emotional, or moral resistance." Conflict can be caused from various sources, it can be from inside the character him or herself, the character with other characters, or even something happened between the character and his other environment. Conflict is important events it essential element in the development of the plot.

It is interesting to analyze conflicts of the main character in the story. The main character is recognized because she or he is surrounded by many conflicts. The character trapped to solve her conflicts which appear internally and externally. This is the background as well as the reason why internal and external conflict of the main character is analyzed in this research.

The writer chooses a novel entitled *Safe Haven*. It is a romantic novel by American novelist Nicholas Sparks. It was published in 2010. It follows a girl named Katie who appears in the small North Carolina town of South port; her sudden arrival raises questions about her past. Beautiful yet self-effacing seems determined to avoid forming personal ties until a series of events draws her into two reluctant relationships: one with Alex, a widowed store owner with a kind heart and two young children; and another one with her plain spoken single neighbor, Jo. Despite her reservation, Katie slowly begins to let down her guard,

putting down roots in the close-knit community and becoming increasingly attached to Alex and his family. But, even as Katie begins to fall in love, she struggles with the dark secret that still haunts and terrifies her. It is a past that sets her on a fearful, shattering journey across the country, to the sheltered oasis of Southport. With Jo's empathic and stubborn support, Katie eventually realizes that she must choose between a life of transient safety and one of riskier rewards and that in the darkest hour.

The aim of this research is to describe the internal and external conflicts of Katie's character in her life. The contribution of this research to literary study is to reveal the character's inner conflict and outer conflict. It helps the reader to judge the motivations of the character, thus forming an opinion. In the academic field, this analysis helps the one who is interested in analyzing character and conflict in literary work by applying structuralism approach and the actantial model theory by A.J. Greimas.

The title of this research is "The Main Character's Conflicts as seen in *Safe Haven* Novel Written by Nicholas Sparks". It is analyzed by using structuralism approach. The writer decides to take structuralism approach for the analysis because of the main idea of structuralism that emphasizes upon the relationship among the components of a literary work. Therefore, the writer hopes that this approach can help the writer to answer the research question in this research. According to Abrams (1981: 87), in approaching a literary work, "Structuralism stands free from poet, audience, and its environment. It describes the literary work as a self-sufficient object". What Abrams means by the self-sufficient object is a

system which consists of inseparable interrelation elements. An element determines the identity of the others and vice versa.

In this research, the research is analyzed by using Actantial Model theory proposed by A.J. Greimas. The writer uses A.J Greimas theory because this theory can be used to analyze real or schematized action, but particularly those depicted in literary texts or images. Therefore, the writer hopes that this theory can help to answer the research question in this research since the data of this research are taken from the quotations and narrations of the novel.

## **1.2. Research Question**

According to the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problems as follow:

1. What are the main character's conflicts as seen in *Safe Haven* novel written by Nicholas Sparks?

## **1.3. Research Objective**

Considering the research question above, the research objective is to describe the main character's conflicts as seen in *Safe Haven* novel written by Nicholas Sparks.

## **1.4. Uses of the Study**

The uses of research are:

### **1.4.1. Theoretical Uses**

Theoretically, this paper research can inform the issue related to internal and external conflicts trough *Safe Haven* novel. Then, hopefully it can be a reference

of knowledge for other writer who formulates similar discussion with this research.

#### **1.4.2. Practical Uses**

Practically this research is expected to give certain overview of knowledge and ability to the reader and stimulate the reader to understand internal and external conflicts as reflected in *Safe Haven* novel. Hopefully, the reader can be more understand about this issue.

#### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

The writer gives limitation to this research. This research is limited and focused on the internal conflict including Man vs. self and external conflict including Man vs. Man by seeing the character's conflict through actantial model including six actants; subject, object, sender, receiver, helper, and opponent. The writer only focuses on Katie as the main character in the novel and scopes the idea to the internal and external conflicts of Katie's character that can be seen from the quotations and narrations in the novel.