
Inner Conflict of Character in *Nine Perfect Strangers* Novel by Liane Moriarty

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Abstract

*This research aims to find and analyse the types of inner conflicts and types of ego defence mechanisms specifically in the novel. The primary data source used in this research comes from the novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* written by Liane Moriarty. In analysing the data, the author used descriptive qualitative research method through psychological approach. Data is obtained by using reading, recording, and analysing techniques. While in classifying the data, the author uses the theory of Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. The writer found that the novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* written by Liane Moriarty contains 24 data divided into 8 inner conflicts consisting of 3 Id, 2 Ego, and 3 Superego data. While the data that includes Ego Defence Mechanism there are 16 data which are divided into 3 Displacement, 1 Projection, 2 Regression, 4 Sublimation, 2 Rationalization, and 4 Fantasy and Stereotype. From the data above, it can be said that Id, Superego, Sublimation, and Fantasy and Stereotype data are the dominant data*

Keywords: Inner Conflict, Ego Defence Mechanism, Id, Ego, Superego



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1. INTRODUCTION

Literary works are created based on the imagination of an author. One thing that cannot deny is that the author always lives in a particular space and time. A literary work is an author's creative process toward the reality of the author's social life. According to Ahyar (2019) Literature is a place for an idea or thought about life using beautiful words. Literature has several types, such as prose, drama, and poetry.

In the world of literature, conflict is necessary, and it can even be crucial to the story's progression. A literary work will not be interesting to read if it does not contain a conflict because the reader will not be affected by the events. Most of the time, these conflicts are connected to conflicts in the family, community, and individual mind. Nurgiyantoro (2009) demonstrates that the inner event encompasses everything that takes place in a character's mind or heart, while the physical event is closely linked to physical activity. As a result, when it comes to the inner person, a conflict that originates in the mind or is caused by internal turmoil can refer to a conflict that occurs within the person. The inner conflict that a person or a storyteller experiences becomes something that requires a greater level of comprehension. A person's ability to make a decision or take a particular action is influenced by their internal conflict.

The novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty can be used as an object of research whose meaning can be drawn as a source of research that focuses on inner conflict. *Nine Perfect Strangers* is a novel about Frances Welty who wants to heal herself by going to Tranquillum House. When Frances Welty arrived and undergo some existing processes, she experienced an irregularity in the Tranquillum House. The content contained in the novel describes the attitude of life which is beneficial for human life. The purpose of this study was to obtain a description of Character's (Frances Welty) inner conflict in the novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane

Moriarty about aspects of life towards oneself and society.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter presented the previous related studies and related theories such as the definition of literature and psychology, novel, psychoanalysis, id, ego and superego and reason of literature and psychology.

2.1 Previous Studies

The writer found same relevant data to this research. Firstly a study conducted by Kirana and Khoiri (2013) Bruno's Inner Conflict In John Boyne's *The Boy In The Striped Pajamas*. The study aims to analyze how Bruno as the main character characterized in this novel, describing the inner conflict that the main character faces. The study of inner conflict uses Karen Horney M.D's theory of inner conflict and the impact of inner conflict. The impact of inner conflict are; that Bruno is unhappy and repressed, Bruno curious of the fence, and Bruno's final adventure and lost. Bruno promise to help Shmuel looking for his father disappeared. Their effort doesn't bring success; on the contrary, both only got failure, and finally, they both died.

Secondly by Haryani (2017), James Grippando's *When the Darkness Fall: Falcon's Inner Conflict* Study of psychology. The purpose of this study is to learn more about Falcon's internal conflict in James Grippando's *When Darkness Falls*. The process or methods used to conduct the analysis are at the heart of the method of data analysis. The descriptive qualitative approach is utilized in this study. The descriptive qualitative method collects data in the form of statements, pictures, explanations, and words—no numbers. When a critic intends to identify any psychological component underlying a literary element, they take the psychological approach. The element specifically highlights the story character. The character's internal conflict is the focus of this theory of inner conflict. There is only one reason why Falcon does everything he does crazy. He simply desires Alicia Mendoza's attention. He loves Alicia Mendoza very much. He really wants to meet Alicia to tell the truth and get her to apologise, but he avoids meeting her a lot, including the Mayor Mendoza stepfamily, which is why he does crazy things. He also takes hostages a lot of innocent people because he really wants to meet her or Alicia. He can't think clearly because he doesn't have friends to talk to about his inner conflict. He also has less success managing conflicts until he kills himself.

Thirdly, *The Inner Conflict of the Main Character in The Aviator*, by Srikandi (2017). The purpose of this study was to investigate the inner conflict of the main character in the film *The Aviator*. To describe the actual events depicted in the movie *The Aviator*, a qualitative method employing descriptive analysis was used. Howard Hughes and his mother's role have a significant impact on Howard's personality development and inner conflicts as he grows up. Howard's actions and thoughts are influenced by his emotional closeness to and attraction to his mother. He is at odds within himself as a result of his past memories and her mother's influence. Howard experiences a variety of mental health issues as a result of the internal conflict, including phobias and compulsion.

Fourthly, *The Inner Conflict of Female Characters in Habiburrahman El Shirazy's Ayat-Ayat Cinta 2 (Literary Psychoanalytic Approach)* by Zamil and Zuriyati (2018) This research aims to encourage readers to appreciate the essay. This qualitative study of Habiburrahman El Shirazy's novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta 2* employs content analysis. The methods used to collect data in this study are library research and the study literature. The psychoanalytic approach was

utilized in this study. It is known from the findings of the data analysis that researchers carried out as part of their analysis of the novel *Ayat-Ayat Cinta 2* by Habiburrahman El Shirazy that there is a picture of the inner conflict that female characters experience. Approach-avoidance conflict, approach-avoidance conflict, and avoidance-avoidance conflict are the three types of inner conflict. Kurt Lewin's theory is the basis for 36 descriptions of female characters' internal conflicts.

Fifthly by Winahyu (2019) *Author's Inner Conflict In The Songs "Love of My Life" and "Bohemian Rhapsody"*. The aim of this research is to discover the meaning of research data from the side of the author's life. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by making in-depth observations of existing data. The approach that used in this research is supported by psychoanalytic theory and gay theory as an analytical tool in this study. The result of the research show that Freddie Mercury was a helpless figure in dealing with the pain of the fact that he was gay. However, he showed that, whatever problem in his life, he kept walking and provided his best for the people he loved, including his fans throughout the world.

Sixthly by Harahap and Hasibuan (2020) *Inner Conflict in Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra's The Darned Month of America* In order to learn more about the inner conflicts that Hanum and Rangga face in the novel *Bulan Terbelah di Langit Amerika*, written by Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra, the collected data were described and analyzed in this study. In this study, there are two types of data: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary source of data is novel. Nevertheless, a journal serves as the study's secondary data source. The following data analysis methods were used in this study: 1) Reading and comprehending Hanum Salsabiela Rais and Rangga Almahendra's *The American Dilangit Split Moon*. 2) Examine the inner conflicts that Hanum and Rangga's characters are going through; 3) Describe the inner conflicts that Hanum and Rangga's characters are going through in Hanum's book *Bulan Terbelah Dilangit Amerika*. The psychoanalytic approach was utilized in this study.

Seventhly by Aziz (2021) *Inner Conflict Of The Main Character In The Godfather Novel By Mario Puzzo (1969): A Psychoanalytic Approach*. To observe at how inner conflict in Mario Puzzo's *The Godfather* has the capability to change a person's character without them realizing it is the aim of this research. In examining the novel *The Godfather*, the researcher used method employed descriptive qualitative method. In this research, the writer uses a psychoanalytic approach. After collecting the data using a psychoanalytic approach, the internal conflict started from Michael Corleone's father rejected the sollozo agreement because Don Vito Corleone had his own reasons. Michael has a variety of issues that cause him to change his personality, such as his father being attacked by other mafia groups and his brother insulting him because he is unable to assist in the solution of family problems. Michael's other side emerges as he seeks vengeance and demonstrates his capability. Then Michael imposed vengeance on his father's enemies. Michael took over as Don from his father and continues to run the family business. Moreover, the current Michael is not as good as the one who started the story.

Eighthly by Nurbaya (2021) *The Inner Conflict of The Main Character of Bumi Cinta, A Novel Of Habiburrahman El Shirazy: Kurt Lewin's Conflict Approach*. This research is descriptive qualitative research that aims to analyze the inner conflict in this novel by using a psychological approach according to Kurt Lewin, namely 1) approach-approach conflict, 2) avoidance-avoidance conflict, and 3) approach-avoidance conflict. Based on the results of data

analysis on the forms of conflict and the factors causing conflict in the novel *Bumi Cinta* by Habiburrahman El Shirazy, it can be concluded that the approach-approach conflict is characterized by Ayyas's ability to hide his feelings and admiration for Anastasia. Hope that Ayyas can marry a woman who is destined by God, a girl who is smart, beautiful and as great as Anastasia. Then the avoidance-avoidance conflict is marked by the attitude of Ayyas who admits honestly that it is very hard to forget the kiss that Anastasia gave him. Guilt, anger, shame for having poisoned his heart with the virus of a beautiful woman. Meanwhile, the approach-avoidance conflict is marked by Ayyas' determination to protect herself, her views and her heartbreak towards Russian girls who can trap her at any time.

Ninthly by Fadillah (2021) *Inner Conflict of Characters in Edward Albee's Three Tall Women: An Overview of Women's Life in Modern Literature*. The study aims to analyze the inner conflict faced by the three women of the play where the characters feel regret with their past life and also tries to reveal the women's life that describe the characteristics of modern literature. In order to collect data in this journal, the writer uses library research method by reading number of books that are relevant to the subject. The writer also uses literary study done to the written sources, such as documents and relevant articles from the internet, as additional resources. The writer analyzes this research using structural approach to see the relation with inner conflict and psychology literature approach to understand the psychological aspects of the story, and also to see the overview of women's life in the play by connecting it to the characteristics of modernist literature.

Tenthly by Anjelia, et al. (2021) *Depression Of The Main Character Portrayed In Topdog/Underdog Play Script (2001) By Suzan Lori Parks*. This study aimed to discover and explain the depression of the main characters in the Suzan Lori Parks play script, *Topdog/Underdog*. The writer used a descriptive qualitative research method through a psychoanalysis approach.

The last research developed by Siregar, et al. (2022) *Anxiety And Depressive Disorders Toward The Main Character In Paula Hawkins' Novel The Girl On The Train*. The method used in this research is a descriptive method with a psychological approach. The study showed that the main character had 3 kinds of anxiety caused by the environment, threat, frustration, gender, and fear. Rachel also had depression caused by infertility, infidelity and divorce, job loss, and alcohol.

After seeing the results of the research above, the previous research similarity talks about inner conflict and using the same theories with the various objects. The differences with the previous studies above are the object of the research, approach, and some of the research used different theories. In this study, the researcher will analyze what types of inner conflict that Frances Welty faced. In addition, the researcher also complemented the research by analyzing the personality structure of his inner conflicts.

2.2 Related Theories

Novel is a part of literary work in the form of prose which has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The word novel comes from the Italian language, namely "novella" which means a story or story. A writer who writes a novel is called a novelist. The novel's content is longer and more complex than the content of the short story and does not have structural and rhyme boundaries. A novel usually tells or describes human life that interacts with the environment

and each other. In a novel, the author frequently tries to provide direction to the reader to find hidden messages such as a picture of the reality of life through a story contained in the novel. (Ahyar, 2019).

The psychoanalytic approach emphasizes the significance of the unconscious part of the mind. The theory and method used by the author when analyzing literary works—movies, plays, poems, and novels—are used in every analysis. The goal of psychoanalysis is to learn about people's unconscious minds (Freud, 2006). If the ego works too hard, it can become a bad attitude. According to Freud in Feist (2010), the ego builds a self-defense mechanism so that we do not face sexual and aggressive outbursts directly.

3. METHOD

The writer utilizes the graphic subjective strategy to investigate the information. By describing the phenomena, such as perception, motivation, and behaviour, that the research subject experienced, qualitative research typically seeks to comprehend them. The process of collecting, analysing, and interpreting non-numerical data, such as text, video, images, or audio, is referred to as qualitative research, according to McLeod (2019:1). Using diary entries or in-depth interviews, this kind of data can be gathered to direct observation, analysis of objects, documents, and cultural records to personal experiences or visual material

4. RESULTS

Based on the objectives of this study, the writer divided the data into two part as follows:

4.1 Types of Inner Conflict

Id (Das Es)

The sentences, *because she'd packed a few banned items, like coffee, tea, chocolate dark chocolate— antioxidants!, and just one bottle of a good red, also antioxidants!*. It categorized as *Id* because in this case, Frances brought some items that were not allowed to be carried but Frances chose to break those rules to his satisfaction. Frances was aware that the thing she had brought had been forbidden but her instinct to did as she pleased was still to did.

In the sentences, *She knew he wanted to kiss her. The feeling of being at a party with a man who wanted to kiss her* showed as *Id* because Frances followed her instinct to kissed by Tony and that was precisely as good as the first time she experienced it, when she was teenager.

Frances stood from her chair, grabbed the candelabra from the sideboard, and swung it wildly at Masha's head. This sentence was categorized as *Id* because according to the definition or form of *Id* was arbitrary.

Ego (Das Ich)

The sentences *Frances would try not to flirt with him* became a category of *Ego* because Frances showed herself not to followed her instincts of teasing someone.

The sentence, *I might go home early.* Categorized as *Ego* because the decision that Frances made was when Frances felt that maybe she would go home soon because Frances felt that 10 days would be very long if Frances were to stay there without doing anything arbitrary according to her wishes.

Superego (Das Uber Ich)

In the sentences *Have I killed her? Afterward Frances would try to work through her decision-making process, but she never could. It was like her brain short-circuited* was shown as

Superego because there was a big fight between Masha and Heather. Frances suddenly swung the candle holder hard right at Masha's head and Masha fell and lay down in front of Frances.

She never liked to kill characters. Sometimes she let them break a limb but she felt bad enough about that. Like the sentence above, it was explained as *Superego* because Frances was the author of the novel who had a soft heart in her books.

The sentences, I do not approve of what Masha did, outrageous etcetera, your mother is right, drugs are bad, illegal, wrong, just say no and all that ... but I have to admit was shown as a *Superego* because Frances did not justify something done by her friend because it was inappropriate to justified it, and doing something illegal was inappropriate.

4.2 Types of Ego Defence Mechanism

Ego Defence Mechanism was partitioned into some parts, such as Displacement, Regression, Sublimation, Projection, Rationalization, Fantasy and Stereotype, and Repression. Ego Defence Mechanism was a part of *Ego* when *Ego* tried to solve something.

Displacement

In the sentences, *We're eating too much processed food. So that's why us privileged people need to detox—* became a category of Displacement because when Frances saw the snacks near her car, Frances felt that these foods made her had to run detox while Frances came because she was having a bad day.

In the sentences, because this man I was dating, well, he disappeared and—I remember this very clearly— categorized as Displacement because Frances in a chat recalled the incident that had happened to her a while ago while talking to a therapist who had the same style of speaking as the man Frances was dating and had disappeared at that time and Frances tried to call the police because the man had disappeared.

In the sentence, *Sugar is the new villain* categorized as a Displacement because Frances felt that the enemy that made her fat was sugar while there were many things that could trigger weight gain, one of which was a less healthy diet and lack of exercise.

Projection

In the sentences, *She knew she could be thinner, and of course when she was younger she was indeed much thinner, but she was generally happy with her body as long as it wasn't giving her pain, and bored by all the different ways women droned on about the subject of weight, as if it were one of the great mysteries of life* was categorized as Projection because Frances was already comfortable with the state of her fat body.

Regression

In the sentence, *She felt all at once as powerless as a child* categorized as Regression because Frances recalled the time when she had to have surgery. Frances disliked herself very much because Frances lacked the self-control to perform surgery. He also became weak like a child when he recalled those days.

In the sentences, *She demonstrated herself sobbing dramatically like a teenage girl, hand to her forehead* shown as Regression because Frances had a childhood without father. Frances recalled that time when Frances was a child and read a book that became the starting point for him to become a writer. Frances cried like a woman who was a teenager.

Sublimation

In the sentence, *when she was falling in love she always wrote her best books.* Categorized

as Sublimation because Frances chose to describe her feelings of falling in love through her best books, made no mistake as to why she became a great writer who made her work very famous.

In the sentence, *It would be a digital detox, along with everything else.* Categorized as Sublimation because Frances during her time as an author of the novel never read reviews of her books. Therefore, by the time she found out that one of her books had gotten a bad review, she was shocked.

In the sentence, *She had done a transcendental meditation course years ago* categorized as Sublimation, because. As an author of the novel, Frances also experienced things that attacked her mentally; therefore, Frances chose to do a transcendental meditation course to improve her mental state.

In the sentences, *Frances packed away the evidence of her stupidity in a file* Categorized as Sublimation because Everything Frances thought was something as stupid as her heart was packed in a folder and a printout of an email.

Fantasy and Stereotype

In the sentences, *Now she felt quite ill at the thought of sex with the man-kid, or sex with anyone for that matter; she was far too hot.* Categorized as Fantasy and Stereotype because Frances was very sexy in that state that she thought of having sex with someone with a calm mind.

In the sentences, *I can still taste his lips. Very smooth and papery. Matte gloss* Categorized as Fantasy and Stereotype because it was clearly illustrated that Frances played with his imagination through the posters she put on the walls of her house and also that Frances could clearly explain the shape of her imagination to the poster.

In the sentence, *she was accidentally imagining herself in a hotel room with him* Categorized as Fantasy and Stereotype because Those tattoos on her butt as she came out of the shower. That smile. There was a chat when they all got together and suddenly

In the sentence, *but I'll pay you to keep pretending to be Paul Drabble* could be categorized as Fantasy and Stereotype because Frances tried to make other people like her ex-boyfriend.

Rationalization

In the sentences, *I assumed you would build a human pyramid to reach the doll—all of you!* Categorized as Rationalization because the state of panic made a person afraid and sometimes some people were emotionally unstable.

In the sentences, *You don't need a man to complete you. Your body does not define you.* Categorized as Rationalization because Frances had been married several times and all of her marriages had failed, made Frances become single.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Types of Inner Conflict

The person who dominated the *Id* would be a person who looked selfish because everything was only focused on themselves without thinking about anything else around her. Based on the data found in data 1, 2, and 3, it showed the type of inner conflict based on *Id*. From the sentences, because she packed a few banned items, it showed that Frances was an arbitrary person without thinking about the rules and she preferred to follow her own desires rather than obey the rules. Next, when she kissed Tony. It was categorized as *Id* in this sentence because she felt the pleasure of kissing just like she did when Frances was a teenager, when she kissed at a friend's birthday

party and felt that kiss with Tony was as good as her teenage years. Frances could choose to avoid but Frances prefers to enjoy the kiss and followed her instincts rather than avoid or reject the kiss. When there was an argument between Masha and Heather, Frances swung the candle holder and Masha had to fall right in front of her.

Ego helped people to consider whether people could satisfy himself without causing trouble or suffered to him. The position of *Ego* was right between the conscious and unconscious. *Ego* served as a placeholder for the main mental functions, such as: reasoning, problem solving, and decision making. Based on the data found in data 4 and 5, it showed how *Ego* worked as a decision maker in Frances.

Superego was related to the conscience, which knew good and bad. When the *Id* commits robbery for pleasure and the *Ego* committed robbery in order to remain calm in his life, the *Superego* appeared and intervened on the assumption that committing robbery was a sin. As happened in Data 6, 7 and 8. Based on the explanation about the *Superego* which could distinguish between good and bad things and had a conscience.

5.2 Types of Ege Defence Mechanisms

Projection was when people try to did something and people could not accepted but dedicated a reason that made what people accepted. People who did Projection were aware that they were made a mistake but they gave reasons that made a mistake acceptable to those around them or socially. In Data 12, it couldbe categorized as Projection because Frances as an author of the novel already had a body that was starting to get fat, but Frances made excuses that if things like that didntmade her sick, she would still have fun enjoying her body.

Displacement was when someone tried to throw a problem at something or someone else around. Therefore, the person who threw the problem did not feel something disturbing. It was like when someone got scolded at the office and went home to take out that anger on his bedroom door by destroying it, which was not good. Examples of displacement could be found in data 9, 10, and 11. Data 9 showed that Frances blamed overeating for Frances had to run a detox program. Nevertheless, if there was a balance in our lifestyle, no matter how much people eat, people could balance it with workout exercises, then people did not need a thing like detox. Data 10 also leded to displacement because Frances reported to the police. After all, Paul, whom Frances considered a particular person, disappeared, and Frances felt like she was being beaten when she had to live with the reality that Paul was gone. Data 11, in the sentence which showed that sugar was the real enemy because sugar made a person fat.

Sublimation was when someone had an uncomfortable feeling but prefer to vent it into something positive or socially acceptable. The form of sublimation was found in Data 15, 16, and 17. Based on the data obtained in Data 15, the sublimation that ocured was when Frances was in love, Frances expressed it in the form of stories which eventually become her best books. Data 16, when Frances arrived at the tranquilum house, she immediately handed over her device because Frances thought it was a form of digital detox. Data 17, Before Frances entered and took part in the detox program at the tranquilum house, Frances had undergone a transcendental meditation course as a form of escape due to the problems Frances had experienced several times, one of which was her marriage was never successful. Data 18, categorized as sublimation was because Frances did not show off her stupidity elsewhere but made it in a file that only Frances could see.

Rationalization was a way of reducing disappointment when people failed at something and

provided motives for the behavior people did. An example of Rationalization could be found in Data 23 and 24. Data 23 described when Frances and the visitors to the tranquilum house were trapped in a room. Data 23 explained how Frances wished her friends to work like a team but her hopes were shattered because what her friends did was not what Frances expected. Data 24 could be categorized as Rationalization because Frances, with a fat body, felt that she did not need a man to complete her life because of her fat body. It turned out that Frances was a person who fell in love quickly, but she tried to make excuses as if Frances did not need a man.

Regression was a form of ego defense mechanism that made everyone act like a child for comfort. People would cry and act like children to get noticed. Based on this explanation, there were 2 data that described the form of regression from Frances: Data 13 and Data 14. Data 13 depicted Frances looking very weak, like a child, when Frances remembered that Frances had to undergo surgery on her body. Data 14 described how Frances cried like a child when Frances remembered her ex-husband again.

Fantasy and stereotypes were everyone's way of escaping from reality to an illusion for comfort. People who experienced Fantasy and Stereotypes would try to turn that reality into a form of imagination, like someone was thinking about someone and still loved them; that person would try to find something to replace that person and also create an imaginary form to make them feel comfortable being in reality. The forms of Fantasy and Stereotype in Frances were described in data 19, 20, 21, and 22. Data 19 could be categorized as Fantasy and Stereotype. After all, when Frances entered the room in the tranquilum house, Frances imagined how she would have sex in the room with teenagers because, at that moment, Frances was feeling very sexy. Data 20, Frances imagined the photo of her ex-husband hanging on her bedroom wall and imagined that Frances could still feel his lips. Data 21, when Frances saw Tony, Frances felt like having sex when she saw Tony's smile. Data 22 described how Frances tried to hire someone to be someone she had been in her past.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the data found in the novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty, the writer found 24 types of inner conflict and ego defense mechanisms experienced by the characters, divided into 8 inner conflicts and 16 ego defense mechanisms. Based on the theory used in this study, the writer got all the data based on the theory used. The data obtained by the writer was based on the life of a Frances Welty before and after Frances joined a detox program at a tranquilum house. Based on the data, the writer found that the novel *Nine Perfect Strangers* written by Liane Moriarty contains 24 data divided into 8 inner conflicts consisting of 3 Id, 2 Ego, and 3 Superego data. While the data includes Ego Defense Mechanism, there are 16 data divided into 3 Displacement, 1 Projection, 2 Regression, 4 Sublimation, 2 Rationalization, and 4 Fantasy and Stereotype. From the data above, it can be said that Id, Superego, Sublimation, and Fantasy and Stereotype data are the dominant data.

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