

VEDA'S INTERNAL CONFLICT PORTRAYED IN JESSIKA FLECK'S *BEWARE THE NIGHT*

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the internal conflict experienced by the main character, Veda, in Jessika Fleck's *Beware the Night*. Veda is a woman who wants to fight for the revolution of an oppressed community and experiences internal conflict because of several causes around her. This study focuses on examining Veda's personality and internal conflicts. This study uses a qualitative research method to describe the internal conflict in the main character. This study employs the New Criticism theory to analyze the data. The theory sees elements of the literary text using a careful reading technique. The result of this study is Veda's brave and diligent personality. Furthermore, four internal conflicts are found in Veda's character. She fears the Night, lies, and propaganda, struggling with her reality and managing her loyalty to her community. Then, her personality leads her to make the decision to face an internal conflict in her life and protect her community.

Keywords/Kata Kunci: *characterization, internal conflict, struggle*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a composition that tells a story to express the author's emotions and thoughts by dramatizing a situation or supporting an idea. Literature also helps the person creating the work to grow personally and intellectually with the work they produce (Kusumawati, 2007). In addition, literature is closely related to human life because we can analyze a complex problem from any field through written work. According to Lestari Setyowati (2018), literature is also used as a medium to see the condition of society through literary works created by authors who examine and implement real-life phenomena around them into a work (literature), both fiction and non-fiction. Fictional literary works are fictional stories or imaginary stories by the author, usually in the form of narrative works whose contents do not suggest historical truth or specific facts (Nurgiyantoro, 2010). The novel is an example of the most famous work of fiction for all generations.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2010), internal conflict occurs in the heart and soul of a character or story character. So internal conflicts are conflicts that humans experience with themselves or internal problems of a human being. This conflict can be a war in his mind, wavering with his beliefs and inner fatigue of the problems that occur to him. Internal conflicts experienced by characters in a novel can then be analyzed in the realm of internal issues. For example, the main character's internal conflict in a novel occurs due to the conflict between two desires, inequality of treatment, and other problems that arise as the story's main point.

One interesting novel that discusses the internal conflict experienced by the main character is *Beware the Night* by Jessika Fleck, published in 2019. This novel tells the story of the protagonist, Veda, who must join a dangerous revolution to save her grandfather and fight injustice. Life is peaceful on the island of Bellona - as long as the people obediently worship the Sun, protecting them from all harm. Seventeen-year-old Veda knows that keeping the Sun happy will protect her and her grandfather from the Night, the dangerous people who kidnap innocent citizens from their beds under cover of darkness, never to be seen again. Veda thought that as long as she followed the rules, she would be safe. However, when Veda's grandfather is offered up as the next sacrifice to keep the Sun's favor, she begins to see that the

safety she was promised comes at a cost. There may be more to fear above than below. With a mysterious young man, Dorian, by her side, Veda must find out if the frightening bedtime stories she's heard are real or dangerous lies.

This research was conducted using the New Criticism theory of John Crowe Ransom (1888-1974), who published a series of essays entitled *The New Criticism* (1941) and an influential essay, "Criticism, Inc." published in *The World's Body* (1938) to then focus on the text as an independent work capable of producing independent meaning. In this study, the researcher tries to analyze the original text of the novel *Beware the Night* by Jessika Fleck according to the content of the text and focuses on analyzing the character of the main character named Veda, who influences the internal conflict she experiences in this novel. This research was conducted using a close reading technique that focuses on the meaning of a text according to the intrinsic text of a literary work.

Many studies have examined the internal conflict of characters in movies and novels. The researcher then found a gap where this research can be carried out following the appropriate theory, New Criticism implemented into this novel. The formulation of the problem in this study is how the internal conflict of the main character in the book *Beware the Night* by Jessika Fleck. This study aims to discover and describe the internal conflict experienced by the main character, Veda, in the novel *Beware the Night* by Jessika Fleck. In addition, researchers want to examine how the internal conflict experienced by the main character affects her thinking and behavior towards something in this story. The benefits of this study are that researchers gain in-depth knowledge related to internal conflict in a literary work and provide attention and reference for continuous learning in the study of English literature.

Various researchers focusing on the field of literature have conducted extensive explorations in the field of analysis and criticism of literary works as time passed. This researcher takes the main character's internal conflict as a topic and scope in analyzing a literary work, especially a novel text. One example of research on internal conflict is research by M. Kiki Wardana et al. (2023) which examines the internal conflict experienced by the main character named Kinan in the film *Layangan Putus* (2020). The researcher focuses on the main character's Id, Ego, and Superego due to the internal conflict experienced by Kinan's character. This study uses qualitative research to describe the internal conflicts and support the author's analysis using books, theses, journals, and the series *Layangan Putus* from the platform WeTv as a data source.

Furthermore, in their journal, Tarigan et al. (2020) analyzed the character education values and internal conflicts of the main character in the novel *Sinar* by Aguk Irawan. This research aims to discover various kinds of character education and internal conflicts related to the character values of the main character in the novel *Sinar*. The data in this research is taken from the text of the novel *Sinar* itself. This research also uses descriptive qualitative methods with data collection techniques, novel reading techniques, and listening and recording of appropriate data to be then analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model.

In addition, Djumadin & Bunga (2020) explores the internal and external conflict experienced by the main character in the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* by Buya Hamka. The purpose of this research is to know and describe the internal and external conflicts of the main character in the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*. The approach used in this research also uses a qualitative descriptive method. The data used in this research are words, phrases, and sentences included in the text of the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*. The source of the analyzed data is the text of the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* by Buya Hamka in its 22nd printing. The data collection technique used by researchers is to read the novel and then record the data needed following the theory.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses descriptive qualitative research as its method, which aims to find out what internal conflicts the main character, Veda, experiences by reading the novel *Beware the Night*. According to Surakhmad (1994), qualitative research is a research method that collects data, analyzes data, and draws conclusions. Qualitative research emphasizes the depth of data obtained by researchers.

The primary data source in this research is the text of the novel *Beware the Night*. This research aims to find the internal conflict that occurs and is experienced by the main character, Veda. The author collects data related to the scene that focuses on the problem under study.

The steps of data analysis in analyzing data in this study are as follows:

(1) Reading the novel text repeatedly; (2) Obtaining data from the novel in the form of dialogue excerpts selected based on conflicts; (3) Collecting data that has been interpreted based on aspects of personality and internal conflicts of characters; (4) Analyzing data and classifying data following the theory of John Crowe Ransom (1941); (5) Making conclusions from the results of research analysis, findings, and suggestions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research explains the findings and discusses them to describe Veda's struggle. This chapter will contain an introduction to Veda's character and what Veda's internal struggles were when he was about to fight for the revolution of the Night.

Veda's Personality

According to Abrams & Harpham (2015), 'Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, which the reader interprets as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it-the dialogue-and from what they do-the action.' (p.48). The writer will create a world formed from the characters that the writer creates to shape the atmosphere and run the story's plot to make it more alive. The research will focus on the main character in *Beware the Night*, which will impact the course of the story and the continuity of Veda's struggle for the Night. In the story *Beware the Night*, Veda has two characters who exacerbate Veda's nature.

Brave

Veda is portrayed with brave characteristics by the author because Veda lives in a harsh environment. She lives with many challenges and fears that must be faced to survive on the island of Bellona. This is evidenced by a letter from Poppy's grandfather, who said Veda was brave. "I know this is a heavy burden. But you are strong. Brave." (chapter 18, page 160). Poppy says that Veda is strong and brave like her mother. This is evidence that Veda has the characteristics of a courageous person.

Diligent

Veda is also described as diligent and always shows more effort when doing something. When she was fishing, she caught a monster fish. Although she had difficulty bringing it to the surface, she persevered and did not give up pulling the fish. "I will not lose this fight-Sun knows we need this beast roasting over our fire tonight." (chapter 3, page 14). Veda does not give up easily and always puts more effort into achieving her goals. This is proof that Veda has the characteristics of a diligent person.

Veda's Internal Conflict

Veda experienced a lot of internal conflict with herself and the lies from the people around her in fighting for the night revolution. Because she is also 17 years old, she has a lot of internal struggles that impact her normal development. The reasons for Veda's internal struggle have occurred since she was a child and his unacceptance of all things that are too sudden and surprising to her. Examining the text itself, language, symbols, and narrative structure without regard to outside circumstances and utilizing New Criticism helps one to understand Veda's inner struggle in *Beware the Night*. Veda's great-seated fears are highlighted in vivid images and metaphors that capture her terror of the Night. Every mention of the Night captures Veda's horror by Fleck's use of dark, frightening descriptions, giving the story a physical presence. Her erasing trust is fundamentally reflected in the cycle of betrayal and dishonesty that presents the recurring lies she comes across. Emphasizing her inner turmoil as a primary topic, the dialogue and inner

monologues expose Veda's struggle to balance her convictions with the hard facts she learns. Emphasizing the intensity and intricacy of Veda's inner struggle, Fleck deftly immerses the reader in her psychological turbulence using various literary devices.

Internal difficulties make Veda's character development in *Beware the Night* rather dramatic. Veda is shown at the start of the book as a terrified and compliant person molded by personal insecurity and societal brainwashing. Her anxiety of the Night and the lies she has been given build a basis of suspicion and self-doubt. But as the story goes on, Veda starts to challenge the accuracy of the material she has been given and face her anxiety. Important turning points include events of betrayal by people she trusted and disclosures about the actual nature of the Night, which inspire her development. Having conquered her first worries and misgivings, Veda shows up at the end of the book as a tenacious and driven leader. Her path from a passive character to an active revolutionary highlights her maturation and shows how her inner conflicts are a furnace for empowerment and personal change. Along with improving her character development, this metamorphosis supports the more general themes of bravery, self-discovery, and opposition in the book.

Fear of the Night

In *Beware the Night*, Veda's fear has deep psychological effects that go beyond propaganda and include her real-life events and the pressures of society. This fear is deeply ingrained in her mind; a constant worry affects everything she does and thinks. A big part of people's fear is propaganda, which always spreads scary stories and warnings about the Night. But Veda's own experiences, like seeing how cruel the Night is and how the society follows its rules very strictly, make this fear even stronger. Society's push to fit in makes her anxiety even worse because going against the grain is not only dangerous but also seen as weird.

Throughout the story, Veda's actions and choices are affected by her complex fear. She is often paralyzed by worry, questioning her gut feelings and giving in to what others expect of her. Readers can relate to her inner battle more when they see her dealing with fear both outside and inside her. Because Veda was afraid of society and herself, her journey to overcome her fear and find her voice is an inspiring and global story of strength. By connecting with Veda, readers can understand how hard it is to overcome deep-seated fears, which shows how complex Veda's personality is.

The fear of the Night made it difficult for Veda to accept that she was from the people of the Night. It was because she was raised with fear and thought that the sun people were the good guys and the real villains were the Night, as the doctrine propagated by the Imperi. "Imperi Regent Raveald explains that the Night wants one thing more than anything: to create as much fear as possible. With fear comes power." (chapter 4, page 18). With this doctrine, Veda experienced confusion with herself. This became one of her first struggles to become a night warrior.

Lies and Propaganda

As Veda goes through more lies in *Beware the Night*, they make her deeply unstable and question everything she thought was true. Every lie she finds makes her feel less safe and less able to trust the people around her. At first, Veda is a trusting and obedient member of her community. She believes what she is told about the Night and her place in the group. But as the truth emerges, she learns that what she has been told is a carefully made lie meant to control and trick her. These discoveries not only make her lose faith in other people, but they also cause her to have a more significant psychological problem. Veda starts to doubt who she is, what her beliefs are, and how she sees the world. She feels alone and confused because she doesn't know who to trust or what to believe, and she is constantly betrayed. This deep disappointment makes her inner turmoil worse as she tries to come to terms with the fact that her whole outlook is based on lies. In a world where faith has been broken, her journey is about finding the truth and rebuilding her sense of self. This psychological crisis is a big part of how Veda changes from a passive, scared person to a leader who is bold and questions everything. Her fight to find her way through this complicated web of lies will strike a chord with readers who have been through times of disappointment and identity crisis. Veda's inner struggle brings out the bigger ideas of truth, trust, and self-discovery. This makes her journey a powerful look into what it means to be human.

Through her own experiences, Fleck shows how lying can destroy a person's life and how strong one has to be to rebuild their identity after it happens.

Ford et al. (1988) say lies impact a person's normal development. Veda's life is full of lies told by his father, Sindako, to protect Veda, but these lies cause Veda to experience trust issues with people around him. Many things happened in Veda's life that made him build a high wall and not trust anyone easily. The first lie Veda gets is when she is told that her friend Dorian is a person of the Night. Veda showed her disappointment with a surprise. "How can this be? You're the glassmaker's apprentice... Basso... How can you also be a member of the Night?" He's a traitor. And a liar." (Chapter 10, page 66). She was lied to by the Dorian, who she believed was helping her escape the imperial pursuit, but the Dorian led her to the Night's headquarters. This first lie leads Veda to fear giving trust to anyone.

The lies made Veda disbelieve again when she realized she was Lunalette and Sindako's daughter. If a plan begins with a lie, it will give birth to further lies. Veda obtained this for the second time, shocked by the fact that she is Lunalette and the child of the leader of the Night Sindaco, until she revealed that she was disappointed and did not trust Dorian and Sindaco anymore. Being introduced as Lunalette made her remember that the events when she met Dorian had been planned. So, he doesn't believe in everything around him and thinks this is intended. As in scene chapter 11, page 95, Veda's heart no longer believes in every Dorian reason. Veda said. "I don't trust him. I can't. Especially after hearing his do-anything-he must plan." "I can't deal with this right now. I just can't. If Dorian and the Sindaco have been lying to me about something this significant, I can't trust either of them." (chapter 15, page 128). She said several times that she didn't trust Dorian or Sindaco because they created too many lies to lie to Veda.

When she heard that Niko would be the next high regent of the community of The Sun and that her grandfather Poppy was chosen as the next Offered, Veda was lied to for the umpteenth time by the people around her, in the scene where Poppy Veda's grandfather will be sacrificed. She was lied to by her poppy if none of them were chosen, but it turned out that Poppy was selected until Veda said, "All I hear now is betrayal." (chapter 17, page 153) because she did not expect that she would be betrayed that badly and felt the pain of being left behind by the person she cared about the most.

Lunalette was just her father's propaganda to achieve the revolution of the Night when she heard that she was just a Lunette made by her father. The peak of the lies that Veda got was when all the talk from his father about Lunalette and the attack was a lie. Veda was already at the peak of anger and felt that everyone was deceiving him completely, killing him with the lies made by Sindaco. "More lies? More deception?" "Not only did the Sindaco lie to me, but he also lied to the people who trusted him the most. And for what? To rally them behind his revolution? Behind a false prophecy? The stinging turns to burn, and I realize I'm gripping the handle of my blade so tightly, my fingers itching to pierce a hole right through this book" (chapter 25, page 238). The culmination of these lies makes Veda feel profoundly betrayed and creates an unavoidable problem.

Struggling with Her Relationship

Veda is having a lot of problems with herself because it involves her feelings, and she is still confused about who the person she loves is. Veda is confused about choosing between her childhood friend or a new person who makes her feel in love. For a moment, she felt butterflies in her stomach when she was with her childhood friend Nico, but on the other hand, she felt the same way with Dorian. Veda also expresses her confusion when faced with the two men who made her experience the butterfly effect in her stomach, "I don't want to have butterflies for anyone else right now." (chapter 7, page 45). But she decided to keep quiet about feeling the effect. However, the confusion continues until the end. This confusion also has a significant impact on Beware the Night. She experienced this at a crucial time because she had to find her identity and was still confused. She also had to face her new world with the Night.

Balancing Loyalty

Veda also faced problems with loyalty as she had to decide between her childhood friend or following the Night's task. When Veda accepts that she is Lunalette, she faces a new problem of choosing between her childhood friend and the task of the Sindaco. "My first thought was, No. I will not drag Nico into this. But then I remember he's already in it;

he just chose the wrong side." (chapter 22, page 189). She experienced this and fought with his own heart and mind to choose between friends or duty.

CONCLUSION

The novel *Beware the Night*, written by Jesika Fleck, has a main character named Veda. She is described as brave and diligent characteristics. Both characteristics can affect the internal struggle of the Veda and hind Veda's struggle to revolutionize the Night. Veda's internal struggle includes the fear of the Night, lies and propaganda, struggling with her relationship, and balancing loyalty. This is evidenced by several scenes that show Veda's fear and instability in choosing something and deciding something. Therefore, the internal struggle is one of the obstacles Veda faces in fighting for the revolution of the Night. Ultimately, Veda's great fear of the Night and the combined effect of deception and trust problems define her inner battle in Jessika Fleck's *Beware the Night*. The psychological stresses and the impact of minor characters exacerbate this inner conflict. Using psychological theories and New Criticism to examine her inner conflict helps one better understand her character growth. Understanding Veda's development from a terrified person to a revolutionary leader depends on this conflict, which emphasizes more general issues of identity, trust, and resiliency throughout the book. Veda's inner conflicts propel the story and provide a complex view of the human condition, rendering her path exciting and relevant.

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