



# AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL CONFLICT IN TOER'S “MIDAH, SIMANIS BERGIGI EMAS”

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## Abstract

The title of this research is An Analysis of Social Conflict in Toer's "Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas". This research attempts to analyze the social conflict in the novel and how the author conveyed the social conflict. This research used a descriptive qualitative method in order to answer the research question and used A. J. Greimas theory namely "Actant Scheme and Functional Structure" to process the data. Greimas's theory used in this research is aim to know the structure of the story and how the conflict happen, because this theory shows the character and the story have a function that interplay with each other such as subject, object, sender, receiver, opponent, and helper. And the result from this research, the researcher found the conflict occurred in the story by the characters connected to the theory used. The researcher choose the book because the story contained in the work mostly talk about social life. Through this research, it can concluded that through literature, the author conveyed their opinion and message about social life and social conflict. In this research, the researcher found that the author conveyed the social conflict based on its acts of characters, sequences of events, and conversations between the characters.

**Keywords:** Literature, Novel, Structure, Social Conflict

## INTRODUCTION

Social life is a relationship between people and others. People need to communicate and interact with others to develop the social life, when the interaction had, it can be seen the conflict or problem happen. Conflict is a social process of two person or more (it can be a group) where one of the part try to eliminate other by destroying others or rendering a helpless. It is happen because of the different characteristic by the individual, such as the differences of physical, knowledge, culture, faith, and others. Conflict is a normal thing in social life, conflict is a part of human life, none a people in social life are never have a conflict, and conflict will disappear with the loss of society itself. Novel is one of literary works that represent a social reality about human life experiences. Thus, novel is aim to entertain people, to bring an audience in, and allow them the chance to experience foreign situations and characters, and thereby learn something new from its novel. For now reading a novel is an interesting activity, by reading a novel we can get a new information, experience, and story. Hence, based on the previous descriptions, the writer interested to find the social conflict in Premoedya Ananta Toer's novel "Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas" focused on how the author conveyed the conflict and how the structure of the novel describe the conflict.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In talking about literature, simply people can answer literature is a poem, prose, novel, and others. They are not wrong, because it is a kind of literary works. But the fact is, literature is not only about it, literature is a wide world. Based on several theories found by the researcher, the researcher can conclude that literature is a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention and action. Literature has a privilege and also a curiosity in every literary works that we cannot see in general. Teeuw (2013:20) said in general Modern West Language, literature is any kind of things written or usage of language in written form. David Carter (in Dinurriyah, 2014) defined literature as all kinds of writing including history and philosophy. He also said that literature is what a given society at a given time considers it to be. From the definition, it can conclude that literature will reveal to us about society in a certain time. Also the history, civilization, thought, and culture in that time can be learn.

### Prose

Prose is defined as the ordinary language people use in speaking and writing, and it's contrasted to poetry (Merriam Webster, 1991:45, Hornby, 1985:672, and Quick, 1998:832). Types of prose can be divided into 3 categories, those are (1)Narrative, (2)Descriptive, and (3)Argumentative. **Narrative Prose** is a prose which describes an action or a series of action to tell a story, **Descriptive Prose** is a prose which describes scenes, objects, people, or even a person's feeling, and **Argumentative Prose** is a prose which explain about ideas. Mostly people say that prose is writing that is organized in sentences and paragraphs, moreover form of prose are novel, short story, and tale. To many people, novels are regarded as the most interesting stories in prose because they often contain novelty (newness and strangeness), grand designs or great events or fresh idea about imaginary or historical people.

### Literary Criticism

When reading a literary works, instead of entertainment, research, and many more, an information will get and build the wisdom in seeing the literary work. Beside that, literary

work need to be considered in terms of the quality of their art. Literary criticism for public in general means as a light, because there are some aspects in literary work difficult to understand by readers, and it can be explained from a literary critic. Also, it can be as the way to develop the spirit or authors in creating their works. Mostly say that literary criticism is a “judgement” and mostly its mean as a good or bad assessment of a literary works. But the fact are, literary criticism is not only about the assess, there are several activity in literary criticism such as analyzing and another activity. As Abrams said (in Pradopo, 2018;11) *“Kritik sastra adalah studi yang berhubungan dengan pendefinisian, penggolongan (pengklasan), penguraian (analisis), dan penilaian (evaluasi)”* (Literary criticism is a study related to definition, classification, analysis, and evaluation).

### **Conflict**

Preuschott and Van Schaik (2000:77) said *“konflik merupakan kepentingan yang muncul ketika dua individu merasakan ketidakcocokan tujuan, yang terjadi ketika dua individu berusaha mendapatkan sesuatu yang hanya bisa dimiliki satu individu saja”* (conflict is an interest of two individuals feel the mismatch of goals, happen when two individuals try to get the things that only one part can have). It shows conflict is a part that can't be separated from human life and human interaction. Not only in the real life, same as in the literary works there are conflict that can't be separated from the story, as Emzir and Rohman (2015:188) said *“konflik menjadi dasar narasi yang kuat dan menjadi bagian penting dalam pengembangan alur atau plot pada sebuah cerita yang bersumber dari kehidupan”*(conflict is a strong narration base and become the important things in developing plot in a story that comes from life).

Nurgiyantoro (2005:122) says, *“bahkan sebenarnya yang dihadapi dan menyita perhatian pembaca sewaktu membaca suatu karya naratif adalah (terutama) peristiwa-peristiwa konflik. Konflik yang semakin memuncak, klimaks, dan kemudian penyelesaian”* (the real thing which confront and catch the reader's attention while reading narrative is (mainly) the events of conflicts. Advance conflict, climax, and completion). Event and conflict in a story is closely related, related from the previous event to the next event occur, and it is a essence of event (Nurgiyantoro, in Turistiani 2017:152). Furthermore, there are some event that can be a caused of conflict, from the conflict another event can appear. From the event and conflict appear in the story, it will make the story more interest and it can be analyzed.

### **Social Conflict**

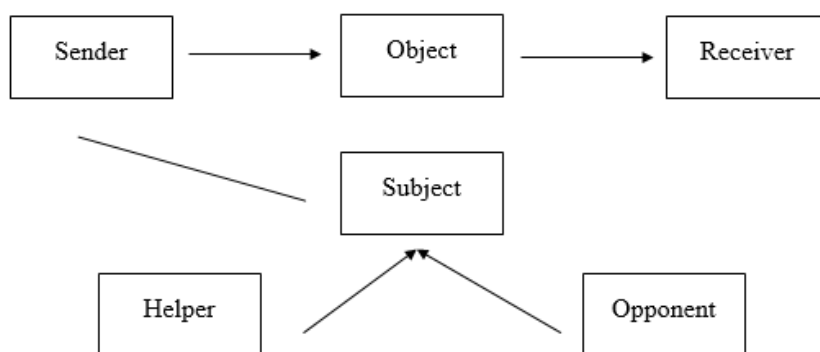
In etymology, the word conflict is formed from Latin “Con” means together, “Figere” means bump or crash. In this part, conflict in social life means conflict of interest, desires, opinions, and others that involved two or more parts, it can be a physical or non-physical. In social life, conflict can be a process into formation, integration, and maintenance of social structure, and it can determine a boundary between two groups or more. Social conflict is social process between people and people or people and group, it because there is a different point of view that made a gap in the social interaction of them. Social conflict also means as a conflict in group of social life because of culture, tribe, gender, economy, language, religion, and politic in its social interaction. Social conflict will never disappeared, but social conflict can be prevented.

## METHODOLOGY

This study used descriptive methods with qualitative approach to acquire descriptive data. In general, it is designed based on the view of its procedural frame. Bogdan and Taylor (1975:4) said “qualitative methodologies refer to research procedures which produce descriptive data: peoples own written or spoken words and observable behavior”. There are several steps taken by the researcher to collect the data in this research, there are ; Reading, Identifying, Marking, the last Understanding and Interpreting.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research is analyzing social conflict in Toer’s “Midah Simanis Bergigi Emas” primarily by finding out how the author conveyed the social conflict and how the structure of the novel described the social conflict. The results of the analysis are then displayed below, namely Actant Scheme.



Furthermore, the explanation about the schema of Actant and Function model can be described as follows :

1. **Midah** occupy as the **Subject**. Midah occupy as the Subject because Midah role as an actant who gets duty to obtain object derived by Hadji Abdul (as the sender). Midah need to get a justice and freedom because Hadji Abdul didn't give it to Midah.
2. **Hadji Abdul** occupy as the **Sender**, because Hadji Abdul creating injustice to Midah in their home and makes Midah feels ostracized.
3. **Justice and Freedom** occupy as the **Object** because it is an actant which Midah looking and hunting for. When Midah feels underestimated by her parents in home, she decided to find from others and she found a Busker Group
4. **Riah, Rois, and Ahmad** occupy as the **Helper** because they are helping Midah in her journey. Riah help Midah when she hunted by Hadji Abdul and help Midah when she ran out from her husband to Jakarta and give Midah a place to stay
5. **Nini, Midwife, and People** occupy as the **Opponent** because they are does not accept what Midah do in finding a justice and freedom for herself. Nini feels Midah take her position in the group as a new singer, Nini see Midah as a rival and Nini does not accept Midah in the group. Also Nini taunts her for imitating wearing gold teeth
6. **Midah** in this scheme also occupy as the **Receiver** because Midah will receive a result of the struggle in obtaining the object by the subject. And the result, Midah choose to live in the

wide world become a singer with a popular name “*Simanis Bergigi Emas*” (A sweet girl with golden teeth)

## DISCUSSION

Based on the data, the researcher concluded the social conflict in the story described by the structure of the novel itself, the structure of the novel are Abstract, Orientation, Complication, Evaluation, Resolution, and Ending. Start from explain the beginning of the story about Midah and her family and their condition called as abstract. In the abstract the author told about the first situation and condition of Midah and her family, also giving the reader can relate the environment of the story, after that the author simultaneously show the conflict from the easier that reader can relate.

Such as when Midah’s father or Hadji Abdul always believe that his God has provided a firm and sure way for him, it makes there is a power in him that able to subdue his surroundings. The author try to make readers can feel the environment of the story and the reader will have an opinion about the next story. Hadji Abdul was so thankful of his life, he looks into others’s life and think if they worship as he did, this life would change into a great life. It show that Hadji Abdul feel his life better than others, he thinks because of his faith he can be a Hadji and people respected to him.

Also it show the first conflict in the story, the easy social conflict happen. Because when a title Hadji got by Hadji Abdul, people in Cibatok respect to him and see him as a great person because of his title Hadji. From the statement, the researcher have an assumption that the author told about the title got by someone will affect to their environment and it can cause the social conflict happen. Furthermore, in the abstract the author also show the first conflict feels by Midah, when her father wants to have another child, he is willing to do anything to get new child. After got a lot of siblings, Midah dumped by her parents. Her parents focus to her siblings and give them more than they give to Midah. This conflict happen as the beginning of another conflict and the author show in the abstract.

Next is the orientation, in the orientation the author told the time and the situation of the story happened, beside that the author start to show the characterization of the characters in the novel. In this part, the author told the story happen in the 50’s with the setting in Jakarta. The author started to describe the first situation of Midah inside her home, she felt happy and enjoy her life at home. But suddenly when she has a lot of siblings, the situation drastically changed. She felt not enjoy inside her home, so she decided to find in the outside.

And then Midah found the enjoyment outside her home, Midah enjoy playing in the street, come home late or even at night and interested in kroncong song. The situation of Midah’s life was changed. Another situation also told by the author inside Midah’s home, after coming back home usually Hadji Abdul hear *Umi Kalsum*, an egyptian song with Midah. But now Hadji Abdul directly carry his children. The situation told by the author make an assumption to the researcher that there is a conflict happen between Midah and her parents. Conflict happen when Midah jealous of her younger siblings who have robbed her parent’s attention. It show the conflict in our social life especially conflict inside the family home.

Also in the orientation the author described the characterization of the characters in the story. In the novel the author described Midah as a strong woman and does not give up easily, it show when the author told in the story that Midah can faced the conflict occur in her life, when Midah was judged by people because they see the outside of her condition. It show one

of the social conflict happen, because sometimes people can easily judge others. The author also described Hadji Abdul.

Hadji Abdul described as a man respected by people because of his title Hadji, but it makes Hadji Abdul feel he can manage everything, especially his family. In his home, all the rules he controls. It shows when Hadji Abdul assumed that Riah, his housemaid was influencing Midah doing something he does not like, Hadji Abdul easily kicked Riah out without any consideration. Riah, as the housemaid can not do anything, because she does not have a strong position to help herself. In the social conflict usually the incident as the explanation above occurs.

Conflict in the novel is not just occur, there is a cause and effect relationship that the conflict can occur. In the structure of the novel, this part called as complication. Complication explains the incident occurs associated with cause and effect and also can cause other incident to occur. In *Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas* the author described the conflict with this structure. Started from when Midah enjoys playing in the street because inside her home she did not feel enjoy. She does not enjoy at her home because her parents no longer care to her, her parents focus to her younger siblings. After Midah enjoys her life playing in the street and interested in *kroncong*, then her father gets angry and forbids it, her father also slaps her cheek. One hit from her father makes Midah become a wild girl.

It can be seen that the conflict described by the author from the cause and effect relationship explained in the story, the author described the most common conflict in social life. Another conflict occurs when Midah is forced to marry with a chosen man by Hadji Abdul, her father. Even though Midah refuses, Midah needs to accept because her father feels he can control everything, including Midah, her daughter. After married, Midah chose to run out from her husband because she knew the reality about her husband. Midah continues her life with her baby in her tummy without Hadji Terbus.

Midah continues her life without husband and tries to find a job to live her life, but people judge Midah because of her condition, another conflict occurs. When Midah finds a busker group she tries to join and become a singer in the group and people increasingly see Midah as a bad woman. In this part the author shows how people treat others as easy as they want in the social life, and the author wants to show the social conflict occurs because of cause and effect relationship happens in the social life, but mostly people do and treat others as what they want.

After all the conflicts happen, there is a part which the conflict happens directed to a certain point and called as evaluation. In this novel the evaluation told by the author when Midah faced her journey of life, she joins in a busker group and becomes a singer. Midah thinks if every people come to the world with a talent, she realized now her talent is singing. She sings *kroncong* songs happily, makes people happy to hear the songs with her voice, she thinks it is the life she wants. Midah and her busker group become familiar, many people when hear Midah's voice they said she has a good voice and can be a famous singer.

Even though sometimes people judge Midah because of her condition, sometimes Midah realizes if she can be a famous singer, her life would be more easy. From this structure, the author told that the main object that Midah wants is become a singer and enjoying her life. But when Midah wants to catch the subject, the author told the journey of Midah in facing the conflict and the social conflict in the story.

After all the social conflict faced by Midah, in this part the author also told simultaneously the Midah's life purposes. It can be seen when the author told that Midah think she wants to be a famous singer to continue her life. Beside that, the author also assures that Midah wants to become a famous singer. One day, when Midah sing alone in front of the chinese restaurant, there is a man giving Midah a big applause. This is the first time someone giving a big applause for her, she feel shy. A familiar man appeared from inside the restaurant and it turned out to be him who gave a big applause.

Midah and the man talk in the restaurant, then the man asked Midah to sing in the radio. Midah so happy to hear that, because she will be a famous singer. The man will help Midah to be a famous singer and become a singer in the radio. The first thing that man do is trained Midah's voice until become more better, so she can easily sing in a radioafter her voice was trained.

After that, before the end of the story there is a part namely resolution. It show the solution of conflict happen in the story. In Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas the author also told about the resolution of the conflict have been faced by Midah. Midah choose to become a singer in radio, Midah choose to continue her life with Ahmad, a man who help her become a singer in radio, also a man who loved by Midah. In this novel the author told Midah choose to be a girl believe in her point of view and become a fanatical believer of love as the resolution.

But in the resolution the author also show the social conflict happen by Midah. The social conflict happen told by the author when Midah believe in her point of view, it makes she will dealing with public point of view. When Midah back to her parents's house, every neighbors who come are considered as the enemies of her faith, also Midah know that her neighbors feel powerful to talk about Midah's condition at will, her neighbors looks Midah like them punish Midah's condition. Another social conflict happen also told by the author when Midah love Ahmad very well, she has been give all the things in her life to Ahmad. But the result not accordance to Midah's expectation, Ahmad easily playing Midah's soul that break her life. Also this part connected to the functional model by Greimas called as glorifying test.

In Greimas theory that have been used in this research, glorifying test is when the subject have been get the object, then the subject get any obstacle. In the story Midah get an object as a singer in radio, but Midah get any obstacles from Ahmad that he had other intentions than what he had done. In this part the author show the social conflict from the story and conflict of Midah and Ahmad. Sometimes people help other to get another, and sometimes people in social life easily to believe new people because of several things in a certain condition.

The last, after the resolution there will be the end of the story and also the conflict close. In the end of the story the author told that Midah believe in her faith, she choose to live alone and far from her parents. Midah choose to leave her parent and her child. Only when she sing that she feels happy. Getting far Midah through her life, she always try to sing for herself, for her child, and for every people who wants to hear. After several months her famous name Simanis Bergigi Emas not being heard in every radio, now her name become famous in all over. Midah's life has met many men, met for anything. She decided to do not mind anything of the men, the popularity of her name along with her popularity in association with men.

Furthermore in the novel, the author conveyed the conflict through the whole story in the novel by the interaction between one to another character. Beside that the author conveyed the conflict through the events happen in the story, in the events of the story it show the

conflict happen. The researcher found that the author wants to share his opinion about common conflict and also social conflict happen in our life, the author wants to make readers more realize about the conflict and social conflict happen.

## CONCLUSION

Novel is one of literary works that represent a social reality about human life experiences. Novel is one of art that telling about human creativity in conveying their opinion, idea, and message. Literature cannot be separated from human life because literature also interpreted as a way to express human feeling and thought.

Conflict is a part of social life, it is a normal thing in human life. Conflict happen not only in the real life, in a literary work conflict will happen or develop. Such as in a novel there will be a conflict to develop the story and give a message to the readers. Also in the novel "Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas" there are conflict in the story to develop the story.

In the novel "Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas" the author shared his opinion and message about social human life and social conflict itself. The author told the common conflict occurred in social life. Based on the data the researcher found, the researcher concluded that conflict can caused by several reasons, there are some factor made the conflict occurred. Also the author described the conflict through the structure of the novel he wrote, furthermore the author described from the act of the characters in the story.

The researcher chose social conflict because the novel represent human life story. The researcher chose this approach to analyse the novel, that based on the skimming reading process done by the researcher, are estimated to have social conflict inside. After that the researcher dissected the novel by the theory used in this research. In conclusion, the analysis that had been conducted by the researcher has completed the main purposes of this research which are to find out the social conflict in Toer's "Midah, Simanis Bergigi Emas".

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