

## CONFLICTS IN KEVIN KWAN'S NOVEL *THE RICH PEOPLE PROBLEMS*

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The aims of this study are to find out the types of the main character's conflicts and to analyze factors cause the main character's conflict. This research applies descriptive qualitative method by applying sociological approach. The result of the research that there are kinds of conflicts. They are types of the main character's conflict in the internal and external conflicts. It also find some factors cause the main character's conflict. They are the individual differences, the differences between the interest of individual or groups, and rapid and sudden value changes in society.*

**Keywords:** *Conflicts, Factor Causes of Conflict, Main Character, Types of Conflicts.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Conflict is an event that is classified as important, it will be a functional, main, and core event in the novel (Burhan Nurgiyantoro, 2018: 178). It means conflict is a core part that functions to run every event the story can run beautifully. In short, conflict is very necessary to be found in the novel of *The Rich People Problems* by Kevin Kwan.

Some studies related to conflict have been proposed by some researchers. Indah Purnama (2021: 2) stated that conflict is a difference or contradiction between individuals or social group that occur due to differences in interests, and there is an attempt to fulfill the goal by opposing the opposing party accompanied by threats or violence. After that, Olivia Theresia Siahaan (2017: 3) stated that conflict is an important part of the story, because the interesting conflict will also determine the interest level of the reader. Then, Khairul Basri (2019: 4) found that conflict is one element that makes a story more valuable and attracts people to read it. In addition Maisarah (2018: 3) presented that conflict is really complete the whole story and make the reader becomes addicted to read again and again. The last but not the least Meiliana (2016: 2) identified conflict is the element of the story which shows the concerns of the character.

Based on the previous studies, the writer concludes that it is seen clearly that conflict is very necessary to be analysed in literary works.

Due to the fact, there are many problems within the own family that occur which include disharmony in a family, divorce, child improvement that is not choicest can be prompted with the aid of troubles that arise, social problems also can be the motive of dysfunctional family troubles, for that reason this social trouble can be a sustainable extreme problem. It seems that it is not always handiest the negative who've troubles, however, many rich people additionally have issues. one of the issues that the author desires to speak about in Kevin Kwan's novel *The rich human beings troubles* is ready Charlie Wu with Astrid Leong's problems and Felicity younger's own family with Charlie Wu's problems. The writer discusses both inner and outside conflicts inside the Young family

In short, conflict is very necessary to analyze as it is the soul of novel. For the reason, the writer is interested in doing to do the analysis entitled **CONFLICTS IN KEVIN KWAN'S NOVEL THE RICH PEOPLE PROBLEMS.**

In regarding to the problems of the study, the writer will formulate some objectives, they are as the follows:

1. To find out the types of the main character's conflicts in Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems*.
2. To analyze factors cause the main character's conflict in Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems*

## **RIVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The obtain the integrity of the story plot, there are several plot elements including the situation stage, generating circumstances stage, rising action stage, climax stage and denouement stage in Book of Teori Pengkajian Fiksi by Burhan Nurgiyantoro:

### **1. Situation Stage**

The most important stage, to find out how the description and introduction of both conditions, situations, settings and also each character in the story. This stage will tell how the story opens, providing initial information, so that it serves to underlie the story that will be told in the next stage.

### **2. Generating Circumstances Stage**

After the first stage, it must be in accordance with and related to the next stage, namely the second stage. It is at this stage that the emergence of conflict will begin to appear, the problems and events that sparked the conflict will begin to emerge. So, this stage is the initial stage of conflict arising and the conflict itself will develop or be developed into conflicts at the next stage.

### **3. Rising Action Stage**

After the previous stage began to show the emergence of conflict, this stage will tell the next stage the stage of increasing conflict. Conflicts in the previous stage that have been slightly conflicted will develop and develop according to the level of intensity given to the story. Dramatic events that become the core of the story are getting more gripping and tense. Conflicts that occur both internally and externally, or both, conflicts, conflicts between the interests of the problem and the characters that lead to the climax are increasingly unavoidable.

### **4. Climax Stage**

After the stages that have been passed previously, the third and fourth stages above are the middle stage of the story. For the next stage discussed here is the climax stage in other words part of the peak of the problem in the story. The climax of a story will be experienced by the main characters who act as perpetrators and sufferers who will be the main conflict in the story. Where the problems or conflicts that occur are carried out by the characters so that they can reach the peak intensity of the problems in the story.

### **5. Denouement Stage**

The fifth stage is denouement, it is also known as resolution. The final stage of all the stages described above. At this stage, conflicts that have reached a climax are given a way out so that the characters in the story can end the story.

The plot of a story is generally divided into three stages, the initial stage, the middle stage and the final stage. So that in detail it can be further divided into five stages, but the place does not have to be chronologically linear like the discussion above. In the work system of studying the plot of a fictional story, which details are followed is up to the person concerned.

Conflict can be divided into two categories, namely internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs in the heart of a character's soul. In other words, this conflict is

a conflict experienced with himself. While external conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself (Nurgiyantoro 2007:157).

For this reason, there are two types of conflicts, internal conflicts divided into man vs self and external conflict divided into man vs man; man vs society; man vs nature.

In literature, conflict has the meaning of conflict experienced by a character in a story that is in conflict with external factors from outside the character, as well as internal origins from within the character that hinders the character in achieving his desires, for example, character conflict with the environment, the conflict of the character with the community in his environment, the conflict of the character with the natural surroundings, an idea with another idea, and a person with his heart (Tarigan, 2011:177).

It means that, when a conflict occurs, there must be a background factor causing. The following is an explanation of the factors that cause conflict to be presented below:

1. Individual differences

Physical differences are seen from the physical state of a person so that it can lead to disputes and clashes between members of the community. As for the physical differences in question, for example, one's appearance or beauty, how perfect one's senses are and one's body shape, there are also differences in the ownership of one's property both materially and non-materially.

Every human being is a unique individual, where everyone has different opinions and feelings from one another. Differences in attitudes and feelings about something or a real environment can be a factor causing conflict.

2. Different cultural backgrounds form different personalities.

Each individual has a different cultural background, this will form a different person. If there is no mutual understanding and respect for these differences, this does not rule out the possibility of causing conflict. As seen for example, person A who has culture A, moves to region B with culture B. If that person continues to carry his original culture, of course he will not be well received in his new area. In other words, even if the person has a strong influence, it would be nice if you continue to make adjustments to the culture of the new place of residence.

3. The difference between the interests of individuals or groups.

Social status is a person's position in a community group, to get it there is something that can be cultivated and there is also a status that is obtained without effort. For example, in achieving education. If within a person or group there are desires to be recognized as a person or group who has position and a prominent role then there is competition. The position and role pursued depends on what is most valued by society at a given time.

4. Rapid and sudden value changes in society.

Each individual has different feelings, attitudes, and cultural backgrounds. Therefore, at the same time, each person or group has different interests. Sometimes people can do the same thing, but the purpose is different. In here, there are differences in interests between one group and another so that it will bring about social conflict in society. Conflicts due to differences in interests can also involve the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. Likewise, it can occur between groups or between groups and individuals, for example conflicts between groups of workers and employers that occur because of differences in interests between the two. The workers want adequate wages, while the entrepreneurs want a large income to enjoy themselves and enlarge the field and volume of their business.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the study the writer applies qualitative research method. It is concerned with qualitative phenomenon involving quality. Qualitative research is non-numerical, descriptive, applies reasoning and uses words; its aim is to get the meaning, feeling and describe the situations aim is to get the meaning, feeling and describe the situation (Sam Goundar, 2012:9).

Qualitative research does not need any calculation numeration. It is technique that researcher used to analyzing data. It means the writer makes descriptive analysis. It related to the structural element Astrid and Charlie conflict in Kevin Kwan's Novel *The rich People Problems* viewed from sociological approach.

The data sources consist of two categories namely primary data source and secondary data sources. The primary data sources is Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems*. The secondary data source is about the data are supporting data that from other related to the study, they are homage, website, dictionary and some journals.

In collecting the data which is possible relevant to the study, the writer will take some steps, the steps are as follows:

1. Reading the novel carefully and repeatedly.
2. Highlighting and taking the character, where the main characters experience the conflicts some important notes which are related to the study.

In analyzing data, the writer will take these followings steps:

1. Classifying the events that the main character experienced into two types of conflict: Internal conflicts and external conflicts. Finding out types conflicts and factor of the conflicts that used in **The Rich People Problems**.
2. Identifying types conflicts and factors cause the main character's which are find in the novel using the theory of Nurgiyantoro in the book entitled *Teori Pengkajian Sastra and Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*.
3. Proving the factor of the conflicts, which are found in this novel.
4. Analyzing factor causes of conflict find in this novel.
5. Drawing conclusions

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The writer limits the analysis on the main character, so the internal and the external conflicts that will be explained in this chapter only focus on the internal and external conflicts that occur inside the main character, Astrid Leong.

### 1. Internal conflicts

#### a. *Man vs Self*

Astrid Leong is one of the main character in Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems*. She always appears in every scene and becomes one the central of the story. However, she is now a widow who recently divorced her husband, which name is Michael Teo. Lorena's question about Astrid.

Data 1:

*"Who is the Malaysian girl with the super big red choker necklace? If the main stone looks that big from here, it must be the size of a lychee up close!" Lorena shouted.*

*"Oh, that's Dowager Sultana of the Pirates. She lives with the Leong family, of course." Eleanor reported. [The Rich People Problems, p.28]*

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that since Astrid is the daughter of the Leong family and Michael Teo, a wealthy man who can buy a super large red choker necklace with the main stone, if you look closely, its size is the size of a lychee, the sooner the news of

Astrid divorced from her husband. Until it has spread widely and is heard from ear to ear of his family.

In novel *The Rich People Problems*, the man character already shown the conflict within himself when her worries keep growing in her head how should she meet her family? How should he face his mother? What will happen next? All these questions appeared in Astrid's mind as she walked down the hospital hallway and wanted to visit her grandmother in the hospital, where her whole family was there, especially her mother would also be there.

Data 2:

*Astrid suspected Cathleen was talking about what had happened with Isabel Wu last night. With all the attention on her grandmother, Astrid's parents didn't bring up the incident, but she knew it wouldn't last long.*

*"Now or never, I guess" Astrid steeled herself [The Rich People Problems, p.51]*

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Astrid suspected that Cathleen had told the news of Isabel Wu's shocking incident with her last night. It can be seen that Astrid faced the family with a thick face and ears while bracing herself to explain everything clearly and well to the family, especially to her mother, Felicity Young.

In this study, the writer have tried to discuss of the main character internal conflicts has in Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems*. Based on the discussion above, the writer can conclude that Astrid is worried that the news of her divorce from her husband has been known to many people and that her relationship with her lover will have to be explained to her family.

## 2. External Conflicts

### a. *Man vs Society*

#### ***Conflict between Astrid and Society***

The conflict between Astrid and Isabel is widespread in society. Their bickering led to the emergence of the most popular online gossip news in Asia.

Data 1:

*For those of you following the hot scandal involving Isabel, wife of tech billionaire Charlie Wu, which nearly caused an international incident between Malaysia and Hong Kong, put your seat belts on, because I really have a surprise for you. Announced their separation in 2013, and the informant told me that since then they have been secretly negotiating the terms of the divorce. At stake is the Wu family's fortune, their historic mansion on Peak Road, and custody of their two daughters. However, a close friend of Isabel's told me, "It's really hard for Isabel. She's been having a mental breakdown lately because of the emotional stress of the divorce and the other woman's involvement." [The Rich People Problems, p.52]*

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, It can be seen that the news comes from one of the tech billionaires in Singapore. The news broadcast by Leonardo Lai concerns the divorce between Michael Wu and Isabel. Where the separation of the two of them has been going on for a long time since 2013. For a long time the two of them have also negotiated a divorce and also the division of their assets. There is also the cause of their divorce due to the presence of another woman who entered their household. This was a hard thing for Isabel, so she had a mental breakdown due to very emotional stress.

## Data 2:

*Yep, you heard right. SURPRISE NUMBER ONE: Daily Dining can now confirm that the other woman was none other than Astrid Leong Teo, the model-beautiful wife of the muscular handsome Singapore Venture Capitalist Michael Teo (who I think should be Calvin Klein's underwear model), and mother of a seven-year-old boy, Cassius. Yes, Charlie and Astrid have had a hot secret relationship for the past five years. [The Rich People Problems, p.52]*

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that another woman present in Charlie and Isabel's household is Astrid Leong Teo. She is the wife of a handsome man and also a very famous model in Singapore, Michael Teo. Michael and Astrid's household has also been blessed with a child named Cassius. Based on the news above, it was reported that the secret relationship between Charlie and Astrid had been going on for the last five years.

## Data 3:

*In fact, SURPRISE NUMBER TWO: Tom Kundig's stunning house currently under construction in Shek O and which everyone thinks is Leo Ming's new private museum, will actually become Charlie and Astrid's love nest once they can officially live together! (Astrid and Michael Teo are apparently also on their way to divorce proceedings.). [The Rich People Problems, p.52]*

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that Charlie Wu has already prepared a house from a famous architect for Astrid. The house is where they have been hiding their love for the last five years. If the relationship between Charlie and Astrid later becomes official, it will also be the house they will both live in and live as a new household.

## Data 4:

*The seductively beautiful Astrid may not be a familiar name to Hong Kong readers, but she has an extraordinary background: According to a reliable source in Singapore, Astrid is the only daughter of Harry Leong, whose official title is chair emeritus of the Institute of ASEAN Affairs. ... Unofficially, he is one of the most influential political power brokers who, according to my sources, also happens to head S.K. Leong Holdings Pte Ltd, a secret giant that reportedly owns Bank of Borneo, Selangor Mining, New Malaysia Post, and Palmcore Berhad, one of the world's largest commodities traders. [The Rich People Problems, p.52]*

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that Astrid did not come from a family that was careless, but came from a family background with extraordinary wealth. Astrid is a daughter of Harry Leong. He is a chair emeritus of the Institute of ASEAN Affairs. He has a very influential political power in Singapore. He is also one of the world's largest commodity traders and the head of several large companies in Singapore, both mining and oil companies.

## Data 5:

*Astrid's mother, Felicity Young, comes from one of Singapore's top-flight families. The Young Family is in their own stratosphere. Cousins to the Tsien family, Tan family, and Shang family—they're practically brothers and sisters to everyone important, and Felicity's mother, Shang Su Yi, is the owner of Tyersall Park, Singapore's largest private real estate. , " he poor my source. [The Rich People Problems, p.53]*

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that Astrid's mother named Felicity Young also comes from one of the best descendant families in Singapore. The Young family is a cousin of all the important people in Singapore. Felicity Young's mother, Shang Su

Yi, is the owner of the largest asset in Singapore, namely Tyersal Park, where the private real estate is only used by the Young family's private property.

Data 6:

*Schooled in London and Paris, Astrid moved in the most exclusive circles and her friends included non-governing European nobility, top fashion designers, and famous artists. "How can Isabel compete with her? Izzie is not a wealthy heiress she has had an important career as a legal adviser to the oppressed poor Hong Kong and is busy raising her two daughters instead of lavishly traveling the world, sitting in the front row of fashion shows. No wonder she has a mental breakdown. Of course Charlie is hooked on Astrid's glamorous life - he's been seduced by her before."* [The Rich People Problems, p.53]

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that Astrid used to go to school in London and in Paris. Astrid has been living in the most exclusive circles. He even has friends from the royals from Europe, top model designers, and famous actresses in Singapore. When compared between Isabel and Astrid, Isabel was nothing. Isabel is just a lawyer and sometimes busy raising her two daughters. He doesn't even have time to live in luxury around the world. So, it's not surprising that Isabel had to experience a mental breakdown with all that she had faced so far. Of course, Charlie would be more enamored with a woman who lived a more groomed and glamorous life like Astrid.

Data 7:

*Which brings us to SURPRISE NUMBER THREE: Back in college, Astrid and Charlie had been engaged, but the relationship was cut off by Astrid's family because the Wu family from Hong Kong was deemed unworthy by these arrogant Singaporeans! It seems 'until now lovers never forget their love, which eventually becomes a big problem. Stay tuned with Daily Meals for more surprises to come!* [The Rich People Problems, p. 53].

From the Daily News from Leonardo Lai, it can be seen that in the past Charlie had indeed been seduced by Astrid. During college they dated and even got engaged. The relationship between the two of them had to break up in the middle of the road because Astrid's family did not approve of their relationship for marriage. Charlie's family is a family from Hong Kong, where Astrid's family, who is from Singapore, is considered inappropriate. As time goes by, it can be seen that the love between Charlie and Astrid has not forgotten each other until they can be reunited and make love again. However, now their love must be a disaster for both their families.

Based on the Daily News from Leonardo Lai above, it can be concluded that all information about Astrid has been known by the public through the gossip news above. The news discusses the quarrel that occurred between Astrid and Isabel, Astrid's special relationship with Charlie Wu, and also where Astrid came from. Astrid's entire family had to be dragged into the news. In fact, Tyersall Park which is an asset of the pride of the Astrid family must also be discussed. The Young family is a family that society desires, in terms of harmony, wealth and throne. However, this time with the news that has spread almost all over Singapore, the Young family has to face enormous embarrassment among the people.

#### **b. Man vs Man**

Astrid vs Isabel, Charlie Wu's wife, is one form of external conflict. In the novel *The Rich People Problems*, the conflict that happened to Astrid started from here, Astrid was holding a Christian fellowship dinner at the church. In the middle of the service, when the Archbishop

was about to start the ceremony to welcome the blessing, suddenly Isabel's screams filled the ballroom in the church, breaking the silence, dragging her two children to the front of the church with her.

Data 1:

*"Here she is!"*

*"I want you to see with your own eyes! I want you to see the whore who snatched your father!"*  
Isabel screamed. [The Rich People Problem, p.31]

From the dialogue above, Isabel knows that Astrid and some of the Young's family are in the church having a Christian banquet. Isabel thinks that by making a fuss she can win back the hearts of her two children who both of them already like Astrid, trying to tell the two children even in front of the crowd that Astrid was the one who snatched their father from her mother in a very loud tone. He also wanted all the members of the church who were there, some of Astrid's family, and even the bishop to make Astrid ashamed of what she had done with her husband, Charlie Wu.

### **Conflict between Astrid and her Mother**

The conflict continues, the conflict between Astrid and her mother is the biggest problem that Astrid has to face. It is undeniable that Astrid's conflict can be said to be the main topic in her life story.

Firstly, at the hospital, when her mother was taking care of Astrid's grandmother, Su Yi, the news of what happened last night between Isabel and Astrid was heard by her mother, Felicity Young. Her mother learns about the news about her daughter getting divorced from her husband, Michael Teo and also about her daughter destroying Isabel's household and having a relationship with Michael Wu. Rachel's explanation about her daughter household.

Data 1:

*"What difference does it make who sent? The news is everywhere now. Everyone knows your marriage is on the brink, and it's your fault!"* Felicity groaned.

*"Come on, Mom, you know it's not my fault. You know how careful and discreet I have been for the last few years we have been dealing with the divorce. This article is just a collection of inaccuracies and lies. When have I ever sat in the front row of a fashion show? I always help backstage. See, they even spelled Cassian's name wrong"* [The Rich People Problems, p.53]

From the conversation above, Felicity Young looks angry and embarrassed to know that her daughter's marriage to her daughter-in-law must end in divorce and will be destroyed. Not wanting the Young surname to be bad, her mother didn't want the news of the incident to spread further and was worried that it would make Su Yi's situation worse. Plus, her mother also blames Astrid as a woman who can't take care of her own marriage. It was also seen there, Astrid explained well about the incident and denied some of the news that had been read so that her mother's anger that was already overflowing could be quelled a little.

Furthermore, after his mother heard all of Astrid's explanations. As a mother who has given birth and raised her child. Of course, she knows when her child is lying and when not.

Data 2:

*"So you're denying everything? You're not having an affair with Charlie Wu?"*

*"Not in the last five years! Charlie and I had only been in a relationship for a year and a half—and that was after I left Michael, and Charlie filed for divorce from Isabel."* [The Rich People Problems, p.53]



Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that the allegation that Astrid denies Astrid's relationship with Michael Wu Felicity Young is true. However, because Astrid couldn't dodge any longer, she started to reveal everything even more. It can be seen Astrid is trying to blame the news where the news says they have been in a relationship for the last five years. He explained that his relationship with Charlie Wu had only been going on for the past year and a half and even then after he had left Michael Teo at that time, he also explained that later Charlie Wu would also divorce Isabel.

Secondly, Felicity young just doesn't want her daughter to be branded as the destroyer of Isabel's household by society so she completely disapproves of Astrid's relationship with Charlie Wu.

Data 3:

*"That's right! That's why Isabel Wu went berserk and tried to attack you! You destroyed his wedding... You destroyed his family!" Felicity mumbled between her tears.*

*"Mom, Isabel Wu's marriage to Charles has never been happy. I have nothing to do with their breakup. If you want to know the truth, it was Isabel who strayed through the years, with lots of men--." [The Rich People Problems, p.54]*

Based on the dialogue above, it can be concluded that Felicity Young is increasingly convinced that Astrid is the cause of the rift and destroys Isabel Wu's household with Charlie. However, Astrid tries to explain that for years it was Isabel who wandered around with other men and defended herself that she was the one who cracked and even destroyed Isabel's household with Charlie Wu.

Moreover, Felicity Young is a very religious person. He wants his son to be faithful and tries to keep his marriage to Michael Teo.

Data 4:

*"Still that's no reason for you to be Anna Karenina! Still you are unfaithful! You two are still married to other people in the eyes of the law and God! My God, what will Bishop See think when he finds out about all this? -- So now what? You're going to move into a 'love nest' with Charlie after the divorce and live in sin?" [The Rich People Problems, p.54]*

Based on the dialogue above, it can be concluded that Felicity Young is increasingly convinced that Astrid is the one who is not faithful to her marriage. He advised Astrid that Michael Teo and Astrid were legal in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of God. On the other hand, as a religiously devout mother, He just doesn't want them to be entangled in sin as God has commanded that divorce is not justified by God.

Thirdly, Felicity Young knows that when viewed from Charlie Wu's economic background, Charlie Wu is not a person who can be compared to his daughter, Astrid.

Data 5:

*"He is not an established person! Wu Hao Lian's father used to sell soy sauce on a bicycle!"*  
*"Maybe it was like that at first, but they've come a long way since Charlie's grandfather's days. Charlie created one of the most admired companies in the world. Look at Mom's new phone – the screen, the casing, I'm sure at least half of the phone's components are made by Wu Microsystems!" [The Rich People Problems, p.55]*

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Felicity young does not like it because what she sees is the economic background of Charlie Wu's family, previously Charlie

was just a fast-paced seller using bicycles. Astrid continues to fight for her relationship with Charlie Wu, she dispels suspicions about her mother regarding Charlie Wu's economic background and explains that at first Charlie Wu's economic situation was indeed difficult, over time things began to change, Charlie Wu's family even owned the most admired company in the world. By the following excerpt that the writer will present shortly below, Felicity Young still thinks that Charlie Wu's family economic background is just mediocre.

Data 6:

*"Look how many Mrs. Wu's donations to the church on Barker Road—"*

*"The Wu family is very ordinary, and they prove it even more by giving the church extravagant money. They think their dirty money can buy a way to heaven!" [The Rich People Problems, p.55]*

From the conversation above, it can be seen that Astrid continues to try to defend Charlie Wu and look for reasons that make her mother happy with her lover. Since, she thought that his mother liked church-related things, so she conveyed that the donations that the Wu family had given so far were very large. However, her mother thought that what the Wu family was doing was just an image.

### **Conflict between Astrid with Her Father**

The conflict still continues, the conflict between Astrid and her father. Firstly, her father also disliked her boyfriend because their relationship had resulted in ridiculous gossip about their family.

Data 1:

*"Look, what happened. Before today our families could enjoy the privilege of total secrecy and anonymity. The Leong surname never appears in the gossip column, let alone something as ridiculous as this... I don't even know what this stupid news is called."*

*"And you blame Charlie for this?" Astrid shook her head, not understanding her father's logic. [The rich People Problems, p.56]*

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that so far the Leong family is a family that is far from gossip. However, because of his daughter's actions his father felt ashamed, the Leong family had to be known by many people just because of such ridiculous news gossip.

Secondly, her father his father also disapproved of his relationship with her boyfriend because the result of the news had damaged their family's privacy as well as their family business interests.

Data 2:

*"You have completely exposed yourself! You've also exposed and exposed your family's secrets! For more than two hundred years our business interests have never been compromised, but now they will. Don't you understand what effect it has on you? I don't think you fully realize how much damage has been done, not only to our side but also to your mother's side. Tyersall Park is mentioned. And all at the most inopportune time, when your grandmother was seriously ill. Tell me how you plan to face Uncle Alfred when he arrives this afternoon?"*

*"I will face Uncle Alfred myself if that's what you want. I will explain everything that happened." [The rich People Problems, p.56]*

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that the impact of his son's actions has exposed their two families, namely the Leong family and the Young family. Even as a result of his daughter's actions, the paparazzi will mess up their family business, this will affect their family business interests. So far, the assets of the Young family, namely Tyersall Park, have never been exposed, it will also drag the family of their uncle named Alfred, where Tyersall Park will be given as an inheritance from Su Yi.

Thirdly, her father prefers her husband named Michael Teo, because he is very helpful in the problems that his daughter has created.

Data 3:

*"Michael closed it?"*

*"Yes. He bought the company that owned this wretched site and put an end to all his bullshit. This is probably the first useful thing Michael has ever done to protect you. This is a compliment I can't give Charlie Wu at all!"* [The Rich People Problems, p.57]

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Astrid's father prefers Michael Teo this time. Thanks to her husband's swift attitude by buying the company that made the ridiculous news site, the news finally did not spread anywhere. Thus, in the end it does not have to harm the business interests of the Leong family and the Young family.

### **Conflict between Astrid and Her Husband**

The conflict continued, but this time it got hotter. The conflict created by Michael Teo is getting more and more chaotic. Firstly, the conflict between Astrid and Michael began when Michael sent a message to Astrid that Michael would try to keep their child, Cassian, from Astrid.

Data 1:

*MT : This is all you want. She should be at Gordonstoun.*

*AL : Boarding schools in Scotland are not the solution. I don't want to argue with you about this anymore. I just don't understand, why you bothered asking her when you didn't even want to spend time with her.*

*MT : To keep her away from your bad influence.* [The Rich People Problems, p.300]

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Michael Teo was indeed trying to keep Cassian away from Astrid by living with him in Scotland and also sending Cassian to Gordonstoun. Even though Astrid knows very well that her father never spends time with his daughter. However, Michael was still adamant by reasoning that Michael did not want his daughter to get bad influence from her mother.

Secondly, the quarrel between the wife and her husband continues through messages. Michael Teo continues to message Astrid, where the message is about custody of their child.

Data 2:

*MT: After all, it will be over soon. I'll have full child custody of Cassian.*

*AL: You are delusional.* [The Rich People Problems, p. 300]

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Michael knows that Astrid, like a mother, can't be away from her child. Therefore Michael wants to take full custody of Cassian, because from the beginning Michael only wanted to make Astrid miserable, including keeping her child away from Astrid.

Thirdly, because Astrid did not agree to her husband's request. The quarrel between the wife and her husband still continues through messages. Michael wants to win the trial, so he threatens Astrid by sending Astrid intimate photos with Charlie Wu.

Data 3:

*AL: This photo doesn't prove anything. Charlie only comforted me after you left me.*

*MT: "Supporting". Does not this include intimacy?*

*AL: Why do you have to be so rude? You know I've never cheated on you. You pretended to be cheating, wanted to get out of our marriage then, and I was so devastated. Charlie just became a good friend.*

*MT: Friends with benefits. I have lots of other photos. You'll be surprised. [The Rich People Problems, p.300]*

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Michael proves his word that he does have a photo of Astrid with Charlie. It is clear that Michael has been taking various ways to divorce Astrid, including pretending to be cheating on her. However, he wants to take custody of the custody and also does not want to be blamed in their divorce trial, so by providing intimate photos of Astrid with Charlie, which can make Astrid's image bad in the eyes of the public.

The last, the photographic evidence Michael had of Astrid wasn't enough to frighten her. Michael also sends a few message to Astrid about blackmailing Astrid, if she does not fulfill Michael's request.

Data 4:

*The first message simply read: It's all for Cassian.*

*The second message is a file that is still in the process of being downloaded.*

*The third message read: \$5 billion or you lose her forever. [The Rich People Problems, p.301]*

Based on the conversation above, it can be concluded that Michael increasingly wants to make Astrid's life miserable. Starting from taking custody of Cassian, twisting the fact that Astrid is at fault, and now having video evidence of Astrid's intimate relationship with Charlie so that they can extort Astrid's money of 5 billion dollars.

After analyzing the collected data, the writer found that there were three factor causing of the conflicts, namely:

### **1. Individual Differences**

This first factor causing of the conflicts begins with the individual differences such as, Astrid's economic situation is different from that of Michael Wu's family. Astrid tried to explain to her mother that, compared to the past, Michael Wu's family is now economically stable. The Wu Microsystems Company which is arguably the most admired in the world is one example that their family's economy has really taken off. However, Felicity Young still didn't agree because when compared to the Leong family and Young family, the Wu Microsystems company was nothing. Young even has a very famous asset in Singapore, namely Tyersall Park which has hundreds of servants to take care of, there is also Tyersall Avenue and not only that there are many other assets. So, Felicity Young thinks that compared to the Wu family it is still not enough worth it.

### **2. The Differences between the Interest of Individual or Groups**

The second factor causing of the conflicts such as, there is a difference in social status in society between Astrid's family and Charlie's family. If viewed from the background of the Wu family in the past, where his grandfather was only a traveling soy sauce seller who used a bicycle. Astrid's family

background is a respected person since Astrid's great-grandfather. Astrid's great-grandfather was one of the soldiers who saved Borneo so at that time, the King of Borneo gave an award to repay the services of the Singaporean army. It can be seen that the difference in the social status of Charlie Wu's family is a newly rich person, while Astrid's family has become rich even since Astrid's great-grandparents. With this difference in social status, this will have a big impact on the Young family. In terms of business interests and also the reputation of the Leong family as well as the Young family will fall slightly if they have to deal with the Wu family.

### 3. Rapid and Sudden Value Changes in Society

The third factor causing is rapid and sudden value changes in society such as, Astrid Leong's family will be viewed badly by society because Astrid is labeled as the destroyer of Isabell's household relationship with Charlie Wu. The Leong and Young families are families that are far from the word negative views in society. A rich, respected, and dignified family is what society sees in their family. What Felicity Young said is true, what society would say about their family if their relationship continued? The dignity that had been nurtured well by his great-grandfathers would be destroyed and ugly in the eyes of society later. From social status, it will also affect the Leong and Young families. Their business interests will be randomized again if by the company that spreads the gossip site. If their name is already bad in the eyes of the public, it will be difficult for other business people to do business with their families again. This, in the future, is really very detrimental to the Leong and Young families.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the writer comes to the conclusion for objective of the study, as following as:

- a. First, the writer takes the conflicts are happened between other characters. The main characters have conflict with each other. Conflict happens because of some of the reason. The writer draws the conclusion about family conflict reflected in Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems* using sociology analysis. Conflict can occur to family members. From *The Rich People Problems* novel, the readers can take the lesson about conflict in family. Different types of conflict in family due to many reasons. In *The Rich People Problems* novel, the writer conclude that in Astrid's family, conflict can occur internally conflict, as follow as: conflict between Astrid with herself and externally conflict, as follow as: conflict between Astrid and Isabel, conflict between Astrid and Felicity Young (her mother), conflict between Astrid and Harry Leong (her father), and conflict between Astrid and Michael Teo (her husband).
- b. The writer finds that there are three factors cause the main character's conflicts, such as:
  - Astrid's economic is different from that Michael Wu's family,
  - There is a difference in social class status in society between Astrid's family and Charlie's family,
  - Astrid's family will be viewed badly by society.

This research based on sociology analysis using Nurgiyantoro theory. The writer can see clearly that this research content sociology aspect. According to sociological aspect, this story shows the varieties of social phenomena that happened in family. Social phenomenon implicates some people to play a role in this life.

- c. Kevin Kwan's novel *The Rich People Problems* has interesting social phenomena to analyze. Every problem shows family conflict that happened in society. Therefore, people can learn the story and imagine what we should do after having family.

**Suggestion**

There are many things can be learned from literature it is related to the reflection in human's life. Literature describes about conflict and factor causing of the conflict that occur in society so people can be wiser and be more understood to face the problems. The Rich People Problems novel is written by Kevin Kwan. He tries to describe social phenomena in a life. It has interesting story that gives moral value. The moral value can be applied in people real life. The writer suggest that the readers can take the lesson from different problem of social family life. This novel gives knowledge about social phenomena and conflict that happens in family.

The writer hopes this study is able to give the information for those who want to study literary work in relation to Social Status. It also can be useful and be a precious knowledge for all, especially for the students of department of English language and literature, the Methodist University of Indonesia.

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