

The Psychological Conflict of Main Actor in The Suffragette Film by Sarah Gavron Based on Kurt Lewin's Perspective

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Abstract—The purpose of this research is: (a) to describe the types of psychological conflict of the main actor in the suffragette film based on Kurt Lewin's perspective; (b) to explain the causes of psychological conflict of the main actor in the suffragette film based on Kurt Lewin's perspective; (c) and to understand the impact of the psychological conflict of main actor in the Suffragette films based on Kurt Lewin's perspective. This research is a descriptive qualitative study. The primary data source is a film titled Suffragette directed by Sarah Gavron and secondary data sources in the form of books, journals, and the internet related to this study. The techniques of data collection used are watching, reading, and noting. The techniques of data validation used are increasing perseverance, triangulation, and discussing with the expert. The data analysis technique used is by understanding, grouping, and interpreting data. The results of the study show that: (a) The types of psychological conflict in this film are (1) Approach-approach conflict; (2) Approach-avoidance conflict; and (3) Multiple approach-avoidance conflict; (b) The causes of the conflict are: (1) Maud Watts replaces Violet to convey her witness about women; (2) Violet invited to attend a women's movement meeting led by Mrs. Pankhurst; (3) Maud Watts received an offer from Mr. Steed is a law enforcer to become a suffragette spy; (c) The impacts of the psychological conflict to main actor are: (1) Maud Watts experienced disappointment with the government, the family of Maud Watts became unharmed because her husband continued to be ridiculed by friends at his workplace. Maud Watts was also ostracized by his neighbors; (2) Maud Watts suffered tortures such as punches and verbal abuse from the police, the husband did not allow him to meet George. Maud Watts felt deep sadness at parting with George, and a great disappointment to her husband; (3) Maud Watts felt sadness mixed with remorse due to the death of Emily for her struggle.

Keywords—*cause, conflict, film, impact, types*

I. INTRODUCTION

The psychological conflict is a doubt caused by two or more motives that appear simultaneously [1]. Conflict itself means something that cannot be separated from human life because the essence of conflict is born that is caused by the interactions in life. Conflict is defined as a process of conflict that occurs between two or more parties that are interdependent about the object of conflict, uses patterns of conflict behaviour and interaction of conflicts that produce behaviour due to the conflict [2]. Conflict occurs because of differences in interests, as well as the effort to fulfil the

objectives by opposing the opposing parties accompanied by threats or violence [3].

As happened at women in London in 1912. Conflict arose behind the movement of women who fought for their rights to be active in elections like men. The position of women is described as being under men, working every time from morning to night, earning less than men, and only acting as a housewife. Women are also not allowed to take part in the world of government. They were forced to fight underground under the increasingly cruel authority of the government. These women are not from the upper classes who are educated, but women workers who see that peaceful protests are not beneficial. Radicalism and violence are the only way to improve conditions and achieve equal rights. They are willing to lose everything, their work, home, children, and life.

The above phenomenon was finally portrayed in a film titled Suffragette. Maud Watts is a central figure who is a portrait of one woman who fights for the equality of women's rights. She experienced many problems both with the government and her family. In this research, the researchers decided to look more forward to the problems experienced by Maud Watts based on Kurt Lewin's perspective.

Linzey and Hal suggest that Lewin's conflict occurs in the field of one's life. A person's life field and psychological environment that is at him at a certain time [4]. Systematically Lewin's thought can be formulated into the following formula: b (behaviour), p (person), and e (environment). The formula contained an understanding of human behavior, including social behavior, which is the result of interactions of individual personality characteristics and their environment. Human behavior is an integral result of the two elements. In this case, the environment as living space cannot be separated from unity with the human personality. Living space consists of events in the past, present and future are aspects of life that affect each person's behavior [5].

Lewin's theory is called Field Theory. Lewin's thought is strongly influenced by the flow of Gestalt psychology. So, it is not surprising that field theory also prioritizes the whole rather than the elements or parts in his study of the human soul [4]. The field theory states that however and whenever a human is always living in a field. The field means field of physics and psychic power that always changes according to the situation of life. Therefore, a description of human

behavior must also pay attention to the forces acting on it in the changing field [6].

Lewin defines conflict as a condition in which some forces contradict each other but in the same level of strength [4]. Conflicts are divided into several types, as follows:

The First is approach-approach conflict. This conflict occurs when someone (P) is between two equal positive valences [4]. In this conflict, one must choose between two equally strong positive valences. The strength of one power will increase if the valence of the target area strengthens and the psychological distance to the region decreases. If this happens, then the conflict is resolved [7].

The second type of conflict is avoidance-avoidance conflict. That is if someone (P) is between two negative valences that are equally strong [4]. For example, a person will face punishment (G-1) if he does not work on tiring schoolwork (G-2). But if the person (P) follows the first power away from G1 (avoiding punishment), then the power will collide with the second power away from G2 (avoiding tiring tasks) or not doing the task (with consequences facing punishment) [4].

The third is the approach-avoidance conflict. This conflict is a conflict that occurs when someone experiences two negative-positive choices that are equally strong. Until this conflict is the most difficult to release. The reason is, if someone approaches a region that has a positive valence, the negative valence becomes stronger than the positive valence, because the destination area cannot be achieved, then one can experience frustration[4].

The fourth is multiple approach-avoidance conflicts. It is a psychological conflict experienced by individuals because they face situations that each contain positive motives and negative motives that are equally strong. In this case, one must choose and compare the strongest valence.

The study of psychological conflict is not new research. There are many researchers already conducted such as (1) The psychological conflict of the main character in god's novel let me become a prostitute by Muhofiiin M. Dahlan by Shofiyatun who also focused on the forms of psychological conflict experienced by the main character, the causes, and the consequences of the psychological conflict. The results of the study shown that the main characters experiencing psychological conflict include conflict approach, approach-avoidance conflict, and multiple approach conflict. The causes were personal and situational factors. Personal factors included biological and sociological factors, while situational factors included social factors and stimuli factors that reinforce the behavior. The consequences were frustration, disappointment, helplessness, and anger [8]; (2) innerconflict of the main character Kaoru Amane in taiyouno uta film director's work norihirokoizumi by Ayu Putri Lestari. This research revealed inner conflicts experienced by the main characters in the film. The factors were analyzed by using the theory of Higgins, Kurt Lewin, and Djalaludin Rachmat. The results of the study shown that the main character falls in overcoming the gap between the ideal self and the actual self, besides that the character also experienced two types of inner conflicts, namely approaching and moving away. The factors that cause the conflict weresocio-psychological factors and biological factors[9]; (3) the Physiological basis of

psychological disgust and moral judgments. The purpose of this research is to address ongoing debates about whether feelings of disgust are causally related to moral judgments[10]; (4) climate control: the relationship between social identity threat and cues to an identity-safe culture. The focus of the present research was to examine how cues to an identity-safe culture predict more or less positive interactions between men and women in STEM in ways that may trigger or minimize women's daily experience of social identity threat[11]; (5) psychological distance modulates goal-based versus movement-based imitation. The researchers found that the 2 forms of imitation are flexibly deployed in accordance with the psychological distance from the model[12].

Based on the previous studies above, the researchers focused their study on the types of psychological conflicts experienced by the main character according to Kurt Lewin's perspective, their causes, and their impact on Maud Watts' life.

II. METHODS

This research is a qualitative descriptive study that serves to understand the condition of natural objects and make researchers as the main instrument in research [13]. Besides that, qualitative research takes theoretical samples that can determine the representation of data to build theory [14]. Descriptive research also aims to describe phenomena and characteristics of a population that is systematic, factual, and accurate [15].

The data sources used in this study include primary data and secondary data. Primary data is collected directly by researchers and directly from the sources. While secondary data sources are data that are published or made by organizations that are not processors [16]. The primary data source in this study is a Suffragette film by Sarah Gavron and supported by a variety of literacy-related in the form of books, journals, and the internet as secondary data.

Based on the data sources above, researchers used data collection techniques in the form of watching, reading and noting. In data collection techniques, data quality is largely determined by the quality of the data collection tool. If the data collection tools (instruments) are valid, reliable and objective, then the data will also be valid, reliable and objective [17]. This proves the compatibility of the hypothesis with the data, sodata can be analyzed inductively [18]. Then the data is validated using increasing perseverance, triangulation, and discussing with the expert[19]. The data analysis technique used is by understanding, grouping, and interpreting data.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Maud Watts is a hard worker. She works at Glass House Laundry owned by Norman Taylor until a long day night. As a laundry worker, she must obey and order her boss. While working at the place, Maud is secretly recruited by a woman named Violet. At first, Maud refused, but seeing the condition of the surrounding women worsening makes her change her mind. Then shetestified despite being forced in court about how unfair the law was, that the law oppressed women. The story of Maud Watts eventually leads to psychological conflict for her. The conflict affects the psychological or psychological condition of Maud Watts as the main character. The conflict that occurred on Maud Watts is caused by the desire not in accordance with reality. The researchers found several types

of conflicts found in the Suffragette film based on the perspective of Kurt Lewin.

Kurt Lewin explains that there are four different types of conflicts. However, the conflicts in the suffragette film by Sarah Gavron are as follows :

A. *Avoidance-avoidance conflict* is a conflict that arises because someone faces with two positive valences that are equally strong. From the description of the conflict, the researchers describe the psychological conflict experienced by Maud Watts when she had to replace Violet to convey her witness about women in front of the government. In this situation, she is confused.

Mrs. Miller : *You can't give your witness in this situation.*
 Violet : *I'm fine.*
 Mrs. Miller : *No, you're not fine, Lloyd George will stop you and what will you say?*
 Violet : *Maud, you speaks for me.*
 Maud : *I can't.*
 Mrs. Miller : *This is already written.*
 Maud : *No, I'm not ... I'm not smart ...*
 Violet : *All you have to do is read it.*
 Maud : *Just ask someone else to do it.*
 (Suffragette, 2015, 0: 18:21)

Maud Watts experiences a kind of approaching conflict. This conflict is said to be because she must eliminate her fear and bring out her confidence so that the aspirations can be conveyed in front of the government. Maud Watts has two choices, and the choice is equally good for her. However, the statement delivered by Maud Watts is fruitless, the government refuses. The statement was announced by the government when women gathered in front of the government building.

The government: The prime minister should review all women's testimonies, after a careful debate with parliamentarians, very sympathetic to women's struggles, it supports that there is no evidence to support the change in bills to vote.
The women: What? There are no voting rights for women?
The government: No, there are no voting rights.
The women: But Mr. Lloyd George listened to him take all the writing. A trick, this is a fraud!
 (Suffragette, 2015, 0: 28:25)

Women experienced disappointment. They feel they have been lied to by the government. They don't accept the government's decision, as a result, they had to suffer beatings and torture from members of the police. The struggle of women to get the rights they deserve to be a man does not pay off, even those who are victims of violence, they are beaten, kicked and treated arbitrarily. They are taken to a place of detention and had to stay there without wearing clothes. Also, the impact caused by his actions was family and neighbors. The family of Maud Watts becomes out of harmony because her husband continues to be ridiculed by friends at work. Maud Watts is ostracized by his neighbors also.

B. *Approach-avoidance conflict* is a conflict that arises because someone faces with two valences that are positive-negative. This conflict is experienced by Maud Watts when she met Violet on the way from her work. Violet invites to attend a women's movement meeting led by Mrs. Pankhurst. Here Maud Watts experiences a conflict. She is confused because her husband does not allow joining the suffragette movement.

Violet : *Maud.*
 Maud: *Violet.*
 Violet: *There is a big meeting on Friday. They say she is talking.*
 Maud: *I want to go. I can not.*
 Violet: *You can't no.*
 (Suffragette, 2015, 0: 41: 18)

According to the Lewin's conflict, Maud Watts experiences a kind of approaching conflict from those quotes, because she faces with two positive-negative choices. Maud Watts obeys her husband's orders by rejecting Violet's invitation. She comes to meet at night and to leave her husband and child.

As a result, Maud Watts suffers the kind of torment. Blows and verbal abuse are presented by women including Maud Watts. Besides, Maud Watts experiences her husband who is furious because of her behaviors. Her husband doesn't allow to stay home and meet her son, George.

Maud : *Sonny, I'm sorry*
 Sonny : *I took you, Maud. I think I can straighten you out.*
 Maud : *What if you don't need to?*
 Sonny: *You're a mother, Maud. You're a wife, my wife. That's what you meant.*
 Maud: *I'm not like that anymore. Sonny, Sonny ... what are you doing?*
 Sonny : *Get out!*
 Maud : *Sonny.... Let me meet George, Sonny. Sonny!*
 (Suffragette, 2015, 0: 48: 30)

Maud Watts suffers. Her husband doesn't allow to meet George. Indeed the effort she made to be able to meet with her children. The law says that a child is the right of his father, not a mother. From here, the conviction of Maud Watts to uphold and fight for women's rights is very large. Maud Watts is shocked and very angry at her husband when she wanted to meet his baby on his birthday but George will be taken and adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Drayton because Sonny allowed it. A deep feeling of sadness at parting with George.

Maud: *I just want to wish him a happy birthday. At least let me do it.*
 Sonny : *Not now.*
 Maud : *Sonny ... sonny*
 Sonny: *Don't. You can't, you're late. This is Mr. and Mrs. Drayton.*
They want to take George.
 Maud : *What are you talking about?*
 Sonny : *Adopt him.*
 Mrs. Drayton: *We have a very good home, with friends ... and everything they need*
 Maud: *No ... George.*
 Sonny: *I can't look after him, Maud. I can't be a mother to him. We have no family, Maud. I cannot do it.*
 Maud : *George, come here, come here, come here.*
 Sonny: *Say goodbye and let him go. (Suffragette, 2015, 1: 08: 45)*

C. *Multiple approach-avoidance conflicts*, that if someone faces a situation each a positive motive and a negative motive that are equally strong. The type of conflict is experienced by Maud Watts when she getting on offer from Mr. Steed, who is a law enforcer. She meets after her second arrest. Mr. Steed regrets that Maud becomes a Suffragette because it will have an impact on her life. Mr. Steed offers Maud Watts to be a spy.

Mr. Steed : You will walk freely out of here, today. in return, you have to help me. There is information that you will pass me. Whatever you know, what you hear, it's even just an interesting piece or piece of conversation.

Maud : He deserves it. If I tell you ...

Mr. Steed: Who do you think will listen to a girl like you? Who cares? They don't care. You are in the world. I grew up from a woman like you, Maud. People who sacrifice life to take revenge and things. I know you And so are they. They know how to attract girls like you. Girls without money, no prospects, who want things better. But you're just animal feed ... For battles that you can't win, I offer you a lifeline. Take it!

Maud Watts experiences multiple approaches-avoidance conflict conflicts. Maud Watts is faced with two things that are equally positive and negative. Receive an offer from Mr. Steed was positive because she will not suffer, but betraying the group is negative, besides Maud Watts will not be able to fight for women's rights. Being a suffragette is positive because maintaining confidence by fighting for women will pay off. The negative is she always feels various suffering and torture from the government.

But Maud Watts chooses to become a Suffragette, with an urge to fight for child custody as a mother. Maud Watts takes the steps with her group to formulate a strategy with the bombing of government buildings. As a result, Maud Watts is imprisoned and tortured. The culmination of their struggle when the horse race held which is attended by many people including the king and the prime minister. With her courage, Maud Watts and Emily come to the place with the same motives. The activity is also covered by the world press so that it becomes the right momentum for Suffragette to show the world about women's movements in London by raising the flag of the Women's Movement. Emily, one of Suffragette's activists with courage enters the race arena when the horse racing takes place. Emily dies instantly and Maud Watts feels shocked, sadness and regret emanating from her face.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, researchers find several types of conflicts experienced by the main character in the Suffragette film. Maud Watts experienced a type of conflict: (a) Approach-approach conflict; (b) Approach-avoidance conflict; and (c) Multiple approach-avoidance conflicts. Conflict is caused by several things. They are: (a) Maud Watts replaces Violet to convey her witness about women; (b) Violet invited Maud Watts to attend a women's movement meeting leads by Mrs. Pankhurst; (c) Maud Watts receives an offer from Mr. Steed is a law enforcer to become a suffragette spy. The impacts of these psychological conflicts are: (a) Maud Watts experienced disappointment. She felt that she had been deceived by the government because the government refused her testimony, the family of Maud Watts had become

dishonorable because her husband had been ridiculed by friends at his workplace. Maud Watts is also ostracized by his neighbors; (b) Maud Watts suffered tortures such as beatings and verbal abuse from the police, and the husband does not allow her to meet George. Maud Watts felt deep sadness at parting with George, and a great disappointment to her husband; (c) Maud Watts felt sadness mixed with remorse due to the death of Emily for her struggle.

Based on the result above, researchers concluded that everyone would experience conflict. Psychological conflict experienced by someone comes from the environment itself. The relationship between the environment and life is one entity.

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