AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL CONFLICT IN “ELEANOR AND PARK” NOVEL BY RAINBOW ROWELL

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Abstract
This study was about an analysis of social conflict in “Eleanor and Park” novel by Rainbow Rowell. This study would answer the question “What are social conflict found in Eleanor and Park novel by Rainbow Rowell?”, and “What are the implication of the novel towards social values?” by answering the question the writer would know what social conflicts were found in the novel and the implication of the novel toward social values. The writer used descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study was novel entitled “Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell. The instrument of this study was the writer herself as the human instrument key. In collecting the data, the sentences were highlighted and underlined. In the analysis, the data were identified, categorized, classified, reduced, described, and interpreted. There were two points explained from the novel. First, related to social conflict in the novel, it was found some social conflict in the novel divided into three parts: conflict of involving social position, conflict of interest, and conflict of role. Second, it was the implication of the novel toward social values: advice, helping behavior, cooperation, trust, and hospitality related to the real life and applicable for daily use.

Keywords: social conflict, social values, Eleanor and Park

1. Introduction
Novel as the most examples of fictional prose, novel reflects everything in human life. Novel as the representation of human experiences and it invites many people to read and enjoy the whole of the story in the novel. Moreover, to make the novel alive, and aim to reality, the author will try to express what the relationship between each other in more detail and what feel about literary works such as some people's experiences around them especially in plotting a conflict.

According to Nurgiyantoro (1998:122) conflict is a functional part of the story, it has an essential element, plot development to make the story more interesting to read. Jones cited in Hanna (2016: 158), divided that there are three kinds of conflict those are, physical conflict, social conflict, psychological conflict. Therefore in this study, the writer focused on the social conflict. Based on Marx in Coser (1957: 200), social conflict not only leads to ever-changing relations within the existing social structure, but the total social system transforms conflict. However, the discussion of social conflict is important for people in society and it can make a change in a society.

The writer chooses the novel entitled Eleanor & Park as the object of analysis because the story is very interesting and it describes well about many problems happen in teenager's daily life, and it is also showing many conflicts that might be happening in the story especially social conflict. Savitri and Soelistyarini (2017: 70), express that the character in this novel has suffered a tragic life,
especially for Eleanor which was portrayed as weak and powerless because she was only a child. Her only means to survive were by keeping her silence and obeying every command from adults.

According to Coser in Arifuddin (2014: 10), social conflict is divided into three categories, such as; (a.) Conflict of involving social positions, (b.) Conflict of interest and (c.) Conflict of role. Where conflict of involving social positions might be happens because of interference between social positions in society. A conflict of interest is a situation when some person (whether an individual or in a group). Conflict of role is a conflict among the roles corresponding to two or more statuses. According to Sofian & Fadjri (2020: 5-7), There are 5 types of social values, as follow: advice, helping behavior, cooperation, trust, hospitality. Thus, the writer proposed to answer the following problem formulated as bellow: (1) Social conflicts found in Rainbow Rowell’s novel “Eleanor and Park”, (2) The implication of the novel toward social values.

Therefore, this study aims to investigated the social conflict in Rainbow Rowell’s Eleanor and Park by using the sociological literature approach. The sociological literature approach is consists of two words which are sociological and literature. Sociological itself is a science that includes human life in society, such as social behavior, social life, or social fact. While the literature is a representation of the human mind as a social person. Literature tries to explore the social and cultural system through the author of the literary work itself, then showed them as a written language.

Laurensen and Swingewood (1972: 15) expresses that the sociology literature uses the term of the mirror as a character in the whole work, a novel not only reflect reality but more gives us a reflection of a greater reality, more complete, more vibrant and more dynamic. Furthermore, sociological literature as a theory uses literature as the main object of analysis. Then, the literary work as a result of literature is analyzed by using sociology to explore the parts in literary works related to the phenomenon in human life society.

Based on the explanation above, writer the conducted the study entitled “An Analysis of Social Conflict in “Eleanor and Park” Novel by Rainbow Rowell.

2. Method

In analyzing the novel Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell (2012) this study used descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study was social conflict in Eleanor and Park novel by Rainbow Rowell and has been published by OrionBooks. It is analyzed by using sociological approach and social conflict theory for more detail.

Type of data in Eleanor and Park novel consists of phrases, sentences and some dialogue. There were two types of data source. The data source consist of secondary and primary data. Primary data in this study is Eleanor and Park novel by Rainbow Rowell, seconday data used taken from other references such as related previous study, journal, articles and internet sources. The technique of collecting the data were: (1) read the novel, (2) highlighted and underlined both sentences and quotations in the novel related to social conflict and values, (3) rewrote those sentences refers to social conflict and values from the novel into another book. The technique of analyzing the data were: (1) identified the data, (2)
3. Finding and Discussion

In this study, the writer informs the data analysis based on the types of social conflict in the novel “Eleanor and Park”. The writer analyzed kinds of social conflict found such as conflict of involving social positions, conflict of Interests and conflict of role. The writer used table to separate each of conflict that has been found in the novel. The writer found 3 types of conflict in the novel and 5 categories of social values.

A. Social Conflict

1. Conflict of Involving Social Positions

The conflict happened around the occupation, profession, and family. Social position is the position of an individual in a given society and culture. In this case the conflict found among the family members.

Conflict of involving social positions show by the main character Eleanor and his sister talking about their step father.

“Maisie put the cat back on Eleanor’s bed. It likes to sleep up there,’ she said. ‘Do you call him Dad, too?’ Eleanor said. ‘He is our dad now’, Maisie said. (ch:6, pg:27)

Since Eleanor has many problems with her step father, and she has been kicked out from home and it is forced her to stay a while in the neighbor house. That problem makes Eleanor didn’t want to admit that Richie is her stepfather. Eleanor got mad plus sad whenever her brother and sister called Richie as their father. The term of ‘Father’ or ‘Daddy’ commonly used by children to call their parent in society. But in this situation, the main character cannot accept what her sibling does. She felt like her mother’s husband does not deserve to be called as their ‘Daddy’ because of his bad behaviour to them. This can be seen the conflict is about family relation which the main character denied for her mother’s husband social position as her dad. The writer concluded that the conflict indirectly occurred between Eleanor and his dad. The term of ‘Daddy’ was neglected by her.

2. Conflict of Interests

Conflict of interest is a conflict when the person stuck with one or more decision in relation. There are some following common forms of conflict of interest such as: self-dealing, outside employment, family interest, gift from friends, and pump and dump.

a. “I couldn’t bring all your things when we moved.’ She said. ‘obviously we don’t have as much as room here as we had in the old house.’ she reached into the closet and pulled out a black plastic garbage bag. ‘but I packed as much as I could’.

She handed Eleanor the bag and said, ‘I’m sorry about the rest’.

Eleanor had assumed that Richie threw up all her stuff in the trash a year ago, ten seconds after he’d kicked her out. She took the bag in her arms. ‘it’s okay,’ she said. ‘thanks’ “. (ch:4, pg:19)
When Eleanor’s mom decided to move at Richie’s house and became his wife. They did not have as much space as they had in the older house. Her mom picked some of Eleanor stuff but she cannot bring all of them. The conflict found when Eleanor said ‘Okay’ and ‘Thanks’ to her mother but inside, she is just sad to see uncomplete things in her closet. It is called self-dealing which the person control their emotion and feeling.

Second case of this conflict come from other character named Tina having some problem with Eleanor.

b. “Eleanor cried a little bit, she couldn’t help it. But she kept her back to everybody so there wouldn’t be a show”. (ch:12, pg:48)

Tina is the girl which has many problems attack Eleanor with her gangs when they were playing volleyball in physical class. They covered Eleanor locker room with a whole box of pad, and it stuck with her clothes. The conflict found when Eleanor cried a little bit but still she doesn’t want her enemy knows about that. She kept her back to everybody so there would not be a show for them.

Third case of this conflict happen between the main character, Eleanor and Park.

c. “Park felt like he should say something to her. He always felt like he should say something to her, even if it was just ‘hello’ or ‘excuse me’. But he’d gone too long without saying anything since the first time he’d cursed at her, and now it was all just irrevocably weird. For an hour a day, thirty minutes on the way to school, thirty minutes back.

“Park did not say anything. He just held his comics open wider and turned the pages more slowly”. (ch:8, pg:31)

It shows that, Park awkward moment with Eleanor. They have been ‘a bus seats mate’ and they never talk to each other for a couple days since their first meet. Park’s favorite is reading a comic while the bus heading to school. Eleanor did not do anything except observe what Park is doing. Lately Park realize that Eleanor also read the comics which he reads too. The conflict happened when Park instead of saying greetings or making a conversation, Park just turn the page of the comic slowly to make Eleanor easy to read.

Fourth case of conflict of interest occur by the main character and her mother

d. ‘Are you okay?’ her mom asked.

‘Yeah...’ Eleanor said. ‘yeah, I’m just tired. I’m going to do my homework and go to bed.’ Her mom seemed to know something was off but she didn’t push. (ch:11, pg:42)

Eleanor’s mom very curious about her daughter school life and when she asked that, her daughter Eleanor will always say nothing happen and she is just tired. Again, the problem happened when Eleanor was pretending to be okay just because she doesn’t want to make her mother worrying to much about her.

Fifth case happen among Eleanor and Park at school.
e. “After he saw Eleanor today, it hadn’t occurred to him, not for at least as hour, to wonder why she was walking down the hall in her gym suit. And it took him another hour to realize he should have said something to her. He could have said, ‘Hey’ or ‘What’s going on?’ or ‘Are you OK?’ Instead, he’d stared at her like he’d never seen her before”.  
(ch:41, pg:214)

After Eleanor got problem after physical class, she look after her locker room and she cannot fine her clothes, and the worst is Eleanor still wearing the gym suit outfit which was extremely tight on her body. Park saw that moment, and he realize he is freezing for a while because of Eleanor gym suit clothes. The conflict happened in this situation, instead of saying hello or anything to greets Eleanor, Park just standing over there pretending like he never knows Eleanor before.  
Sixth case come from Park at first day he meet Eleanor

f. “Park had spent all day trying to think of how to get away from the new girl. He’d have to switch seats. That was the only answer. But switch to what seat? He didn’t want to force himself on somebody else. And even the act of switching seats would catch Steve’s attention”.  
(ch:3, pg:14)

In this situation, Park trying to deal with himself about change seats to avoid Eleanor but he can’t, he afraid when he switch his seats, it is probably catch Steve’s attention. He wants to do it, but he hides it and Park choose to stay at his seats beside Eleanor. The conflict happened when Park chose to hide his interest in switch his seat, instead of doing it, park chose to be nice and pretend he has no problem with it.

Other case happen among Eleanor and her step father Richie.

g. “He’d never come this closer to her before. Her fear of him crushed her back. She didn’t want him to see it in her eyes, so she pressed her face into her hands in her pillow”.  
(ch:25, pg:135)

When Eleanor stepfather Richie become mad, he started to threw up some bad words for her. And Eleanor is too afraid with him. The problem happened when Eleanor hiding her fear of her step father crushed her back. Thus, she pressed her face into her hands in her pillow to avoid her father see her eyes.

Last case came from Park, Park’s mother and Eleanor.

h. ‘Can i open my eyes?’ Park asked.  
‘No’.  
‘Are you crying?’, ‘No’ Of course she was. She was going to ruin her fake face, and Park’s mom was going to go back to hating her.  
(ch:35, pg:188)

Park’s mother tries to get Eleanor some new look, she offers Eleanor to cut her hair and does some makeup. When it is done, Eleanor looks different but unfortunately she doesn’t like Park mom’s job then she keep hiding it. The conflict was found when Eleanor hiding it, just because in case Park’s mother was going to go back to hate her again.

3. Conflict of Role

The conflict of role is a conflict happens among the correspondent in one or more statuses or role. The person who has experience this conflict might
find themselves pulled in various directions in response to many statuses that their hold.

a. ‘He’s trying to make peace, Eleanor. You promised that you’d try, too’.
   ‘It’s easier for me to make peace from a distance’.
   ‘I told him you were ready to be part of this family’.
   ‘I’m already part of this family, I’m like a charter member’.
   ‘Eleanor,’ her mom said. ‘Please’. (ch:2, pg:13)

In this part, it seems that Eleanor describes that she has a step father. Her mom do her best to make Eleanor and her new husband get along together. Eleanor mom forced to take a double role, as a mother who take care of her daughter and as wife who serves her husband dedication and love. The problem was found since Eleanor’s mother try to pursue her about having a good relationship to her step father. It is happened for a long time, as much as Eleanor’s mother effort to make them get along with.

Another case of this conflict happen when other character named Steve fight with Park, they actually a friend but some incident always make them having some problem

b. “Park lifted his head. His whole face was covered with blood. He staggered forward and the assistant principal caught him. Leave.. my girlfriend. alone.’
   ‘I didn’t know she was really your girlfriend.’ Steve shouted. A bunch more blood spilled out of his mouth.
   ‘Jesus, Steve. It shouldn’t matter’. ‘It matters,’ Steve spat. ‘You’re my friend. I didn’t know she was your girlfriend.’” (ch:22, pg:116)

Park and Steve mess up with a fight. Steve is always saying bad about Eleanor and bullying her in the bus. Park is tired whenever Steve gangs always embarrassed his girlfriend. The problem happened when Steve kept saying ‘Go. Big. Read’ to Eleanor. Park cannot hold it anymore, and once he said that Eleanor is really girlfriend of him. Steve was shock. He and Park are becoming a friend even they are not close too. Steve feels bad about Park for always telling bad to his girlfriend.

Third problem happened among second lead character named Mrs.Hickman and her husband Mr.Hickman who became a bestfriend of Eleanor’s mother.

c. ‘This can’t go on, Tammy’.
   ‘Andy, it’s not her fault.’
   ‘I’m not saying we didn’t sign on for this’.
   ‘she’s no trouble’.
   ‘she’s not ours’. (ch:8, pg:33-34)

Flashback before the story started, Eleanor shows has a ton of pain for her stepfather because a year ago, he kicked out Eleanor from home when he feels that Eleanor making too much noise and it is disturbing him. Her mother evacuates her to a neighbor house which was also her mom’s friend house. Eleanor thought that she just staying for a couple days in Mrs. Hickman house and who knows that Richie will neglecting her for a year. Mrs. Hickman husband feels that Eleanor stayed too long in their house and she kept asking with her wife to bringing Eleanor’s
back to her family. As Sabrina friend (Eleanor’s mom name) she knows that her best friend still having a problem. She tried to help Sabrina, but her husband kept deny her request. Last case come from Tina Eleanor and Park
d. ‘Tina is the queen of the people in my gym class who don’t like me’ Eleanor said.
‘Tina would never do anything this bad’ (ch:30, pg:154) Conflict shows when Park tried to deny that Tina is not a bad girl for him. Park know Tina since he had in elementary school and they have been together for a while. Eleanor accused Tina which she was the queen of Eleanor’s bullying activity. In here, Park has two decision whether he defend on tina’s back as a childhood friend or agreeing on what Tina’s done on Eleanor.

B. Social Values

1. Advice
   Advice comes to everyone to remind the truth and avoid the mistake. Giving advice can change someone from bad characteristic to good.
   “I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but weird white girls are my only option,” Park said as loudly as he could. Even this angry, he couldn’t yell at his mother.
   ‘There are other girls,” his mother said. ‘good girls’
   ‘She is a good girl’ Park said. ‘You don’t even know her.’
   ‘Good girls don’t dress like boys’ his mother said”. (ch:23, pg:126)
   At the end, Park kicked Steve and they have some fight caused by Steve always saying bad about her girlfriend Eleanor. That’s the reason why his mom ground him for a couple days to make Park realize that his action is not good to see. After that, Park ask about how long he will ground by her mother, then her mother said it will last forever. Park ends up with her mother advice to stay away from Eleanor because she bring some negative vibes to Park. Park cannot accept it, and he tries to make her mother believe about what he said. Instead of accepting her son suggestion, she order to find other girls with good behavior for Park. An advice from Park’s mother is an example in order to remind the truth and avoid the mistake for a better way to pick decision. Also, people believe when giving advice, it probably changes and fixes someone bad to good characteristic and behavior.

2. Helping Behavior
   Helping behaviour is referred to the actions that commonly used by people to help the others, with reward regarded or disregarded such as sharing, comforting, rescuing, and helping.
   “After everyone else walked away, two black girls stayed. They walked over to Eleanor and started pulling pads of the wall. ‘Ain’t no thing’. One of the girls whispered, crumpling a pad into a ball”. (ch:12, pg:48)

In this situation, when Eleanor was bullied by another student like Tina, there were two girls which accompany and help Eleanor. In that time, Tina and her friends were standing at the end of Eleanor’s row waiting for her
to walk to her locker, after Eleanor arrived at locker, she shocked. It was covered with Kotex pads, a whole box. Eleanor saw that the pad was actually bloody but then she realized that it was just red magic marker. Some of the pads cover with letter and word such as ‘Raghead and Big Red’. In this situation, other students named DeNice and Beebi try to help, pulling out the pad from locker’s wall and crumpling them into a ball. DeNice and Beebi show how to apply their helping behaviour to others which referred to the actions that commonly used by people to help others, with reward regarded or disregarded such as sharing, comforting, rescuing and helping. Thus, as a students, friend and human, people need another people to help when they face some problems.

3. Cooperation
Cooperation commonly refers as working together. When people working together it gives many benefits. Beside faster, working together make people’s job more easier.

“Mrs. Burt started opening lockers at the other end of the room. Eleanor checked the trash and the showers. Then Mrs. Burt called out from the bathroom ‘Found them!’

Eleanor walked into the bathroom, the floor was wet, and Mrs. Burt was standing in a stall. ‘I’ll get a bag’ Mrs. Burt said, pushing past Eleanor”. (ch:40, pg:209).

In this case, after gym class, usually the students change they uniform. Eleanor’s friend DeNice and Beebi wait her to change and they will go to the canteen together. Unfortunately, when Eleanor tries to find her uniform but there’s nothing, until she realizes that her uniform has been stolen by someone. Her teacher, Mrs. Burt, catches her when she still searching for uniform, both cannot find them. after that, Mrs. Burt gives command to Eleanor to find them somewhere, and herself will find some bag for cover the uniform. Later, the uniform cannot find yet, then Mrs. Burt give Eleanor a pass to have a counseling in her teacher counselor’s office. Thus, because of their great cooperation as working together to find Eleanor’s clothes, it gives many benefits to be faster and easier their job. Also, as a teacher Mrs. Burt show how to take care of her students and let them to solve the problem together.

4. Trust
Trust is willingness to rely on other which we have confidence in him/her. Trust is an important aspect when people need believe in someone.

“I care Eleanor…”
‘It’s our last change.’
‘No, no, I can’t... I, no, I need to believe that isn’t our last change Eleanor? Can you hear me? I need you to believe it, too”. (ch:52, pg 262)

When Pak help Eleanor to escape from her house, he is driving his truck to Minnesota where Eleanor uncle stay in there. Park always convince Eleanor that they still have a good relationship. Long distance relationship is not the end of the story, Park believe that, and he beg Eleanor to believe it too. In this situation, Park ask Eleanor to trust in their relationship.
Unfortunately, their communication died as long as both of them safely arrived.

5. Hospitality
Hospitality is an act of showing respect and love to built good relationship between people as a social being. Hospitality is a way how people can build nice relationship with new and other people without expecting any feedback from them.

“They were still reading it when they go to Eleanor’s stop. There was so much going on, they both stared at every frame fro, like entire minutes-and when she got up to leave, he handed it to her. Eleanor was so surprises, she tried to hand it back, but he’d already turned away. She shoved the comic between her books like it was something secret, the got off the bus”. (ch:9, pg:36)

In this part, Park realize that Eleanor often read his comic silently, since both of them are ‘seatmate’ but none of them try to start conversation. Another factor that caused both cannot start are Eleanor is the new students at school so she cannot be accustomed yet with them. Second, Eleanor is not an ordinary girl because she always wearing some unique style for her outfits, which is for some of the student it is too weird for wearing that kind of clothes. Thus, they will find a way for not to talk with Eleanor same as what Park did. But recently, he finds a way to start the conversation with this new girl and try to build some good relationship with Eleanor by bringing his comic and let this girl to borrow them. Sometimes as a human being, people need to build some good relationship with other people in a society. This action called hospitality which the individual showing their respect, love and self-care without expecting any feedback from them.

Conclusion
Based on all discussion above, it was concluded that the characters in the novel especially Eleanor has a lot of the problems which she has been through. There were some characters which appeared constantly such as Eleanor’s mother and friends. The writer found social conflict kinds in this novel, as follows: 1) conflict of involving social position which happened among Eleanor and her sibling, Maisie caused by their stepfather, Richie. 2) conflict of interest found when characters in the novel had one or more decisions. 3) conflict of role happened in a situation when a person in the novel forced to play incompatible roles.

Social values appeared in the novel appeared by Eleanor teacher, friends, and her boyfriend, Park. These social values cover 5 types such as 1) advice which was faced by Park and his mom. 2) helping behavior was faced by Eleanor among her friends DeNice and Beebi. 3) Cooperation between Eleanor and her teacher Mrs. Burt. 4). Trust among Park and Eleanor through their relationship. 5). Hospitality which was faced by Eleanor and Park at the beginning of the story.
The conflict came when Eleanor and Park when Park wants to build they first conversation toward his comics book.

Unlike the previous related study of this thesis, which is the thesis by Arifuddin (2014) entitled An Analysis of Social Conflict in Rick Riordan’s Novel “The Red Pyramid” where the genre is more detailed on science fiction and fantasy. The analysis of this thesis about social conflict happened among magician which fight with magical creatures and try to defeat them. Arifuddin explains that he found 19 social conflicts. The most social conflict that he got is conflict of involving social positions where violence, victim and abuse became dominant.

In this novel, the most tragic event happened in the main character. The character in this novel has suffered a tragic life, especially for Eleanor which was portrayed as weak and powerless because she was only a child. Her only mean to survive were by keeping her silence and obeying every command from adults (Savitri & Soelistyarini, 2017: 70). However even the main character in this novel described as silence and weak as people can be, the author of the novel only focuses on bullying case and family conflict.

References