AN ANALYSIS OF SYMBOL THROUGH EXTERNAL CONFLICTS FACED BY OLYMPIA IN STEEL’S COMING OUT

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL PAGE</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPYRIGHT STATEMENT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATION AGREEMENT DECLARATION</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER II THEORETICAL REVIEW</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Theory of Conflict</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1. Definition of Conflict</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2. Types of Conflict</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Theory of Symbol</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Definition of Symbol</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Types of Symbol</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 How to Recognize a Symbol</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Relation between Conflict and Symbol</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER III ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION ............................................... 9

3.1 External Conflicts...................................................................................... 9

3.2 Symbol...................................................................................................... 15

3.3 The Meaning of Symbol.......................................................................... 15

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION............................................................................ 18

REFERENCES.................................................................................................... 19

APPENDIX ......................................................................................................... 20
The writer analyzed a novel written by Danielle Steel entitled *Coming Out*. This novel was interesting because it told about family and compassion, not just about young couple who falling in love as a common novel. Danielle Steel as an author also was a capable person in writing, because she has written more than thirty novels. Through Steel’s novel, this paper was intended to find a symbol that appears through external conflicts. The writer gathered some quotations about external conflicts faced by main character named Olympia. From those conflicts analysis, will be found significant symbol which appears. In this paper, the writer uses library research method to derive some theories that can support what the writer was doing. While in analyzing, the writer uses formalistic approach by Wilfred L. Guerin where under formalistic approach there were theories of conflict (Koesnosoebroto) and symbol (M. H. Abram and Pickering and Hoeper) used. The result of paper was found a symbol which derives from external conflicts of Olympia.
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Many kinds of media which can be used to express our feeling, express our experience, or maybe our imagination whether it is happy or sad. Koesnosoebroto separates the media into language, sound, color, or different kinds of art such as music, painting, photography, dance, and also literature (1988:1). In case, literature can increase our personality and intellectual, gives an objective base of knowledge and understanding, help us know broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world, and enables us to appreciate human dreams and struggles (Roberts and Jacob, 1989:2).

The definition of literature itself according to Wellek and Warren is “a representation of life and able to represent social reality” (1956:94). What Wellek and Warren mean that through literature, people can explore their experiences of real life into a story in the novel or a stanza in the poetry with their own words and fantasy. Edward H. Jones, Jr. also emphasizes that “literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination” (1968:1).

From many kinds of literary text, the writer chooses a novel to be analyzed. According to M. H. Abram (1999:190) “novel is a great variety of
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From many kinds of literary text, the writer chooses a novel to be analyzed. According to M. H. Abram (1999:190) “novel is a great variety of
writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose."

*Coming Out* novel by Danielle Steel that was published in Great Britain in 2006 by Bantam Press is the object of the study. The novel is about a woman named Olympia Crawford Rubinstein. Her family, the Crawfords was an illustrious and extremely social New York family, whose blue blooded ancestors had intermarried with Astors and Vanderbilts for generations. She had converted from her staunch Episcopalian background to Judaism when she got married with Harry Rubinstein. Olympia had three children from her first marriage with Chauncey Bedham Walker IV. The oldest one is Charlie and others are twin named Virginia and Veronica. One day, there was an invitation to a ball that took place in December. Olympia wanted her daughters come to that ball party considering just invited people who can come to that special event. Virginia was excited to come but her twin Veronica was disapproval because she thought that party just discriminates others who cannot come. Harry, Olympia’s second husband, voted Veronica because he had been experienced to be discriminated too by Nazi Germany because of Jews, but Olympia did not care about that and she wanted her daughters to come to that ball without any reason.

The writer is going to analyze the symbol through external conflicts. Symbol is an interesting element because symbol is a kind of unique thing, people can interpret symbol freely according to their imagination. Conflict is
chosen to be another part of the analysis because the writer thinks that without conflict, a story just goes flat and has no climax. This opinion is supported by C. Hugh Holman who says that “conflict provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction”.

Related to the analysis, formalistic approach by Wilfred L. Guerin will be the approach that is used by the writer which is stated that formalistic approach is “the discovery and explanation of form in the literary work” (1979:70).

Under the formalistic approach, there are two theories that will be used. The first one is theory of conflict by C. Hugh Holman who mentions that “conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot” (1961:105).

Another theory is symbol. In discussing literature, M. H. Abram (1999:311) states that “the term "symbol" is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has arrange of reference, beyond itself”.

The analysis of the paper will focus to find a symbol that appears through external conflicts of the main character, Olympia in Coming Out novel. The writer hopes that through this analysis, the readers can get more information about how to interpret literary text, especially in this case is a novel.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 Theory of Conflict

2.1.1. Definition of Conflict

“A conflict may variously be physical, moral, psychological, intellectual, or spiritual contest between antagonistic forces.” (Koesnosoebroto 1988:43). Indirectly, people always have conflict in their life, because there are various problems which people will pass, not only conflict with external pressure but there is also conflict related to internal matters.

2.1.2 Types of Conflict

In book The Anatomy of Prose Fiction, Koesnosoebroto differentiates the conflict into two, internal and also external.

a. Internal Conflict

Koesnosoebroto says that internal conflict is the struggle between aspects of the personality or it can be called the conflict when he is confronted against some elements in his own nature (a conflict of a man against himself) (1988:43). The example of
internal conflict is a girl who will has an exam tomorrow but her friends ask her to join them to go to a party, while she has to study for her exam. In this case she confronts herself and has to decide which one the most important activity that she must choose.

b. External Conflict

The struggle between a person and an external force (another person, society, environment, nature, the universe, God) is called external conflict (1988:43).

The main character may be disturbed by other person or a group of person and struggles to against them; this is called a conflict of man against man. For example there are two men who fight for getting a love from the same woman.

He may also be faced against some external forces, physical nature, society, or fate; this is called a conflict of man against environment. Like a man who tries to save his life from earthquake or a girl who struggles to climb a mountain until its peak.
2.2 Theory of Symbol

2.2.1 Definition of Symbol

M. H. Abram (1999:311) states that the term "symbol" is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has arrange of reference, beyond itself. It means that symbol is something which people cannot easily guest because there is a hidden sense that represents something in addition to its literal meaning. For example the word rose, people will know that it is one kind of flowers, but if we analyze more than its literal meaning, the meaning of rose can be a love, because a rose is aromatic flower which usually given to people who we like.

2.2.2 Types of Symbol

According to M. H. Abram in his book *Glossary of Literary Term Seventh Edition*, some symbols are "conventional" or "public". Like "the Cross," "yellow flag" "black clothes" are words that refer to symbolic things of which the further sense is draw within a particular culture.

Some other symbols are "private" or "personal." Abram says that often the authors describe broadly the association between
an object or event or action and a particular concept; for example, the general association of a peacock with pride and of an eagle with heroic endeavor, or the rising sun with birth and the setting sun with death, or climbing with effort or progress and descent with surrender or failure. Frequently, some authors use symbols and generate the meaning refer to their thoughts, and these can produce more difficult problems in interpretation.

2.2.3 How to Recognize a Symbol

Fortunately, the storyteller often gives the symbol particular emphasis. It may be mentioned repeatedly throughout the story; it may even supply the story with a title. At times, a crucial symbol will open the story or end it (Kennedy, 1979:115). Perhaps we think that some words are symbol because it is mention repeatedly, but if the meaning is described clearly, so it is not a symbol. But an object, an event, an act, a character is definitely symbol if when we have read the story completely, we know that it was special word or phrase, which refers to theme or the central meaning.
2.3 Relation between Conflict and Symbol

According to Pickering and Hoeper (1981:74), symbol is related to plot, either single events of plot, large or small, or plots in their entirety often function symbolically. While in the plot, there is element such as conflict, it can be concluded that symbol is also related to conflict. For example, there is a story about young couple who always has conflicts every day. The girl states that she feels tired with the boy; on the other hand, the boy is also bored of being the wrong side. From this case, we can glean form as a symbol that they want to break up instead of having problems day after day.
CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter discusses about external conflicts encountered by main character named Olympia with other characters. From those conflicts, the writer will draw a symbol that appears and try to interpret the meaning of the symbol.

3.1 External Conflicts

As mention in chapter two, external conflict is the opposition between the main characters against other people ideas, so they are maybe disturbed by them. Here are the external conflicts faced by Olympia against other characters in the novel:

a. Olympia Has an Argument with Harry about The Arches

The Arches is a special ball party that invites unmarried girls. Olympia as mother wants her daughters come to The Arches because it is time for her daughters to come out to society and Olympia had made her debut twenty-seven years earlier, as had her mother and both grandmothers long before her, and her great-grandmothers once upon a time. But her second husband, Harry, disagrees with her and forbids their daughters to
come. This case shows that Olympia against the forces outside herself, that is Harry, and we can see from the quotations below:

“Judging by Veronica’s reaction, she seems to know more than you do. If what she says is true, and black, Asian, and Hispanic girls can’t do it, then I agree with her. And I assume Jewish girls would be on their hit list, too.”

“Oh for God’s sake, Harry. Yes it’s a fancy social thing. People have been doing it for years. It’s old-fashioned, it’s traditional, it’s WASPy, so is the Social Register, so are clubs, for heaven’s sake. What about clubs that don’t admit women?”

“I don’t belong to a single one of them,” he said succinctly. (Danielle Steel, 2006:48-49)

Although Olympia has explained him what The Arches is, Harry thinks that The Arches is not just a common ball party, he has notion that it is the party where a person who cannot come is being discriminated. The reason why he has prejudice like that is remembering he was ever being discriminated too by Nazi Germany because his religion is Jewish, where Jews have been discriminated against for a thousand of years, so he does not want his daughters confront the discrimination.

“…. I can’t afford to ally myself with any discriminatory organization, and apparently this one is (The Arches). You know how I feel about things like that….” (Danielle Steel, 2006:49)

“Because it excludes people. Nazi Germany was founded on principles just like these…..” (Danielle Steel, 2006:50)
b. Different Perception between Olympia and Veronica

Olympia has twin daughters, the first one is Veronica and the second one is Virginia, although they are identically, but they have different characteristics. Virginia more concerns with her looks and her love life, because she always spent hours poring over fashion magazine, or reading the gossip from Hollywood. On the contrary, Veronica engaged with deeper social or political issues because she and Harry engaged in long, heated discussions at night. (Danielle Steel, 2006:28).

The conflict between Olympia and Veronica is about The Arches too. Veronica’s characteristic more like her father “They shared all of the same extremely liberal, socially responsible ideas.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:19). That is why she decides to does not come to The Arches.

Olympia does the same way like she does to Harry, she keeps inform her that The Arches just a simply fun ball party where people have a good time, but Veronica’s reaction not different with Harry, she thinks that The Arches just discriminatory place, and she cannot come to such kind of event.

“…. This is a perfectly innocuous debutante cotillion, where the two of you wear pretty white dresses, make your bow, and have a good time….”

“That’s bullshit, Mom. You know this is a strictly WASP event, and all it’s meant to do is shut people out. Nobody with a conscience should participate, and I’m not going to. I don’t care what you say, or
what Ginny does, I’m not going.” Veronica was fighting mad as Virginia burst into tears. (Danielle Steel, 2006:44)

c. Olympia Has a Quarrel with Chauncey

After her second husband and also one of her daughters refuses to come to The Arches, Olympia called her first husband, Chauncey, to tell him how the situation is. Instead of getting the solutions, Chauncey just makes everything become worse. He threatens will not pay Veronica’s tuition if she does not come to The Arches.

“…. If she decides that it is too politically right-wing to make her debut at The Arches, then I’m not going to pay her tuition at Brown next year….” (Danielle Steel, 2006:57)

Chauncey does not think about his daughters’ happiness, he thinks about others who will know and judge him when his daughters do not come to debut their self, then he will get embarrass because of that. The reason why he will get embarrass because he comes from blue-blooded family who should come to such kind of party, considering just special people who will be there, to keep his prestige to others. This is shown in the quotation below.

“I’m not going to have a daughter who won’t come out. For heaven’s sake, Olympia, think of the embarrassment that will cause.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:63)
d. Olympia Has an Argument with Veronica because of Her Tattoo

Olympia forbids her children to do tattoos or piercings because she thinks that tattoo is taboo so she does not want her children do that thing, but unfortunately Veronica did it. It shows that Olympia has problems with her daughter because of Veronica’s tattoo. “I cannot believe it you did that!” Olympia said, sitting on the edge of Veronica’s bed. (Danielle Steel, 2006:176).

The problem is not about Veronica did the tattoo only, the real problem is, how Veronica can go to the ball with dress that is backless and plunged nearly to her waist while she has tattoo on the back.

“Olympia was sitting at the kitchen table, crying over her cup of tea. She was thinking about the backless dress and what they are going to do.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:177)

In order to cover the tattoo, Olympia has to does something to Veronica’s dress because Olympia will not allow everybody in the ball see Veronica’s tattoo. “I’m not letting you come out at The Arches with that thing on your back” (Danielle Steel, 2006:177).

e. Olympia is Mad at Veronica’s Escort

The party called The Arches needs an escort for girl who comes. Because of that, Olympia has to prepare the appropriate person to
accompany her daughters. Charlie, Olympia’s oldest son will be one of her twin daughters’ escorts, but Veronica refuses if her mother looks for her escort, she wants to choose the escort by herself.

Olympia agreed Veronica’s will, but before the ball party, Olympia asks Veronica about her escort again and again to make sure that Veronica does not choose the wrong person. These questions are stated on page 120: “What made you invite him to the ball?” “Does he look normal?” “What does he look like the rest of the time?”

But, when the party comes, Veronica makes Olympia angry because of her escort named Jeff Adam comes with bright blue hair. “Veronica, that wasn’t so funny. All he did was made the members of the committee mad at him, and you by association.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:199).

Because of the party has a rule, so when the rehearsal one of the committee comes directly in front of Jeff, and explained the situation to him in no uncertain terms. He has until nine o’clock to return his hair to a normal, human color, if he preferred not to change his hair color, Veronica would be provide with another escort for the ball. (Danielle Steel, 2006:198).
3.2 Symbol

From conflicts that occur among characters, especially Olympia, the writer concludes that something can be a symbol is the ball party called The Arches. We can see the conflict between Olympia and Harry, who have disagreement about The Arches, where Harry thinks it is just discriminatory place, but Olympia it is place where people will have fun. Then Olympia’s conflict with Veronica who have different perception about of The Arches too, and when Veronica did tattoo, Olympia’s mind just thinks about The Arches, how can she covers the tattoo in order to people who comes to the party cannot see it. Or when she has conflict with Chauncey, the root of the conflict is also related to The Arches.

As mention in the theory, the author will gives particular emphasis to symbol. The same case with this story, the author gives emphasis clearly to event called The Arches, where there are repetitions of the phrase over and over again in every conflict between characters.

3.3. The Meaning of Symbol

The meaning of symbol The Arches which is related to Olympia’s external conflicts that appear in the novel refers to pride and social status, although Steel commented that the meaning of The Arches is “simply a fun and rather special social event, a rite of passage with no greater
meaning or intent than to have a good time in so called polite society, and
the occasion to wear beautiful white dresses for one very special evening”
(Daniel Steel, 2006:31).

To know the hidden meaning of The Arches, firstly we can see
from Olympia’s conflict with Harry. Harry refuses the invitation because
he is Jewish where Jews do not be invited to the party, but Olympia forces
to come although she had converted to Judaism but she still part of blue-
blooded family who usually join the party like The Arches where they can
show the wealth, the best clothes, the best jewelries, or the most precious
things that they have.

The second case in the novel it is stated that the event is still
several months later, but Olympia prepares everything perfectly for The
Arches. This case seen when Olympia choose the escort, she wants
suitable man who can escort her daughters properly. Thus when Olympia
knows that Veronica has tattoo on her back, she tries to cover and hide it
from people who come to The Arches, we know that wealthy people will
not accept the things like tattoo or piercing because it is taboo for them.

From those facts, the writer interprets that The Arches is a pride
of Olympia, because as wealthy person who comes from blue-blooded
family, she has to come and prepare everything perfectly for The Arches in
order to show her family off to the society that they are the best.
Besides pride, The Arches is also symbol of social status. We can know from who can sign up for this party. This case is shown from Olympia’s argument with Chauncey. The status of Chauncey is same as Olympia who comes from blue-blooded family. As blue-blooded person, Chauncey wants his daughters come to The Arches, if they do not want to come, Chauncey threatens will not pay their tuition. The writer thinks that if The Arches is just common ball party or just common people who come to have fun, Chauncey will not choose an extreme way like threatening not to pay the tuition for his daughter. It is stated clearly that The Arches is a party where wealthy people come together, so The Arches can be a symbol of social status.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION

In analyzing the novel Coming Out about external conflicts of main character, Olympia, the writer found that the source of conflicts comes from the invitation of ball party named The Arches. Every time Olympia talks to her family such as Harry as her husband, Veronica as her daughter, or Chauncey as her ex husband, everyone gets angry with her.

Harry, Olympia’s second husband, disagrees with her about The Arches and does not want to come to the party because he thinks that it is kind of discrimination place where not all people can come to that party. Her daughter, Veronica, is also mad at Olympia because of The Arches. Her thought is same as Harry, she thinks that The Arches just discriminates people who cannot come to that party. Thus with Chauncey, Olympia has different thought with Chauncey about the party that is causing a clash.

By the theory, a symbol can be gained from the emphasis and also the repetition. From those external conflicts that have been analyzed, one of the most significant symbols to consider is The Arches.

The supposition of the symbol above is because the phrase always becomes the root of conflicts and there are repetitions of the phrase in every conflict. In conclusion, the symbol that appears through external conflicts faced by Olympia is The Arches.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX

Olympia Crawford Rubinstein, a woman with a wealthy family background, where The Crawfords were an illustrious and extremely social New York family, whose blue-blooded ancestors had intermarried with Astors and Vanderbilts for generations. She had been married with Harry Rubinstein for thirteen years and had converted from her staunch Episcopalian background to Judaism when she married him. Harry is Olympia’s second husband, where her first husband was Chauncey Bedham Walker IV who comes from a wealthy family background like her. She and Chauncey had three children. Charlie came along two years after they were married, and his identical twin sisters, Virginia and Veronica, three years later.

One day there was an invitation for Olympia’s daughters to a ball that was to take place in December, a very special ball. It was an invitation to the very elite debutante cotillion where she had come out herself at eighteen. It was called The Arches. Several of the city’s most aristocratic families had organized the event in the late 1800s, when the purpose of a debutante ball had been to present young women to society, in order that they find husbands. In the hundred and twenty-five years since it was established, the purpose of the ball had inevitably changed. Now the ball was simply a fun and rather special social event, a rite of passage with no greater meaning or intent than to have a good time in so-called polite society, and the occasion to wear beautiful dresses for one very special evening.

When the family gathers around the kitchen table, Olympia tells about the invitation to them. Virginia is exited to come, but Veronica does not want to come. Because of that disagreement, they have a clash and do not talk each others. Harry as Olympia’s second husband also disagrees with that party, the
reason why he disagrees with The Arches is because he thinks it is a place where people who cannot come is being discriminated, because the party just for people who received the invitation. That reason too which makes Veronica does not want to come to The Arches because she shares the same though with Harry. But Olympia does not care about that, she wants her daughters come because through that party, her daughters can debut their selves and come out to society. Finally, with all her efforts, Olympia can make her daughters come to The Arches although many troubles, clashes, and tiredness she has to pass.
writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose.

*Coming Out* novel by Danielle Steel that was published in Great Britain in 2006 by Bantam Press is the object of the study. The novel is about a woman named Olympia Crawford Rubinstein. Her family, the Crawfords was an illustrious and extremely social New York family, whose blue blooded ancestors had intermarried with Astors and Vanderbilts for generations. She had converted from her staunch Episcopalian background to Judaism when she got married with Harry Rubinstein. Olympia had three children from her first marriage with Chauncey Bedham Walker IV. The oldest one is Charlie and others are twin named Virginia and Veronica. One day, there was an invitation to a ball that took place in December. Olympia wanted her daughters come to that ball party considering just invited people who can come to that special event. Virginia was excited to come but her twin Veronica was disapproval because she thought that party just discriminates others who cannot come. Harry, Olympia's second husband, voted Veronica because he had been experienced to be discriminated too by Nazi Germany because of Jews, but Olympia did not care about that and she wanted her daughters to come to that ball without any reason.

The writer is going to analyze the symbol through external conflicts. Symbol is an interesting element because symbol is a kind of unique thing, people can interpret symbol freely according to their imagination. Conflict is
chosen to be another part of the analysis because the writer thinks that without conflict, a story just goes flat and has no climax. This opinion is supported by C. Hugh Holman who says that “conflict provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction”.

Related to the analysis, formalistic approach by Wilfred L. Guerin will be the approach that is used by the writer which is stated that formalistic approach is “the discovery and explanation of form in the literary work” (1979:70).

Under the formalistic approach, there are two theories that will be used. The first one is theory of conflict by C. Hugh Holman who mentions that “conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot” (1961:105).

Another theory is symbol. In discussing literature, M. H. Abram (1999:311) states that “the term "symbol" is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has arrange of reference, beyond itself”.

The analysis of the paper will focus to find a symbol that appears through external conflicts of the main character, Olympia in *Coming Out* novel. The writer hopes that through this analysis, the readers can get more information about how to interpret literary text, especially in this case is a novel.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

2.1 Theory of Conflict

2.1.1. Definition of Conflict

“A conflict may variously be physical, moral, psychological, intellectual, or spiritual contest between antagonistic forces.” (Koesnosoebroto 1988:43). Indirectly, people always have conflict in their life, because there are various problems which people will pass, not only conflict with external pressure but there is also conflict related to internal matters.

2.1.2 Types of Conflict

In book The Anatomy of Prose Fiction, Koesnosoebroto differentiates the conflict into two, internal and also external.

a. Internal Conflict

Koesnosoebroto says that internal conflict is the struggle between aspects of the personality or it can be called the conflict when he is confronted against some elements in his own nature (a conflict of a man against himself) (1988:43). The example of
internal conflict is a girl who will have an exam tomorrow but her friends ask her to join them to go to a party, while she has to study for her exam. In this case she confronts herself and has to decide which one the most important activity that she must choose.

b. External Conflict

The struggle between a person and an external force (another person, society, environment, nature, the universe, God) is called external conflict (1988:43).

The main character may be disturbed by other person or a group of person and struggles to against them; this is called a conflict of man against man. For example there are two men who fight for getting a love from the same woman.

He may also be faced against some external forces, physical nature, society, or fate; this is called a conflict of man against environment. Like a man who tries to save his life from earthquake or a girl who struggles to climb a mountain until its peak.
2.2 Theory of Symbol

2.2.1 Definition of Symbol

M. H. Abram (1999:311) states that the term "symbol" is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has arrange of reference, beyond itself. It means that symbol is something which people cannot easily guest because there is a hidden sense that represents something in addition to its literal meaning. For example the word rose, people will know that it is one kind of flowers, but if we analyze more than its literal meaning, the meaning of rose can be a love, because a rose is aromatic flower which usually given to people who we like.

2.2.2 Types of Symbol

According to M. H. Abram in his book *Glossary of Literary Term Seventh Edition*, some symbols are "conventional" or "public". Like "the Cross," “yellow flag” “black clothes” are words that refer to symbolic things of which the further sense is draw within a particular culture.

Some other symbols are "private" or "personal." Abram says that often the authors describe broadly the association between
an object or event or action and a particular concept; for example, the general association of a peacock with pride and of an eagle with heroic endeavor, or the rising sun with birth and the setting sun with death, or climbing with effort or progress and descent with surrender or failure. Frequently, some authors use symbols and generate the meaning refer to their thoughts, and these can produce more difficult problems in interpretation.

2.2.3 How to Recognize a Symbol

Fortunately, the storyteller often gives the symbol particular emphasis. It may be mentioned repeatedly throughout the story; it may even supply the story with a title. At times, a crucial symbol will open the story or end it (Kennedy, 1979:115). Perhaps we think that some words are symbol because it is mention repeatedly, but if the meaning is described clearly, so it is not a symbol. But an object, an event, an act, a character is definitely symbol if when we have read the story completely, we know that it was special word or phrase, which refers to theme or the central meaning.
2.3 Relation between Conflict and Symbol

According to Pickering and Hoeper (1981:74), symbol is related to plot, either single events of plot, large or small, or plots in their entirety often function symbolically. While in the plot, there is element such as conflict, it can be concluded that symbol is also related to conflict. For example, there is a story about young couple who always has conflicts every day. The girl states that she feels tired with the boy; on the other hand, the boy is also bored of being the wrong side. From this case, we can glean form as a symbol that they want to break up instead of having problems day after day.
CHAPTER III
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter discusses about external conflicts encountered by main character named Olympia with other characters. From those conflicts, the writer will draw a symbol that appears and try to interpret the meaning of the symbol.

3.1 External Conflicts

As mention in chapter two, external conflict is the opposition between the main characters against other people ideas, so they are maybe disturbed by them. Here are the external conflicts faced by Olympia against other characters in the novel:

a. Olympia Has an Argument with Harry about The Arches

The Arches is a special ball party that invites unmarried girls. Olympia as mother wants her daughters come to The Arches because it is time for her daughters to come out to society and Olympia had made her debut twenty-seven years earlier, as had her mother and both grandmothers long before her, and her great-grandmothers once upon a time. But her second husband, Harry, disagrees with her and forbids their daughters to
come. This case shows that Olympia against the forces outside herself, that
is Harry, and we can see from the quotations below:

“Judging by Veronica’s reaction, she seems to know more than you
do. If what she says is true, and black, Asian, and Hispanic girls can’t
do it, then I agree with her. And I assume Jewish girls would be on
their hit list, too.”

“Oh for God’s sake, Harry. Yes it’s a fancy social thing. People have
been doing it for years. It’s old-fashioned, it’s traditional, it’s Waspy,
so is the Social Register, so are clubs, for heaven’s sake. What about
clubs that don’t admit women?”

“I don’t belong to a single one of them,” he said succinctly. (Danielle
Steel, 2006:48-49)

Although Olympia has explained him what The Arches is, Harry
thinks that The Arches is not just common ball party, he has notion that it
is the party where a person who cannot come is being discriminated. The
reason why he has prejudice like that is remembering he was ever being
discriminated too by Nazi Germany because his religion is Jewish, where
Jews have been discriminated against for a thousand of years, so he does
not want his daughters confront the discrimination.

“…. I can’t afford to ally myself with any discriminatory
organization, and apparently this one is (The Arches). You know how
I feel about things like that…..” (Danielle Steel, 2006:49)

“Because it excludes people. Nazi Germany was founded on
principles just like these…..” (Danielle Steel, 2006:50)
b. Different Perception between Olympia and Veronica

Olympia has twin daughters, the first one is Veronica and the second one is Virginia, although they are identically, but they have different characteristics. Virginia more concerns with her looks and her love life, because she always spent hours poring over fashion magazine, or reading the gossip from Hollywood. On the contrary, Veronica engaged with deeper social or political issues because she and Harry engaged in long, heated discussions at night. (Danielle Steel, 2006:28).

The conflict between Olympia and Veronica is about The Arches too. Veronica’s characteristic more like her father “They shared all of the same extremely liberal, socially responsible ideas.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:19). That is why she decides to does not come to The Arches.

Olympia does the same way like she does to Harry, she keeps inform her that The Arches just a simply fun ball party where people have a good time, but Veronica’s reaction not different with Harry, she thinks that The Arches just discriminatory place, and she cannot come to such kind of event.

“…. This is a perfectly innocuous debutante cotillion, where the two of you wear pretty white dresses, make your bow, and have a good time….”

“That’s bullshit, Mom. You know this is a strictly WASP event, and all it’s meant to do is shut people out. Nobody with a conscience should participate, and I’m not going to. I don’t care what you say, or
what Ginny does, I'm not going.” Veronica was fighting mad as Virginia burst into tears. (Danielle Steel, 2006:44)

c. Olympia Has a Quarrel with Chauncey

After her second husband and also one of her daughters refuses to come to The Arches, Olympia called her first husband, Chauncey, to tell him how the situation is. Instead of getting the solutions, Chauncey just makes everything become worse. He threatens will not pay Veronica’s tuition if she does not come to The Arches.

“…. If she decides that it is too politically right-wing to make her debut at The Arches, then I’m not going to pay her tuition at Brown next year….” (Danielle Steel, 2006:57)

Chauncey does not think about his daughters’ happiness, he thinks about others who will know and judge him when his daughters do not come to debut their self, then he will get embarrass because of that. The reason why he will get embarrass because he comes from blue-blooded family who should come to such kind of party, considering just special people who will be there, to keep his prestige to others. This is shown in the quotation below.

“I'm not going to have a daughter who won’t come out. For heaven’s sake, Olympia, think of the embarrassment that will cause.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:63)
d. Olympia Has an Argument with Veronica because of Her Tattoo

Olympia forbids her children to do tattoos or piercings because she thinks that tattoo is taboo so she does not want her children do that thing, but unfortunately Veronica did it. It shows that Olympia has problems with her daughter because of Veronica’s tattoo. “I cannot believe it you did that!” Olympia said, sitting on the edge of Veronica’s bed. (Danielle Steel, 2006:176).

The problem is not about Veronica did the tattoo only, the real problem is, how Veronica can go to the ball with dress that is backless and plunged nearly to her waist while she has tattoo on the back.

“Olympia was sitting at the kitchen table, crying over her cup of tea. She was thinking about the backless dress and what they are going to do.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:177)

In order to cover the tattoo, Olympia has to does something to Veronica’s dress because Olympia will not allow everybody in the ball see Veronica’s tattoo. “I’m not letting you come out at The Arches with that thing on your back” (Danielle Steel, 2006:177).

e. Olympia is Mad at Veronica’s Escort

The party called The Arches needs an escort for girl who comes. Because of that, Olympia has to prepare the appropriate person to
accompany her daughters. Charlie, Olympia’s oldest son will be one of her twin daughters’ escorts, but Veronica refuses if her mother looks for her escort, she wants to choose the escort by herself.

Olympia agreed Veronica’s will, but before the ball party, Olympia asks Veronica about her escort again and again to make sure that Veronica does not choose the wrong person. These questions are stated on page 120: “What made you invite him to the ball?” “Does he look normal?” “What does he look like the rest of the time?”

But, when the party comes, Veronica makes Olympia angry because of her escort named Jeff Adam comes with bright blue hair. “Veronica, that wasn’t so funny. All he did was made the members of the committee mad at him, and you by association.” (Danielle Steel, 2006:199).

Because of the party has a rule, so when the rehearsal one of the committee comes directly in front of Jeff, and explained the situation to him in no uncertain terms. He has until nine o’clock to return his hair to a normal, human color, if he preferred not to change his hair color, Veronica would be provide with another escort for the ball. (Danielle Steel, 2006:198).
3.2 Symbol

From conflicts that occur among characters, especially Olympia, the writer concludes that something can be a symbol is the ball party called The Arches. We can see the conflict between Olympia and Harry, who have disagreement about The Arches, where Harry thinks it is just discriminatory place, but Olympia it is place where people will have fun. Then Olympia’s conflict with Veronica who have different perception about of The Arches too, and when Veronica did tattoo, Olympia’s mind just thinks about The Arches, how can she covers the tattoo in order to people who comes to the party cannot see it. Or when she has conflict with Chauncey, the root of the conflict is also related to The Arches.

As mention in the theory, the author will gives particular emphasis to symbol. The same case with this story, the author gives emphasis clearly to event called The Arches, where there are repetitions of the phrase over and over again in every conflict between characters.

3.3. The Meaning of Symbol

The meaning of symbol The Arches which is related to Olympia’s external conflicts that appear in the novel refers to pride and social status, although Steel commented that the meaning of The Arches is “simply a fun and rather special social event, a rite of passage with no greater
meaning or intent than to have a good time in so called polite society, and the occasion to wear beautiful white dresses for one very special evening” (Daniel Steel, 2006:31).

To know the hidden meaning of The Arches, firstly we can see from Olympia’s conflict with Harry. Harry refuses the invitation because he is Jewish where Jews do not be invited to the party, but Olympia forces to come although she had converted to Judaism but she still part of blue-blooded family who usually join the party like The Arches where they can show the wealth, the best clothes, the best jewelries, or the most precious things that they have.

The second case in the novel it is stated that the event is still several months later, but Olympia prepares everything perfectly for The Arches. This case seen when Olympia choose the escort, she wants suitable man who can escort her daughters properly. Thus when Olympia knows that Veronica has tattoo on her back, she tries to cover and hide it from people who come to The Arches, we know that wealthy people will not accept the things like tattoo or piercing because it is taboo for them.

From those facts, the writer interprets that The Arches is a pride of Olympia, because as wealthy person who comes from blue-blooded family, she has to come and prepare everything perfectly for The Arches in order to show her family off to the society that they are the best.
Besides pride, The Arches is also symbol of social status. We can know from who can sign up for this party. This case is shown from Olympia’s argument with Chauncey. The status of Chauncey is same as Olympia who comes from blue-blooded family. As blue-blooded person, Chauncey wants his daughters come to The Arches, if they do not want to come, Chauncey threatens will not pay their tuition. The writer thinks that if The Arches is just common ball party or just common people who come to have fun, Chauncey will not choose an extreme way like threatening not to pay the tuition for his daughter. It is stated clearly that The Arches is a party where wealthy people come together, so The Arches can be a symbol of social status.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In analyzing the novel *Coming Out* about external conflicts of main character, Olympia, the writer found that the source of conflicts comes from the invitation of ball party named The Arches. Every time Olympia talks to her family such as Harry as her husband, Veronica as her daughter, or Chauncey as her ex husband, everyone gets angry with her.

Harry, Olympia’s second husband, disagrees with her about The Arches and does not want to come to the party because he thinks that it is kind of discrimination place where not all people can come to that party. Her daughter, Veronica, is also mad at Olympia because of The Arches. Her thought is same as Harry, she thinks that The Arches just discriminates people who cannot come to that party. Thus with Chauncey, Olympia has different thought with Chauncey about the party that is causing a clash.

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