AN ANALYSIS OF THEME SEEN THROUGH JACOB’S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICTS IN CYNTHIA FREEMAN’S PORTRAITS

THESIS
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of English Literature

By:
DONNA LYTHA VICTORIA MALENG
392014528

FACULTY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ART
SATYA WACANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
SALATIGA
2017
PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Donna Lytha Victorya
NIM : 392014528 Email : 392014528@student.uksw.edu
Fakultas : Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Judul tugas akhir : An Analysis of Theme Seen Through Jacob’s Internal and External Conflicts in Cynthia Freeman’s Portraits

Pembimbing : 1. Ervin Suryaningsih, M.Hum
2. ————————————————————

Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa:

1. Hasil karya yang saya serahkan ini adalah asli dan belum pernah diajukan untuk mendapatkan gelar kesarjanaan baik di Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana maupun di institusi pendidikan lainnya.

2. Hasil karya saya ini bukan saduran/terjemahan melainkan merupakan gagasan, rumusan, dan hasil pelaksanaan penelitian/implementasi saya sendiri, tanpa bantuan pihak lain, kecuali arahan pembimbing akademik dan narasumber penelitian.

3. Hasil karya saya ini merupakan hasil revisi terakhir setelah diujiakan yang telah diketahui dan disetujui oleh pembimbing.

4. Dalam karya saya ini tidak terdapat karya atau pendapat yang telah ditulis atau dipublikasikan orang lain, kecuali yang digunakan sebagai acuan dalam naskah dengan menyebutkan nama pengarang dan dicantumkan dalam daftar pustaka.

Pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya. Apabila di kemudian hari terbukti ada penyimpangan dan ketidakbenaran dalam pernyataan ini maka saya bersedia menerima sanksi akademik berupa pencabutan gelar yang telah diperoleh karena karya saya ini, serta sanksi lain yang sesuai dengan ketentuan yang berlaku di Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana.

Salatiga, 4 Maret 2017

[Signature]

Donna Lytha Victorya Melayang
PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN AKSES

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Donna Lytha Victorya Maleng  
NIM : 392014528  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris

Judul tugas akhir : An Analysis of Theme Seen Through Jacob’s Internal and External Conflicts in Cynthia Freeman’s Portraits

Dengan ini saya menyerahkan hak non-eksklusif* kepada Perpustakaan Universitas – Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana untuk menyimpan, mengatur akses serta melaksanakan pengelolaan terhadap karya saya ini dengan mengacu pada ketentuan akses tugas akhir elektronik sebagai berikut (beri tanda pada kotak yang sesuai):

✔ a. Saya mengijinkan karya tersebut diunggah ke dalam aplikasi Repositori Perpustakaan Universitas, dan/atau portal GARUDA

☐ b. Saya tidak mengijinkan karya tersebut diunggah ke dalam aplikasi Repositori Perpustakaan Universitas, dan/atau portal GARUDA**

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Salatiga, 4 Maret 2017

[Signature]

Donna Lytha Victorya Maleng  
Mengetahui,

[Signature]

Ervin Suryaningsih, M. Hum  
Tanda tangan atas nama terang administrasi

[Signature]

Tanda tangan atas nama terang pembimbing 1

[Signature]

Tanda tangan atas nama terang pembimbing 2

---

* Hak yang tidak terbatas hanya bagi pihak yang sah. Penerbit, penulis, dan mahasiswa yang menyerahkan hak non-eksklusif kepada Repositori Perpustakaan Universitas setelah memahami hasil karya masih masih memilik hak copyright atas karya tersebut.

** Hanya ok di menampilkan hadir atau disepakati. Disahkan ini karya disampaikan dengan penjelasan akses tertulis dari pembimbing TA dan diterbitkan oleh penerbit fakultas (dekan/hakim).

---

F-LIB-081
COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This thesis contains no such material as has been submitted for examination in any course or accepted for the fulfillment of any degree or diploma in any university. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this contains no material previously published or written by any person except where due reference is made in the text.

Copyright @2017: Donna Lythia Victorya Maleng and Ervin Suryaningsih, M.Hum.

All rights served. No part of this thesis may be reproduced by any means without the prior written permission of at least one of the copyright owners or the English Language Education Program of Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga.

Donna Lythia Victorya Maleng:
AN ANALYSIS OF THEME SEEN THROUGH JACOB’S INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL CONFLICTS IN CYNTHIA FREEMAN’S PORTRAITS

THESIS
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Sarjana Sastra

Donna Lytha Victoria Maleng
392014528

Approved by:
Ervin Suryaningsih, M.Hum
Supervisor

Deta Maria Sri Darta, M.Hum
Examiner
Table of Contents

Title Page .................................................................................................................. i
Table of Content ........................................................................................................ ii
Abstract ...................................................................................................................... iii
CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION .................................................................................. 1
CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL REVIEW ............................................................... 4
  2.1 Theory of Conflict .......................................................................................... 4
  2.2 Theory of Theme .......................................................................................... 5
  2.3 Approach of Study ....................................................................................... 5
CHAPTER III: ANALYSIS ......................................................................................... 7
  3.1 Jacob’s Conflicts ........................................................................................... 7
     3.1.1 Jacob’s internal conflicts ..................................................................... 7
     3.1.2 Jacob’s external conflicts ..................................................................... 15
  3.2 Theme of Portraits seen through Jacob’s conflicts .................................... 38
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION .................................................................................... 41
References .................................................................................................................. 42
CHAPTER I

Introduction

Beatrice Cynthia Freeman Feinberg was well known as a successful novelist in 1970s. Her particular writings are about Jewish Immigrants such as; A World Full of Strangers, talks about the multigenerational of a Jewish from New York’s Lower East Side and No Time for Tears that talk about a portrait of the journey of Jewish in Palestine, which regarded as the best seller writing in 1981s.

Portraits is one of Cynthia Freeman writings about Jewish Immigrant from lower east side that full of suffering with various challenges in searching for their freedom and the equality in America without losing their own cultures. It is chronologically describes how the difficulties of the immigrant life treated more like slaves and being rejected at any place especially in working environment by American citizen. Ever since 18th century Jews immigrant was labeled as poor people as it is told in Portraits.

Jacob Sandnotsky as the main character in Portraits becomes the explicit example of a Jew immigrant’s story life. He experienced a tough responsibility in life as a son, brother, husband and a father. As a matter of fact, Jacob’s journey is filled with conflicts since he was born, passing over the bitter living.

There is no life that has no conflict. The conflict of Jacob Sandnotsky is the knowledgeable story to be learned. Every conflict that showed up as Jacob’s conflict is almost unpredictable. As a lay people with less knowledge of Jewish
immigrant, it made me questioning about what the exact theme of the Portraits throughout those conflicts.

There are related study and journal analysing the main character’s motivation and conflicts such as in ‘October Sky’ by Joe Johnston (2004), which is analyzed the main character conflict and motivation using Haber and Runyon theory. The study is only analyses the conflict of the main character. The thesis is only analyzing one element of a literary text.

This study will analyses theme according to the internal and external conflicts of the main character. The problems from the book are the internal and external conflicts of Jacob as Jew immigrant. Conflict of Jacob defines the exact theme of Portraits. The conflict and theme of Portraits as the two important elements will be analyzed and the result will make the reader aware of some aspects of human’s way of life. This study is using formalistic approach. Formalistic approach determines how the element of conflict and theme can work together with the text’s content to shape its effects upon readers (http://home.olemiss.edu/~egjbp/spring97/litcrit.html, 6:42am; 15june16). The theory of conflict and theme will be used to find the objective of this research. For instance, this study will provide a beneficial result to readers.

There are many issues and ideas in a theme of a story. It can be directly or indirectly described. The actual issue or an exact theme can be presented by some kind of conflicts. The conflict is an element of the Portraits’s novel that can lead the reader to find out the true theme of the story. The theme of Portraits can be seen through Jacob’s conflicts. Through the analysis of Portraits, this study gives
an example that a theme of a story can be found by the conflicts of the main character and that a theme of a story could also be a life lesson.
CHAPTER II

Theoretical Review

2.1 Theory of Conflict

Conflict is a literary element that involves struggle between two opposing forces (https://literarydevices.net/conflict/). In literature, conflict is one of the elements with certain power that can show if a book is worth reading or not. Conflict is the main element that is needed to make a great storyline in all form of literary work especially in fiction or novel. An innovator conflict in a novel can raise an interesting curiosity in reader’s mind through every conflict of the story line. A story needs a particular conflict to be shared to make it interesting. Koesnasoebroto and Sunaryo Basuki in their book *The Anatomy of Prose Fiction* (1988) classify conflict into two types; internal and external conflict. Man against himself is the type of internal conflict and man against environment and man against man is the type of external conflict.

Internal conflict is conflict between aspects of personality. Internal conflict happened when a character is confronted against some elements in his or her own nature or could be called man against himself. For example: Dian against her own temper trying to calm down her anger. External conflict is conflict between external force (another person, society, environment, nature, universe, God). A character may be pitted against some other persons or group of person which is called man against man and a character may also be confronted against some external forces like physical nature, society, or fate.
which called man against environment. For example; Aditya is fighting with his brother, Gilbert, because both of them want to get their mother attention.

2.2 Theory of theme

Theme is the author’s way of communicating and sharing ideas, perceptions and feelings to reader and it may be directly or indirectly stated in a story. In *Fiction: Reading, Reacting, Writing*, by Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell (1993; p.300), state that theme in a work of literature is its central or dominant idea. It means theme is the central idea of a literary work. Theme could be a brief and meaningful perception or a vision of life and it may be a single idea. Theme that is being identified should be a general truth that extends beyond the story and applies to the world outside fiction. According to Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell (1993; p.302), some features in a story are qualified in revealing and reinforcing the story’s most important ideas; title, narrator’s or character’s statement, the arrangement of events, story’s conflict, the point of view of a story, symbols and the changes in a character. In this paper, the theme of *Portraits* will be revealed using the story’s conflict feature. According to Gery W. Ryan, Russell Bernard in *Techniques to Identify Theme*, there are eight ways to find the theme which are repetitions, indigenous typologies or categories, metaphors and analogy, transitions, similarities and differences, linguistics connectors, missing data and theory-related material. One of the eight techniques based on Gery W. Ryan and Russell Bernard’s *Techniques to Identify Theme* would be used in finding the theme of *Portraits*. 
2.3 Approach of the study

This study is using the formalistic approach. Formalistic approach or formalism is also known as new criticism. Formalistic approach focuses on the internal workings of the text rather than its external matter. Formalism, examines the relationships between a text's ideas and its form, between what a text says and the way it says it (http://www.slideshare.net/Babyjhessy11/formalistic-approach, july22,2016, 8:26am). The main goal of this approach on this research is to determine how the element of conflict and theme work together with the text content. This approach concentrates on the words of the text.

Theory of Sunaryono Basuki Koesnasobroto about two types of conflict in literary work which are internal and external conflicts, also Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell about theme as a central or a dominant idea are incorporated in formalistic approach. The two elements of literary work are interrelated to complete this study of analyzing theme of Portraits. It starts with outline the internal and external conflict according to the theory of conflict, then mark out the theme of the story using the theory of theme by the formalistic approach. This research of Portraits will be a literary work lesson to readers especially literature students wherever they are. This study will produce a worthwhile literary data.
CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of the discussions about Jacob’s internal and external conflicts according to the theory of Sunaryono Basuki Koesnasobroto and the theme of the story based on Jacob’s internal and external conflicts.

3.1 Jacob’s Conflicts

Jacob Sandnotsky or Jack Sanders is a Jew immigrant from Poland. He has one sister named Gittel and a step brother named Shlomo. His mother name is Esther Sanders. His father died when he was 3 years old. They change their last name from Sandnotsky to Sanders in order to live in America. Jacob was left with a relative when his mother decided to live in America. Jacob’s hard times had started when he was three years old. He was treated badly by his relative so he ran away and found his mother in America. Jacob married Sara Edelstein and lives together until his lovely wife finally died after their 70 years marriage. The desire of having a better life in America as Jews Immigrants is what lives in Jacob’s mind and heart. Jacob had encountered many of hard times to survive and make everything worth living. He had many conflicts as a person and as Jew immigrant.

3.1.1 Jacob’s Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is conflicts that happen in Jacob’s mind and heart.
Jacob had internal conflict about some aspects of his personality. What he feels, what he said, what he heard or any other things that including his own mind and heart him matter the most to him and sometimes it could change his personality by the time.

3.1.1.1 Jacob’s internal conflict of choosing if he have to stay in the uninhabited house of his grandparents or find his mother.

Jacob’s inner conflict happened when he was 3 years old. He feels like he does not deserve love even though he knows he needed that affection from his parent and anyone else. But then he had to despite the needs and be ready to make his own choices in order to fulfill his dream with any consequences later that he himself never imagined before. He is not ready for the fact that he is going through a bitter life as a Jews Immigrant later, but then he needs to keep on living his life.

“His journey had just begun, but he never once looked back. (P.6).

From the quotation above, Jacob was in his first experience trying to make a risky decision as an 8 years old boy. Jacob wants to go far away from his home but he is still concern about his own journey actually. He was living under pressure with his mother’s relative, his mother left him with. He had a wrong reasoning conflict about his own life. He was a child who did not believe in love because of his experience as a child without any kind of guidance toward him.

“In frustration and anger, Jacob took the knife and stabbed in into the wall, then sat on the floor and cried himself into exhaustion.” (P.10.)
In this case, Jacob is frustrated about his condition, in which, he is uncertain he had to just lay down and accept the fact that his only hope to meet his grandparents suddenly gone or to go find his mother whose only concern about his brother and sister. His thought is falling apart.

3.1.1.2 Jacob’s internal conflict of trying to trust the existence of compassion or to deny it.

The conflicted feeling of being abandoned is shaking his mind out. Jacob also has no understanding about love of a family or whatever love it is that worth it. He never wanted to admit the existence of love itself.

“Had he been so unworthy? His own mother had never loved him. If only his father had lived, maybe his life would have been... God, why was he thinking about that now? This was a picnic where everyone was so happy.’ (P.18).

The quotation above shows the conflict of Jacob’s feeling as a dumped child. The word “Unworthy?” clearly told about the reflection of his heartache. He is questioning about his unworthy life that he never wanted to life in but Jacob couldn’t deny he had lived with misconception about the affection in a family especially. He would not believe in any kind of love anymore but he is caught up by the harmonic view of a lovely Mendlebaum’s family. It is sad to know that the love is truly exist, and that he never been loved.

3.1.1.3 Jacob’s internal conflict of hating his mother or to forgive her.

No matter what had happened in a family, a child will always have that feeling of missing their own parent. In Jacob’s deep brokenhearted heart, sometimes he wished his mother a good healthy alive woman.

“Did he know if she was still alive?
Was she alive? Jacob wondered. The question evoked a torrent of guilt. Although he was certain she had never loved him, the idea she could be dead was something he found impossible to face... He wanted to put his hands over his ears to stop sound of the mournful chant. “No”, he said shakily, “She’s alive, I know she’s alive. I will find her.” (P.27).

Jacob is extremely down and tired of everything that happened. Beside, his feeling just could not lie about how it feels for real. The word “No” is briefly enough to show the meaning of its word which is Jacob’s complicated mind and heart that contradicted. His mind forcing him to believe in something his heart rejected about his mother’s circumstances. He had a conflict of his contrary feeling.

The conflicted emotion of Jacob seems never stopped to bother him. He faces the fact that he had at least less burden in him, finally meet his mother after a long year spent all alone. He hated that he had been left behind and that his childhood spent like a nightmare.

“If he had feeling other than love for his mother, at this moment he realized she’s too had suffered bringing him into life.” (P.39).

Jacob found himself concerning about the suffering his mother had passed and that he had ended up never want to tolerate it all. He tried to understand how mother always going through every hard time, just to give birth a child to the world but the hatred in him sometimes get twisted become a feeling wanted to be cared for.

3.1.1.4 Jacob’s internal conflict about being a capable householder or a miserable husband.
Jacob had been through a lot of bitter path. His past left him a temporary scars and it built up a long last nightmare. He had the conflict of the doubtfulness in him that haunt him every time he got into a feeling problem.

"He only had three hundred dollars between his family and starvation. No one knew the misery he felt when he helped Sara up the three flights of stairs. His pride had been so shredded he could hardly meet her eyes." (P.103).

Jacob never forgot about his struggle and his tough life before he gets married with Sara Edelstein. It was all stained like a sustainable conflict of his life. By the quote above, it shows how Jacob’s self-esteem is so tumbled that he could not help himself of being miserable. Jacob tries to be a capable person for his new family with Sara but his heart seems to harden him more and more.

3.1.1.5 Jacob’s internal conflict about being a good father or a loyal Jews immigrant.

Moreover, Jacob’s life becomes more complicated as the time passed. He and his wife need to make living in America where they clearly knew that in America they have some barriers as they are Jews Immigrant.

“How could you be a Jewish here? This was a new land, different from the east side where they could be open about being Jewish. Jacob Sandnotsky was living like a goy. What kind of a religious Jew did that? If it were known he was a Jew he might be out of a job.” (P.123).

Jacob still could not be sure about his belief, as it is said in the quote above. He gives his family the best wealth he can achieve but he ended up against his belief most of the time. Jacob live in America where he hardly get a job because of the rejection for Jews immigrant is everywhere in that country.
his mind, he admitted that he is a religious Jewish in front of his family but he realizes that somehow he extremely sparse from a religious Jews’ life. People judge him for his entitle of being Jewish.

Goyim, a name described by non-Jewish people that is a term as a sinners for those who against Jews’ religion. Goy could be everywhere, lives everywhere and that was the disturbance for religious Jews immigrants. It was the conflict of his own faith to his belief. Jacob wants to serve his belief in his new habit but there are resistance everywhere hindered his intention.

“Living among goyim, what kind of Jesus could they be? He suddenly felt like hypocrite.” (P.182.)

“He had felt like a hypocrite but had continued to make excuses for himself, saying that he was too occupied with the business of making a living, providing security for his family”. (P.194.)

As a Jewish immigrant, Jacob had the conviction of not to get along with bad people or what the Jews called Goyim as it is described in the quote above. Goyim is a name of those who are not Jewish, especially those used to do bad things. He knows that thing, but he realized that he had lived that way since the day he came out from Frankfurt and everywhere he goes there will always a Goyim. He is only pretending as if he did the right thing in order to make a living at least. Jacob had doubting himself as a father and as a religious jewish.

“Damn it, why does every father but me get a little pleasure from their kids?” (P.326).

Jacob regretted about everything that happen to his children. Jacob had a great anger in him according to the quote before. The children, they have turned into
some kind of rebel children. They may never know how lucky they are, have a house to live in, a complete parent, and their other facilities Jacob gave. Jacob thought that, with all the struggle and sweat-shirt he had done, he rewarded himself as a better household for his children so that they have no right to underestimate it. Jacob had the conflict thinking if he is a bewildered also a grumpy father to his children or he is actually had done the best for his family.

3.1.1.6 Jacob’s internal conflict between being thankful or being abandoned

After earned a deep pocket, Jacob realized, he had a big anxiety in him. He worked hard to get to his great financial life. His whole-hearted and great intention to live changed him into a hard-working man in life, but it is not the same thing for his wife. Jacob’s realization of have been so alone all the time came over his mind. Even after he met his mother, his brother and sister, and after the marriage, things seemed never really changed.

“He had thoughts of... his mother abandoning him, Lotte betraying him, Sara’s self-centeredness that pushed him out of her life- he’d never forgotten the abortion, he always lived with the haunting feeling that the child she destroyed might have been that boy.” (P.407).

The quotation above tells that Jacob still sick of the sustainable condition that he faces. The feeling of disenchantment filled his mind even more when his wife Sara aborted the fetus in her. Jacob wished that the womb might be a boy. He wanted a boy but the life was so hard on him and his family and he already had three daughters and Sara could not afford to have another one in the situation. As a husband and father, Jacob used to dream of having a baby boy.
but he could not deny his incapacity to ask his wife for it. Even in his greatest wishes he could not be more thankful but only surrender to fate.

“Jacob was a frightened man that had never been able to reveal his weakness to others, or to himself.” (P.483).

From those quotes above, it shows Jacob’s deep feeling and inner conflict clearly. It can be concluded that he was only his bitter past that never live in peace for aged. Many has happened to him, sometimes he learnt from it, sometimes he got stuck, he torn apart, his nightmare come and go, his hurt, his childhood, his grandparent, his faith as a Jews immigrant also became burden on him. Those burdens lived in him as if it is belong to him and he never talked about it to anyone or simply express it.

After all of the situation, the inner conflict in Jacob brought him to an overly worried about his existence. He was unspeakable about all his tense. At the end he still doubted everything about his life, he still felt lonely and depressed. Everyone seems to care about their own business and Jacob would not bother even his own family to look after his inner wound.

3.1.2 Jacob’s External Conflict

There are so many external forces in Jacob’s journey as Jew Immigrant. He went through such difficulties in reaching his goals in America. Jacob is against other people such as; his mother, his relatives, his brother, his sister, his children, his friends, his lover and those who come into his life.
3.1.2.1 Jacob against his mother, Esther

Esther left Jacob when he was 3 years old that gave him a nightmare. He had been left with bad relatives that made him felt so much pain than love. The condition starts a conflict between Jacob and his mother, as can be seen below;

For years Jacob had lived his childhood all by himself and finally meet his mother. The quote of the conversation above between Jacob and his mother shows that Jacob felt terrible for the deed of his mother long time ago. He is shocked that after all suffering and hard time trying to stay alive and find his mother, he still could not forgive her, indeed. The external forces of Jacob’s mother filled his thought with of anger and disappointment to his mother.

“Well, at least you are truthful. But you listen to me, Jacob. You want to punish me for something I couldn’t help. That’s alright, but no matter what you feel, I did the best I could.”

“I don’t think so,” he shot back. “You sent Gittel to bubbeleh and zayde but left me with strangers. I didn’t mean anything to you—“(P.33).

Jacob could not hold his depression of being left behind based on the quote above. He was in time where he needed more care and affection from his parent, indeed. The worst thing was that his father was dead and his only parent was his mother but she was not there. Not even a person gave a damn love and care for him at the time. He went through diverse with some Jews immigrant to at least have a spoon of rice to eat just to stay alive. Jacob’s first thing to find help was his grandparent, his Bubbleh and Zayde or his grandmother and grandfather, but they were gone already. This is the external...
conflict of childhood memory of Jacob which embed heart ache from his mother.

“I’m in love with a girl, we wanted to get married, but I couldn’t make a living. What chance does a Jew have in Europe? Bubeleh and Zayde lived and died in that little hovel, and I wonder if they ever had enough to eat.” (P.33).

The quotation above tells that Jacob blamed his mother, because of her, leaving him in Poland, he could not marry Lotte and that he had no clear identity when he was with her. He was frustrated. If only she never did that, he might never going through all of the hardship. His path just never seems to have an easy way to go through. The forces of his affection to Lotte make everything even harder for him.

After some quality time of living together, Jacob finally had the real care and family for him. But the love for Lotte forced him to do a dangerous job.

“He knew his mother would object to his going to a prize fight .... she didn’t believe in fights of any kind. She would object to his getting involves with what she thought were bums and lowlifes, and she would certainly forbid him to mingle socially with goyim.” (P.44).

The fight-prize is considered as a bad thing according to the quotation before and that his mother would not let him to do that thing. Especially for those religious Jewish immigrants, they would not allow any of their people to socialize kinds of person that joined that job.

“He could hear her arguments: Jews don’t fight, it’s against our religion and a sin against God. But ten dollars a fight, two nights a week, was twenty dollars, multiplied by six months---more money than he needed to send for Lotte.” (P.45).
Jacob is searching for more and more money in purpose to send for Lotte. He is trying to avoid his mother’s interrogation about what he was doing. He never back home early. For his effort to get Lotte, he joined a fight with goyim, but for Jews, they believe it as a sin or a depraved. He knows that it is not good for him to fight but he just could not help it that he wanted Lotte so much to come to America and live with him. He decided to lie to his mother, just to keep everything calm and no contention between him and his mother until he get Lotte by his side. Then one day, he accidently becomes a little bit out of temper to his mother.

“Listen, Jacob, you can’t do so much. A person also needs to rest.”

“I rest, I rest.”

“Don’t be stubborn with me, Jacob. This may be America, but I’m still your mother.”

“I’m sorry, and I’m not being stubborn. I just want to learn.” (P. 52).

Again he and his mother had a high temper conversation as it is described through the quotation above. Esther is concerning about Jacob being so busy day after day, and Jacob, with no explanation, he let her anger upon him in order to avoid further conflict but actually it only create another conflict between both of them.

“I’ll be home when I’ll be home. Don’t worry, I’ll get enough rest.”

Esther sat shaking her head. Was it good, this new country? It wasn’t really good for Jews anywhere, but at least in Europe there was a quality of family life and respect that was soon lost in America. . . . (P.53).
By the quotation above, Jacob becomes so big-headed by ignoring his mother’s worry about him. It was like a force to Jacob, Esther concerned about Jacob’s new experience in America in which he hasn’t really understood about yet. Esther is worried that Jacob was still a new immigrant in America, there is a danger outside that he never knew could potentially happen.

Esther sold the restaurant and moved to live with Hershel and Gittel, together with Shlomo after Jacob got married. She leaves Jacob again and lives apart from him. Jacob does not want to care about his mother after that. That is when Esther and Jacob had crushed again, for a long time like for years until Jacob gets old and Esther finally can’t even stand on her own feet anymore.

“Jacob?”

“Yes, mama...” he held her frail body close to him as a flood of memories came back ... You’re a fine man, Jacob ... Gittel’s first child had been born that night. Here’s your father’s Tallis. Wear it with the dignity he did ... You hate me, say it ...

He didn’t hate her tonight. He needed her more than anyone in the world at this moment. (P.477).

By the quotation above, it is Jacob first meeting with Esther again after Esther moved and lived with Gittel and Hershel. They were separated each other with no mean to left each other but then Jacob was literally did not give a damn about her until they met again. Jacob’s deep heart just could not help for his feeling sorry and regret for everything before. It was a mix feeling between regret, sad, ashamed and also welcome.
This part shows how far Jacob had gone through his life that he end up feel 
sorry for his mother and his own self. He had punished her for his gloomy 
childhood and kicked her out of his life after he became a wealthy man. He 
now realized that he turned out even worse than his mother.

3.1.2.2 Jacob against the granddaughter of Mr. Mendlebaum and his wife.

Mr. Mendlebaum and his wife is a family for Jacob. They gives him a job, 
treat him well, and lucky enough that they consider Jacob more like a 
grandson. Lotte is their only granddaughter that used to come to see them. 
Jacob fell for Lotte when they first meet at Mr. Mendlebaum’s home. But after 
that, she created a conflicted feeling in Jacob and married another man without 
any intention to hurt Jacob.

“No, Lotte, listen to me carefully. There is no future here in Europe for a person 
who has no trade. I’ll be a poor man all my life. It’s only in America that I can 
succeed--.” (P.22).

The quotation shows that Jacob is in a deep love for Lotte, but for her good, 
Jacob decided to go to America. Jacob knows that in Europe he could not 
survive, he is a Jewish, he had no clear identity, all that he got are some 
money and his not enough clothes, he had to leave her and have a long 
distance relationship with her. Lotte have had a special meaning for Jacob that 
Jacob could not stop himself to go through every possible ways to get her.

“The truth will always painful, but I should have told you sooner. There is no 
way to say how sorry I am, but I have met a man who is a little older. He has a 
very good business and can take good care of me and also help my parents. By
the time you get this, I will already be married. Truly, to think I would be the one to hurt you." (P.62).

The quotation above shows that Jacob is going to get heart breaking news. Lotte is the one who gave Jacob a great intention to work hard. She gave love and strength to Jacob that he never had before. But the bad news about her marriage, really torn Jacob’s heart and hope apart. Jacob is completely in a conflict of being left behind all over again. He ended up have no more trust for anyone or anybody. He is fought by the Irishman whose took advantage on him by taking him to prize-ring, in order to gain enough income to send for Lotte. The broken heart of Jacob immerse him into a great revenge.

3.1.2.3 Jacob against Shlomo

Shlomo is Jacob’s step brother. Whatever happened to him, Jacob won’t let him take care of himself, but then Jacob turned out overreacted in certain things that they started make a distance with him. Moreover they are not as close as they were before until Shlomo’s dead that left a big scars and a conflicted feeling in his heart.

*The day America declared war on Germany, Shlomo went to Jacob to tell him he was joining the marines. ... “Damn it, I say no. You hear?”*

(P.113-114).

The quotation describes that Jacob loves Shlomo more than anyone. Shlomo is his only little brother that always makes him feel better when they were live together even after they apart. When Shlomo decided to join the marines, Jacob just could not think straight. Jacob is afraid of any bad things that could
happen to him in marines. The feeling of distrust for what his brother had choose, make him so hard on Shlomo. That is the first time Jacob turned out wickedly to Shlomo. Shlomo did nothing but keep stand on his choice without any strike back to Jacob’s disapproval.

Jacob is actually still had the conflict of trusting other to make their own decision. Jacob is afraid if his lovely brother will turn out to be someone different or like a goyisher bums. He would not let his brother get a hard time in marines without him to help Shlomo.

“I never thought the day would ever come when I’d say this to you, Jacob, but I hope your soul burn in hell . . . take your damn check. I don’t want your blood money.” And he tore the check into pieces and threw them on Jacob’s desk.” (P.454).

It is a misunderstanding that Shlomo blamed Jacob for not let him out of jail when he was caught by police, according to the quotation above. In fact, Jacob knows that he could not did that even if Shlomo forced him to. It was a mistake done by Shlomo that he was not be careful for any possibility of being checked by police.

“Jacob stood remembering how he had hit Shlomo, then had held him close in his arms like a child. Oh please, God . . . don’t let Shlomo die . . .”I don’t care,” he said to Shlomo’s son, “I don’t care what happened between your father and me. I’m going to see my brother.” “No, you’re not. You almost ruined his life once, but I won’t allow you to make his death any harder than it is.” (P.477).
The death of Shlomo created sorrowful mourn to Jacob. He even has not said how sorry he was when Shlomo imprisoned. He was deeply broken. He again lost the people he love just like he lost his father before.

3.1.2.4 Jacob against Sara, his wife

Sara is Jacob’s only wife that turn out to be a self-centered after married and they have 3 children. They do not live in a romantic family life almost for aged. Jacob’s conflict happened to increase over time, even after his marriage. Sara became more and more like a different person after all. Jacob had a headache of being kicked out of job just because of an unreasonable thing that made him more terrible for Sara and himself. The external forces is his boss nonsensical decision that brought a complicated feeling in Jacob’s mind which became the factors Jacob released his anger to Sara.

“He only had three hundred dollars between his family and starvation. No one knew the misery he felt when he helped Sara up the three flights of stairs. His pride had been so shredded he could hardly meet her eyes.” (P.103).

Because of the financial problem of the quotation above, Jacob move to a flat which is way different from their place before. He was once a good husband with a good job for Sara, but then he feels shame in his heart that he couldn’t be even better than he was before. No matter what happen, in his deepest heart he wanted to make a better living for his family especially for Sara.

“I’m sick and tired of hearing the same thing over and over again.” He shoved his plate away and got up from the table. Standing over her, he said, “You should
have married a millionaire. A lot you have to complain about. When I married you, what was the dowry you brought me? I even bought you the dress.” (P.111).

Again, the quotation above tells that Jacob’s household never last in peace for a long term. The chaos between Jacob and Sara happen again because of Sara’s dissatisfaction about her life with Jacob. Sara brings up a sentimental issue in comparing Hershel or Jacob’s brother in law success with Jacob’s failure. The fight was turned to be even more bad, that Jacob could not help himself to speak out his anger which he know it might hurt Sara.

For some reason, Jacob became crazy about being richer. It is because the worthless conversation with someone he accidently met which is called Smitty. Jacob becomes so obsessed with the wealth of Smitty. He forces himself to believe in Smitty words. Sara worried about what is going to be with Jacob but the more she tried to warn Jacob about any consequences he may get, the more Jacob left her with unresolved questions and anxiety.

“Jacob stood rooted to the floor, speechless. She was destroying, no, killing, something that was a part of him too. The decision, by God, was not only hers.

“Oh no you’re not. I swear, Sara, if you do this I’ll never forgive you. . . I mean it.”

“Then I’ll have to live without forgiveness. I will not have this child or any other. Three is enough. . . .” (P.144).

As how it is described in the quotation above, the abortion Sara done was another nightmare Sara gave for Jacob. Jacob wished that he, one day, could have a baby boy and it would be the baby Sara had aborted. Jacob feels sick of
that one thing. He hated that but he could not say anything to convince Sara not to do that. He had the conflict of being torn apart because of his incapability to create a better household for his family especially for Sara. Sara had been so self-centered and she forgot that she had hurt Jacob’s feeling toward her.

“Jacob was stunned into silence, then said that was craziness, that she couldn’t just walk out. Would she . . .? But he didn’t say he would sell the house and he didn’t say how much he needed her. In the end, she packed her luggage and left . . .” (P.444).

The argument about Sara’s intention to get divorced is something Jacob never thinking about. She never thought about everything she said to him. That is what Jacob always hates about Sara. Sara is under control of her own enthusiasm to dissipate over Jacob’s wealth. Sara’s misconduct leaves Jacob no other option to just let her out even he loves her so much.

3.1.2.5 Jacob against his children and others.

The children of Sanders was once a good child Jacob ever had, but they turned out betrayed him. They all gone and leave him and Sara alone on their house. Each of his children have created their own kind of betrayal upon him.

“Do you realize how confusing it is for children who don’t know what they are? Trees are for goyim, not Jews.” And, of course, damn it, she was right. He was wanted to make Doris happy and show Sara he was open-minded, but he should have held to his convictions. At this moment he despised the trees almost as much as he despised himself.” (P.184).
The quotation above tells that Jacob is so lost in his mind. He could not think straight at the time. He is trying to teach his children what Jews immigrant should and should not do in the land of America among the Goyim, but he realizes he is over reacted on simple thing like Christmas Trees his children asked him for.

“It had taken Rachel to remind him how far he had fallen away from his heritage. When he had lost that spiritual need? Well, there were no Jews in his world, and since his social contacts were nonexistent he doubted if many Jews living in America, especially in west Oakland were able to keep to the old ways. . ”(P.194).

Jacob is created many excuses for himself despite the fact that he is literally avoided being blamed for everything he had done so far. The conflict from his children’s complain, bring him back to the past.

“That’s enough.” for the first time in his life, he started to raise his hand against his one children, but he caught himself and continued, “I’m not your mother, you can’t talk to me that way and don’t ever raise your voice to me, young lady . . . .

Yes, you bet it’s the money, at least partly. I don’t apologize . . . I worked damned hard to give you what I didn’t have, and if it’s not enough . . . ? (P.205).

Rachel is hurt by the way Jacob curbed her enthusiasm to go to college. Jacob think that education would not have any impact for living and for that reason Jacob do not want his children to go to college for any reason, it is just a waste of time. After the conflict done, again Jacob have to hear another bad news from Rachel that bother him.
“Rachel, you have eight months to change your mind. And you’d better be damned sure, because once you get married, young lady, you will never come into this house and I’m sure you understand what I mean by that, Mr. Ross.” (P.244).

Rachel decided to marry Jim Rose, a widower. Jacob rejected her proposal with Jim and for that Rachel do not even give any justification about that. Jacob have nothing to say but let Rachel married Jim Rose right away after all even he still did not really approved the marriage.

“I didn’t say it was terrible. I just wanted the naches of walking down the aisle with my daughter.” (P.326-327).

After Rachel marriage with no agreement from Jacob, then it is Doris part that also disappointed him the most. Jacob felt like he is miscarrying his children that they did not even have a respectful of what he had done to them.

3.1.2.6 Jacob against Society.

Society makes it hard for Jacob to make living for his family at first. In society there are so many Jewish hater and Goyim or what the Jews Immigrant defines as bad people or those whose not Jewish.

“Jacob felt guilty because he had to work on Saturdays, the one day of the week when he should be with his family. How could you be a Jewish here? This was a new land, different from the east side where they could be open about being Jewish. How they observed Friday night was a miracle...” (P.123-124).

According to the quotation, despite Jacob’s desire to live well and have enough of wealth he had eagerly worked for, Jacob denied the society which is full of temptation. Everywhere he worked in, there will always the people who
tried to offended or interfered him. As a Jewish immigrant, Jacob should not be among goyim or be like goyim, but actually, Jacob had become a goy ever since he changed his name from Jacob Sandsonitsky into Jacob Sanders. The condition and the state forces himself to bow his head down and follow every rule in new state.

"Jacob was as excited at the announcement that the war had ended, but peacetime had its price for Jacob. He was called into the office and told the shipyard was laying off men. Jacob was the first to go. His services as a foreman were no longer needed and he was to remain only for the rest of the week."

(P.125).

Again, the journey never failed to upset Jacob through every jobs he is working in. He always ended up being kicked out for any quite simple reasons. Jacob’s peace in life never happen last long by the external forces from the society.

"Of all places they could have lived, it had to be a bunch of Jews haters."

(P.132).

Even in America, Jews haters are still exist everywhere. Jacob had the conflict in searching for the equality and safety as Jews Immigrant in America.

3.1.2.7 Jacob against environment.

Jacob is rejected for his existence and at some point, the place he lives in just would not make it easy for him to stay long.

"The snows of winter had come and gone, and the heat of summer settled on them with a fury. Jacob had become accustomed to the scenes of the East Side,
the familiar daily sights of humanity locked together in a common fight for survival.” (P.42).

As a Jewish, Jacob had lived in a hardest time in his life. It is a difficult situation for Jews immigrant especially those in Germany. Jewish lives in poverty and work like slaves till dead. Jacob is survived sailed away to America over the situation. In America there are many of Jewish haters and also those who is expected as a bad people that the Jews immigrant called goyim.

“She would object to his getting involved with what she thought were bums and lowlifes, and she would certainly forbid him to mingle socially with goyim... They worshipped idols, pagans, like in Egypt.” (P.44).

According to what Jacob’s mother thought about the Goyim, it clearly tells that Jewish was aware of non-Jewish or goy. Goy was expected as the buggers and criminals because of their bad habit neighborhood around the Jews Immigrant. Sara was afraid of Jacob’s social interaction outside. Jacob knew the consequences of his prize fight among the goyim and for that he tried to avoid being interrogated. Jacob probing in silent, the goys around him, they were glorified the contest as if it was a mass murder. Jacob the conflict in ensuring himself that he was not doing any bad thing because his intention was only for his love, Lotte.

“These bitter lessons had been completed with the discovery that O’Leary was cheating him, that O’Leary was getting twelve dollars, not ten. Jacob spilled his guts and got only five, and that Irish Jew-hater wound up with seven.” (P.49).
The Irishman named O’Leary who offered Jacob the job prize-fight was tricked Jacob to get advantage through Jacob’s fight. After the trick of O’Leary discovered by Jacob, Jacob decided to stop fight, but after he got the nominal price he want from O’Leary. The Irishman became the lesson to Jacob that he could not trust anyone especially a goy after all. Jacob had the external force of looking for money only to get together with his love, Lotte. After a long journey, another outside forces hit Jacob’s life again and again. The working environment seemed so hard on Jacob.

“The next week Jacob found a job working in the Chevrolet plant, but the Great American dream had been slightly exaggerated by his mother-in-law. A job was easy to get, but the salary wasn’t that much more than he’d made in New York. Sara was so happy that the children were thriving, but he hated California. It wasn’t going to be easy being a Jew in Oakland, California.” (P.117).

Job is a need for everyone in order to provide the needs and styles. For Jacob, at least his family has a spoon of rice to eat then it is more than enough. Jacob is having a problem in looking for a Job for himself. Once he found the job in Oakland, the salary was unsatisfying. It was not only about the salary but also about the environment and the neighborhood.

“So this was a temple? If anything needed reforming, it was temple Sinai. This was not Jewish, these were not Jews. Hatless! What was there to indicate this was a Jewish house of worship? Jacob felt alien, out of place. It was about as Jewish as the church had called Rachel out of so long ago.” (P.196-197).

Jacob was complaint over the situation and the worship in temple Sinai. Jacob thought of the old religious Jewish. Jewish was not this way. Jacob was
shocked of how different the worship in temple Sinai that not a single service indicated as Jewish way of worship.

3.2 The theme seen through external and internal conflicts of Jacob

- The internal conflict

In the internal conflicts of Jacob, there are repetitions in some events talks about the same things such as Jacob being so lonely, miserable and left behind. In first part of Jacob’s internal conflicts tells about Jacob being left behind that he couldn’t resist for years. His mother Esther had brought him a long last guilt in him. Even after all the suffering had passed, it still became a nightmare for him. Jacob feels like a miserable person after all. Jacob is also feels somewhat unworthy caused by his parents even from his wife and his daughter that seems to never give him the love he never had before. He tried to deny the love existence or the form of affection over him but people around him shows him what he never seen before, the love of a family.

For some time Jacob had lived while searching for his mother. That is the time where Jacob is so lost and moving with no direction. He is in a state where he really wants to just leave his mother because he hate her for leaving him but another part of him is also want to look for his mother to survive the loneliness. Jacob once again feels miserable all over again by his bitter experience. His past gives him burdens and leaves him in mournful and it is still continue even after he had married. Jacob wants to give the best of him to serve his wife despite many of his wife’s demanding but he is also needs to be a capable person as a good household for his family. As a Jewish Immigrant,
Jacob had enough faith to keep hold onto his own belief. He is capable in protecting his family from Goyim that become their obstacles to live in new land America. But because of too much force in keeping his belief, Jacob’s faith becomes falter between protecting his belief or his daughter.

Being abandoned by the time is what Jacob would not feel most of the time. Meeting his mother, brother, sister and having his own family never heal his loneliness after all. All of the family he had only gives him another problem other than gave him the happiness he need.

When Jacob had the internal conflict of choosing if he had to stay at his grandparent house or to find his mother and when Jacob was in in between hating his mother or to forgive her, he was all alone and miserable with or without anyone by his side and that kind of things not only happen in both events.

- The external conflict

The conflict between Jacob and his mother teach him how to appreciate the time he had and also respect and care for his only parent that left. His mother might have given him a big scar in his heart but that sorry feeling in him for her is still there. Jacob’s another conflict is when he broke up with the first girl who gave him strength and encouragement to be hard working man. The lesson he gets from their break up is that he does not want to trust anybody anymore for the sake of himself. The only brother of Jacob is Shlomo, who is closer to him than anyone. Jacob wants to give a better
attention to his only brother and he ended up over protected and he realizes it a little too late until his brother pass away.

A wife should have been the better partner of all to build a great household. For that thing, Jacob can never understand about his wife, Sara. He is only pretending as if his wife is a good supporter for him in all matters but the truth is that he feels sick of her complaints. He learned that keep her stay healthy and safe is the most matter than to give his wife all the luxury she want for herself. Jacob is so much stress as a father over his three daughters. They turn out disobeying his command. For his children, Jacob let his disappointment slipped away and help them wether they need him or not. The society is somehow gives Jacob a difficulty in searching for his freedom especially as a Jews Immigrants. His identity and his family are changed. But, there is more peace in the new land America than he was in Frankfurt. Jacob continues to develop his ability in the country rapidly even he feels troubled by the society. The environment is something Jacob could not avoid because there will always a goy living among his family. Goyim or what Jacob’s people (Jewish Immigrant) called as the people who are not Jewish and have a bad habit like a troublesome. While keep the feeling of being disturbed inside, he keep going on living as a Jews Immigrant over every trouble.

From the explanation above, the conclusion of the external conflicts of Jacob is that Jacob is used to misunderstand about kinds of attentions of a person or society towards his own family’s identity and himself ever since his
mother left him, because he keeps thinking that he is being rejected by all of them in purpose.

From both internal and external conflicts of Jacob above, there are things that keeps repeatedly occur or reoccur such as the feeling of loneliness, deserted, left behind, unworthy and misunderstanding over people attentions. In short, Jacob always misunderstood over people attention towards him in any events and that he feels rejected of it, that is why he never can see the good of anything around him or in him.

From the repetition of events in the internal and external conflict of Jacob, the theme of Portrait is actually about the misconception over kinds of people attention that can make a person feel rejected. Jacob conflict repeatedly referred to how he used to thinks that he is a single fighter for his own self, that nobody would accept him and that kind of thinking ruined him inside out, make him feel bad about himself that nobody ever really want him, but that is all just a misconception after all.
CHAPTER IV

Conclusion

Every story has a conflict that can lead the reader to understand the theme or the main part of a story. This research gives an example of a qualitative literary work based on the elements of literature such as conflict (Internal and external) and theme. Jacob as a living example of Jews Immigrant had been so busy focusing himself as a victim of all things that happened to him. The internal conflict of Jacob result that Jacob against his own feeling from his bitter experience and it makes him feels rejected. In other words, Jacob uses his own bitter feeling in order to make an excuse that he is rejected by everyone and everything. Another conflict of Jacob is the external conflict which shows that Jacob is misunderstood over people’s attention towards him. He thinks that those kinds of things are just people’s ways to make him feel bad about himself. From both conflicts, it can be concluded that the theme of Portraits is a misconception over people’s attention and it can make a person feels rejected. An inspirational named Norman Vincent Peale once said that Change your thoughts and you can change world. Jacob thinks that he is being rejected by others that is why he keep feels that way, if only he can change his thought maybe he could change his life and be more thankful for everything around him. The result of this research can become an example for further study. For the further study, beside the conflict, they can use other elements of literature such as plot or symbol to find theme, or can use the conflicts to find plot or another elements of literature instead.
References


   jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/freeman-cynthia.


   https://literarydevices.net/conflict/


