

External Conflicts Portrayed In Lynne Ramsay's *We Need To Talk 5About Kevin* Movie Script

Gideopn Yudha Prawira
gideonyudha10@gmail.com

Rndrah Kartiningsih
rindrahkartiningsih@yahoo.com Separation/Divorce

Abstract

This study focuses on the external conflicts seen in the film entitled *We Need to Talk About Kevin* which was directed by Lynne Ramsey. The main objectives of this study are to portray, to find out the causes and the effect of external conflict. This research uses qualitative research and descriptive methods. While in the process of data analysis, researchers used descriptive techniques according to Creswell. The finding shows that the external conflict seen in the film *We need to talk about* is man against man. The causes of the external conflict are birth of baby, Misunderstanding the other person or the situation, Sibling Rivalry, and separation/divorce. The effects of the external conflict are resentment, anger, physical violence. bitterness, tension and breakdown relationship.

Keywords: Bitterness, conflict, external conflict

A.INTRODUCTION

Conflict or what is often called a problem is the most important part in a drama. Conflict experienced by someone is an interesting source of inspiration for writers in composing literary works, because conflict is an agent that builds stories in dramatic situations. According to James Scott Bell (2011:12) in a book *Conflict and Suspense*, conflict is a clash between at least two incompatible sides, and conflict has long been recognized as the engine of story, without conflict there is no drama, without drama there is no interest, without interest there is no reader. And no writing career. The author's ability to choose and build conflict through various events will greatly determine how interesting the story will be made. The conflict in the room is in part necessary for the success of the script. The conflict in an interesting story will challenge the reader to know more about the storyline of the drama. Regarding the conflicts experienced, the author must also explain in subsequent works, for a testament to become more interesting to readers because the work contains conflicts that are exciting, touching, sensational, touching, or confrontational. The conflict in

the dramatic scenario is a very important part. Discussion of the story will be interesting if the writer can write game scripts with good imagination and interpretation.

Talking about conflict, Nurgiyantoro (2010:3) says fictitious, including dramatic situations that tell various problems in human life in interactions with the environment and other people, interacting with oneself and interacting with God. Of course, many of the conflicts that people face is as complex, extensive and complex as the contradictions that exist in life. Apart from this contradiction, people are not the same, have different problems in life, both individual and universal, experienced by everyone, for example, conflicts related to love, anxiety, fear, revenge, lust, association, self-esteem, pride are included in the conflict. internal and external. Therefore, conflict cannot be predicted from their coming at any time, our lives contain tensions however conflict occurs because of the cause and it will become a result of conflict.

So, conflict does not only exist in our lives but can also be associated with literary works. The existence of a conflict in a literary work can make the audience follow the story to the end, conflict is the core of the story, and usually relates to the main character. Conflicts can arise due to various sources, but basically every conflict arises because the characters cannot fulfill their needs and then a protagonist must have a dramatic goal to achieve in the story, to make the story interesting. There are two categories of conflict, namely external conflict, and internal conflict According to Stanton (1965: 16). External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself, maybe with the natural environment (social conflict), maybe with the human environment (physical conflict The thesis writer sees external conflict is conflicts occur in situations where two or more parties disagree and argue about one thing. These clashes are a common problem for humans because they often occur, so this problem must be resolved immediately if not the psychology experienced by humans is not calm and will interfere with daily life.

B.RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative research is applied in this research as stated by Creswell, J David (2018:51) Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The source of data is the movie script of *We Need*

To Talk About Kevin. The data can be paraphrase, word, sentences describing about Types of external conflict, the causes of external conflict, and the effects of external conflict.

C.DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

1. External Conflict Portrayed in *We Need to Talk About Kevin*

An external conflict is a form of fight, argument disagreement, or only opposition in which two sides are present as stated by Kenney (1966: 5). There are three types of external conflict. They are: Man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society:

1. Man against Man

**“(Nurse) Eva? Eva, stop resisting “
(Eva) Screams
(Page 7 Scene 17 Act 1)**

From the dialogue above, it shows that the conversation between the nun and Eva is in the process of giving birth to Kevin. The nurse advised that not to hold the baby out of the mother's belly it could cause the death of the mother or child. Eva's act of holding the baby out shows that she doesn't want to have children first. But the nurse required Eva to give birth to Kevin. it can be seen that the visible external conflict is a type of conflict between humans and humans who disagree because the nurse never recommended to abort a fetus.

**Eva: “Please don't pick him up.”
“I've just put him down, Franklin “
Franklin: “You've got to rock him a little bit.?
(Page 8 Scene 26 Act 1)**

From the dialogue above, it is found that the external conflict which is the conflict between Eva and Franklin. The conflict between Eva and Franklin when Eva sleeping soundly because he was tired of taking care of Kevin who cried all day, until he tried to calm the baby down in the ceramics but Kevin kept crying. Because franklin did not believe what Eva said so Franklin tried to carry Kevin. after that when franklin carried Kevin suddenly Kevin's crying stopped. It creates an external conflict between Eva and Franklin. Eva is disappointed in Franklin because her efforts and actions to calm Kevin are underestimated by Franklin. And apparently Franklin believed Kevin's actions more than Eva's words.

**Kevin: “What Personality”?
Eva: “I think you know what I mean”
(Page 15 Scene 45 Act 1)**

From the statement above, Kevin is surprised by his mother's answer, which is to compare it with Kevin's treatment which looks special. Special has many meanings it can

mean positive and negative but his mother judges Kevin as an autistic child because in the 25 scenes that his mother takes Kevin to the doctor and says “*i read somewhere that non-verbalising was an early sign of autism*” but the doctor does not say Kevin is an autistic child but normal like a normal child. Eva's words are too much for a small child who is in need of more love and attention, especially love from his mother. Moreover, the words came directly from his mother, maybe if other people said that a few days later they would forget those words.

Kevin: “What do you mean, “Special”?
(Eva) Well, so it looks like your personality?
(Page 15 Scene 45 Act 1)

The statement above shows the special word, in which Eva looks happy with the squiggly squares of paper that she has so far, neatly arranged and successfully installed in her room. Special means like something of value, and according to the big dictionary which means that the meaning: special, special, distinctive, only prioritized, loved, something special or special person. It shows an external conflict of Kevin where Kevin asks his mother specifically because so far Kevin feels that he has never received special treatment from his mother and his mother never looks happy to have Kevin as is the case with his mother's squiggly squares of paper.

(Franklin) Hey, champ, how you doing? Feeling better?
(Kevin) Go away, I am tired
Do not stop reading mm
(Page 21 Scene 70 Act 1)

The next evidence happens in the following quotation Page 21 Scene 70 Act 1 that shows that there is external conflict, Kevin against Franklin which we can see from Kevin's words. At that time Franklin suddenly came to his room asking about his health, suddenly Kevin immediately told him to leave because he still wanted to be with his mother. From the quotes above, it can be concluded that no matter how much children hate their parents, one day they will need love from them.

2. The causes of conflict portrayed in “*We Need to Talk About Kevin*”

1. Birth of Baby

The cause of the conflict in the film “*We Need to Talk About Kevin*” Eva was not ready to have children at that time, so Eva tried to stop the child from being born. It is shown on below statement:

Resisting

(Page 7 Scene 17 Act 1)

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 17 show that There are two external conflicts between Eva and the doctor. Scene 17 occurs when Eva is about to give birth to Kevin. But the scene shows Eva restraining the baby from coming out, thus causing the nurse to be angry with Eva. Eva's actions are not like her usual mother where a mother is pregnant with a child, the mother looks happy and grateful for the grace given by God and children can bring us fortune. But in this incident Eva denied that Kevin would make his life difficult.

**“Mommy was happy before widdle Kevin came along”
(Page 12 Scene 32 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 32 show that There are two causes of conflict between Kevin and Eva. This is shown by Kevin's selfish behavior who wants his wish to be achieved by hitting eggs, while Eva shows remorse to Kevin who gave birth to Kevin.

**(Splash the water)
(Page 19 Scene 65 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 65, it shows a behavior of dislike by Kevin towards the birth of Celia. It was caused by Kevin because Kevin was afraid that his parents' love was more for Celia, while Eva caused Kevin to be jealous because Eva and Franklin looked happy.

2. Misunderstanding the other person or the situation

**You have got to rock him a little bit. He is all right
(Page 8 Scene 26 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 26, it shows a misunderstanding between Franklin and Eva where Franklin didn't know beforehand that Kevin was crying continuously and wouldn't shut up, so Eva was overwhelmed in taking care of Kevin. But Franklin only knew when Kevin was not crying anymore.

**Looks like someone is having a nice day. Enjoying yourself?
(Page 4 Scene 7 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 7 show that other people did not know what Eva was going through at that time. He experiences life alone with social pressures where everyone can only judge Eva for what happened to Kevin.

**I am going to need these all processed today, eva
(Page 6 Scene 10 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 10, happened when Eva was scanning her pregnancy data at work but the boss didn't know that Eva was on vacation, causing a misunderstanding of the situation. Eva caused the boss to misunderstand because she came when she was on vacation, and the reason was that the boss didn't see today's work schedule.

**I read somewhere that non-verbalizing was an early sign of autism.
(Doctor) He has none of the tell-tale rocking signs
(Page 9 Scene 26 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 26, Eva misunderstood what had happened to Kevin's actions so far, Eva thought Kevin had an autistic disorder, so she convinced the doctor. Eva should have known what Kevin did was a rejection by Eva.

3. Sibling Rivalry

**Kevin: "No, not that one, you retard."
(Page 25 Scene 76 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 76, it shows that Kevin does not consider Celia as his sister. Because if he thinks of Celia as his sister then he shouldn't say that. Those words were harsh enough to say to one's own sister. And the reason Kevin said that was because before Celia was born, Kevin already hated her and the reason for Celia was because she took the wrong drink that Kevin asked for.

**(Vacumm on)
(Page 25 Scene 76 Act 1)**

From the quotation above shows Kevin's bad behavior towards Celia, it's as if he doesn't like Celia. The reason Kevin does that is because Kevin's cold-hearted nature from his mother's upbringing since childhood. So, Eva looks angry because Eva loves Celia more than Kevin. That is why he showed bad behavior in front of his parents.

**It was Kevin. Kevin did it
(Page 32 Scene 96 Act 2)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 96, it happened when Eva and Franklin were talking about who caused Celia's eyes to go blind. Because what Kevin did to Franklin was good, Franklin accused his mother of doing it, but Eva told because Eva knew very well how Kevin was when he was little and Kevin's behavior towards Celia.

4. Separation/Divorce

**I'am the context
(Page 34 Scene 102 Act 2)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 102 that There is someone who cause a rift between Eva and Franklin's family harmony, namely Kevin. At that time he admitted that he was the one who caused it. The cause of Eva and Franklin towards Kevin is that he has always distinguished an affection for Kevin and Celia. Moreover, he heard Franklin and Eva's words that he would be placed in a rehab for troubled children.

3. The effect of external conflict portrayed in “We Need to Talk About Kevin”

The effect of conflict in the movie script are Resentment, Anger, Bitterness, Tension, Physical violence, Breakdown relationship.

1. Resentment

**(Resisting)
(Page 19 Scene 66 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 66 act 1 show as Franklin awaits Celia's birth in the hospital. After the birth of Celia, Eva looks happy and can't wait to introduce Celia to Kevin. Because Kevin is a genius, he knows that Eva and Franklin seem happier at his birth. So that Kevin feels alienated and will not get affection. Therefore, Kevin showed his hatred by splashing water on Celia's face. Kevin's actions make Eva angry with Kevin and Franklin invites Kevin to go out so he doesn't hate going back to Celia.

2. Anger

**“You think, I'm Exaggerating?”
(Page 8 Scene 20 Act 1)**

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 20 act 1 show that in the morning, Eva looked tired because she had taken care of Kevin all day, because all day Kevin kept crying and couldn't stop. So Eva tried to find a way out to stop crying but her efforts were in vain. Because she had tried to silence Kevin to stop crying, and Eva was planning to go home to rest. After falling asleep because of exhaustion Franklin suddenly carried Kevin and said that Kevin was fine, you just to rock him a little bit. Franklin's words made Eva angry because she did not know what was going on. And resulted in a difference of opinion by Franklin about Kevin.

“You retard”

“Hey, What?”
(Page 25 Scene 76 Act 2)

The evidence above happen in the following quotation scene 76 show that When Kevin asked Celia for beer because Kevin looked thirsty, Celia took the drink. After Celia got Kevin a drink, it turned out that it was not what Kevin wanted. So, it results in Kevin saying retard to Celia, and cause Eva to be angry because of Kevin's words.

3. Physical violence

“I hope you rot in hell, you fucking bitch!
(Page 4 Scene 7 Act 1)

From the statement above happen in scene 7 act 1 page 4, it can be seen from the words of the mother of one of Kevin's murder victims who looks very emotional towards Eva for what Kevin did to the child of the victim's mother. Eva must accept the consequences of what Kevin did in the past The effect of Kevin's actions on her was fear Eva became antisocial and locked herself at home more often after what happened to Eva Eva could only stare and be silent when the victim's mother slapped her hard and said words that hurt Eva's heart. and Eva cannot repay the bad treatment received from the victim's mother because Eva knows that on the one hand Kevin is guilty.

(Thud)
(Page 16 Scene 50 Act 1)

From the statement above happen in scene 50 act 1 page 16, we can see that Eva cannot control her emotions towards Kevin, it is very clear when Kevin has been changed to a new diaper by Eva. Kevin accidentally soiled his diaper and made an annoyed face, so Eva was annoyed and vented her anger by throwing Kevin's body on the floor and breaking Kevin's arm.

4. Bitterness

“You think anyone else is going to want you now?”
(Page 26 Scene 79 Act 2)

From quotation above, the thesis writer understands that there is a rejection of what has happened from the social environment, the rejection makes a person experience bitterness and can cause a person's psychology to be traumatized to socialize.

“Run, bitch! You rot in hell!”
(Page 34 Scene 103 Act 2)

From the quotation above show that the victim's family and the environment in which she lives hates Eva very much and does not accept the incident that claimed many lives. Everyone blames Eva for not being able to raise her child properly.

5. Tension

**“they don't like it so they use the box”
(Page 16 Scene 49 Act 1)**

From quotation above, it happened when Kevin was retelling what Eva did to Kevin. Kevin felt there was pressure from Eva to use the box when Kevin felt like urinating. But at that time Kevin did not do it, causing Eva to be angry and having a negative impact on Kevin.

6. Breakdown Relationship

**(Arrow Released)
(Page 37 Scene 115 Act 3)**

From the quotation above show that Kevin is killing all his friends at school to get everyone's attention, this is because Kevin's psyche is out of control and it's mainly caused by Eva where Eva's treatment never shows affection or attention to Kevin. Instead of affection, Eva's attention was drawn by Franklin and Celia. By killing his friend made Eva pay more attention to Kevin.

**(Screaming crescendo)
(Silence)
(Page 37 Scene 116 Act 3)**

From the quotation above show that the ending was very bad that we can see Kevin actually hates his own family because of Eva's bad treatment which makes Kevin's mentality even more brutal and Kevin wants to see Eva suffer from being abandoned by the person he really loves. That is why Kevin didn't kill Eva so that Eva bears all the consequences.

D.CONCLUSION

After analyzing external conflict as seen in the movie *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lynne Ramsey, thesis writer can find external conflict portrayed in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lynne Ramsey, several causes of external conflict portrayed in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lynne Ramsey, and the effects of conflict portrayed in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lynne Ramsey.

First, the researcher find out some the types of external conflict that happen in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lynne Ramsey namely, man versus man, man versus society. E.g., man versus man in the movie Kevin do not like to use the box but he finally uses the box because Kevin did not want to argue.

Second, the researcher investigates the causes of external conflict in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* movie script by Lynne Ramsey, namely man against man, man against nature, and man against society.

Third, the researcher investigates the effects of external conflict in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* movie script by -Lynne Ramsey, the effects of external conflict most often occur to Eva because she is the one who caused all of this.

References

- [1] Creswell, John W. (2013). *Research design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method*. United Kingdom: Sage Publications
- [2] James Scott Bell. (2012). *Elements of Fiction writing - Conflict and suspense*
- [3] William, Kenney. (1966). *How to Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press
- [4] Edin yang, S.D. (2012). *Conflict Management in the family. Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(8).
- [5] Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. (2010). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.