IDEAS

The Main Character's Struggle with External Conflict in Wonka Movie

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Abstract

This research investigates the types of conflict the protagonist faces in the movie "Wonka." The collected data were adopted a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze the external conflicts identified in the "Wonka" movie. Kenney's literary theory (1966) was employed to understand the nature of the conflicts, and Thomas and Kilmann's framework (1974) was utilized to explore the characters' conflict resolution strategies. The results of this study indicate that the protagonist's challenges predominantly involve external conflicts. Kenney (1966:19), in his work "How to Analyze Fiction," defines conflict as a struggle between a principal character and another entity. External conflicts can manifest as man versus man, man versus nature, or man versus society. A total of ten instances of conflict were identified, comprising four instances of man versus man, five instances of man versus society, and one instance of man versus nature. However, this analysis will focus on three specific conflicts.

Keywords: *External Conflict, Main Character, Movie.*

Introduction

Literature is a kind of art, usually in the form of writing, that expresses many aspects of life. According to Wellek and Warren (1956, p. 3) in (Putri Pradnyaningsih et al., 2022), Literature reflects humans' imagination, thoughts, perceptions, lives, and emotions. According to Rizqi et al. (2021), Of course, the interest of a significant segment of society ensures that literary works find a home in the hearts of their fans. Written Literature satisfies the thirst of every existence since it contains many physical and mental struggles, one of which is a series.

According to (Maulidiyah et al., 2021), of course, the interest of a significant segment of society ensures that literary works find a home in the hearts of their fans. Written Literature satisfies the thirst of every existence since it contains many physical and mental struggles, one of which is a series. Literature is a type of art that typically takes the form of writing and expresses many different aspects of life. It is constructed based on the author's mind and imagination, frequently reflecting ordinary experiences, either directly or indirectly. It is created based on the consciousness and imagination of the author, often reflecting everyday experiences either directly or indirectly. Conflict is the most essential part of a plot; without conflict, a story will run smoothly and be exciting. Conflict is an element that will always exist in a story because the conflict will be the most awaited part by the audience and the most exciting part of the story (Nurkumalasari, 2022).

Conflict occurs in people's daily lives. Conflict is also significant in analysing stories, books, and films. According to (Wayan et al., 2023), conflict enhances the movie by causing audiences' emotions to rise and reduce while viewing it. Without this ingredient, any work of Literature would not make sense or serve a purpose. Conflict can be defined as an actual or perceived clash of needs, values, and interests. It often manifests as a struggle, confrontation, or significant disagreement regarding differing opinions on a particular issue. Henderson (1977, p. 9) stated that the characters are (Razita et al., 2023) individuals or things that are realistic and consistent in presenting the author's story. Characters are tied to their association with the movie's plot and whether or not they change during the story.

This study seeks to explore external conflict, defined as the clash between a character and an outside force. According to Kenney (1966) in "How to Analyze Fiction", conflict is a key component of narrative structure, often arising between a protagonist and other characters or external forces, as well as within the protagonist themselves. This conflict can take various forms, including physical, psychological, or emotional struggles. It may arise between two characters or individuals and their social environment.

Consequently, external conflicts can be categorized as man versus man, man versus nature, and man versus society. It is important to note that multiple forms of conflict can coexist within a single narrative. (Nurkumalasari, 2022) 1. According to M.H Abrams's book Glossary and Literary Terms, Conflict arises from divergent opinions, interests, needs, or objectives. Conflict is the most critical component of a storyline; without conflict, the story will be bland and uninteresting. This study will analyze the main character's external conflicts in Wonka movies.

According to IMDb (https://m.imdb.com/title/tt6166392/), Willy Wonka is the visionary architect of some of the most exquisite and groundbreaking chocolate confections ever produced. However, this enterprising young creator faced numerous challenges before revolutionizing the chocolate sector and establishing his reputation as a confectionery innovator. Through sheer determination, a daring

vision, and the unforeseen support of newfound companions, Willy turned his most ambitious aspirations into tangible achievements. Ultimately, relentless effort and a sprinkle of enchantment can lead to extraordinary outcomes. Indeed, as Willy knows, a single dream can catalyze significant change.

Managing conflict in daily life demands effective conflict-resolution techniques. In resolving a conflict, many approaches address the issues that arise (Aderani et al., 2023). So, every conflict, whether in everyday life or literary stories, always involves an individual who has his or her way of dealing with it. The person may choose to avoid confrontation to keep the peace or, conversely, face the challenge head-on bravely. The approach may vary depending on the nature of the conflict and the personalities of the individuals involved. In their seminal work, the Conflict Mode Instrument (1970), Thomas and Kilmann identify five fundamental styles of conflict management that facilitate conflict resolution negotiation.

These styles are as follows: (1) Competitive, which emphasizes protecting one's rights and involves maintaining a position believed to be correct or striving for personal success. (2) Collaborative, where an individual engages with others to develop a solution that comprehensively addresses the concerns of all parties involved. (3) Compromise is a strategy that seeks a solution acceptable to both sides, partially fulfilling each fulfilment need. (4) Avoidance, characterized by the deliberate evasion of a conflict until a more opportune time arises. (5) Accommodating, which entails prioritizing the needs or expectations of others, often at the expense of one's interests or preferences.

In literary analysis, the author chooses films as the primary data source for examination. This research focuses on the methods by which the characters in the film "Willy Wonka" navigate external conflicts. This study explores the protagonist's strategies in the "Willy Wonka" film to address his external challenges*Wonka* is a 2023 musical fantasy comedy film directed by Paul King, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby, based on a story by King. The film serves as the origin story for Willy Wonka, the iconic character from Roald Dahl's 1964 novel "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", and explores his early years as a chocolatier.

The movie depicts a young Willy Wonka, who arrives in a new city with the goal of becoming the world's finest chocolatier.   Despite his zeal and innovation, he faces a variety of external hurdles, including corrupt government, monopolistic competition, betrayal, and physical threats.   With the support of newfound allies and an unyielding spirit, Wonka overcomes these challenges with inventiveness, generosity, and resilience. His narrative is one of perseverance, showing how drive and positivity can overcome hardship. Willy Wonka, now known as the owner of the famous chocolate factory, did not reach his success easily.

On a long and challenging journey, Wonka started his chocolate business as a young magician skilled in spelling. With a big dream of becoming a successful chocolate maker, Wonka travelled the world for years to perfect her chocolate

recipe. This study is unique in that it examines conflict resolution mechanisms inside a film narrative, combining literary theory and psychological theories. Previous studies, such as those by Maku et al. (2022), Nudhi et al. (2020), and Bagus and al. (2023), have investigated conflicts in other films, but this study focuses on Wonka using a dual-theory approach.

Amid the domination of a lame chocolate cartel, Wonka did not break his spirit and began to innovate. The film Wonka debuted at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre in London, on 28 November 2023. It subsequently premiered in the United Kingdom on 8 December and in the United States on 15 December, distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures. The film garnered favorable reviews from critics, who lauded Chalamet's acting, the musical score, and the visual aesthetics. Financially, it proved to be a success, earning $632 million globally against a production budget of $125 million, thus ranking as the eighth-highest-grossing film of 2023.

Several previous studies assessed the types of conflict in the movie. First, (Maku et al., 2022) Entitled "An Analysis of The Main Character's Conflict in The Moves Acts of Vengeance". This study examines the internal and external conflicts present in the film Acts of Vengeance, focusing on the strategies the protagonist employs to resolve these conflicts, drawing on theoretical frameworks proposed by Deetz and Stevenson (1986). The second research conducted by (Nudhi et al., 2020) Entitled "The Analysis of Conflict of the Main Character in the Movie 'I am Sam.' This research examines the classification of the protagonist in the film 'I am Sam' and investigates the nature of the conflict experienced by this central character. Another review conducted by (Bagus et al. et al., 2023) Entitled the Conflicts of The Main Character Ken Carter in The Movie "Coach Carter" This study analyzes hypotheses from Kenney (1986) and Sigmund Freud (1989).

Furthermore, this study aims to provide new insights into how decision-making processes and conflict-resolution tactics can be applied to real-world settings by examining a real-life case study, such as the movie "Coach Carter." From the three research, the gaps above indicate that this research diverges from the study conducted by the three researchers previously mentioned. The primary objective of this investigation is to categorize the various types of conflict present in the film "Wonka." In line with the research above, this study also found conflict in the movie. However, in this research specifically, this study analyzes the external conflict that occurs in Wonka movies experienced by the main character, Willy, using the theory proposed by Kenney (1966) and how the main Character resolution of conflict situations using theory by Thomas and Kilmann (1970).

Method

The data will be analyzed using a qualitative method that involves describing the data. Qualitative research can also be described as a model that takes place in a natural environment, allowing researchers to engage deeply with the actual experiences being researched (Suci Putri et al., 2022). The methodology is the research strategy used to obtain pertinent data from the source encountered by the main character. Data collection for this study will be done through observation. Through observation, the data is observed to be collected, and the meaning of the data is understood.

The observation was done through steps. The first step is watching the movie Wonka to identify the challenges encountered by the protagonist. The second step is to watch the movie I chose repeatedly. The third is noting that, at every moment, the main character faces conflict. After collecting data, I discovered ten data points from Wonka Movies, but three of them are the most relevant to the idea that I will analyze This research will employ Kenny's (1966) conflict theory to examine the various forms of conflict encountered by the protagonist in the Wonka film.

Analyzing the data comes next, following its comprehensive collection. A descriptive qualitative method was conducted to present a comprehensive understanding systematically linked to the examined external conflict. This finding is investigated by identifying the external conflict faced by the character, employing a theoretical framework established by Kenney (1966).

Results

Willy is the main character in the movie Wonka; he appears in almost every scene in the story. This section delineates the findings and analysis of the primary character's external conflicts, drawing upon Kenney's (1996) conflict theory. Subsequently, it will address the findings and discussions regarding the external conflicts encountered by the main character. Based on the purpose of this study, this section discusses the type of conflict in this study. Researchers found 10 data points in the movie Wonka. However, this study will only examine three conflicts and the resolution of conflict situations using the theoretical framework proposed by Thomas and Kilman in 1970. The results of this study are formulated in the table below.

Table 1. The data will analysis in the movie entitled Wonka

Type of external conflict	Conflict management
Man vs Man	Accommodating
Man vs Society	Accommodating
Man vs Nature	Competing
Total	3 data

Based on the analysis of the interactions and disputes presented in the table above, the most prevalent and dominant conflict management style identified in the Wonka movie is the Accommodating strategy. This approach is consistently demonstrated through the protagonist's actions and decisions, as Willy often prioritizes the needs and perspectives of others over his interests. His willingness to avoid confrontation and seek peaceful resolutions, even at the expense of his gains or pride, underscores the recurring use of this cooperative and self-sacrificing conflict management style throughout the narrative.

Discussion
External Conflict

Kenney's (1966) theory defines external conflict as a struggle between a character and external forces. This type of conflict may manifest in various forms, including physical confrontations, discussions, disputes, or general opposition involving two distinct parties. It can represent a confrontation between interpersonal Conflicts, which are clashes between individuals, often involving opposing goals, values, or interests, such as arguments, rivalries, or competition. Individual vs. Society: A struggle where a character challenges societal norms, expectations, or injustices, highlighting the tension between personal beliefs and communal standards. Individual vs. Nature: A confrontation with natural forces, such as surviving a storm, battling harsh environments, or overcoming physical obstacles posed by the natural world.

Management Strategy

Thomas and Kilman (1974) state that conflict management modes are essential in analyzing how someone handles their problems. People can maintain or develop a cooperative relationship between characters by managing the conflict faced. Thomas and Kilmann stated that there are five ways to conflict management modes, namely:

Competing: A highly assertive and uncooperative approach where an individual pursues their interests at the expense of others. This mode is often used when quick, decisive action is necessary or when the stakes are high.

Collaborating: is a strategy that combines high assertiveness with high cooperativeness. It aims to find a win-win solution that satisfies all parties. This mode involves open communication and problem-solving to address the needs of everyone involved.

Compromising: A moderate approach in both assertiveness and cooperativeness, where each party gives up something to reach a mutually acceptable solution. It is often used when time constraints or competing interests make collaboration less feasible.

Avoiding a low-assertiveness and low-cooperativeness strategy in which the individual sidesteps the conflict, either postponing its resolution or withdrawing from the situation entirely. This approach may be suitable for trivial issues or when emotions run high.

Accommodating is a highly cooperative but low-assertiveness mode in which an individual prioritizes the needs and concerns of others over their own. This strategy often involves self-sacrifice and is useful when maintaining harmony or demonstrating that goodwill is more important than achieving personal goals.

Man versus Man

Figure 1. Conflict between Willy and Ompa Loompa

Willy   : Hold on, you've been stealing from me. For Years.

Ompa Loompa : **Well, you started. You stole our cocoa beans.**

(Wonka 01:00:55)

In the Ompa Loompa utterance, **"Well, you started. You stole our cocoa beans."** According to the conversation above, Willy had a conflict with Ompa Loompa. The statement from Ompa Loompa said Willy was the one who started it all. Ompa Loompa stole the chocolates made by Willy because Willy had come to Loompa island and stole their cocoa beans. Ompa Lompa, who was guarding at the time, had to be expelled from Lompa Island and was responsible for the cocoa stolen by Willy. Willy did not accept what Ompa Lompa did; he only took four cocoa beans, and Ompa Lompa stole many jars of chocolate that Willy had made.

Willy had asked Ompa Lompa to make a deal about the chocolate that Willy had to return, but Ompa Lompa managed to escape with Willy's jars of chocolate. Based on the conversation between Willy and Ompa Loompa, the conflict can be categorized as an external conflict, **Man versus Man**, between people and others.

In this context, the management approach employed by the protagonist in the Wonka film can be identified as the **Accommodating strategy**. As Thomas and Kilmann (1970) outlined, this strategy is characterized by a tendency towards indecisiveness and a cooperative nature. An individual utilizing this approach tends to overlook their concerns in order to address the needs of others, which inherently involves a degree of self-sacrifice. This accommodating method might be adopted when a problem is unimportant to us, we recognize our error, and we are confident it will not be resolved.

In Willy's argument with Ompa Loompa, Ompa Loompa explained why he stole the chocolates Willy created because Willy was the first to steal cocoa beans from Loompa's real estate. Willy accepted responsibility for what he had done. That is why, when Ompa Loompa managed to go, Willy declined to intervene and let him go. Willy could only give up and ignore him.

Man versus Society

Figure 2. Conflict between Willy and the Officers

Officers   : I'm afraid we've had some complaints about you, sir

Willy   : Complaints?

Officers   : ***That you're disrupting the trade of other businesses. I'm regrettably obliged to move you on and to confiscate your earnings.***

(Wonka 16:20)

In the Officer's utterance, **"That you are disrupting the trade of other businesses. I am regrettably obliged to move you on and to confiscate your earnings."** According to the conversation between Willy and the Officers above, Willy, who was selling his magic chocolate in the middle of the town, was interrupted by a group of policemen who said that Willy had been arrested. Willy, who was selling chocolates in the middle of the city, was rejected. His presence as a new chocolate seller was not accepted by chocolate sellers who had already sold

chocolate there. Willy was considered to interfere with other people's business because his chocolate was in great demand.

The police came to evict Willy for disrupting other people's business. The Officer's statement that Willy was interfering with the trade of other businesses confused Willy; he did not even feel he was interfering with other traders. Willy felt upset because the police also confiscated his income, which he should have used to pay his room rent. Based on the conflict experienced by Willy with the Officer, it can be categorized as an external conflict of **Man versus society**. A conflict causes Willy to succumb by leaving there and letting the Officer confiscate his income.

In this case, the main character in the Wonka film employs an accommodating management approach. Thomas and Kilmann (1970) noted that **accommodating** behavior is indecisive and cooperative. When a person is accommodating, he ignores his interests to fulfil those of others. This method has a component of altruistic devotion. Willy's conflict is experienced by Willy, who is selling chocolate in the middle of the city and must be visited by a group of police. Willy, who also sells chocolate, makes a more famous chocolate seller feel rivalled because Willy's chocolate is magical and cheap. Willy's conflict is experienced by Willy, who is selling chocolate in the middle of the city and must be visited by a group of police. Willy, who also sells chocolate, makes a more famous chocolate seller feel rivalled because Willy's chocolate is magical and cheap.

Man versus Nature

Figure 3. Willy jumped into the water to save himself.

Willy   : Captain! Captain?

Ompa Loompa: **On second thoughts the explanation can wait**. Good day to you. **(water splashes)**

(Wonka 01:20:44)

The conversation above happens when Willy is on the ship to leave town because Mr. Slugwort asks him to leave if Willy wants his friends to be free from the wash house. Ompa Loompa comes to collect the last jar of chocolates from Willy, but Willy says he has yet to make chocolates on the orders of Mr Slughwort. Ompa Loompa tells Willy not to listen to Mr Slughwort's orders. When Willy saw a mark on his hand, he decided to return to town. Willy ran to ask the ship's captain to return but realized there was no ship captain and there was only a bomb there. Willy realized Mr. Slughwort intended to kill him.

Without thinking, Willy chooses to throw himself into the sea and decides to return to the city. Based on the incident experienced by Willy, where he tried to be killed by Mr Slugworth by exploding the ship, is a type of external conflict in the Man versus Nature section. Willy had to survive in the cold seawater at night and continue to swim until he reached the city. Based on the conflict experienced by Willy, who was forced to dive into the seawater to save himself from the explosion of the ship, can be categorized as an external conflict of **Man versus Nature**. The conflict caused Willy to swim in the middle of the night and try to escape the cold seawater.

In this context, the primary character in the Wonka movie employs a **Competing strategy** as their management approach. According to Thomas & Kilmann (1970), This competing strategy can be used when we are sure that we are right, when we need to decide in a short and fast time, when we have to defend our rights, and when we do not want to be taken advantage of by others. In the conflict experienced by the main character in the Movie Wonka, Willy realizes Mr. Slugworth has deceived him. After Willy agrees to a deal made by Mr Slugworth, he has to leave the city and no longer make chocolate so that his friends can be released from the washhouse and pay their debts. Mr. Slughworth wanted to kill Willy by blowing up the ship provided for him. Fortunately, Willy quickly threw himself into the sea to save himself from the explosion.

Conclusion

Based on the findings obtained from the 1 hour 56 minutes Wonka Movie, it can be concluded that the author found ten external conflicts in the Wonka movie. This study examines the analysis of external conflicts to identify the various types of external conflicts present in the Wonka movie. The concept of external conflict encompasses three primary categories: man, versus man, man versus society, and man versus nature. As Kenney (1966) articulated in his work titled Namely: How to Analyze Fiction, external conflict represents a struggle between characters and external forces. In the Wonka movie, Willy, as the main character, most often experiences man versus society conflict, which is found in as much as 5 data; the second is followed by Man versus Man external conflict, found in as much as 4 data; the last is Man versus Nature external conflict found as much as 1 data.

Factors that influence conflicts with society include the presence of the main character, who is not accepted in his new environment. To effectively address the external conflicts faced by the protagonist in the Wonka film, the author may focus on the management strategies employed by the main character, drawing upon the conflict resolution theory proposed by Thomas and Kilmann (1970).

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