CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Crazy Rich Asians is Kevin Kwan's novel, which was published in 2013 and became a bestseller in many countries. After that, he published two sequels of 2015's *Chinese Rich Girlfriend* and 2017's *Rich People Problems*. In 2018, the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* became the third Hollywood movie in which Asian players participated. The film is also a box office in various countries with fantastic income.

The novel *Crazy Rich Asians* was released in 2013, even though the conflict in this novel has been going on for a long time, it is not much different from nowadays where love is not approved by parents because of differences in family background. This problem is actually a cliché problem that often appears in love stories involving rich people, who as heirs must focus on the family business and marry someone who is considered to be equal in wealth.

The conflicts that occur in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* are disputes and bickering over various problems in the novel. Such as differences in family and cultural backgrounds, struggles, and so on. This novel tells the life of wealthy Chinese-Singaporeans.

Apart from being interesting because of the conflict in the novel, this novel also tells the story of a romantic romance between a couple who love each other. In the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*, Rachel Chu, a young economics professor, and Nick Young, an Oxford-educated professor, have been in a relationship for 2 years and met in New York. Nick Young has a dream to propose to Rachel after seeing his best friend's wedding but Nick and Rachel have to go through various problems. From

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this, it is found several conflicts that occurred before the dream became a reality. From conflicts with oneself to others.

In the *Crazy Rich Asians* novel, there are two conflicts, namely internal conflicts and external conflicts. Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs in the heart and soul of a character in the story. This conflict is experienced by a character in the story who has internal problems with opposing desires or beliefs, and it drives their development as characters. External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something or someone outside the character, it could be another character in the story, the natural environment and so on. The existence of external conflict can create tension when a character tries to achieve goals in the story

Conflict often occurs in society and it is sometimes unavoidable. Because individuals have different opinions, desires, and even needs, it is very possible that there are individuals who do not accept these differences and conflict occurs. According to Soekanto (in Laning, V. D. 2009:30) conflict is a situation in which individuals or groups try to achieve their goals by challenging the opposing party using threats or violence to achieve goals. Furthermore, according to Lawang (1994), conflict is a struggle to gain value, status, power and so on with the aim not only to achieve victory, but also to subdue its competitors (opponents).

Conflict is a problem that is not wanted by every human being, such as strife, or disagreement. Conflict does not only occur in daily life, but also occurs in literary works. Conflicts that occur in real life often inspire authors to pour them into literary works such as into films, into short stories or into novels. Conflict in literature has an important role to support the content of the story and it makes the story more interesting and attracts the reader to read it.

Life events become stories (plots) that raise conflicts, sensational problems, or are dramatic, and therefore interesting to tell in stories. In literary works, the author deliberately creates imaginative conflicts in his work. Life situations that are calm and without conflict can also be told in the story, for example as a complement, related events, but if they are prolonged, this will actually reduce the suspense level of the work in question.

This seems to be in accordance with human nature in general who likes gossipy things, especially sensational ones. Such a situation, especially if it befalls certain respected people, will usually be an interesting "meal". In fact, if it were possible, that person would definitely reject the sensational dramatic conflict events that happened to them. Apart from this, the fact shows that people actually need stories about various problems of life and human life to fulfill their inner needs, enrich their soul experiences. In this case, authors who are sensitive, reactive, and live this life more intensively, are aware of this need. So, they deliberately raised the story by displaying various interesting plot events (Nurgiyantoro 2002:123).

Events and conflicts are usually closely related. They can cause each other to occur, even conflict is essentially an event. There are certain events that can cause conflict. On the contrary, because there is a conflict, as a result there is other events can also occur. Conflict after conflict followed by event after event will cause the conflict to escalate. Conflicts that have become so sharp that they reach a final are called climax.

Conflict in literature refers to the different drives of the characters or forces involved. Conflict may be internal or external. It may occur within a character's mind or between a character and exterior forces, or point(s) of view. Conflict is most visible between two or more characters, usually a protagonist and an antagonist, but

can occur in many different forms. A character may easily find himself or herself in conflict with a natural force, such as an animal or a weather event, like a hurricane. The literary purpose of conflict is to create tension in the story, making readers more interested by leaving them uncertain which of the character or forces will prevail (Robert & Jacobs, 1986).

Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the problems of conflict among the characters in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. The writer hopes that the conflict can provide inspiration and insight for readers and can take positive values in it and can be realized in daily life. So, the writer conducts the research under the title "Conflict in Kevin Kwan's Novel *Crazy Rich Asians*".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What are the kinds of conflict in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*?
2. What are the factors causing conflict in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To describe the kinds of conflict in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*.
2. To describe the factors causing the conflict in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of this research is to analyze the conflicts that occurs in several selected characters, not only the main character but also other characters. There are several aspects that can be analyzed in Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. However, in this case, the writer limits the analysis only on the kinds of conflict and the factors causing conflict contained in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has some purposes. They are as follows:

1. Theoretically, from of this study the writer hopes to be able to provide information about conflict in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* written by Kevin Kwan.

2. Practically, this study can help improve understanding of conflict issues in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. The writer hopes that readers can take positive values from this study and can be realized in daily life. In addition, the writer hopes this study will be a useful reference for other writers who are interested in conducting some researches about conflict .

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conflict

Conflict is a very important part of the storyline (Tarigan, 2008:82). According to Wellek & Warren (in Nurgiyantoro, 2002: 122), conflict is something dramatic, refers to a fight between two balanced forces and implies action and retaliation.

Furthermore, Nurgiyantoro (2002:122) states that conflict is an event that is classified as important in the development of the plot. The development of the plot of a narrative work will be influenced not to say and is determined by the form and content of the conflict, the structure of the conflict that is displayed. The author's ability to choose and build conflict through various events (both actions and incidents) will greatly determine the level of interest, suspense, and story that is produced.

A conflict is a struggle and a clash of interest, opinion, or even principles. MacDonald (2009) stated that conflict will always be found in society; as the basis of conflict may vary to be personal, racial, class, caste, political and international. Conflict may also be emotional, intellectual, and theoretical, in which case academic recognition may, or may not be, a significant motive. Intellectual conflict is a subclass of cultural conflict, a conflict that tends to grow over time due to different cultural values and beliefs.

Conflict refers to something that is unpleasant that happens and is experienced by the story characters, where if the story characters have the freedom to

choose, they will not choose the incident to happen to them (Meredith & Fitzgerald in Nurgiyantoro, 2002: 122).

Conflict is the opposition presented to the main character (or protagonist) of a narrative by another character (or antagonist) by event, or situation, by fate or some aspect of the protagonist's own personality or nature, the conflict is introduced by means of a complication that sets in motion the riding action usually towards a climax and eventual resolution (Stanton, 1995). He added that conflict is a resistance of physics, morale, mind, emotion, and destiny among persons, animals or even in our selves. Conflict is illustrated as an opposition between the protagonist and the antagonist.

Panuti Sudjiman (1990: 45) explains that conflict may be happened between two forces. This conflict can occur within a single character, between two characters, between a character and society or their environment, between a character and nature, and between a character and God.

According to Brooks and Warren (in Tarigan 2011:13) all fiction contains conflict. The characters struggle to challenge the environment or struggle with each other (external) or involve themselves in struggles with themselves (internal).

2.2 Kinds of Conflict

According to Staton in Nurgiyantoro (2002: 124) there are two kinds of conflict, as forms of events, can also be divided into two categories, namely internal conflict and external conflict.

a. Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is one of the different kinds of conflict. Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs in the heart or soul of a character. This conflict is a conflict

experienced by humans with themselves, which is more an internal problem of a human being.

Internal conflict according to Nugiyantoro (2010: 124) is a conflict that occurs in the heart, soul of a character (or characters) in a story. Internal conflict is a conflict experienced by oneself. For example, it occurs due to conflict between two desires, beliefs, different choices, expectations, or other problems.

According to Kenney (1966:19), the conflict happening within the single man is called 'internal conflict'. Coser (1913:218), who sees conflict as instinctual for humans, says that internal conflict in the larger social system, as between different groups, releases hostilities, and creates norms. For dealing with the conflict, and developing lines of authority and judiciary system, a society must always contend with the psychological need of individuals to engage in conflict. This need can build up over time and become explosive. Low level, frequent conflict tends to release hostilities. Those, hostilities keep conflict from building and becoming disintegrative for the system, the goals in this internal conflict is usually called "psychological conflict". The examples of the internal conflict are: man versus himself and man versus man. Internal conflict is often referred to as man versus himself since the struggle is inside one's head.

According to Davidoff (1991: 178) internal conflict (psychological conflict) is a conflict that occurs in the heart, soul of a character or characters in a story. So it is a conflict that humans experience with themselves, causing feelings of sadness, disappointment, indecision, that is the inner feeling of a human being. Internal conflict can also be said as an inner conflict or can also be called a psychological conflict.

b. External Conflict

External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside the character, such as the natural environment and even the human environment. Thus, external conflict can be divided into two categories, namely physical conflict and social conflict (Jones in Nurgiyantoro 2002:124). According to Nurgiyantoro (2002:124), external conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something or someone outside the character, it could be another character in the story, the natural environment and so on. The existence of external conflict can create tension when a character tries to achieve goals in the story.

1) Physical Conflict

Physical conflict (or also called: elemental conflict) is a conflict caused by a clash between a character and the natural environment. For example, conflicts or problems experienced by a character due to major floods, long droughts, volcanic eruptions, and so on.

2) Social Conflict

Social conflict is conflict caused by social contact between humans, or problems that arise as a result of human relations. These include labor problems, bullying, disputes, wars or other social relations cases.

These conflicts are interrelated, causing each other to occur, and can occur simultaneously. That is, conflicts can occur at the same time and be experienced by a character in the story at the same time, even though the level of intensity is not the same. The level of complexity of the conflict presented in a work of fiction, in many ways, determines the quality, intensity and attractiveness of that work. The conflict

itself is invented, imagined and developed based on conflicts that can be found in the real world.

2.3 Factors Causing Conflict

According to Soekanto (2013), there are several factors that cause conflict, namely:

a. Differences between individuals

As individual creatures, humans have unique characteristics according to their personality. This means that each individual has feelings that are different from one another. Each individual develops in accordance with its distinctive characteristics, even though they are in the same environment.

The differences that occur in social interaction are often the cause of conflict, because the stances and feelings of an individual are not always in line with the stances and feelings of other individuals or groups. For example, when there is a music performance in the community, of course, the feelings and responses of each member of the community are different. There are those who feel annoyed because it is noisy, but on the other hand there are those who feel entertained.

Differences in stances and beliefs of individuals that cause conflict between individuals. In this case each party tries to destroy the opponent both physically and thoughts and ideas that do not agree with it.

b. Cultural differences

A culture that is attached to a person is capable of causing conflict when these cultures collide with other cultures. Personality differences between individuals also depend on the cultural patterns that form the background for the formation and development of that personality. A person, consciously or unconsciously, will be

more or less influenced by the thoughts and stances of his group. An individual born and raised in a rural area will have an independent personality, have a social spirit, respect for others, tolerance, and so on. However, it will be different from the personality possessed by an individual who grows and develops in urban areas, they tend to be individualistic, indifferent, competitive, and so on.

These differences are due to differences in the values and norms of each cultural group that are adapted to the needs of its members or society. This difference relates to the size in determining what is good or bad, noble or not noble, inappropriate, polite or impolite, between one cultural group or society that differs from another cultural group or society. This is adapted to the pattern of thinking that is motivated by the culture of each group or society, so that harmony between groups in society with all cultural differences is difficult to achieve, and often creates clashes that lead to conflict. Each of these cultural groups has a tendency to maintain its own group ego. They are more concerned with the interests of their group and consider other groups as enemies.

c. Differences in interests

Humans as social beings are always inseparable from society. As individuals, humans have distinctive roles in their environment as well as unique personalities and patterns of behavior. Every person and every social group has different interests. Generally interests refer to the desire or need for something. A person is able to do anything to get their interests in order to achieve a prosperous life. The difference in interests makes them compete with each other for the opportunities, facilities and resources needed, thus causing a conflict.

For example, street vendors have an interest in selling their wares in locations that are considered strategic and close to potential customers. The closer to potential

consumers, it is hoped that more merchandise will be sold. Therefore, they usually occupy sidewalks or locations that are the center of the crowd, apart from not having to pay rent or contracts, they are directly close to potential buyers; even though that location shouldn't be a place to sell.

On the other hand, a security officer has different interests. In accordance with their duties, they regulate public places, such as sidewalks, alleys, alleys, or the edges of the main roads. Differences in interests like this often lead to conflicts, including the forced eviction of stalls by street vendors who occupy inappropriate locations. There have been many incidents where street vendors resisted forced eviction attempts by security officer.

Opposition or conflict due to differences in interests can also involve the political, economic, social and cultural fields. This can also occur between groups, or between groups and individuals.

d. Social change

Every society and human being during their life must experience changes, both small and unattractive changes and big, striking changes. There are also changes that have a limited or broad effect, and there are also changes that are slow, but there are also those that move quickly.

Social changes that take place quickly will temporarily change the values that exist in society. This has led to differences in stance among groups in responding to the changes that have occurred. These situations and conditions can lead to new conflicts. For example, the more advanced and advanced the technology, the experts are trying to involve toddlers to enjoy this technology which is certainly beneficial

for the intellectual development of babies. For that reason, a baby channel was created. However, this change caused pro and con reactions in society.

With the changes that occur in society, it requires the community to adapt to these changes so that existence in society can be maintained and survive. In a society that is undergoing change, the changes in the elements of society are not always balanced. There are elements that change quickly, but there are also elements that are difficult to change. Likewise with the supporting community, there are people who are pro and support change and the entry of new elements, but on the other hand there are also people who reject and maintain old elements. Starting from here often arises conflict or conflict in society.

Events and conflicts are usually closely related and can cause one another in a story. A certain event can lead to conflict, on the other hand, because there is conflict, as a result other events can also appear in a story. Conflict in a story is a story stage that makes the reader tense. Conflict after conflict followed by event after event will cause the conflict to escalate. A conflict that is so tapered up that it reaches a breaking point is called a climax (Nurgiyantoro 2002:123).