The Influence conflict between loyalty to family and moral principle toward Michael Corleone Character Development

1. **Background**

Conflict is essential to every story, fiction or non-fiction without this element the story destined to be rejected. The reason is because while it's the Happily Ever After ending that makes your reader sigh; it's initially the struggle that captures the reader interest. Without the struggle, the reader wouldn't hang around long enough, or care enough, to experience the sigh.

Conflict it is a struggle between two forces, but these forces can be either internal (feelings) or external (physical). So it isn’t something that just showed up in the black moment of the book. Conflict should be presented in every page on the story. Usually most of the novel has one major conflict directing the story, but then each character will generally have one or more personal conflict in it. In novel The Godfather very much insightful conflict occurs: Violence, power, honor, and obligation, corruption, justice and crime in America. The Godfather story centered Corleone crime “family” in New York City in the mid 1940s when the mob was still powerfull, lead by the the Godfather “Don” Vito Corleone. He is the head of one of the five Italian-American “families” that operates a crime syndicate such as racketeering, gamble, and prostitution.

In this novel the Don had 4 children; the first is Santino 'Sonny' Corleone, who served as 'underbos' has a very high temper, stubborn and cheeky, while the second son of the Don, the Federico 'Fredo' Corleone has a good nature and do not like violence. He is weak and unreliable. The only girl among four brothers Constanzia 'Connie' Corleone automatically impossible for her to become a head in this organization. The Don also has adopted another child who is now become his *consigiliere* or adviser replacing the Don previous *consigiliere*, which is Tom Hagen. And the youngest son is Michael 'Mikey' Corleone who did not want to interfere the family business, to the Don. He think Michael is very suitable to be his successor to lead this organization and he intends to make Michael become the next Don not Santino.

This novel follow the journey of youngest child of the four brothers, Michael, who thought that he could living a normal life in a social environment without interfering in family business, refuse what his father planned for his future. Even though of that still inside the body flow his Sicilian father blood who would not give up before getting what he wants and to protect what he loves. Michael had a tough duties awaits him to find out who is going kill his father, crush organization rivals and once again restore the honor of great name of Corleone family in New York.

Conflict is the most important in a story, conflict is a contradiction between two people, and each person has their own ideas and principles. Conflict is intensified through a phrase of rising action and compilation until crisis brings climax. The conflict can influence and change a character. The development of character makes the character more alive in the minds of the readers. In the novel the main character faced an assortment of conflict in the story is both internal and external conflicts. External conflicts seem real to involve a physical element. The conflict in the form of a confrontation between: individual to individual, whether personal individual or individuals or groups or communities, because the causes are diverse. The conflict in the form of a confrontation between: individual to individual, whether personal individual or individuals or group or community, due to a variety of causes. While internal conflict is usually a psychological conflicts that occur in soul or mind. Various kinds of conflicts in the novel are more or less influence the personality or character of Michael Corleone.

Analysis of "The Influence conflict between loyalty to family and moral principle toward Michael Corleone Character Development". There are several factors that conflicts arise in this novel as psychological conflicts that are included in the internal conflict. And the other hand external conflicts, including physical conflicts, social conflict, and moral conflicts. The research was interesting to discuss because there is Conflict Influences on the main character, Michael "Mickey" Corleone, which can be studied more in-depth and far to see how conflicts that arise can influence the character of Michael. The reason why the writer chooses this topic is because Michael Corleone changes from person with moral principles and a legitimate role in society to a cold-blooded mobster. This happened when after an assassination attempt on Vito Corleone, Michael’s father and the death of his eldest brother, he decides to return to the family and forced himself to assume leadership, even though he disapproves of Mafia business. The strength of family ties, ingrained in Mikey as a youth, influences his choice.

1. **Research question**

This research indicated to answer the 2 research question, as follows:

a) To identifies conflict that related to loyalty to a family and moral principle?

b) How does the conflict affect the development of the character of Michael?

1. **Objectives**

According to the research question there are two objectives in this research as, follows:

1. To find out conflict that related to loyalty to a family and moral principle
2. To describe how the conflict does may affect development of the character of Michael.
3. **Significant to Knowledge**

The study, entitled "The Influence conflict between loyalty to family and moral principle toward Michael Corleone Character Development" focusing on how the conflict affect the main character from the point of view of psychoanalysis.

1. **The Frame Work Theory**

In analyzing the novel, The Godfather, The theory used is Erikson's psychosocial theory of personality development (1963: 27).

Personality development appeal to the epigenetic principle which states that there is a ground plan for anything that grows, and that as parts arise out of this ground plan, each part has "its time of special ascendancy, until all parts have arisen to form a functioning whole." The epigenetic laws of development incorporate a predetermined rate and sequence related to the individual's growing readiness to respond in appropriate ways to social and cultural processes. At each phase of epigenesis, development is co-determined by biological, mental, and social factors, and the ego qualities which emerge enable the individual to "integrate the timetable of the organism with the structure of social institutions. (Erickson’s, The theory of personality development, 1963: 27 )

Based on the quote above, Erikson states that in any development of character or personality always has a foundation or base of something growing. Here also mentioned that the development of the character can be determined by several factors, like biological, mental, social factors, and also the ego qualities. Erikson also explained that the development of the characters can be divided into several stages, more precisely eight stages. Each step involves the "Crisis" caused a radical change in perspective is accompanied by the growth of awareness, new weakness (vulnerability), and the maximum potential of the character. The use of the word of "crisis" here does not mean a catastrophe that Ericsson explained.

Erikson's use of the term "crisis" does not refer to impending catastrophe, but to a necessary turning point when development must move in one direction or another, whether in the individual or in the culture at large. (Erikson; 1963 : 27-28)

Conflict could affect on how the character, character development which affected by conflict could be seen by on how the character change from the beginning of the story until the end of the story. The changes we can see on the character interact with the other, it could be from other character point of view to the character, and how the character narrated or described through the story.

1. **Research Method**

In this study, the method used is descriptive method to describe the purpose of the study. According to Ariola (2006: 47) "*The purpose of the descriptive method is to describe" what is ". It deals with the prevailing condition of objects, people, and events "*. This method focuses on the description based on the facts and characteristics.

* 1. **Data Collection**

The Data is collected by some steps as follows:

1. Reading the whole novel. This part is really important, we can find the problems that appeared in that novel and understand the implicit and explicit meaning on the novel.
2. Selecting the important data. The writer has to select the quotation from the novel relating to the research.
3. Displaying data with the theory related to the topic. The authors should found the correct theory on the topic that will be research.

In this study, the authors used several references via books or electronic media and the Internet.

* 1. **Data analysis**

The data taken from a novel The Godfather is a fictional story created by Mario Puzo. The story takes place in two countries that is the United States and also the home of the Don Sicilia, Italy. This novel tells about a child of the New York mafia chief named Michael Corleone. At the beginning of the story he refused to intervene with any matters related to the mafia. Like the quotation bellow:

“Every guest noticed that Don paid no particular attention to this third son. Michael had been his favorite before the war and obviously the chosen heir to run the family business when proper moment came. He had all the quite force and intelligence of his great father, the born instinct to act in such way that men had no recourse but to respect him. But when World War II broke out, Michael Corleone volunteered for the Marine Corps. He defied his father’s express command when he did so”

In the quotation above it can be seen that Michael Corleone had an internal conflict that fall into the category of conflict psychology. It can be seen that the Don is still trying to persuade Michael to accept what the Don planned for him later. But here we can see Michael entered the crisis stage 5th which is Fidelity Michael still has a questioned his identity. He was very confused about his future, on the one hand he want to live with his girlfriend Kaye Adam who cannot tolerate with life of mafia, while his father really hope that he accepts his father's plan who would give something for Michael’s future.

However, Michael is still stand by his decision about would not want to interfere with the business of the mafia, it is shown that he is decided attend collage and participate voluntarily in the army during World War II.

Another example is the way Michael Corleone facing problems, several times experiencing conflict, this issue arises when Michael Corleon in a dilemma whether or not he can kill the police captain who has been in bribes by Virgil Solozzo:

“Michael said slowly, "OK, it's an extreme. But there are times when the most extreme measures are justified. Let's think now that we have to kill McCluskey. The way to do it would be to have him heavily implicated so that it's not an honest police captain doing his duty but a crooked police official mixed up in the rackets who got what was coming to him, like any crook. We have newspaper people on our payroll we can give that story to with enough proof so that they can back it up. That should take some of the heat off. How does that sound?" Michael looked around deferentially to the others. Tessio and Clemenza had gloomy faces and refused to speak. Sonny said with the same odd smile, "Go on, kid, you're doing great. Out of the mouths of infants, as the Don always used to say. Go ahead, Mike, tell us more." (Puzo, 1960 : 54)

In this quotation above we can see how Mikey hold notion of responsibility to his family during the crisis of his father’ endangered health, and the member of the family business even expect him to react, taking part in his father protection. When Michael tells his plan to kill those who plot against his father, everyone in the room takes pleasure in Mikey participation, all except his eldest brother Sonnie. In accordance to the pressure of the group, the Corleone teach loyalty to family, and they continually use the phrase “it’s not personal, it’s business to justify immoral actions to others. And that how he resolves conflicts or problems with using mafia ethos as follows: "not to kill other men of honor unless strictly Necessary". Mickey explains that all that is done purely for business and not due to personal matters. This happened because obviously, growing in a mafia family would put Mikey in environment where he experiences tainted view of what is right or what is wrong. So one can only expect that children of the family will adopt a similar set of values as their parents.

**References**

Westen, Drew. 1990. Psychoanalytic Approaches to Personality. University of Michigann.

Pozo, Mario. 1969. The Godfather

Barry, Petter. 2010. Biginning Theory : Pengantar Komprehensif Teori sastra dan budaya.

Electronic references.

www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/132060/conflict. Accessed on 6 Oktober 2012.

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_Godfather\_(novel). Accessed on 6 Oktober 2012.