

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

I discover that in every novel there are always conflicts to make the novel interesting. The conflicts which are likely to occur in most novels are social and inner conflicts. Fleur Beale's I am not Esther is one of the novels that has social and inner conflicts in it.

In everyday living, people have to communicate and interact with others and may have different opinions with one another which causes conflicts. Conflicts can occur to anyone in any place, can be very simple or complicated. Conflicts do not only happen in adults' life but also in teenagers' and children's life. Conflicts can happen not only because a person is having a different opinion from others' but also because of his own dilemmas.

Fleur Beale's I am not Esther deals with a problem that most teenagers face, that is identity loss. The social and inner conflicts of the protagonist are the most dominant aspect in the novel that makes the novel more interesting. The novel also shows how the protagonist solves her social and inner conflicts.

There are two major conflicts in I am not Esther, social conflict and inner conflict. The first social conflict occurs between the protagonist, Kirby and her uncle. I discover that the conflict occur because they have different opinions in

faith. Kirby's uncle who is a strict fundamentalist Christian man is very faithful to his belief, that everyone should have a biblical name. Therefore, he changes Kirby's name into Esther. While Kirby, who always lives freely with her mother, feels that changing her name means being forced to be somebody she is not. Kirby does not want it as it will cause her to lose her identity.

Other social conflict happens between Kirby and her aunt. The conflict occurs because her aunt who is also a strict fundamentalist woman has forced Kirby to dress like the other strict fundamentalist Christian members.

I analyse that the social conflicts lead to Kirby's inner conflict. As time goes by, the society members nevertheless regard Kirby as Esther and she has to follow all the rules which are set by the strict fundamentalist Christian society. Kirby's old self is weakening as Esther starts to dominate her everyday living. She is in a dilemma between preserving herself as Kirby or becoming Esther. Finally, Kirby's inner conflict is resolved, as she chooses to become her old self.

However, her inner conflict is still continuing. Kirby who is left by her mother when she is 14 years old psychologically feels abandoned. She wants to find her mother to get an explanation why she was abandoned. Kirby then finds her mother and she also gets the clarification of her mother leaving her. The opposing force in this inner conflict is whether to live with her mother or to leave her mother. The inner conflict is resolved when Kirby finally decides to live with her mother.

In Fleur Beale's I am not Esther, the conflicts that I have analyzed revolves around social and inner conflicts of the protagonist. I find that the conflicts revolving around Kirby are caused by the rules set by adults. In addition,

the protagonist's conflicts are also caused by her search for identity. Kirby loses her identity when she lives together with her unfamiliar family who hold the rules set by the strict fundamentalist Christian society. She finds her identity when she decides to become Kirby instead of Esther.

After analyzing the novel I am not Esther by Fleur Beale, I find that there are messages from Fleur Beale to her readers that the strong bond between a mother and her daughter can solve any conflict and that teenagers need support or reassurance from others to make important decision. In my opinion, teenagers still need guidance from the elder people as they have more experiences. However, the guidance that they receive also has to be the priority of their point of view. I find this novel is good to read not only by teenagers but also by adults.