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THE COLLISION OF CONFLICT IN KEBERE MALA'S NOVEL "ONE  
NIGHT IN THE STREET": A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The conducted research analysed the types of conflicts presented in the novel 'One Night in the Street'. The researchers conducted a critical reading of the novel and applied a descriptive research design to analyse the plot. The study found that the novel portrays both internal and external conflicts experienced by the protagonist Tushe, including conflicts with his father, society, and nature. The primary conflict is man vs. man, which plays a significant role in the development of the plot. Without these conflicts, Tushe would not have been in the position he ends up in at the end of the story. The conflicts in the novel illustrate that life is full of struggles, and people should learn to overcome their problems just like Tushe did.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Character, Man, Literature.

Literature, in general, pertains to fictional written works where the quality of composition and artistic advancement takes precedence over commercial appeal and profit, as noted by Melakneh Mengistu (2008). Similarly, according to Birhanu (2009), literature encompasses works that artistically present an imaginative creation of reality through language. Through literature, individuals transmit their culture and values, learn about past and present events, and gain insight into people's customs and traditions. Additionally, literature helps individuals learn universal values such as justice, honesty, humanity, religious and social morality, and spiritual values. It also reinforces language skills such as pronunciation, speaking, writing, listening, and vocabulary while expanding linguistic and high-order thinking skills.

Literature has a significant role in preserving a people's values and ideals, such as love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom, and reverence. It is an art form that expresses life through words of truth and beauty, capturing the thoughts, emotions, and aspirations of humanity. Literature represents the history of the human soul, characterized by its artistic, suggestive, and permanent qualities. According to Berhanu M (2009), literature can be classified into four categories: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction. Prose fiction, including short stories, novellas, and novels, is created from the author's imagination. The novel is the longest form of prose narrative, and conflict is a central element of novel

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writing. Conflict adds intense suspense to a story and helps us learn how to face and solve problems for a better outcome, gaining wisdom in living. Conflict is driven by life situations or when man fails to realize his ample wishes. It is natural to every man since complete gratification is rather impossible to reach. It happens because a man has limited capacity to satisfy all his needs. Conflict itself is very close to frustration stemming from three sources: the inability to overcome obstacles in the physical environment, the incapability to overcome restrictions imposed by other people, and the failure to satisfy conflicting motives or to obtain incompatible goals. These three sources of conflict can be found in the novel. Conducting analysis is necessary to know their application in the novel. Therefore, this study mainly focused on conflict analysis in the novel "One Night in the Street".

Conflict in literature refers to disagreements between characters in a story. By exploring these disagreements, we can gain insight into how they arise and how they can be resolved to achieve a better outcome and gain wisdom for living. Moskowitz (1965) as cited in Ananta P, (2007) suggests that conflicts arise from life situations or when a person fails to realize their desires due to limited capacity. Conflict is a natural part of life as it is difficult to satisfy all of our needs and often results in frustration. Conflicts can stem from three sources: obstacles in the physical environment, restrictions imposed by other people, and conflicting motives or goals.

Conflict is the clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills between individuals or between an individual and external forces such as society, physical nature, or fate (Melakneh M, 2006). Similarly, Birhanu (2009) suggests that conflict is the struggle between opposing characters in a work of fiction. In novels, fictional characters are created with moral and dispositional qualities similar to those of real people. The protagonist has a motive they strive to achieve, and to create conflict, the story develops an antagonist who opposes the protagonist's motive. Conflict propels the story forward and is a crucial element of any novel.

Internal conflict refers to a mental or emotional struggle happening within a character. In "One Night in the Street", the author Kebere portrays the character Tushe undergoing such a conflict, where he struggles with his thoughts and feelings. Tushe leaves his family after disobeying his father's instructions and spends time alone in the forest. In this isolation, he is consumed by thoughts of his father and begins to wrestle with his own emotions. The novel contains an extract that supports this internal conflict experienced by Tushe.

"-----While sitting in the forest under a big tree, Tushe ran deep into his thoughts. His father, wearing a frown on his face and carrying a big stick in his hand, stood in front of him. Tushe shocked and jumped to his feet, but the image of his father disappeared. He looked around, but could not see anything, was it real or just my imagination? He asked himself returning to his seat." (26)

As it is indicated in the above extract, we can see that the major character Tushe is clashing with himself. He remembered a lot of occasions when his father beats him badly for playing football. Due to this case, he wants to hide himself in the forest to save his life from his father's hand. When he was in the forest, the image of his father came to his mind. It seems to Tushe his father came to beat him again. As a result of this, Tushe shocked and jumped from his seat and began to look around. However, he was struggling with his thoughts since he did not get his father near to him. This, in short, supports the psychological conflict that Tushe struggled.

After Tushe escaped from his father's grasp and landed in the forest, the daylight became dark to him. He could not find a suitable place to spend the night and decided to climb a tree to save himself from hyenas and other wild animals. However, certain thoughts came to his mind and brought fear to him. Let us look at the following extract to elaborate on this.

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"-----But another thought came to his mind. What if you fall from the tree while sleep? Then he thought of trying himself up against the branch to avoid falling. But that would not guarantee safety." (30)

From the above extract, it is evident that Tushe, the main character, is facing a mental struggle. After spending a certain amount of time in the forest, he attempted to climb a tree to spend the night, but it proved to be impossible. He then tried to tie himself to the tree's branches for safety, but this also proved to be dangerous. Tushe's inability to find a comfortable place to spend the evening caused him to struggle with himself to pass the night.

One day after Tushe returned from the forest, he met his friend Buye in a certain place. For their safety, both Tushe and Buye went to a house called Verando since it was night and they had nowhere else to go. They found a seat in the big shop inside the house to pass the night. However, in the middle of the night, robbers attacked the shop, killing the guard and stealing things. Tushe and Buye started running and shouting for help, but the robbers chased them. Unfortunately, Buye was caught by the robbers, leaving Tushe feeling guilty for bringing his friend to that place. Tushe was struggling with his thoughts, thinking that it was his fault that his friend was caught by the robbers. He blamed himself and cursed his bad fortune, weeping for his friend. The extract from the story shows the psychological conflict that Tushe faced after losing his friend Buye.

External conflict is a type of struggle that occurs between a character and external forces, which may include other characters, the environment, nature, or society in which the character resides. It is the conflict in which the protagonist fights against the world around them. In the novel "One Night in the Street," the main character Tushe is conflicted with various external forces. Here are different types of external conflict analysis depicted in the novel.

In the novel, manvsman conflict is depicted between the protagonist character Tushe and his father Halala. Even if Tushe was very little boy, the order of his father was much overloaded. He always order and angry with him. He always insults him as shown in the following extract. "You greedy brat," said the father in angry tone. When will you get your sack full?" Had I not called, you would spend the whole morning eating. I wish you were at least as good in looking after the cow as eating." He shouted frowning. Tushe just started at the ground." (2) "What were you doing all that time" asked the man carrying the stick. He is the boy's father. "I was just teaching my breakfast."

From the above extract, the researchers are able to identify Halala's (Tushe's father) anger on his son Tushe. From this, we can understand that Tushe was eating his breakfast to take the single cow the family has to the field. When Tushe stayed sometime in eating breakfast, his father began to insult and curse him and shouted frowning at him too. As a result of this, Tushe feared to uttered even one word and stared at the ground because of fearing his father. In short, Tushe has struggled with his to escape from his father's dominancy over him and as a result, this is an external conflict depicted in the novel.

Besides, in another day, Tushe's father ordered him to take the cow across the river for grazing. In that day there was a football competition between two well-known clubs, Lions and Walias, in Selamber town. In playing football, Tushe is very intelligent. Due to this, his friends beg him to take the cow to the football pitch. But Tushe was not willing to take near to the field because his father not ordered him not to take there. One of his friends says I will find somebody to look after your cow near the pitch while you play with us. However, Tushe rejected his idea and said that won't work. I do not trust anybody. Keeping a thousand goats is much easier than this cow. After his friends beg him somehow, he entered into the field for playing. After the game ended with the champions of his teams, Tushe remembered the cow. "Where is it?" he asked himself. It must have entered into someone's farm. This brought conflict again for Tushe with his father. Below is an extract which clearly elaborates this fact.

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"His bold headed, muscular father chased him. "Stop! I say stop! You bastard!" yelled his father. If he says bastard, that means he hits the ceiling and the only thing that would calm down would be beating the victim severely. So Tushe ran even faster" (20)

As the incident above shows, Tushe's father ordered him to take the cow across the river for grazing; however, Tushe did not respect his father's order. Besides, his father ordered him not to take the cow near to the football pitch. But ignoring all of his father's orders because of his passion or love of football playing and his friends motivation, Tushe took the cow near to the football field and began playing by leaving the cow in the field. After all, the cow entered to the cornfield found nearer to the field. This brought danger to Tushe since his father came and chased him. We can also take this as the complication or rising part of the plot of the novel since it is the reason for Tushe to leave his families and the cow because of his passion to football in which his father badly needs to look after the cow and to learn only. All in all, the struggle is between the major character Tushe and his father Halala which is a man vs. man conflict.

Moreover, one day Tushe went downtown area of Selamber town. In that place, things became quite different for Tushe. After he has reached there, he stood at certain place. In the place in which he stood, there were four boys sitting and playing each other. Then they Tushe stood at a distance staring at them. Among the four boys, the biggest boy ordered the others saying one of you go and find out who he is. The little one came near to Tushe and tried to check who he is. This creates conflict between the major characters Tushe with the little boy. The following extract supports this idea. "How dare you to speak to me like that, you fool!" said the messenger boy throwing the first punch. He got the stranger on the left check and the two boys began fighting. They punched, kicked and pushed each other. Then they rolled over the ground, each of them sitting on top of the other turn by turn." (34)

From this extract, we can understand that there was a great conflict between Tushe and the little boy. As it is indicated in the extract, Tushe did not say or uttered any bad word on these four boys; but they sent a little boy to insult him and to create conflict with him. This was done when the little boy came to Tushe and threw the first punch on him. As a result of this, Tushe fight with the boy to save his life so that this is too an external conflict of man to man or Tushe with the little boy.

The conflict between Tushe and the robbers who robbed the shop led to bitter situations. Tushe landed in an unknown and dangerous place called Selamber town. He sat under a fig tree with his friend Buye and thought about his troubles. Buye suggested they go to the Kucha Gold and Silver shop corridor to save their lives, but the robbers arrived and killed the guard. Tushe shouted for help, which led to a conflict with the robbers.

"The big robber, who slit the throat of the old man, yelled at the startled man, "Get them and kill them too!" As if awoken from sleep, the three men began running after the kids. The two boys ran fast, but the robbers were catching them up from behind."(51)

In the above passage, we see that the main characters, Tushe and his friend Buye, were in a struggle with some robbers. The robbers had just killed the shop guard and were now after Tushe and Buye. To save themselves, the two boys started running away. This conflict shows how the story moves forward and where it is heading. After the initial phase of the story, where there was no conflict, the story suddenly becomes intense when the two kids get into trouble with the robbers. This is the turning point of the plot, also known as the climax. In short, this passage highlights the importance of conflict in driving the story forward.

Conflict between characters and natural phenomena is known as Character Vs Nature Conflict. This is an external conflict as the character struggles with an outside force that is a natural occurrence. In the novel "One Night in the Street," the author portrays the character Tushe in a struggle against natural happenings or the circumstances of nature. After Tushe is abandoned by his family due to his

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father, he is left without shelter and encounters a miserable life. If it were not for his mother and little sister, he would have been very lonely. At times, he dreams of a place where he can live without fear of his father, and he believes that the forest is a better place than home. Once, while sitting in a foggy place outside, he entered into deep thought. This is because the weather was extremely cold, and he was unable to withstand the coldness and became fatigued. The following excerpt provides more detail on this.

“The cold wind was blowing hard. The silence of the night was now and then broken by the whistling sound the wind makes when it passed through the branches and leaves of the tree. Sometimes they heard the sound of cars crossing the town to travel to distant cities. It was so cold that Tushe began shivering as if he suffered from malaria.”(2013)

The above passage highlights Tushe's struggle with natural occurrences, namely the cold. Tushe and his friend were outside on a cold night, enduring the harsh cold wind blowing against them. Despite their discomfort, Tushe gradually began to conquer his fear of the cold, indicating his conflict with it as a natural occurrence. In simpler terms, Tushe had previously not experienced the cold as a challenge, as he had always been with his family.

In literary analysis, scholars often view the conflict between the protagonist and society as a social conflict. This is because the character is in conflict with the values, cultures, beliefs, and norms of the society they live in. This kind of conflict is present in the novel "One Night in the Street". After the robbers murdered a guard, Tushe wanted to report the crime to the police. However, he was afraid to go to the police station in fear of being seen by the robbers or other members of society. Tushe had to disguise himself to avoid being recognized and little Hoche advised him to do so until he reached the police station. The following extract vividly describes this situation.

“Why do not you disguise yourself?”Suggested Little Hoche. “Disguise?” asked Tushe.And Little Hoche nodded her head. “How?”She thought for a moment and said, “By dressing like a girl.” “By dressing like a girl, I do not think I can do that.” “Why?” “I do not want to be a girl? What I mean is just dressing like a girl until you reach the police station and report the case.”(70-72)

The above extract highlights the main character Tushe's conflict with society. In their culture, it is not acceptable for males to dress like girls. However, Little Hoche advised Tushe to dress like a girl in order to report the crime committed by robbers to the police. Tushe was afraid to go to the police station because he feared being judged by society. This conflict between Tushe and society is evident in the story.

The major character Tushe faces various external forces that result in external conflicts in the novel. The writer employs external conflicts such as man vs man, man vs nature, and man vs society. This means that Tushe struggles with his father, young boys, and robbers, all of which are physical conflicts. Tushe also struggles with coldness and darkness, which represent circumstance conflicts. Lastly, Tushe faces a social conflict which arises from his conflict with society's culture. The above extract highlights the main character Tushe's conflict with society. In their culture, it is not acceptable for males to dress like girls. However, Little Hoche advised Tushe to dress like a girl in order to report the crime committed by robbers to the police. Tushe was afraid to go to the police station because he feared being judged by society. This conflict between Tushe and society is evident in the story.

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### Conclusion

In this study, the focus was to analysis the collision of conflict as depicted in the novel "One Night in the Street". The novel portrays a wide range of conflicts, both internal and external. The protagonist, Tushe, struggles with his thoughts, representing internal conflict. Meanwhile, external conflicts such as character with character, character with nature, and character with society, make the novel more interesting. Tushe's physical conflicts with his father, a little boy, and robbers; conflicts with natural happenings like cold and night; and conflicts with the societal culture, all contribute to the portrayal of social conflict. Overall, the novel "One Night in the Street" effectively depicts both internal and external conflicts, with a particular emphasis on character with character conflict.

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