

**ABEL'S STRUGGLE TO GET BETTER LIFE IN AMERICA IN JEFFREY  
ARCHER'S *KANE AND ABEL***

**THESIS**

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
*Sarjana* Degree at English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
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Declares that the thesis I wrote to fulfill the requirement for the Sarjana Degree (S1) in English Departement, faculty of Arts and Humanities, State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya entitled "Abel's Struggle to Get Better Life in America in Jeffrey Archer's *Kane and Abel*" is truly my original work. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person except those indicated in quotations and bibliography. Due to this fact, I am the only person responsible for the thesis if there is any objection or claim from others.

Surabaya, 25 January 2019

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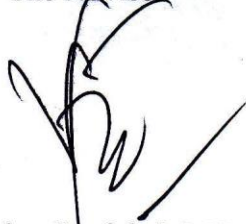
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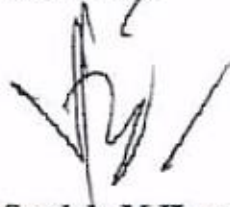
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Literature is the process to make something interesting for the reader. Roberts and Henry said that “literature refers to composition that tell stories, dramatize situation, express emotion, an analyze and advocate ideas” (1). It means that literature is medium of expressing ideas because it comes of imagination from author’s mind.

In general, the literary work was neither a vehicle for ideas, a reflection of social reality nor the incarnation of some transcendental truth. It was made of words, not of objects or feelings, and it was a mistake to see it as the expression of an author's mind (Eagleton 4). Literary work itself can be divided into three kinds, they are: poetry which expresses a conversation the most deeply felt experiences of human beings, drama which designed to be performed by actors, and prose an ordinary form of written language (Robert and Henry 2).

Novel is one of prose fiction. According to Julien Bonn, novel is a long fictional narrative written in prose which developed from the novella. A novel is usually consist of plot or theme which focus on action and character development. An action is the events of the novel that can be found in

everyday life, such as the ambition, journey, sadness, happiness, and others.

The novel consists of intrinsic and extrinsic elements (122).

In this research, the writer focused on plot which describes the chronological events that happen in the novel. According to Abrams "The plot in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions". It means that plot is the structure of chronological events in a story arranged as a sequence of parts in a whole fiction. The plot is a combination of elements that build a story, so it becomes the main framework of the story. Such as the chronological events of someone's journey (224).

Such kind of the topic about people's journey can be found in literary works. There are many literary works such as novel, drama, poem, and others. One of the literary works that contains this topic is *Kane and Abel* novel. *Kane and Abel* is a British novel written by Jeffrey Archer in 1979. The novel was released in the United Kingdom in 1979 and in the United States in February 1980. The book was successful and reached No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller.

The book tells about a man's struggle to survive his life by moving from one place to another place to get a better life. He is a Pole who was born in a situation of great poverty and migrated to the United States in order to get a better life. The journey began when his homeland was attacked and captured by Russian soldiers and he was herded to Russia. Then he moved to Siberia where he managed to escape to Turkey after facing many hardships. Luckily

he was rescued by two British diplomats and transfer him to the Polish consulate. Abel was advised by polish consulate to start a new life in England or America. Then he decided to move to America with a hope for the future and a chance to return to Poland in triumph. In America, Abel was invited by his friend to stay at Plaza Hotel in New York. He began his struggle by finding work in a butcher's shop. Then he moves out from that shop and starts working in Plaza Hotel as a waiter. He enrolled for a night course in English at Columbia University. While Abel is working in Plaza Hotel, Davis Leroy, owner of the Richmond group of hotels, is impressed by his work. During the Great Depression the hotel needs a backer, David gives the Richmond Group to Abel because he was trusted Abel. Abel becomes a succesfull banker.

In this research, the writer intends to know Abel's struggle to survive for his life. Because in life, people need to struggle to get a better life. As like Abel's movement and the caused of his movement from one place to another place and leaving his homeland, how Abel's struggle to get better life by living in a new place in America, and try to compete again their homeland, and how the impact of Abel's movement and his effort to reclaim their territory.

## **B. Statement of Problems**

1. How is the chronology of Abel's journey?
2. How does Abel struggle to a find better life in America?
3. How does the impact of Abel's struggle toward his life?

### C. Objective of the Study

The writer conducts this study with two purposes:

1. To describe the chronology of Abel's journey.
2. To describe about Abel struggle to find a better life in America.
3. To reveal the impact of Abel's struggle toward his life.

### D. Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to serve theoretical and practical purposes. Theoretically, for the literary students, this research gives a contribution in literature subject, and it can be a reference or a comparable study in field of new criticism theory. This study expect the readers to take some informations, including the novel to analyze with the theory which needed from this study. So this study will be useful to the readers.

Practically, the common readers are expected to struggle if they want to get what they want, because every people in this world definitely want to get a better life. This research can teach how person' struggle in fighting for his life to get a better life.

### E. Scope and Limitation

In conducting this study, the writer focused on Abel' struggle in *Kane and Abel* novel to get better life. This research also focused on Abel's movement by moving from one place to another place.

## F. Method of the Study

The method of study discusses how the data are collected and analyzed. It is divided into four sub-chapters, consists of research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

### 1. Research Design

The method used is using a qualitative approach research, the type is descriptive method, so the data are collected from words to words, paragraph to paragraph and sentence to sentence, to get the conclusion. The research contains quotations and focuses on the intrinsic element.

### 2. Data Source

The writer takes the main source of this study is Jeffrey Archer's novel *Kane and Abel*. The data in form of any quotes that reflect to the struggle of Abel and the impact toward his life. The secondary data source are books, eBook, journal, and article.

### 3. Data Collection

The data are the most important in research, so data must be collected effectively and carefully, the steps of data collecting are as follows:

1. Reading the novel many times to get best understanding about the novel.

2. Finding and selecting the data based on the statement of problems that are the chronology of Abel's journey, plot that explain about Abel' struggle to get a better life, and the impact of the struggle toward his life.

3. Classifying the data by writing them based on the sequences of Abel' struggle which impact to his life.

#### 4. Data Analysis

The data which have been collected are analyzed using new criticism theory which focused on plot that describe the chronology of Abel's journey. The analysis steps are:

1. Describing the chronology of Abel's journey from Poland to America in the novel *Kane and Abel*.
2. Describing about Abel' struggle to find a better life in America.
3. Revealing the impact of Abel' struggle toward his life.
4. Giving the best conclusion based on the analysis.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter discusses about the theoretical explanation about the related materials and concepts which is suitable with the chosen literary work. The main theory in this research is new criticism theory which focused on plot to describe the chronological events in the novel.

##### 2.1.1 New Criticism

The New Criticism is an America and Trans-Atlantic movement of literary criticism existed roughly between 1920s and 1960s with tremendous success. Its followers were emphatic in their advocacy of close reading and attention to texts themselves, and their rejection of criticism based on extra-textual sources (Jancovich 11).

New Criticism is quite well connected with the term “close reading”, which means the careful analysis of a text with paying attention to its structure, syntax, figure of speech, and so on. In this way, a new critic tries to examine the formal elements of the text (Tyson 119).



Tyson said that “new criticism focused on attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it” (136). It means that the literary work such as novel, poem, prose, and drama are text that can be interpreted the formal elements like the image, the metaphor, symbols, point of view, background, plot, and characterization using new criticism theory. New Critics argued that literary critic gives information that can be used to analyze the text itself. Readers can analyze the expression and textual meaning based on the text (Tyson 137).

The interpretation of a text shows the aspects that serve to support the structure of meaning within the text. New Critics claimed that the text itself is the only source or evidence that a critic should focus on. New Critics are primarily concerned with the language (verbal meaning) and the organisation (overall structure) of a text. It examines the relationships between a text's ideas and its forms, between what a text says and the way it says, also resolve into unity and coherence of meaning (Biddle 100).

Within this study, the writer analyzing the intrinsic elements of novel Kane and Abel which focused on plot that describing the chronological events based on the novel.

#### **2.1.1.1 Plot**

The plot in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects. This description is simple, because the actions are performed by particular characters in a work, and means by which they exhibit their moral and dispositional qualities (Abrams 224).

According to Foster “A plot is also a narrative of events, the emphasis falling on causality. The king died, and then the queen died of grief is a plot. The time-sequence is preserved, but the sense of causality overshadows it” (61).

Abrams said that A plot is commonly said to have unity of action if it is apprehended by the reader or auditor as a complete and ordered structure of actions, directed toward the intended effect, in which none of the prominent component parts, or incidents (226). There are a great variety of plot forms. For example, some plots are designed to achieve tragic effects, and others to achieve the effects of comedy, romance, satire, or of some other *genre*. As a plot fosters its expectations in the audience or reader about the future course of events and actions and how characters will respond to them. A lack of certainty, on the part of a concerned reader, about what is going to happen (Abrams 225).

Talking about plot means talk about the actions or events that are usually resolved at the end of a story. The plot maybe a struggle between

opposing forces, love and many others and it is usually resolved by the end of the story. There are five essential parts of plot:

#### 1. Exposition

It provides the introduction of the story to make reader feel that the story make sense of the action. It describes the details of the story, such as theme, setting, characters, and other introduction to the story (Spiro, Bruce, & Brewer 233).

#### 2. Complication

It describes the conflict in a story which lead to a crisis or moment of great tension. The story is pushed along by a series of event and conflict or problem that arise. This complication will involve the main character and serves to something unexpected characters to reach their goal. In other words, complication is where the problem arises in the story (Diyanni 45).

#### 3. Climax

Climax is the conflict of the story turns serious. In climax, the point of greatest suspense and the conflict is resolved. Climax can be said as an event which conflict is on the highest point. It is a turning point which the rising action turns around into a falling action (Huck, Kieter 16).

#### 4. Falling Action

It occurs after the climax of the story when the main problem of the story is resolved. It shows the effect of the climax and what happen to the characters (Diyanni 45).

## 5. Resolution

After the conflict is shown up, the problems are resolved. Resolution is a solution for conflict of the problems and the ending of the story that could be called happy ending or sad ending (Diyanni 45).

### 2.1.1.2 Plot Structure

A structure of a story can be correlate to the plot. Plot structure is the design of the completed action. Examining plot elements focus on the causality, how an action leads into action. On the other hand, examining structure concerns with patterns, for the shape that the story as a whole possesses. It directs reader to the rest of the story.

Diyanni asserted that plot structure is important in a story since it satisfies the need of order, for arrangement and for proportion. A story's balance will please the reader or the one who enjoy movie, as may its alternation of moments of relaxation and tension. In addition, structure provides a clue to the meaning of the story by paying attention to repeated elements and recurrent details of the scene. This repetition shows the important connections in the story, relationship among characters, and connection between ideas (45).

Russel explained that there are five kinds of plot structure. Those are progressive plot, episodic plot, parallel plot, flashback plot, and concentric circles plot (43)

### 1. Progressive Plot

This kind of plot shows a chronological structure which first establishes the setting and the conflict of the story, the follow the rising actions through to a climax or conflict of the story, then concludes by the resolution.

### 2. Episodic Plot

This plot structure is made up of a series of stories which is linked together by the same character, place, or theme but separated by their individual plot and purpose. The events or stories could be shuffled around and arranged in different order since there is no overall beginning, middle, and end to the story as the whole. In some cases, there could be time passing throughout the scene, as though the character growing through each chapter of a story. Episodic plot structure can be plot driven, which has at least one character showing up in every episode and use it as the driving force in each story, or character driven, which has the same character, place, or theme in each scene of the story, but the driving force will be the events within each.

### 3. Parallel Plot

In this plot, the writer arrange two or more dramatic plots that are connected by a common character and the similar theme. Each main character has a separated but linked story line, but they merge in the end. In this plot, the characters might start out together and separate to follow their parts, or they may not link until the end. Since the stories are related, the climax occurs when the two or more characters come together at the end of the story. This kind of plot structure could have more than two main characters. When each main character is presented, the writer or director returns to the first main characater and repeats the cycle of the story line.

#### 4. Flashback Plot

It is also known as flash forward plot structure. It conveys information about the story or event that comes earlier. It allows the author to start the story in the middle of the action but later explained in the background to make a full understanding of the present events. Furthermore, this plot structure can happen more than once and in different parts of the story. it do not have to be in any specific order, it could be used to develop the tension and the events of the story. it makes the story to be more interesting and entertaining even it is a little bit complicated plot than others since people should pay more attention to understand the story.

#### 5. Concentric Circles

It often foccus on a character and their perceptions of the world. It does not follow a traditional linear path which foccus on some elements of the story.

### 2.1.1.3 Conflict

Kellet noted that conflict is one of the important elements in a story. A good conflict in a movie represents the interaction and communication between people who are concerned. It means that main character conflicts is the conflict which is faced by the main character (3).

Jacobs and Robert identified that the conflict occur between two or more characters in a story. Conflict may be in shape of envy, hatred, anger, argument, avoidance, gossip, lies, fighting, and many others. Furthermore, conflict also could be in abstract form, such as when a character opposes larger forces like natural objects, ideas, behaviour, and public opinion. A conflict could be brought out in form of ideas and thoughts that may clash. In short, conflict could be presented in many ways (89).

Boyd recognised that conflict is defined as a battle between opposing forces and the problems are raised. Basically, conflict is the important factor in arranging the plot. Evolving the plot will be affected by the content of the conflict and the way it is shown. An author constructs the reader attention by introducing the conflicts in a story. It could be





## 2.2 Review of Related Study

There are two preview studies related to this study. The first is thesis from Irma Yuliana student of Alaudin State Islamic University which entitled *The Analysis of Plot of Murder Revelation in Sandra Brown novel Low Pressure*. The thesis focus on describing the murder revealed in plot of Sandra Brown's novel *Low Pressure*. The study uses descriptive method which describes five elements of plot according to Gustav Freytag theory. While this research use Kane and Abel novel as the object and focused on the chronology of Abel's journey.

The second is thesis from Elisabeth Inatyas S.W student of Sanata Dharma University which entitled *A Study of Character and Plot to Convey the Theme as Seen in Amy Tan's The Kitchen God's Wife*. The thesis focus on describing Winnie's past life and how she can survive to continue her miserable life. The study has three objectives, first is to find out the description of the character, the second is to know how plot described in the story, and the third is to know the contribution of character and plot to convey the theme of the story. While this research describe the chronological events based on the novel.

## CHAPTER III

### ABEL'S JOURNEY TO GET A BETTER LIFE IN AMERICA

This chapter contains the answer to the problems stated in the first chapter. This chapter divides the discussion into three subchapters. This first subchapter discusses Abel's journey to escape colonialism in his country. The second subchapter describes Abel's struggle to get the better life in America. The last subchapter explains the impact of Abel's struggle. In the analysis process, the researcher uses diaspora theory focusing on Abel's journey and his journey to get a better life.

#### 3.1 The Chronology of Abel's Journey

Novel *Kane and Abel* tell about a Pole man who was born in a situation of great poverty and eventually migrated to the United States to look for a better life. Wladek as his first name raised by a trapper family. He grows up and is found to have exceptional intelligence. Baron Rosnovski asks him to become a companion to his son Leon, and he agrees to go to Baron's castle on the condition that he can bring along his elder sister Florentyna. He starts his new life in the castle.





He split the remaining twenty-four servants into three groups of eight, trying to keep families together wherever possible. He moved them regularly in a shift system, the first eight hours in the upper dungeons for light, air, food and exercise; the second and most popular shift of eight hours working in the castle for their captors; and the final eight hours given to sleep in one of the lower dungeons. (Archer 61)

Abel and the servants divided tasks to guard the dungeon from attacks outside. They have to work together to survive their lives, even though they don't know how long they will live in the dungeon.

After getting the pressure on the World War I which Germany attacked Poland that makes him lose his beloved person, his father Baron, his brother Leon, also his sister Florentyna, Abel assures that he will survive. "I will live, you will not kill me," he said in Polish. "This is my home, and you are on my land!" (Archer 83).

Abel makes sure that he will survive himself from the pressure and he convinced himself that he still had power over his homeland. But Abel instead got the opposite treatment. The guards guide him and all the servants moved to railway station.

Abel thought that he might escape from that place by train. He began his journey by joining together with a crowded train, so that they will not recognize Abel. He continued his journey even though he was not sure that this would succeed, remembering that there were many soldiers still firing the bullet.











United States, described by Pawel Zaleski as the 'New World. The very name inspired Wladek with a hope for the future and a chance to return to Poland in triumph" (Archer 178). Wladek Koskiewicz finally left Constantinople and boarded the S.S. Black Arrow, bound for Ellis Island, New York.

### **3.1.5 Journey to America**

On Abel's way to America, he met Jerzy, a friend from Warsaw. They spent the time before the ship sailed telling each other of their experiences. "I'm going to make a fortune in America" (Archer 179). Abel tells Jerzy his ambition that he will seek a better life in America after they tell their stories. Abel was confident about his ambition, even though he did not know what America was like. He would only rely on his luck.

Abel also met Zaphia, a Polish girl. It was the first time in his life that Abel had ever looked at a woman twice after his sister Florentyna. He could not stop looking at Zaphia. They paid attention to each other and spent a night together. Abel guided her between Brooklyn and Staten Island into New York Harbour.

Abel anchored on Ellis Island, New York harbor. Abel and Jerzy went to Public Examination room to be questioned about their identity. Jerzy decided to change his name. "I'll start by making my name



half day week. “The butcher had no solution to offer” (Archer 206). Abel thinks that the salary is not enough to support himself in a new place America which is a country with high living salary.

The shop was in the heart of an almost self-sufficient little Polish community on the Lower East Side. Abel felt uncomfortable living there which the people did not try to adapt and learn English. So, he takes courses to adapt to his new life, and he dares to leave the Butcher’s shop to look for high salary after he is fluent in English.

### **3.2.2 Taking Course at Columbia University**

Abel enrolled for a night course in English at Columbia University. Abel's instructor at Columbia was so impressed by his diligent progress in English that he advised Abel to enroll in a further night course, which was to be his first step towards a Bachelor of Arts degree. He switched his spare-time reading from English to economics and started copying out the editorials in the Wall Street journal instead of those in the New York Times. “He studied the New York Times while the other waiters flipped through the Mirror, and he read the Wall Street Journal in his hour's break while they dozed.” (Archer 207). After graduating from Columbia, he decided that he wanted to be a head waiter.

### **3.2.3 Working at Plaza Hotel**

















Abel returned to Chicago after a few months in New York to monitor other hotels. He decided to build a Baron Hotel in the remaining of burnt Richmond place to commemorate David Leroy's relics after he got the profit from several of his other hotels.

“It took Abel twelve months to build the new Baron with a large helping hand from Alderman Henry Osborne, who hurried through the permits required from City Hall in the shortest possible time” (Archer 341)

Hotel Baron is considered an excellent success after he experienced various downturns, such as when he lost his good friend David Leroy who was his encouragement and the figure behind his success, as well as the burning of the Richmond hotel he received from Leroy, and his business looking for buyers to maintain their hotels so they were not auctioned by bankers on the open market. This achievement is the highest point in his life.

“This hotel already bears the hallmark of success,' said J. Hamilton Lewis, the senior senator from Illinois, 'because, my friends, it is the man, not the building, who will always be known as "The Chicago Baron".' Abel beamed with undisguised pleasure as the two thousand Guests roared their approval.” (Archer 342)

The Baron group is getting richer after he managed to return all loans to his backer. Abel not only paid off the loan but he also received profit that exceeded his target. Abel also opened two new Baron in Washington and San Fransisco.

### 3.2.6 Abel tried to free Poland from Russia















## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

This chapter explains the conclusions of the discussion in the third chapter. This study uses diaspora theory to analyze Abel's struggle to find his better life in America in *Kane and Abel* novel by Jeffrey Archer.

The first problem is about Abel's journey to escape colonialism in his country and describes Abel's movement to America. The caused of Abel's movement was World War I that happened in Poland as Abel's homeland. Abel started his journey to Moscow after he escaped from the prisoner train belonging to German soldiers. Then, he moved to Odessa after he was saved by the middle-aged lady when the ticket collector was asking Abel's ticket. Abel's next journey was Turkey. He believed that he would get freedom there. He almost lost his hand because the law of stealing in Turkey would be cut off the hand. He has been saved by police and brought into British diplomat. He was advised by Polish consul to go to America to get a better life. In the result, Abel went to America with hoping that he would get luck and find his better life.

The second problem is about Abel's struggle to find a better life in America. He began his first life in America and life in Plaza Hotel, he starting to work in

Butcher's shop and took a night course at Columbia University. He then moved to work in the Plaza hotel to seek higher salaries. Abel was invited to join Richmond group in Chicago as an assistant manager. He started his struggle by managing Richmond hotel after the owner gives responsibility to him. The problem came when the hotel experienced a shortage of visitors, so he needed a buyer to maintain his hotel and a banker who wanted to auction off his hotel to open market if he did not find a buyer. Then he met Curtis Fenton who helped finance Richmond hotel and built a new hotel named Baron. He succeed with his new hotel until he can build a branch of Baron hotel throughout the world. After he was getting success on his business, he went to Poland to visit his homeland with his daughter Florentyna.

The third problem is about the impact of Abel's struggle in his life. After Abel getting success in his career, he had a good and bad impact toward his life. First, he was lost his daughter Florentyna after knowing that she wants to marry a son of someone he hates, he disagrees with Florentyna's decision, but she decides to spent her life with a person she loved. The good impact was Abel becoming apillar of the Polish community in New York.

The result of the research is Abel had success to find his better life after experiencing a very long struggle, from Poland to America. He got his success in Chicago by building Baron Hotel until he has many branches of the hotel. He wanted to go back to Poland after his success. Before he could return to Poland,





