

DOMESTIC LIFE CONFLICT IN THE *REVOLUTIONARY*

***ROAD* BY RICHARD YATES**

THESIS



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A**

By:

SELFI LAILA RAHMAWATI

REG. NUMBER: A73217087

ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL

SURABAYA

2023

DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : Selfi Laila Rahmawati

NIM : A73217087

Department : English Literature

Faculty : Adab and Humanities

University : UIN Sunan Ampel

declare that the thesis entitled:

Domestic Life Conflict in the *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates

is my own work, and not a plagiarism/fabrication in part or in whole.

If in the future it is proven that this thesis results from plagiarism/fabrication, either in part or whole, then I am willing to accept sanctions for such actions in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Surabaya, June 11th, 2023

Who makes the statement



Selfi Laila Rahmawati

Reg. Number. A73217087

APPROVAL SHEET

DOMESTIC LIFE CONFLICT IN THE *REVOLUTIONARY ROAD* BY
RICHARD YATES

by
Selfi Laila Rahmawati
Reg. Number A7317087

approved to be examined by the board of examiners of English Literature
Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, June 11th, 2023

Advisor 1



Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M. Hum.
NIP/NUP. 197002051999032002

Acknowledged by
The Head of the English Literature Department



Endratno Pili Swasono, M.Pd.
NIP/NUP. 197106082003121001

EXAMINER SHEET

This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of Selfi Laila Rahmawati (Reg. Number A73217087) entitled *Domestic Life Conflict in the Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates* has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Surabaya, July 3rd 2023.

Board of Examiners:

Examiner 1



Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum.
NIP./NUP. 197002051999032002

Examiner 2



Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S., M.Pd.
NIP./NUP. 196906152007011051

Examiner 3



Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.
NIP./NUP. 201603318

Examiner 4



Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.
NIP./NUP. 199203062020122019

Acknowledged by:
The Dean of Faculty of Adab and Humanities
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Dr. H. Mohammad Kurjum, M.Ag.
NIP. 196909251994031002



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
SURABAYA

KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
PERPUSTAKAAN

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300
E-Mail: perpus@uinsby.ac.id

LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Sebagai sivitas akademika UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Seifi Laila Rahmawati
NIM : A73217087
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab dan humaniora / Sastra Inggris
E-mail address : XOSEIFILUV@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah :

Sekripsi Tesis Desertasi Lain-lain (.....)

yang berjudul :

Domestic Life Conflict in the Revolutionary Road by
Richard Yates

beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya berhak menyimpan, mengalih-media/format-kan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan/mempublikasikannya di Internet atau media lain secara *fulltext* untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

Saya bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah saya ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 3 Agustus 2023

Penulis

(Seifi Laila R.)
nama terang dan tanda tangan

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First, I thank Allah. With His permission, this thesis can be completed, following His word in surah Hud verse 88 which reads "*And my success is not but through Allah*". Also, I would like to thank my parents for being sincere and patient in facilitating all my study needs from start to finish. There is no shortage of educating and giving affection from when I was a child to adulthood.

Third, thanks to my advisor, Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum., who has provided input, suggestions, and conveniences that have led me to complete this thesis. And also an infinite thank you to all the lecturers who have imparted their knowledge to me from the first semester to the final semester. Hopefully, the knowledge that you provide can be a charity whose rewards will continue to flow.

I also don't forget to thank my friends during college: Tsania, Mia, Vita, Fitrari, and Ardha who have kind hearts so they want to be my friends and help with many things in study activities, and often allow me to take a break at the boarding house - their boarding house to rest while waiting for the change of class hours.

Fifth, thanks to my husband who always helps and motivates me to complete this study. Supporting me by providing good food while I was working on this thesis, taking turns taking care of Ihsan, and helping with household chores. And lastly, to my beloved son, Ihsan, thank you for being present in this

world to be an encouragement when I'm tired. It is because of you that I am trying to complete this thesis so that you are proud to have a mother like me.

Hopefully, the people who have helped, supported, and facilitated the completion of this thesis are always under the protection of Allah *subhanahu wa ta'ala*.

Surabaya, June 11th, 2023

Selfi Laila Rahmawati



ABSTRACT

Rahmawati, S. L. (2023). *Domestic Life Conflict in the Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum.

In this study, the researcher analyzed a novel entitled *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates. The researcher focused on the domestic life conflicts faced by a married couple, Frank and April. This research too analyzed how these conflicts led to serious problems in April until she experienced postpartum depression, which led to an abortion that resulted in her died.

This study used a qualitative method. This study used the theory of new criticism to help analyzed the intrinsic elements. Characterizations and conflicts exist in the novel that are experienced by the two main characters. The researcher also described the findings of domestic life conflict problems faced by Frank and April based on Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435), who conclude dissatisfied married couples confront several sorts of marital conflicts: aggressive husbands, lack of cooperation, lack of spending time together, in-laws issues, children issues, a decrease in effective communication, and financial problems.

The results of the study shows that several characterizations can trigger the domestic life conflict, there is negative character types. The researcher also founds that there are various types of domestic life conflict. This is based on research conducted by Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435). In the end, the researcher explained how the married couple, April and Frank, were able to resolve their domestic conflicts in their own way.

Keywords: conflict, marital conflict, depression

ABSTRAK

Rahmawati, S. L. (2023). *Konflik Rumah Tangga dalam Novel Revolutionary Road Karya Richard Yates*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum.

Pada penelitian ini, peneliti menganalisa sebuah novel yang berjudul *Revolutionary Road* karya Richard Yates. Peneliti berfokus pada konflik rumah tangga yang dihadapi oleh dua karakter utama yang merupakan pasangan suami istri yang bernama Frank dan April. Penelitian ini juga menganalisa bagaimana konflik-konflik itu memunculkan masalah serius pada April hingga mengalami depresi pasca melahirkan yang berujung pada aborsi yang mengakibatkan kematian pada dirinya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori kritik baru untuk membantu menganalisis unsur intrinsik. Peneliti juga memaparkan temuan masalah konflik kehidupan rumah tangga yang dihadapi oleh Frank dan April berdasarkan teori dari Dildar et al. (2013 hal. 1435), yang menyimpulkan penyebab pasangan suami istri tidak puas menghadapi beberapa jenis konflik rumah tangga: suami yang agresif, kurangnya kerjasama, kurangnya menghabiskan waktu bersama, masalah mertua, masalah anak, penurunan komunikasi yang efektif, dan masalah keuangan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa beberapa karakterisasi dapat memicu munculnya konflik rumah tangga, yaitu jenis karakter yang negatif. Peneliti juga menemukan bahwa tipe konflik rumah tangga jenisnya bermacam-macam. Hal itu berdasarkan pada penelitian yang dilakukan oleh Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435). Pada akhirnya, peneliti menerangkan bagaimana pasangan suami istri yaitu April dan Frank dapat menyelesaikan konflik rumah tangga mereka dengan cara mereka sendiri.

Kata Kunci: konflik, konflik pernikahan, depresi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside Cover Page.....	i
Inside Title Page.....	i
Approval Sheet.....	ii
Examiner Sheet.....	iii
Declaration.....	iv
Acknowledgment.....	v
Abstract.....	vii
Abstrak.....	viii
Table of Contents.....	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Problems of the Study.....	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.4 Significances of the Study.....	4
1.5 Scope and Delimitations.....	5
1.6 Definition of Key Terms.....	5
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	6
2.1 New Criticism.....	6
2.1.1 Character and Characterization.....	7
2.2 Conflict.....	8
2.2.1 Marital Conflicts.....	9
2.2.2 Types of Marital Conflicts.....	10
2.3 Psychology and Literature.....	13
2.4 Depression Symptoms.....	14
2.4.1 Post-Partum Depression.....	15
2.5 Previous Studies.....	18

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD.....	21
3.1 Research Design	21
3.2 Data Collection.....	21
3.3 Data Source.....	22
3.4 Data Analysis Technique	22
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION (ANALYSIS)	23
4.1 Character and Characterization	23
4.1.1 Frank Wheeler	23
4.1.2 April Wheeler.....	27
4.2 Domestic Life Conflict.....	38
4.2.1 Aggressive Husband	38
4.2.2 Financial Problems	39
4.2.3 Children’s Issues.....	39
4.2.4 Lack of spending time together	40
4.2.5 Decrease in Effective Communication.....	41
4.3 Frank and April Overcome Their Conflict Related to Their Ambitions	42
4.3.1 Frank Overcome Their Conflict.....	42
4.3.2 April Overcome Their Conflict.....	44
CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.....	46
5.1 Conclusions.....	46
5.2 Suggestions.....	47
REFERENCES	48
APPENDICES	50
CURRICULUM VITAE	51

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and delimitation, definition of key terms conducted in this study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Piper (2008, p. 20) says that marriage is similar to a fable or metaphor that represents more than just a man and a woman becoming one flesh. That means marriage is a way for two hearts to meet in the shade of social life that lasts for a long time, in which there are various rights and obligations that must be carried out by each partner. Marriage is rife with conflict. Murdiana & Agustiani (2015 p. 245) stated the distinction between husband and wife became evident as soon as they wedded. A variety of flaws, such as attitude, style of thinking, decision-making, motives, interests, and habits, may become more apparent. In fact, if these various deficiencies are not resolved immediately, it can sow the seeds of strife in a marriage.

Putri (2022, p. 1) explained that in literary work, conflict is common in short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. There will be no narrative if there is no conflict because conflict builds tension in the story. Anggraeni, Weda, and Iskandar (2022, p. 55) stated that conflict is one of the intrinsic elements that play an important role in the story because it makes the story exciting. In this case, the character plays an important role in supporting the existence of

conflict in the story. Conflicts are unavoidable and, in some ways, necessary for the smooth operation of this carriage of love and devotion. When these conflicts are managed incorrectly, they can result in unfulfilled aspirations, discontent, and psychological issues such as despair, rage, worry, and so on (Murdiana & Agustiani, 2015 p. 245). The key factor is to handle marital issues in such a way that life runs smoothly. Dildar, Sitwat & Yasin (2013, p. 1433) conclude that dissatisfied married couples confront several sorts of marital conflicts: aggressive husbands, lack of cooperation, lack of spending time together, in-laws issues, children issues, decrease in effective communication, and financial problems.

Many psychological problems occur to women after they marry and give birth. The most well-known of them is postpartum depression. According to Moslemi, Tabari, Montazeri, and Tadayon (2012, p. 2007), anxiety and depression during pregnancy have been introduced as an important risk factors for postpartum blues. It means that a mother should be in a good mental state when she is pregnant and after giving birth. McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 29) explained the Types of postpartum mood disorders. There are three subclasses of postpartum mood disorders: adjustment reaction with depressed mood, postpartum major mood episodes, and postpartum mood episodes with psychotic features. McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 31) stated that women with a personal or family history of Post Partum Depression (PPD), depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder are especially at risk of PPD. This includes: (a) stressful life problems (b) economic or

financial factors (c) stressful work or environmental factors (d) loss of a loved one (e) feeling the burden of caring for a newborn.

The researcher used a novel authored by Richard Yates in this investigation. Yates' novel, which takes place in the postwar years of the 1950s, was first published in 1961. A symptomatic reading of *Revolutionary Road* reveals that contemporary American culture engages in a twofold movement: it appeals to a fundamental, stable notion of the self while simultaneously instilling in individuals a sense of emptiness and incompleteness. The novel is an example of this condition, indicating the presence of an anxiety cause that has plagued Americans since World War II.

From the description above, the researcher wants to reveal aspects of domestic life conflict using qualitative descriptive methods, psychoanalytic approaches, and conflict theory by identifying characters and revealing the mental issue that engulfs the main characters and how they can solve the problems that occur. We can also see how the problem affects the mind and mental health (post-partum depression).

Furthermore, this novel has been extensively studied in recent years. They discussed *Women's Personal Autonomy* (Safitri, 2020), *An Analysis of Anger Expression* (Gesta, 2020), *Women's Right for Choice* (Ariyani, 2009), *The Empty Self* (Richardson, 2010), *A Feminine Woman* (DeBlock, 2014). However, most of the previous research in this field has concentrated on feminist theories. The researcher discovered no research focusing on the main

protagonists' personal life conflicts, Frank and April. The researcher seeks to highlight conflicts by conducting these issues, especially in a domestic life where the conflict will continue to emerge in every family problem. Therefore, this study entitled *Domestic Life Conflict in the Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates is chosen.

1.2 Problems of the Study

In line with the background above, the problems of study are formulated as follows:

1. How are April and Frank described in the novel?
2. How are their conflict portrayed in the novel?
3. How do April and Frank overcome their conflict?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the problems of the study above, this study aims to

1. To describe how April and Frank's described in the novel.
2. To describe how April and Frank's conflict is portrayed in the novel.
3. To describe how April and Frank overcome their conflict.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research can help readers in gaining a deeper understanding of character and characterization and conflicts by using new criticism. The researcher also uses psychoanalytic theory and other supporting theories that focus on identifying symptoms of postpartum depression.

1.5 Scope and Delimitations

The researcher focused and limited the scope of this analysis to the main characters. The main characters in this novel are Frank and April. The researcher focuses on aspects of household conflict, psychoanalysis, and characterization.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

Keyword 1 is Conflict.

According to Cuddon (2012, p. 152), a conflict is a circumstance that causes friction between two characters.

Keyword 2 is Depression

According to Kusumaningrum (2021 p. 18), depression is a common mental condition that manifests as low mood, lack of interest or pleasure, diminished energy, guilt or feelings of low self-worth, interrupted sleep or food, and difficulty concentrating.

Keyword 3 is Marital Conflict

Zaki, Abed, Wahab, and Shattla (2022 p. 37) conceptually described marital conflict as a natural and intrinsic phenomenon to marital interactions, resulting from various interests, opinions, and perspectives among couple members, as well as an overt resistance between spouses, which produces conflicts and relationship issues.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the review of literature containing some general topics and specific things underlying theories to support the analysis.

2.1 New Criticism

New criticism is the theory of literature that was first introduced at the beginning of the 20th century in America. New criticism emphasizes in-depth reading. New Criticism use literary works as source evidence to interpret the text itself. New criticism examines several intrinsic elements such as characters, characterization, plot, theme, and setting (Tyson, 2006, p. 136-137). The New Criticism held that the text's structure and meaning were closely related and should not be examined independently. They sought to eliminate the reader's reaction, the author's intention, historical and cultural settings, and moralistic prejudice from their study in order to refocus literary studies on the analysis of the texts.

Wellek and Warren (2011, p. 224) stated that analytical criticism of the novel has customarily distinguished three constituents, plot, characterization, and setting: the last, so readily symbolic, becomes, in some modern theories, "atmosphere" or "tone." This means that characterization plays an important role in the creation of a novel. Characters are actors in fiction. Characters in fiction are the creation of the author, although they can also be an illustration of people who live in reality. Therefore, a fictional character should be presented naturally. In this analysis, the researcher discusses more character and characterization.

2.1.1 Character and Characterization

Wellek and Warren (2011, p. 228) stated that there is obviously some kind of connection between characterization (literary method) and characterology (theories of character, personality types). That means that character and characterization are two things that are interrelated and cannot be separated that must exist in a drama. In general, a literary work has components such as character development to advance the plot. One of the most crucial components of a story is the character. Even if the story has a solid setting, structure, and theme, it will be ineffective if it lacks internal character. Events occurred in both fictional literary works and everyday life. They are always performed by certain people or personalities. In fiction, the character acts out events so that they can be intertwined in a plot.

As new criticism emphasizes literary analysis based on internal characteristics, this study focuses on the characterization of the main character to determine the issue captured in the text. Characterization in fiction and other literary works is critical to the development of the tale. The knowledge about the characters and their conduct with which the reader or audience sympathizes is included in characterization. Characterization, according to Holman (1992, p. 75), refers to the images of the characters. It indicates that characterization encompasses the reported behavior, thoughts, appearances, and personality, all of which influence the plot of the novel. Characterization determined how the characters represented a problem throughout the novel through their experiences and conduct. Moreover, Jones (1968, p. 84) defines characterization as "clear

images derived from characters who participated in the story through their action." Characterization is an essential component of literary works such as novels, short tales, and plays. Its function in literary writing is to imagine the characters in the tale. Characterization in a literary work can help readers identify with events in the story by explaining specifics and showcasing a character.

The characterization of characters in literary works has positive messages, both acting as protagonists and those who act as antagonists. Actions like this are a model or example for the reader to be able to take lessons or lessons from the novel, namely imitating characterizations and character traits that are positive and not imitating characterizations and character traits that are negative. Each character in the novel has a different characterization role.

2.2 Conflict

According to Cuddon (2012, p. 152), a conflict is a circumstance that causes friction between two characters. It means that conflict can be defined as any contradiction or conflicting interest between two people or groups. It expresses anger, negative attitudes, disagreement, aggression, competition, and misunderstanding. Conflicts, as we all know, have both positive and negative outcomes. As a result, they must be handled properly in order to defuse the situation.

2.2.1 Marital Conflicts

Zaki, Abed, Wahab, and Shattla (2022 p. 37) conceptually described marital conflict as a natural and intrinsic phenomenon to marital interactions, resulting from various interests, opinions, and perspectives among couple members, as well as an overt resistance between spouses, which produces conflicts and relationship issues. According to Fincham (2003, p. 23), marital disagreement can be about almost anything. Couples complain about a variety of reasons for conflict, including verbal and physical abuse, as well as personal qualities and conduct. Kader and Roman as cited in Zaki et al. (2022 p. 35), stated that not all families provide an environment conducive to healthy discovery, development, and growth because many families endure marital conflict.

Cummings and Davies (2022, p.31) said that there is ample evidence that marital disagreement affects a child's development. Numerous correlations, such as those that predict children's internalizing and externalizing disorders, have been proven time and time again. The increased likelihood of childhood problems linked to marital conflict has been successfully proven by a "first generation" of research, encompassing consequences on cognitive, social, academic, and even psychobiological functioning. Additionally, marital disagreement has a detrimental impact on how well parents and siblings get along.

According to Fincham (2003, p. 23-24), virtually anything can cause a disagreement in a marriage. Couples complain about a variety of issues, including personal traits and behaviors as well as verbal and physical abuse. Marriage conflict and a male tendency to withdraw in response to conflict are linked to

perceived imbalance in a couple's division of labor. Marriage discontent is very closely tied to power struggles. Divorce is predicted by spouses' claims of disagreements about extramarital sex, problematic drinking, or drug use, as well as by wives' accounts of jealousy and wasteful spending by their partners. Divorce risk rises as problem severity increases.

Couples in distress speak less positively and more negatively during arguments than couples who are not in distress. When their partner behaves adversely, they are likewise more inclined to react in a negative way. In fact, this so-called negative reciprocity is the most dependable overt indicator of marital misery since it is more consistent in a variety of contexts than the volume of bad behavior. Couples that engage in physical aggressiveness are more likely than other couples to exhibit negative conduct, and this behavior is also more likely to be retaliated upon. In contrast to verbal behavior, which can alter when partners try to pretend to be in happy or unhappy marriages, nonverbal behavior, which is frequently employed as an indication of emotion, more accurately represents marital pleasure.

2.2.2 Types of Marital Conflicts

Dildar, Sitwat & Yasin (2013, p. 1433) said marriage is a transitional point in one's life. Married couples enter this institution with the intention of starting a family, which necessitates a great deal of responsibility on the part of both husband and wife. Marriage not only fulfills numerous desires, but it also necessitates ongoing attention from both partners. Married couples go through

numerous ups and downs in their lives. There is no such thing as perfection in any aspect of life, including marriage.

Conflicts are unavoidable and, in some ways, necessary for the smooth operation of this carriage of love and devotion. When these conflicts are managed incorrectly, they can result in unfulfilled aspirations, discontent, and psychological issues such as despair, rage, worry, and so on. The key factor is to handle marital issues in such a way that life runs smoothly. Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435) conclude that dissatisfied married couples confront several sorts of marital conflicts: aggressive husband, lack of cooperation, lack of spending time together, in-laws issues, children issues, decrease in effective communication, and financial problems.

2.2.1.1 Aggressive Husband

Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435) concluded that men dominate violence against women. Men may intentionally or unknowingly try to influence their partners in such a way that their marriage suffers. Most husbands threaten their partners, hit things in anger, and blame their wives.

2.2.1.2 Conflict with in-laws

Dissatisfied wife reports conflict with in-laws. This shows that a girl has to face the main problem of adjustment in a different family where she is not easily accepted or she herself feels unable to adapt. In the end, the only source of catharsis that the wives see is their husbands who also advise them to ignore this

conflict so that there is no division between the families. (Dildar et al. 2013, p. 1435-1436)

2.2.1.3 Financial Problems

Dildar et al. (2013, p. 1436) stated dissatisfied married couples face financial problems because they have more economic responsibilities in the family.

2.2.1.4 Children's Issues

Very few married couples are dissatisfied with the problem of children because the majority of dissatisfied married couples do not have children. The husband doesn't care about their home and wife because they don't have children, so he doesn't feel he has to be responsible for that. (Dildar et al. 2013, p. 1436)

2.2.1.5 Lack of spending time together

Dildar et al. (2013, p. 1435) said dissatisfied wives complain about their husbands being busy or absent from home when they need him most. A husband gives most of his time to business and he has no time for his wife at home. All the time it is business and that is why a husband is often away from home and does not give his wife time which results in fights between them.

2.2.1.6 Decrease in Effective Communication

Some wives report a decrease in effective communication because their husband is not talking to them and she is busy with their business. Husbands often talk to their wives about business and work. For him, business is more important than anything. (Dildar et al. 2013, p. 1436)

2.3 Psychology and Literature

In reality, psychology and literature are closely related. The scientific study of behavior and mental processes is referred to as psychology. In the analysis of literary works, psychology plays a significant role. Each field places the individual at the center of their research and analyses (Aras, 2015 p. 252). Therefore, human behavior, thoughts and expressions in literature are all related to psychology. Consequently, the link between literature and psychology is that psychology can be better understood through literature, and vice versa. For a greater understanding of the literature, many previous studies have discussed various psychological approaches.

According to Wellek and Warren (2011, p. 75), the study of the writer as a type and as an individual, the study of the writing process, the study of the psychological types and laws that exist in literary works, the study of the effects of literature on readers (audience psychology), or any combination of these is referred to as the "psychology of literature". Kusumaningrum (2021 p. 17-18) says there are connections between psychology and literature as well. In order to comprehend the relationship between literature and psychology,

there are a number of categories of literary psychology, including (1) the psychology of the writer, (2) the psychology of the creative process, (3) the study of behavior, and (4) the responses to literature.

2.4 Depression Symptoms

According to Kusumaningrum (2021 p. 18), Depression is a common mental condition that manifests as low mood, lack of interest or pleasure, diminished energy, guilt or feelings of low self-worth, interrupted sleep or food, and difficulty concentrating. It also depicts the variety of moods that people with low spirits can experience, which can interfere with their daily lives. Depression has an impact on how tough it is to cope.

Rosalina (2022 p. 12) stated that the psychoanalytical notion of melancholy is addressed in Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical approach to depression. The early 1900s publication of Freud's book *Mourning and Melancholia* gave rise to the idea of psychoanalytic melancholia. Based on Freud's psychoanalytic notion of melancholia, depression can be seen as a conscious or unconscious reaction to loss. It implies that the specific behaviors of those who are diagnosed as depressed are brought on by the sense of loss they have felt throughout their lives.

Primary depressive symptoms are a part of the Freudian theory of depression. The following symptoms of depression were listed by Armstrong (2016, p. 116): painful depressive condition, loss of interest, loss of the capacity

for love, performance inhibition and reduction in sense of self, self-destruction, and delusory expectation of penalties.

2.4.1 Post-Partum Depression

McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 29) say postpartum depression (PPD) is a serious perinatal complication and a common concern for many mothers.

According to Moslemi, Tabari, Montazeri, and Tadayon (2012, p. 2007), anxiety and depression during pregnancy have been introduced as an important risk factors for postpartum blues. It means that a mother should be in a good mental state when she is pregnant and after giving birth. In addition, mothers who experience depression are also associated with success or failure in terms of breastfeeding. As we know, breastfeeding is very important for babies. When the mother is depressed, there will be a decrease in interaction between mother and baby which can cause the mother to fail to interpret her baby's cues that want to suckle and can cause the baby to become fussy, withdrawn, or worse, he will have problems eating or sleeping.

This attachment problem can cause failure to thrive, increased risk of stunting, bad things due to lack of parental attention, unintentional trauma, and babies who get sick easily. McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 31) stated that the symptom the sign: Hopelessness, sadness, mood swings, irritability, anger, feelings of being overwhelmed, inability to concentrate or make decisions, disinterest in caring for the baby, and difficulty maintaining relationships. A depressed mother will have a negative impact on the

development of her baby and will also reduce the bond between the two. Babies who are raised in a depressed mother's condition will show low social interaction and their development will be slower than babies of their age. The likelihood of failing to treat maternal depression increases the longer the mother is left depressed. And that can lead to a lack of attachment problems between mother and baby over time.

Mothers who dissolve in depression will have an impact on a number of aspects of the baby's cognitive and social-emotional development. One is that some of the behaviors associated with language development (eg, reading, speaking, and infant body language) are slowed down by maternal depression. In addition, mothers who experience depression are also associated with success or failure in terms of breastfeeding. As we know, breastfeeding is very important for babies. When the mother is depressed, there will be a decrease in interaction between mother and baby which can cause the mother to fail to interpret her baby's cues that want to suckle and can cause the baby to become fussy, withdrawn, or worse, he will have problems eating or sleeping. This attachment problem can cause failure to thrive, increased risk of stunting, bad things due to lack of parental attention, unintentional trauma, and babies who get sick easily.

McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 29) explained the Types of postpartum mood disorders. There are three subclasses of postpartum mood disorders:

adjustment reaction with depressed mood, postpartum major mood episodes, and postpartum mood episodes with psychotic features.

Adjustment reactions with depressed mood are the mildest order of postpartum mood disorders. These temporary mood disturbances are commonly referred to as the "postpartum blues" or the "baby blues." These feelings usually appear and develop between two and four days after birth, and will resolve within 14 days. Mothers will usually feel tired, anxious, overwhelmed, sensitive, and irritable. These feelings do not require medical treatment. However, being able to improve by controlling your own feelings, family support, friend support, adequate rest, and eating healthy nutrition will usually allow the mother to recover quickly (McKelvey and Espelin, 2008, p. 29-30).

A major postpartum mood episode is also known as PPD. Mothers are most susceptible to PPD usually occurring at the age of four weeks after giving birth, just before the return of menstruation, and at the time of weaning the baby from breastfeeding (McKelvey and Espelin, 2008, p. 30).

Postpartum mood episodes with psychotic features are Commonly referred to as postpartum psychosis. It is the most serious postpartum mood disorder. Although this is rare, postpartum psychosis is a medical emergency with very dangerous risks: suicide and infanticide. This symptom has the following characteristics: insomnia, confusion, disorganized thinking, hallucinations, delusions, and psychomotor disturbances such as incoherent speech. This disorder appears in the first few days after giving birth. Mothers with postpartum psychosis require immediate referral for psychiatric care. If necessary, babies should be kept

out of reach of their mothers for safety reasons (McKelvey and Espelin, 2008, p. 30).

2.5 Previous Studies

The previous studies are important for conducting the research. The researcher needs to compare previous studies related to their issue or topic. It helps the researcher deliberate on their research topic and improve it. In this section, the researcher presents several related previous studies. Several studies use the same object which is *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates. However, they use different theories and choose different topics for their studies.

First, research was conducted by Laurens DeBlock from Ghent University, published in 2014. She conducted the study related to the title *Revolutionary Road* using different theories. Her research, entitled *"A Feminine Woman Never Laughs Out Loud," Gender Performativity and Misogyny in Richard Yates's Revolutionary Road and The Easter Parade* examines gender identity as a repetitive enactment of certain mannerisms and gestures, an enactment that empowers certain characters using feminist theory. This research explains how the gender hierarchy in postwar America suppressed the existence of women in all aspects of their lives. The author uses the theory of gender feminism. The results of this study are the image of women in Yates's novels is often silenced and completely oppressed. They are defined in male discourse, with definitions that end sadly.

Second, research was conducted by Chris Richardson from the University of Western Ontario, published in 2010, entitled *The Empty Self in Revolutionary Road or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blonde*. This study focuses on the theme of independence. This text shows how American culture has gone through a double movement since World War II, which instills a sense of emptiness and incompleteness in individuals and makes them feel dissatisfied with what they are doing.

Third, research was conducted by Windya Amalina Safitri from Universitas Negeri Surabaya, published in 2020, entitled *Women's Personal Autonomy in Richard Yates's Revolutionary Road*. This study analyzes April, the main female character in this novel, who fights for personal autonomy as her goal. In this study, The theoretical framework of feminism and personal autonomy is applied in this study. This study strengthens Betty Freidan and Dworkin's theory in describing women's autonomy and women's ability to achieve prosperity and play a role in household decision-making.

Fourth, research was conducted by Gesta Nurhasana from the English Literature Department Faculty of Humanities, Education, and Tourism University of Technology Yogyakarta, published in 2020, entitled *An Analysis of Anger Expression in Revolutionary Road Movie*. The aim of the study is to identify the most prevalent style of rage expression utilized by the movie's characters. The writer applies Mack Le Mouse's idea to describe how rage is expressed. The result of this research shows that there are 6 types of anger expressions in the

Revolutionary Road movie. There are (1) behavioral anger, (2) passive anger, (3) verbal anger, (4) retaliatory anger, (5) judgmental anger, and (6) deliberate anger.

Fifth, research was conducted by Dewi Ariyani from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, published in 2010, entitled *Women's Right for Choice of Career in Sam Mendes' Revolutionary Road (2009): A Feminist Perspective*. The study's main issue is the freedom of career choice for women in *Revolutionary Road* by Sam Mendes. The study's objectives are to analyze the movie using both feminist theory and its structural components. The study's findings support the following assertions. First, it is evident from the structural analysis of the film that the director wants women to have the freedom to pursue their dream careers. Second, it is clear from the feminist analysis that Mendes shows the social phenomenon in which women are constrained in the patriarchal culture in this film.

However, most of the previous research in this field has concentrated on feminist theories. The researcher discovered no research focusing on the main protagonists' personal life conflicts, Frank and April. The researcher seeks to highlight conflicts by conducting these issues, especially in a domestic life where the conflict will continue to emerge in every family problem.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the methods used in this study: research design, data collection, data source, and data analysis technique. Each point is presented as follows:

3.1 Research Design

This research uses qualitative design as a method to analyze the data. The researcher uses the New Criticism theory to describe the characters and characterizations. The researcher also uses the Psychoanalysis theory for explaining the events.

3.2 Data Collection

In collecting data for analysis, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method, which used the following steps:

1. Researcher must read the novel and make the data table to get a better understanding of every event that exists in the novel.
2. Researcher also read synopsis, summaries, or analyses available on the internet or other sources to provide an additional stronger understanding of the content in the novel.
3. Because this novel has been filmed, the researcher also watched the film to provide additional knowledge in understanding the contents of the novel.
4. Then, the researcher collects quotations related to the theory that the author uses, there are new criticism and psychoanalysis, and some events that are related to what the researcher analyzes.

5. The last, researcher classifies data based on problem statements with related theories.

3.3 Data Source

The data of this study are two types, main and additional data. The main data is the novel entitled *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates, published in the 3rd edition which is published in 2008. The novel contains 355 pages and consists of nine chapters. The additional data are from the thesis, articles, journals, and websites related to this study.

3.4 Data Analysis Technique

To present the analysis, the researcher does the steps as follows:

1. The researcher describes the characterizations of Frank and April in the novel by using the theory of New Criticism.
2. The researcher describes the types of domestic conflict they experience based on the theory of marital conflict based on Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435)
3. Researchers analyzed April's postpartum depression based on the theory of McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 31)
4. Researchers explain the results of the analysis.
5. Finally, the researcher concludes the results and provides suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION (ANALYSIS)

This chapter answers research questions about Frank and April's domestic life conflict and explores the characterization of the main character, who is suffering from postpartum depression symptoms. This chapter also shows how each character resolves their conflict.

4.1 Character and Characterization

This study focused on the characterization of the main character to determine the issue captured in the text. Characterization in fiction and other literary works is critical to the development of the tale. The knowledge about the characters and their conduct with which the reader or audience sympathizes is included in characterization. In the novel, Richard Yates as the author has created the players, especially the main character through character and characterization. In this case, the author describes in detail and concisely how the characters of Frank and April were before and after their marriage.

4.1.1 Frank Wheeler

In the novel, Frank Wheeler is known as the main character. He is the husband of Frank April. Frank has two children named Jennifer, who is six years old, and Michael, who is four years old. Frank has several characteristics which have been summarized by the researcher below:

4.1.1.1 Selfish

Being selfish means a person cares more about themselves than others, which is a bad quality. This characteristic can also be brought on by a number of things, such as a sense of superiority or increased deservingness in relation to acquiring or attaining particular things. For April, Frank is a selfish husband. Frank didn't consider his wife's feelings when she considered leaving for a more comfortable life in Paris. Frank believed that staying in their old home and carrying on with his job as normal was the proper move. Frank believed that their previous home made it simpler for him to obtain money. Even though April disliked it, Frank informed her that she may continue to live in their previous home. This is proven in the quote below:

“Suppose we just say that people anywhere aren't very well advised to have babies unless they can afford them. As it happens, the only way we can afford this one is by staying here. It's a question of money, you see.” (Yates, 2008, p. 300)

April's mental health is getting worse because Frank doesn't support her in making her career as an actress. In fact, Frank said insulting words to April that April did not deserve to be an actress. This is proven in the quote below:

Number one, it's not my fault the play was lousy. Number two, it's sure as hell not my fault you didn't turn out to be an actress, and the sooner you get over *that* little piece of soap opera the better off we're all going to be. (Yates, 2008, p. 26)

4.1.1.2 Loudmouth

A braggart is someone who constantly talks to attract the interest of others around him. A braggart typically enjoys talking excessively and lacks social

graces. Same as Frank, he is able to make the other person interested by what he has to say. Like April and Maureen who immediately fell in love the first time they met Frank. This is proven in the quote below:

she was lying miraculously nude beside him in the first blue light of day on Bethune Street, drawing her delicate forefinger down his face from brow to chin and whispering: "It's true, Frank. I mean it. You're the most interesting person I've ever met. (Yates, 2008, p. 25)

Because according to April, Frank likes to brag, then Frank has lost April's trust ever since he abandoned their planned move to Paris. April already didn't believe Frank's words. This is proven in the quote below:

"Oh," she said. "Oh, Frank, you really are a wonderful talker. If black could be made into white by talking, you'd be the man for the job. So now I'm crazy because I don't love you—right? Is that the point? (305-306)

4.1.1.3 Optimistic

One of the striking traits in Frank is Optimism. He is always optimistic to be able to make his family happy. This is proven in the quote below:

It simply wasn't worth feeling bad about. Intelligent, thinking people could take things like this in their stride, just as they took the larger absurdities of deadly dull jobs in the city and deadly dull homes in the suburbs. Economic circumstances might force you to live in this environment, but the important thing was to keep from being contaminated. The important thing, always, was to remember who you were. (Yates, 2008, p. 21)

4.1.1.4 Temperamental

The negative side of Frank is that he can't control his emotions and likes to scream when he's angry. This is proven in the quote below:

“Tell her any God damn thing you like,” he said.
 “Maybe you could tell her to mind her own God damn business for a change.”
 “Don’t *shout*, Daddy.” Jennifer was bouncing up and down in her grass-stained sneakers, flapping her hands and starting to cry. “I’m *not* shouting,” he told her, with all the indignation of the falsely accused. (Yates, 2008, p. 46)

4.1.1.5 Strong

Frank formed strength in himself because of his experience as a soldier who was assigned to travel around Europe since he was 18 years old. This is proven in the quote below:

The army had taken him at eighteen, had thrust him into the final spring offensive of the war in Germany and given him a confused but exhilarating tour of Europe for another year before it set him free, and life since then had carried him from strength to strength. (Yates, 2008, p. 22)

4.1.1.6 Wishy washy

Someone's uncertainty about making a choice can be expressed in the unstable nature. This characteristic is detrimental since it causes one to think negatively and prevents growth because it makes one too hesitant to take risks. April and Frank were both not sure that they would be able to accept their third child. Frank had agreed with April's opinion that she wanted to abort the baby.

But as a father, Frank still believes in keeping the baby. This is proven in the quote below:

He had won but he didn't feel like a winner. He had successfully righted the course of his life but he felt himself more than ever a victim of the world's indifference. It didn't seem fair. Only very gradually, there at the table, was he able to sort out and identify what it was that had haunted him on waking, that had threatened to make him gag on his orange juice and now prevented his enjoyment of the brilliant grass and trees and sky beyond the window. It was that he was going to have another child, and he wasn't at all sure that he wanted one. (Yates, 2008, p. 256)

4.1.2 April Wheeler

In the novel, April is known as the main character. She is the wife of Frank Wheeler. April has two children named Jennifer, who is six years old, and Michael, who is four years old. April has several characteristics which have been summarized by the researcher below:

4.1.2.1 Beautiful

In the novel, April is described as a woman who remains beautiful and graceful after giving birth to her two children. This is proven in the quote below:

She was twenty-nine, a tall ash blonde with a patrician kind of beauty that no amount of amateur lighting could distort, and she seemed ideally cast in the role. It didn't even matter that bearing two children had left her a shade too heavy in the hips and thighs, for she moved with the shyly sensual grace of maidenhood; anyone happening to glance at Frank Wheeler, the round-faced, intelligent-looking young man who sat biting his fist in the last row of the audience, would have said he looked more like her suitor than her husband. (Yates, 2008, p. 8)

4.1.2.2 Ambitious

Excessive optimism and self-confidence are characteristics of ambition, and they lead a person to rationalize any action in order to attain their goals. This characteristic turns into a flaw since it might cause someone to be egotistical and focus exclusively on oneself in order to succeed. April is a woman who has high ambitions. She wants to become a famous actress. So from that she studied acting. However, since she married Frank, she slowly had to let go of that dream because she has new responsibilities as a mother who has to take care of her two children. April feels that her dream of becoming an actress must fail because she married too young. This is proven in the quote below:

and I guess this is what really brought it home to me—this picture of myself as the girl who could have been The Actress if she hadn't gotten married too young. And I mean you know perfectly well I was never any kind of an actress and never really wanted to be; (Yates, 2008, p. 118)

April deeply regrets her decision to marry Frank, she feels trapped by Frank when she dated and married Frank because she fell for Frank's advances. This is proven in the quote below:

“Oh, you've never fooled me, Frank, never once. All your precious moral maxims and your 'love' and your mealy-mouthed little—do you think I've *forgotten* the time you hit me in the face because I said I wouldn't forgive you? Oh, I've always known I had to be your conscience and your guts—and your punching bag. Just because you've got me safely in a trap you think you—” (Yates, 2008, p. 28)

After she gave up her dream of becoming an actress, she got a glimmer of hope to dream again. She wanted to move to Paris with her family because she felt

the people there knew how to live with a better life. This is proven in the quote below:

He knew those things, and he knew too that the best part of Paris, the part where the people really knew how to live, began around St. Germain des Prés and extended southeast (or was it southwest?) as far as the Café Dome. (Yates, 2008, p. 139)

And also, apart from April wanting a better life in Paris, she and her husband, Frank also feel that life in Paris will be more enjoyable and full of hope, unlike in the city they live in now, they feel emptiness and hopeless in life. This is proven in the quote below:

The practical side of the Europe plan didn't seem to interest John Givings, but he was full of persistent questions about their reasons for going; and once, when Frank said something about "the hopeless emptiness of everything in this country," he came to a stop on the grass and looked thunderstruck. (Yates, 2008, p. 200)

April is trying to build her dream back very maturely. Moreover, she made some plans between herself and Frank. This is proven in the quote below:

Her plan, the idea born of her sorrow and her missing him all day and her loving him, was an elaborate new program for going to Europe "for good" in the fall. Did he realize how much money they had? With their savings, with the proceeds from the sale of house and car and with what they could save between now and September, they'd have enough to live comfortably for six months. (Yates, 2008, p. 113)

April wants to rebuild her career with a different image. She plans to work if she and her husband go to Europe. She will apply for work as a secretary in NATO or ECA. This is proven in the quote below:

Have you any idea how much they pay for secretarial work in all these government agencies overseas? NATO and the ECA and those places? And do you realize how low the cost of living is, compared to here?" She had it all figured out; she had read an article in a magazine. (Yates, 2008, p. 114)

When she was planning to apply for a job as a secretary in a government office in Paris, she had to consider her skills because April did have the skills for that job. This is proven in the quote below:

Her skills at typing and shorthand would bring them enough to live on and more—enough for a part-time servant to take care of the children while she worked. It was, she insisted, such a marvelously simple plan that she was amazed at having never thought of it before. (Yates, 2008, p. 114)

April's great desire to work indicates that she is an independent woman. She was even willing to switch positions with Frank when they moved to Paris. April becomes a working woman while Frank takes care of their child at home. This is proven in the quote below:

He cleared his throat. "Look, baby. In the first place, what kind of a job could I possibly—"
 "No kind of a job. Oh, I know you could get a job anywhere in the world if you had to, but that's not the point. The point is you won't be getting any kind of a job, because I will. (Yates, 2008, p. 113)

When someone has decided to get married, it means they must be prepared to accept all the risks that will occur. Getting married at a young age has many impacts on those who do it, whether it's a negative or positive impact. One of the things that must be prepared after marriage is to become a mother. Being a mother is a gift given by God. But in fact, many women are not ready to become a mother.

This is what April Wheeler had to experience. She had to be forced to give up her dream as an actress in order to become a wife and mother who takes care of their children at home. Because of April's decision, also caused inner turmoil in April's heart. She wanted to go back to achieving her dream of becoming an actress, but her third pregnancy made her

depressed and she committed suicide. (Yates, 2008, p. 335). April feels that her first pregnancy is a regret. Her first pregnancy did not go according to plan because she still wanted to study and have a career as an actress. This is proven in the quote below:

“And one big thing went wrong right away. According to their plan, which called for an eventual family of four, her first pregnancy came seven years too soon. That was the trouble, and if he’d known her better then he might have guessed how she would take it and what she would happen to feel like doing about it.” (Yates, 2008, p. 50)

4.1.2.3 Stubborn

April's negative character is stubbornness, this was revealed by Frank when April insisted on continuing to abort the baby in her womb even though it was very dangerous for her. This is proven in the quote below:

“All I know,” she said at last, “is what I feel, and I know what I feel I’ve got to do.” He got up and turned off all the lights, murmuring “Cool the place off a little,” but the darkness didn’t help. This was deadlock. If everything he said was “just words,” what was the point of talking? How could any possibility of speech prevail against the weight of a stubbornness as deep as this? (Yates, 2008, p. 237-238)

4.1.2.4 Pessimistic

After April found out that she was pregnant with her third child, she realized that she and her husband, Frank, did not deserve to be parents. This is proven in the quote below:

the furniture that had never settled down and never would, the shelves on shelves of unread or half-read or read-and-forgotten books that had always been supposed to make such a difference and never had; the loathsome, gloating maw of the television set; the

forlorn, grubby little heap of toys that might have been steeped in ammonia, so quick was their power to attack the eyes and throat with an acrid pain of guilt and self-reproach (“But I don’t think we were ever *meant* to be parents. We’re not even *adequate* as parents . . .”). (Yates, 2008, p. 233-234)

Her dream of going to Europe and building a better life there had to fail because Frank, her husband, was promoted by his superiors to become a special sales company with higher pay. Frank thought that his new job as a special sales team would provide them with a better future for their family as it could lead to a fulfilling career. Because of that, Frank doesn't want to leave his comfort zone working at Knox's company. This is proven in the quote below:

why think of accepting Pollock’s money as a mere compromise solution, an enforced making-the-best-of-things until the renewal of her ability to support him in Paris?...Wasn’t there a good chance that Knox, through Knox International , might soon be expanding its promotion of computers abroad? (Yates, 2008, p. 285)

4.1.2.5 Unfaithful

April's feelings of love for Frank are lost because Frank is having an affair with his office mate named Maureen Grube. April actually didn't know about the affair, but Frank told April. This was done by Frank to "penance" of his affair and wanted to turn into a loyal man for his wife. But April misinterpreted this, April thought that Frank confessed his affair to April so that April would feel jealous. Since then, the love in April has disappeared. This is proven in the quote below:

She seemed to think this over for a few seconds, and then she shrugged.
 “I have. I don’t feel anything.”
 “In other words you don’t care what I do or who I go to bed with or anything. Right?”

“No; I guess that’s right; I don’t.”

“But I *want* you to care!”

“I know you do. And I suppose I would, if I loved you; but you see I don’t. I don’t love you and I never really have, (Yates, 2008, p. 293)

The affair committed by Frank was rewarded by April with having an affair too. April had an affair with a neighbor named Shep Campbell. Just like Frank, April doesn't love her mistress either. He only did that to express his emotions and revenge on Frank. This is proven in the quote below:

“Oh, April, this isn’t just a thing that happened. Listen. This is what I’ve always—I love you.”

“No. Don’t say that.”

“But it’s true. I’ve always loved you. I’m not just being— listen.”

“Please, Shep. Let’s just be quiet for a minute, and then you can take me home.” (Yates, 2008, p. 276)

4.1.2.6 Cruel

April is a cruel mother. She wanted to kill her child. When April realized that she was pregnant with her third child, she was very sad because she felt that having many children was irrational. He had planned to have only two children. This is proven in the quote below:

you’ve had three pregnancies and you’ve wanted to abort two of them. What kind of a record is that? Oh, look.” He made his voice very gentle, as if he were talking to Jennifer.

“Look, baby. All I’m trying to suggest is that you don’t seem to be entirely rational about this thing. I just wish you’d think about it a little, that’s all.” (Yates, 2008, p. 238)

4.1.2.7 Negative thinking

Actually, April really loves Frank. But Frank's words when they were fighting often broke April's mind. Frank often insulted April by saying that April's

acting was very bad and she did not deserve to be an actress. Frank also said that April was a woman who had an empty mind. Frank also feels that April is very dependent on him for their finances because April is not working. April also felt that everything Frank said was nonsense. This is proven in the quote below:

Then part of it, halfway down the page, came into focus: . . . your cowardly self-delusions about “love” when you know as well as I do that there’s never been anything between us but contempt and distrust and a terrible sickly dependence on each other’s weakness—that’s why. That’s why I couldn’t stop laughing today when you said that about the Inability to Love, and that’s why I can’t stand to let you touch me, and that’s why I’ll never again believe in anything you think, let alone in anything you say . . . (Yates, 2008, p. 318-319)

April's love for Frank is proven when she writes a farewell letter to Frank before she has an abortion that could kill her. April wrote that no matter what happened, Frank couldn't blame himself. April also almost wrote the word that she really loves Frank. This is proven in the quote below:

Dear Frank, Whatever happens please don't blame yourself. From old, insidious habit she almost added the words I love you, but she caught herself in time and made the signature plain: April. She put it in an envelope, wrote Frank on the outside, and left it on the exact center of the desk. (Yates, 2008, p. 326-327)

April's feelings of loss of love are also related to her parents. April really misses her parents, she wants to be visited by her parents but they rarely visit April. April also feels that Frank doesn't understand her feelings because Frank doesn't love her parents. This is proven in the quote below:

“She didn’t, though. The only real fun I ever had was when one of my parents came for a visit. They were the ones I loved.”
 “But they hardly ever came for visits. I mean you couldn’t have had much sense of their being your parents, in a deal like that; you

didn't even know them. How could you love them?" (Yates, 2008, p. 40)

4.1.2.8 Sensitive

People that are sensitive are frequently easily offended and readily express their emotions in response to the actions or words of others. Sensitive is essentially a type of heart sensitivity, but it sometimes goes too far and makes people easily depressed or miserable. April had a childhood trauma that made her always remember this embarrassing incident for the rest of her life. The trauma also appeared when he was an adult. Several studies have shown that behaviors that arise in adulthood are rooted in trauma experienced by a person in childhood. Events that are experienced by a child and are life-threatening in nature are things that can shape behavior in adulthood. April's childhood trauma can be seen in the quote below:

"but the school smell made him think of one particular time she had told about, a morning in Rye Country Day when a menstrual flow of unusual suddenness and volume had taken her by surprise in the middle of a class."

"And he thought of how she must have lurched from her desk and run from the room with a red stain the size of a maple leaf on the seat of her white linen skirt while thirty boys and girls looked up in dumb surprise, how she must have fled down the corridor in a nightmarish silence past the doors of other murmuring classrooms, spilling books and picking them up and running again, leaving a tidy, well-spaced trail of blood drops on the floor, how she had run to the first-aid room and been afraid to go inside, how instead she had run all the way down another corridor to a fire-exit door, where she pulled off her cardigan and tied it around her waist and hips; how then, hearing or imagining the approach of footsteps in her wake, she had pushed through to the sunny lawn outside and set off for home, walking not too quickly and with her head high, so that anyone happening to glance from any of a hundred windows would think her on some perfectly normal errand from school, wearing her sweater in a perfectly normal way." (Yates, 2008, p. 19)

April's trauma happened again after she staged a performance with her drama group called Laurel Players. April finds her appearance as embarrassing as when she got her first period in class. This is proven in the quote below:

“Her face must have looked almost exactly the way it did now, as they opened this other fire-exit door and walked out across these other school grounds not many miles from Rye, and her way of walking must have been similar too.” (Yates, 2008, p. 20)

Apart from the reason Frank was appointed by his boss to get a promotion, the reason they didn't go to Paris was that April was pregnant. This is proven in the quote below:

Then the perfection of her curtain-call smile began to blur and moisten into a wrinkled grimace of despair and her breathing became as loud as the boiling vegetables on the stove.
 “Nothing happened today that I haven't known about for days and days—and oh God, Frank, please don't look so dense; do you really mean you haven't known it too, or guessed it or anything? I'm pregnant, that's all.” (Yates, 2008, p. 218)

As explained above, April's life problems are very complex, starting from her failed ideals, the pregnancy she didn't want, the failed move to Paris, and the collection of pressures in April's life that peaked when Frank admitted his affair with Maureen. April becomes so disgusted with Frank that April refuses to be touched by Frank. April says that she doesn't love Frank anymore. April's feelings for Frank are gone. This is proven in the quote below:

“No. Wrong. You're not crazy, and you do love me; *that's* the point.”
 She got to her feet and backed away from him, her eyes flashing.
 “But I don't,” she said.
 “In fact I loathe the sight of you. In fact if you come any closer, if you touch me or anything I think I'll scream.” Then he did touch

her, saying, “Oh baby, lis—” and she did scream. (Yates, 2008, p. 306)

4.1.2.9 Dissident

April also became uncomfortable at home. She is very bored with her routine as a housewife, she often even goes to the academy or other places to get her out of the house. This is proven in the quote below:

you know I only went to the Academy to get away from home, and I know it too. I’ve always known it. And here for three months I’ve been walking around with this noble, bittersweet expression on my face—I mean how self-deluded can you get? Do you see how neurotic all this is? I wanted to have it both ways. (Yates, 2008, p. 118)

Because Frank was April's husband and the environment also didn't support her dream, April decided to accept and try to be a good housewife. This is proven in the quote below:

Everything about her seemed determined to prove, with a new, flatfooted emphasis, that a sensible middle-class housewife was all she had ever wanted to be and that all she had ever wanted of love was a husband who would get out and cut the grass once in a while, instead of sleeping all day. (Yates, 2008, p. 40)

Moreover, Mrs. Giving as her neighbor has high expectations of the Wheeler family for being the perfect young family. In fact, this is not the case. When those expectations don't match with reality, she feels annoyed and disappointed with the Wheeler family. This is proven in the quote below:

“That’s much cozier. Really, Howard, my nerves were just like *wires* after that business with the Wheelers. You can’t imagine how it upset me. The point is I’d always thought they were such *solid* young people. I thought *all* the young married people today were supposed to be more settled. Wouldn’t you think they ought to be, especially in a community like this? Goodness knows, all *I* hear

about is young couples *dying* to come and settle here, and raise their children . . .” (Yates, 2008, p. 176)

4.2 Domestic Life Conflict

The researcher describes the findings of domestic life conflict problems faced by Frank and April based on Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435), who conclude dissatisfied married couples confront several sorts of marital conflicts: aggressive husbands, lack of cooperation, lack of spending time together, in-laws issues, children issues, a decrease in effective communication, and financial problems.

4.2.1 Aggressive Husband

For April, love can be seen in how a husband treats his wife. April hopes that a husband treats his wife gently. Because of that, April felt that Frank had to show his love more through actions than words. However, April felt that Frank really isn't the ideal husband for her because of the violence he put into their marriage. Frank was verbally abusive to April when they got into an argument.

This is proven in the quote below:

“You’re an *empty, hollow* fucking *shell* of a woman . . .” It was the first opportunity for a wideopen, all-out fight they’d had in months, and he made the most of it, stalking and circling her as he shouted, trembling and gasping for breath.

“What the hell are you living in my *house* for, if you hate me so much? *Huh?* Will you answer me that? What the hell are you carrying my *child* for?” Like John Givings, he pointed at her belly.

“Why the hell *didn’t* you get rid of it, when you had the chance? Because listen. Listen: I got news for you.”

The great pressure that began to be eased inside him now, as he slowly and quietly intoned his next words, made it seem that this was a cleaner breakthrough into truth than any he had ever made before: “I wish to God you’d done it.” (Yates, 2008, p. 306-307)

4.2.2 Financial Problems

In the 1950s, men were required to carry out their duties as breadwinners in the family. In addition, according to (Scheibach, 1985, p. 738) it is believed that men who refuse to adopt adult male roles will become delinquent or homosexual once they grow up. These demands always force them to be very self-conscious and have to act and try as hard as possible to do as many men's duties as possible to prove that they are 'real men' and also to avoid being ostracized.

This is also what Frank tries to do. He wanted to try to become the head of the family, which was normally done by men at that time. He went to work at Knox's company. Even though the job was very boring for him, he persisted in order to prove his masculinity as a man and also to provide for his family. Frank also feels that as a man he has to support his family even though April doesn't really support his job. This is proven in the quote below:

“I need a job; okay. Is that any reason why the job I get has to louse me up? Look. All I want is to get enough dough coming in to keep us solvent for the next year or so, till I can figure things out; meanwhile I want to retain my own identity” (Yates, 2008, p. 69)

4.2.3 Children's Issues

Frank is not sure that April can take good care of their children because April has had trauma in the past. April was denied since she was born to her parents. This is proven in the quote below:

Wasn't it likely, after all, that a girl who'd known nothing but parental rejection from the time of her birth might develop an abiding reluctance to bear children? “I mean it's always been a wonder to me that you could *survive* a childhood like that,” he said at one point, (Yates, 1961, p. 237)

As a husband, Frank really hopes that his wife, April, can live up to his expectations of being a good wife and mother to his children. Becoming a mother is a natural process for a married woman. People at that time believed that it was natural for a woman to have children. For Frank, a mother is a woman who cares about cherishing, loving, and caring for her children. However, in this case, April unfortunately, doesn't live up to Frank's standards as a good mother. April's inability to love her children can be seen in her being very disappointed with her first pregnancy. This is proven in the quote below:

“And one big thing went wrong right away. According to their plan, which called for an eventual family of four, her first pregnancy came seven years too soon. That was the trouble, and if he'd known her better then he might have guessed how she would take it and what she would happen to feel like doing about it.” (Yates, 2008, p. 50)

Frank's doubts were compounded because April once wanted to abort two of their children. April thinks about aborting her number 2 and number 3 child.

This is proven in the quote below:

Jesus, April, if you want to talk that way I can come right back at you with another statistic: you've had three pregnancies and you've wanted to abort two of them. What kind of a record is that? Oh, look.” He made his voice very gentle, as if he were talking to Jennifer (Yates, 2008, p. 238)

4.2.4 Lack of spending time together

Frank had an affair with an office mate named Mauren Grube. Even though Mauren is not beautiful as his wife, April, Frank wants to have an affair with her because of the unfavorable circumstances of Frank and April's

household. This is proven in the quote below:

“if you’re not too busy here I wonder if you’d help me find some stuff in the central file. You see this?” He laid the brochure on her desk as if it were an intimate revelation, and she leaned forward from the hips to examine it, so that her breasts swung close to his pointing hand. It was round and wide-nosed and not really very pretty—he could afford to admit that now—and its too heavy make-up was probably there to hide a bad complexion, just as the little black tails she had drawn at the corners of her eyes were there to make the eyes look larger and farther apart. (Yates, 2008, p. 93-94)

Frank got Maureen hooked with him the same way he had when he first approached April. He became a lovely man, which is why Maureen felt comfortable with Frank. This is proven in the quote below:

He was making use of material that had caused Milly Campbell to say “Oh that’s so true, Frank!” and of older, richer stuff that had once helped to make him the most interesting person April Johnson had ever met. He even touched on his having been a longshoreman. Through it all, though, ran a bright and skillfully woven thread that was just for Maureen: a portrait of himself as decent but disillusioned young family man, sadly and bravely at war with his environment. (Yates, 2008, p. 101)

But, Frank and Maureen's affair did not last long. Frank, in his deep heart, actually really feels sorry for April. So from that he was honest with April about his affair with Maureen. This is proven in the quote below:

“Actually, one of the reasons I’ve been hoping we could get together again is because there’s something I’d like to tell you about: something kind of—well, kind of neurotic and irrational that happened to me a few weeks ago.” And almost, if not quite, before he knew what his voice was up to, he was telling her about Maureen Grube. (Yates, 2008, p. 291-292)

4.2.5 Decrease in Effective Communication

Frank felt that April blamed himself when her drama failed, he also felt that April saw him as a useless man. This is proven in the quote below:

Number one, it's not my fault the play was lousy. Number two, it's sure as hell not my fault you didn't turn out to be an actress, and the sooner you get over *that* little piece of soap opera the better off we're all going to be. Number three, I don't happen to fit the role of dumb, insensitive suburban husband; you've been trying to hang that one on me ever since we moved *out* here, and I'm damned if I'll wear it. (Yates, 2008, p. 26)

Frank hoped that April would fulfill his criteria as an ideal wife at that time by becoming a woman who loves, cherishes, and supports him in every way. Being a housewife is an ideal woman at that time. This is proven in the quote below:

let's all be good consumers and have a lot of Togetherness and bring our children up in a bath of sentimentality—Daddy's a great man because he makes a living, Mummy's a great woman because she's stuck by Daddy all these years—and if old reality ever does pop out and say Boo we'll all get busy and pretend it never happened.” (Yates, 2008, p. 69)

4.3 Frank and April Overcome Their Conflict Related to Their Ambitions

In the analysis section below, the author will tell about how the two main characters who are husband and wife try to resolve conflicts in their domestic's life.

4.3.1 Frank Overcome Their Conflict

After the problems that happened to his household, Frank makes an effort to reflect on himself and tries to introspect himself in order to preserve the warmth of his family's home. As the head of the family, it is important for Frank to improve his household. He tries not to complain to his wife when he comes home from work even though he was very tired, he tries to look happy when he meets his wife and children, Frank also tries to take the time to play with his children, help with household chores like mowing the lawn and other things and other

positive things that are solely so that the household is fine. This is proven in the quote below:

And so he freed himself to concentrate on the refinements of his role. He was particularly careful never to mention his day at the office or confess to being tired after the train, he assumed a quiet, almost Continental air of mastery in dealing with waiters and gas station attendants, he salted his after-theater critiques with obscure literary references— all to demonstrate that a man condemned to a life at Knox could still be interesting (“You’re the most interesting person I’ve ever met”); he enthusiastically romped with the children, disdainfully mowed the lawn in record time and once spent the whole of a midnight’s drive in an impersonation of Eddie Cantor singing “That’s the Kind of a Baby for Me” (Yates, 2008, p. 232)

In addition, he tries to accept the promotion offered by his boss, Bart Pollock and cancels their departure to move to Paris. For Frank, it's not just about money, it's about his value as a man. Frank feels that later he will be able to stabilize his family's economy until April and his children can live happily without them moving to Paris. Frank also thought that if they moved to Paris, they might not get the chance they did in Revolutionary Road. This is in line with the evidence that Frank accepted Bart Pollock's offer to join the "Special Sales Team" at Knox. This is proven in the quote below:

“No; I suppose not. You know best.”

“Well, I can’t. I mean we can’t expect any miraculous changes overnight in a thing like this; it’s the kind of a thing that can’t be rushed.”

“Do I seem to be rushing you? Really, Frank; how many ways can I say it? It’s entirely up to you.” (Yates, 2008, p. 257)

4.3.2 April Overcome Their Conflict

After April gives up all her struggles to achieve her dream of becoming an actress and her plan to go to Paris fails, she tries to be a good wife to her husband Frank and a good mother to her children. This is proven in the quote below:

Everything about her seemed determined to prove, with a new, flatfooted emphasis, that a sensible middle-class housewife was all she had ever wanted to be and that all she had ever wanted of love was a husband who would get out and cut the grass once in a while, instead of sleeping all day. (Yates, 2008, p. 40)

However, her failed dream of becoming an actress and April's desire to move to Paris void continue to overshadow her mind to its peak when Frank insults April with words that really hurt her, Frank says that April is a useless woman and has an empty shell (Yates, 2008, pp. 306-307). This made her want to abort her third child, which she had previously abandoned so she wanted to do it. The abortion will be carried out by April alone at home. She has prepared an abortion kit that she has secretly kept. After Frank leaves for work, she begins her abortion plan. This is proven in the quote below:

In the kitchen she took down her largest stewing pot, filled it with water and set it on the stove to boil. From storage cartons in the cellar she got out the other necessary pieces of equipment: the tongs that had once been used for sterilizing formula bottles, and the blue drugstore box containing the two parts of the syringe, rubber bulb and long plastic nozzle. She dropped these things in the stewing pot, which was just beginning to steam. (Yates, 2008, p. 327)

After preparing the tools used for abortion, April increasingly convinced herself that this was the right choice. This is proven in the quote below:

It was nine-thirty. In another ten minutes she would turn off the heat; then it would take a while for the water to cool. In the meantime there was nothing to do but wait.

“Have you thought it through, April? Never undertake to do a thing until you’ve—” She was calm and quiet now with knowing what she had always known, what neither her parents nor Aunt Claire nor Frank nor anyone else had ever had to teach her: that if you wanted to do something absolutely honest, something true, it always turned out to be a thing that had to be done alone. (Yates, 2008, p. 327)

Unfortunately, the abortion she had caused her death. April must have lost a lot of blood and lost consciousness. This is the end of April's struggle against depression. This is proven in the quote below:

It took him a long time to find his way back, and he would always remember that this was what he was doing— mincing down hallways carrying two containers of coffee, wearing a silly, inquiring smile—this was what he was doing when April Wheeler died. (Yates, 2008, p. 335)



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the previous discussion chapters, especially regarding the description of April and Frank's domestic conflict and the description of April's depression because her dream failed. In addition, this chapter includes suggestions for the relevant research future.

5.1 Conclusions

After analyzing the novel entitled *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates, the researcher can conclude that there are different perspectives in the household between husband and wife, namely April and Frank Wheeler. Frank Wheeler as the head of the household wants to show his power to April that he is capable of being the head of the household who meets all the needs of April and their children. Frank wants to keep his sales promotion job at Knox's company even though the job seems boring to him. What's more, Frank will be promoted and will earn more money which is very enough for their little family.

Moreover, at that time, the pride of men was to work and women to be housewives taking care of their children and husbands at home. However, April thought differently from most women of that era. She is ambitious to work and pursue her dream of becoming an actress. She is not very good at taking care of children so which causes April to have depression, which is called Post-Partum Depression. According to McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 31), the researcher found the PPD risks experienced by April such as (a) stressful life problems (b)

economic or financial factors (c) stressful work or environmental factors (d) loss of a loved one (e) feeling the burden of caring for a newborn.

The researcher also describes the findings of domestic life conflict problems faced by Frank and April based on Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435), who conclude dissatisfied married couples confront several sorts of marital conflicts: aggressive husbands, lack of cooperation, lack of spending time together, in-laws issues, children issues, a decrease in effective communication, and financial problems. A series of problems in her life started with the failure of her dream of becoming an actress, her family's failure to move to Europe, the pregnancy of a third child she didn't want, and Frank, her husband's infidelity being the biggest reason April was depressed until she had an abortion and ended in her own death.

5.2 Suggestions

This study focuses on the analysis of the characterization of Frank and April as the main characters. This study also describes the theory of marital conflict based on Dildar et al. (2013 p. 1435) and the theory of depression in postpartum depression based on McKelvey and Espelin (2008, p. 31)

Suggestions aimed at future research that might be interested in analyzing the personal growth of the main character using the theory of Depression Melancholia based on the theory of Freud. In addition, future researchers can use Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. Moreover, using different perspectives can be considered.

REFERENCES

- Armstrong, S. (2016). *What Can Psychoanalysis Tell Us About Depression*. Student Psychology Journal, 1.
- Cuddon, J. A. (2013) *A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. The United States: Wiley Blackwell Publication. PDF
- Cummings, E. M., Davies, T. P. *Effects of marital conflict on children: recent advances and emerging themes in process-oriented research*. University of Notre Dame, USA; University of Rochester, UK. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 43:1 (2002), pp 31–63
- DeBlock, L. (2015). *A Feminine Woman Never Laughs Out Loud Gender Performativity and Misogyny in Richard Yates's Revolutionary Road and The Easter Parade*. Ghent University: Faculty of Arts and Philosophy.
- Dildar, Sitwat & Yasin (2013). *Intimate Enemies: Marital Conflicts and Conflict Resolution Styles in Dissatisfied Married Couples*. University of Gujrat and University of Punjab. *Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research* 15 (10): 1433-1439, 2013 ISSN 1990-9233
- Fincham, F. D. (2003). *Marital Conflict: Correlates, Structure, and Context*. Psychology Department, University of Buffalo. New York. Copyright American Psychological Society.
- Gesta, N. (2020). *An Analysis of Anger Expression in Revolutionary Road Movie*. English Literature Department Faculty of Humanities, Education, and Tourism University of Technology Yogyakarta.
- Holman, C. H., Harmon, W. and Thrall, W.F. (1992). *A Handbook to Literature. 6th ed.* / C. Hugh Holman, William Harmon. New York: Toronto: New York: Macmillan.
- Kusumaningrum, U. D. (2021). *The Depression of Nora Seed as Reflected in Matt Haig's The Midnight Library*. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
- McKelvey, M. M., and Espelin J. (2018). *Postpartum depression: Beyond the "baby blues"*. Copyright © 2018 Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. All rights reserved.
- Moslemi, L., Tabari, M. G., Montazeri, S., and Tadayon, M. (2012). *The Frequency and Several Effective Factors on Baby Blues*. HealthMED - Volume 6 / Number 12 / 2012
- Murdiana, S., and Agustiani, H. (2015). *Marital Conflict Resolution and Influencing Factors (Studies on Married Women in Makassar)*. Makassar

State University, Faculty of Psychology. International Conference on Science, Technology, and Humanity 2015 ISSN 2477-3328

- Piper, J. (2018). *Preparing for Marriage*. Printed in the United States of America. Copyright © 2018 by Desiring God.
- Putri, N, M, Y. (2022). Conflicts Faced by Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
- Richardson, C. (2010) "*The Empty Self in Revolutionary Road or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blonde*". The University of Western Ontario. European Journal of American Culture Volume 29 Number 1. English language. doi: 10.1386/ejac.29.1.5/1
- Rosalina, S. D. (2022). *Carrie's Depression in Lost Stars Novel by Lisa Selin Davis*. English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.
- Safitri, W. A. (2020). *Women's Personal Autonomy in Richard Yates's Revolutionary Road*. English Literature, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Surabaya. LITERA KULTURA: Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies Volume 8 Number 3 (2020) e-ISSN 2356-2714
- Scheibach, M. (1985) '*Transition to Manhood: Effects of the Great Depression on Male Youth*'. Adolescence 20.79.
- Tyson, Louis. (2006). *Critical Theory Today Second Edition*. USA: Routledge. PDF.
- Wellek, R. & Warren, A. (1977). *Theory of Literature (3rd ed.)*. Cambridge: Harvest Book.
- Yates, R (2008). *Revolutionary Road*. Vintage Books A Division of Random House, Inc. New York. Third Vintage Contemporaries Edition, May 2008.