

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is one of the human products that can provide and portray human life with other humans as well as their environment. Literature contains all facets of human existence, expressing a wide range of feelings, emotional states, thoughts, and viewpoints about life and reality that can be shared with others. Literary works are created by using language as the medium. To put it simply, literature is a way for humans to express and experience the world through imagination.

Novel, as one of the literary products, expresses ideas, emotions, or even experiences of the author in a compelling narrative. According to Wellek and Warren, the novel portrays a representation of human's real life, manners, and the time it was written (1956: 282). As a result, one of the novel's main elements is conflict, which can describe actual conflicts that occur in human real life in the form of narratives. Conflict is one of the most important components in the novel because, without this component, the plot of the novel will not leave any impression on the reader.

Every human experiences conflict in their life. Psychological conflict is one of the conflicts which humans encounter. According to Lewin (1948), psychological conflict is a situation where a character is motivated to engage in

two or more strong motives that cannot be solved together. There are three kinds of

psychological conflicts which are approach-approach conflict, approach-avoidance conflict, and avoidance-avoidance (Lewin, 2002: 114-115).

In this research thesis, the writer will analyze a novel titled *Take Me with You When You Go* by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven. The main theme of the novel is psychological. This novel, like most psychological novels, contains several conflicts, one of which is psychological conflict. According to Wellek and Warren, Psychological novel is a work of fiction where the characters are judged by the reader to be psychologically realistic (1956: 86). The character's thoughts, emotions, and motivations are portrayed in the psychological novel throughout the development of the character as individual. The writer chooses this novel because it is written by two authors and each author writes from a different point of view of the two main characters, Ezra and Beatrix. The novel's various points of view help the writer in understanding the characters and the conflicts in it.

*Take Me with You When You Go* tells a story of a sibling, Ezra Ahern and Beatrix Ahern, who live under a dysfunctional family. One day, Beatrix runs away and leaves Ezra alone with their neglectful mother and abusive stepfather. The conflict begins when Ezra discovers a secret e-mail address left by Beatrix. While Beatrix embarks a new life to discover their hidden family's history, Ezra struggles alone, facing his dysfunctional parents and carrying the burden to keep Beatrix's whereabouts a secret. Ezra has to endure the chaos alone and communicate with Beatrix secretly through a secret e-mail at the same time. The conflicts reach its peak to the point he should face his fears, trauma, and break his silence in order to survive and save himself.

The writer will focus on the main character named Ezra because the problems and conflicts of the story revolve around his character. In detail, the writer chooses to analyze the causes, the types, and the impacts of Ezra's psychological conflicts. The writer will also analyze the relation of the causes and the impacts of psychological conflicts.

### **1.2. Research Problems**

1. What are the causes of Ezra's psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*?
2. What are the types of Ezra's psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*?
3. How do the psychological conflicts affect Ezra in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*?
4. What is the relation of the causes and the impacts of Ezra's psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

1. To analyze the causes of Ezra's psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*.
2. To describe the types of psychological conflicts faced by Ezra in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*.
3. To analyze the impact of psychological conflicts toward Ezra in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*.

4. To analyze the relation of the causes and the impacts of Ezra's psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go*.

#### **1.4. Previous Studies**

Some articles discuss the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go* by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven. The first article is a review on kirkusreviews.com entitled *A Wrenching, if Logorrheic, Epistolary Portrait of a Dysfunctional Family*. Based on the review, the novel tells about an epistolary heartbreaking story of a troubled family.

The second review is written by Jess on literaryquicksand.com entitled *Book Review: Take Me with You When You Go*. According to Jess, the character development in the novel makes the characters seem like a human. Jess also points out how David Levithan and Jennifer Niven address the unpleasant reality of domestic violence and child abuse by not romanticizing the problems and adding a side character who is also a victim of domestic violence.

The third review is written by Jackie French on kids-bookreview.com entitled *Review: Take Me with You When You Go*. He points out how domestic abuse in this novel affects children and teenager's mental health.

The fourth article is a review written by Kristin Downer on nerdprobs.com entitled *Book Review: Take Me with You When You Go by David Levithan and*

*Jennifer Niven*. Similar to other reviews, Downer also points out that domestic abuse in this novel is a heavy topic.

The fifth review is a review on [floweringpages.com](http://floweringpages.com) entitled *Take Me with You When You Go by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven Book Review*. Based on this article, the bond and unexpected connection between the characters is the best aspect of the story. The connection between the characters is a natural and normal thing in human real life.

The sixth article is written by C.G. on [paperfury.com](http://paperfury.com) entitled *Take Me with You When You Go by Jennifer Niven & David Levithan – Siblings, and Letters, and All the Emotions*. Based on the review, *Take Me with You When You Go* is a character-centric story that bring readers into the main character's emotions and thoughts.

The seventh article is a review on [sarahscorner82914520.wordpress.com](http://sarahscorner82914520.wordpress.com) entitled *Book Review: Take Me with You When You Go by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven*. Based on this review, the characters have flaws and the relationships between the characters are realistic.

The eighth review is written by Kat on [lifeandotherdisasters.com](http://lifeandotherdisasters.com) entitled *Take Me with You When You Go by David Levithan/Jennifer Niven (ARC Review)*. According to Kat, it is easy to get emotionally attached to the characters despite the heavy topic in the plot because of the style of writing that is easy to follow.

Aside from review articles, there are also some interviews with the authors. The first interview was published on [thenerddaily.com](http://thenerddaily.com) entitled *Q&A:*

*David Levithan and Jennifer Niven, Co-Authors of 'Take Me with You When You Go'*. According to Jennifer Niven, she wants to remind their readers who experienced domestic violence that they are not alone. David Levithan, in the same interview, points out how life is full of uncertainty and that is why humans should keep moving forward instead of being trapped in unwanted life. The second interview was published on hindustantimes.com entitled *David Levithan and Jennifer Niven on YA conventions: As long as it feels true to the character, it isn't cliché*. In this interview, Jennifer Niven stated she and David never discussed the plot of the novel together. Ezra's point of view is written by David Levithan, while Beatrix's point of view is written by Jennifer Niven.

Based on the articles and interviews, domestic violence and child abuse are the subjects that are often mentioned. The writer chooses psychological conflict as the focus of the research because the novel contains psychological conflicts which occurs in the main character named Ezra in order to survive. In addition, the gap of the study can be seen in the main topic the writer chooses because of the lack of discussion regarding psychological conflicts of the main character in the novel.

### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study is to analyze intrinsic elements which are character and conflicts as well as extrinsic elements which are psychological conflicts in the novel entitled *Take Me with You When You Go* by David Levithan and Jennifer Niven. On the extrinsic elements, the writer will focus on the causes of Ezra's

psychological conflicts, the types of psychological conflicts experienced by Ezra, the impacts of psychological conflicts on Ezra, and the relation of the causes and the impacts of Ezra's psychological conflict.

## **1.6. Writing Organization**

### **I. Introduction**

The first chapter of this study consists of the background of the study, research problems, the objectives of the study, previous study, the scope of the study, and writing organization.

### **II. Theory and Method**

The second chapter of this study consists of the theories that are used by the writer which are intrinsic elements theories and extrinsic elements theories and the research methods used to analyze the novel.

### **III. Analysis**

The third chapter of this study consists of the analysis of the novel from the intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

### **IV. Conclusion**

The last chapter of this study consists of a conclusion from the analysis of the novel.