

## REVEALING SOCIAL CONFLICT AS SEEN IN THE DRAMA *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE* BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the social conflicts as seen in The Drama *The Merchant Of Venice* By William Shakespeare. This research was conducted to help readers identify and understand the social conflicts contained in the drama's script. The main purpose of this research is to identify and find out; 1) To identify the causes of Social conflict as seen in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. 2) To find out the impacts of Social conflict as seen in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative, the writer uses theory to analyze the data, the theory from Soekanto (1990) then uses Sociological approach. In collecting data, the writer uses documentation technique and uses content analysis. The results of this study are; First, 5 social problem causes social conflict in this drama, including crime, family disorganization, violation of social norms, demographic issues, bureaucracy. Second, 3 impacts of social conflict, including increased in-group solidarity, disintegration and breakdown of the group's unity, changes in the personality of individuals.

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## Introduction

There have been various attempts to define literature as "imaginative" writing in the fictional sense, writing that is not literary true. The distinction between fact and fiction is unlikely to get us so far away, especially since the distinction itself is often questioned. For example, there is an opinion that "historical" and "artistic" truth do not apply at all to the early Icelandic tales (Herman & Eagleton, 1996). Fact and fiction have many differences that can be compared, from theme, plot, setting, even characters and point of view, all of

which can be differentiating factors between whether it is fiction or non-fiction writing.

Literature as an imaginative work here does not mean that every literary work must use images. If we hold the fictionality of creation and imagination as characteristics of literature, perhaps researchers refer to the works of Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Balzac, and Keats and not to works by Montaigne, Bossuet, or Emerson, which are more philosophical in nature (Wellek & Warren, 2016).

A literary work and literary science, which is a subfield of science, are the two basic meanings of the word literature. If a literary work is considered, then literature is an artistic creation employing language as the medium, produced by a writer or group of authors. Literature is the creative and imaginative revelation of facts as a manifestation of human life (and society) through language, and it has a positive impact on human life (Kosasih, 2008).

In addition, performing literary criticism aims to advance the theory or technique in literary criticism itself to address the evolving question concerning literature in our day. Students are better equipped to respond to current literary concerns that are entwined with the social context of the author's time of writing thanks to the proliferation of ideas and methodologies presented in literary criticism.

Researchers can uncover secrets about people or characters in a work of literature. The way the words are arranged in phrases or words can clearly convey the social strife that was developing in that society at the time. State issues are not beyond the author's perspective, and his sensitive portrayal of them is a response to his upbringing. The researcher can embrace such things by describing them in a clear, concise, and precise manner through word choice. In other words, literature is a description of the life of the surrounding community. In literary works, humans and their life problems are the subjects of the creation of the literary work itself. Social conflict is one of the things that can be observed in human life and self.

Conflict can be defined as a dramatic situation involving two equal forces and implying

actions and reactions (Wellek and Werren, 1995). Alternatively, Meredith and Fitzgerald defined conflict as unpleasant experiences that characters in a story encounter and would prefer not to have (Nugiantoro, 2002).

According to Coser (1958), social conflict is defined as a fight between parties over scarce status, power, and resources and values, where the opponents' goals are to neutralize, harm, or eliminate their rivals. This suggests that personal issues and/or societal dysfunction may be the root causes of social conflict.

The Merchant of Venice is the title of the drama that the researcher chose, yet it is also a William Shakespeare drama. William Shakespeare wrote a drama called The Merchant of Venice, which is thought to have been composed between 1596 and 1598. According to the synopsis of the play the trader of Venice, Antonio was a well-known, wealthy, and well-liked trader in Venice. Among his many friends was a young man named Bassanio, who owed much to Antonio. Bassanio wants to repay his friend, but so far, he has not been able to do so.

Despite the fact that he was now low on funds, Antonio told his young friend that he would be pleased to lend him any amount of money. His merchant ship was still at sea, and all of his money was tied up in it. Bassanio won't be let down by Antonio, though. Bassanio could use Antonio's name as collateral for the loan, and he is certain that a potential tenant will provide him with the required funds. And his name is Shylock the money lender (Shakespeare, 1994).

The researcher provides a summary of the two main characters in this drama Shylock, the antagonist, and Antonio, the protagonist in the dialogue presented above. It is clear from the dialogue that references are made repeatedly to the faith or beliefs of one of the characters Shylock, the Jewish antagonist and Antonio, the Christian protagonist in the drama who later became one of the subjects of the study by the researcher.

The Merchant of Venice is a unique and interesting drama. Because it depicts the situation in the 16th century in Venice, with a plot involving conflict between complex

characters. This story is interesting because it presents characters who have strong commitment, such as Antonio who is willing to sacrifice for his friend, and Portia who is intelligent and insightful in saving the situation. Apart from that, this drama also depicts social conflicts and social prejudices that are relevant to the era in which it was written. And according to background above, there are some formulation problems that researcher want to examine this research there are:

1. What are the causes of social conflict as seen in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare?
2. What are the impacts of social conflict as seen in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare?

## **Review of Literature**

### **a. Social Conflict**

Conflict can be defined as a dramatic situation involving two equal forces and implying actions and reactions (Wellek and Werren, 1995). Alternatively, Meredith and Fitzgerald defined conflict as unpleasant experiences that characters in a story encounter and would prefer not to have (Nugiantoro, 2002). According to Coser (1958), social conflict is defined as a fight between parties over scarce status, power, and resources and values, where the opponents' goals are to neutralize, harm, or eliminate their rivals. This suggests that personal issues and/or societal dysfunction may be the root causes of social conflict.

### **b. The Causes of Social Conflict**

The growth of society is aided by conflict. Disagreement can improve relationships between people and different groups as well as a group's cohesiveness. While not all

dispute ends badly, conflict needs to be resolved with the right response in order to be successful. There are nine primary categories of social problems that might lead to social conflict (Soekanto, 1990).

1. Poverty

According to Soekanto (1990), Living in poverty means that one is a member of a lower social class and is unable to benefit from any intellectual or physical resources available to them. As a result, poverty may be defined as a state of low living standards, marked by the severe deprivation of basic necessities.

2. Crime

According to sociology, one type of social conduct will lead to another type of social behavior. Based on a sociological analysis, we can conclude that a "crime" is a social behavior that originates from or is strongly associated with the social organization in which it takes place. Additionally, shifts in crime in a particular location have also been impacted by shifts in crime in social groups in that area. Furthermore, examining the connections between shifts in crime and alterations in social structure necessitates examining the driving forces behind criminal activity. We can let offenders heal as we work hard to combat crime.

3. Family Disorganization

The family is a part of the social organization of the society. For a few of them, disagreements are a natural part of their surroundings. This is due to the fact that, although being a family, each member has unique beliefs, passions, and other potentially conflicting elements.

#### 4. The problems of younger generation in modern society

In modern society, At least two issues affect young people. First, the urge to fight because of a fear of criminality, activism, and other disruptive behaviors. Apathy and disillusionment with society constitute the second.

#### 5. War

The most difficult issue facing humanity is war. In social institutions, mediation is typically the final step in these disagreements. Because it affects numerous societies at once, this issue calls for international cooperation. There are numerous potential causes that affect every facet of society.

#### 6. Violation of social norms

- 1) Prostitution: Prostitution in unrestricted sexual relations with individuals for financial gain is known as prostitution. Prostitution can be suppressed through having sex and understanding the symptoms.
- 2) Child crime: In Indonesia, child criminality is well known when it comes to finding solutions for the "Cross boy" and "Cross girl" problems. Terms like "cross boy" and "cross girl" are used to characterize groups of young criminals. Their unlawful actions in society are connected to this criminal activity.
- 3) Alcoholism: The issue with alcoholism is not whether it is legal or not; rather, it is about who, what, and when people consume alcohol. But the most crucial thing is to manage the intoxicated person's posture and confine them.
- 4) Homosexuality: Homosexuality is a preference about sexual orientation in comparison to individuals of the same sex. Since it plays a part in society, we need an explanation to comprehend the causes of homosexuality.

#### 7. Demographic Issue

In the process of its construction, as the subject and object of the building itself, a nation needs its inhabitants. The nation must thereby ensure the welfare of its citizens. Demographic shifts frequently cause prosperity itself to be disrupted.

8. Environmental issues

- 1) In the physical environment, everything is centered on the demise of humans..
- 2) Biological environment, encompassing every living thing that coexists with humans.
- 3) The social environment is made up of people or groups from all around society.

9. Bureaucracy

The word "bureaucracy" is changed to "hierarchical organization," which refers to the grouping of employees who carry out certain administrative tasks.

In society, conflicts are frequently limited to unimportant issues. Each and every human has a unique perspective and way of thinking. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that we frequently have different opinions from those of other individuals when we interact socially.

**c. The Impact of Social Conflict**

Soekanto (1990) points out, they are not totally consistent. Although someone may not get along with someone else and may even have negative thoughts about them, they manage to hold onto their belief since they consistently have positive experiences when they depend on them.

But social conflict will always bring up additional matters that could concern a person or a community. Negative attitudes and views that drive conflict escalation and attempt to resolve it are undoubtedly linked to the impact of social conflict itself (Soekanto, 1990).

- 1) Increased in-group solidarity. If a group is in conflict with another group, solidarity between members of the group will usually become stronger. They even willing to make sacrifices for the integrity of their group.

- 2) If conflict between groups occurs within a particular group, the result is the opposite, namely the disintegration and breakdown of the group's unity.
- 3) Changes in the personality of individuals. In conflicts that take place within groups or between groups, there are always people who sympathize with both sides. There are individuals who can withstand such situations, but there are many who feel pressured, so it is mental torture.
- 4) Destruction of property and human casualties. It seems quite clear how one of the most terrible forms of conflict, namely war, has caused severe suffering, both for the victors and the losers, in the material realm and for the human body and soul.
- 5) Accommodation, domination and submission of one party. If the strengths of the opposing parties are balanced, then accommodation may arise. An imbalance between the strengths of the parties experiencing the clash will lead to domination by one party over its opponent. The position of the party being dominated is as a party that submits to its opponent's power by force.

It should go without saying that conflicting is a dissociated social process. Nevertheless, even though they frequently resulted in intense and violent altercations, the conflict processes frequently had advantageous effects on society. Discussion-based conflicts, for instance, will undoubtedly be prioritized, while poorly evaluated theories will be disregarded. Depending on the topics at hand and the social system in which the conflict arises, disputes may or may not have beneficial outcomes.

Some researchers are relevant to this research which is a study written by Amalia Rahmawati's thesis in 2021. *The Social Conflict and Its Impacts on Marianne Portrayed in Sally Rooneys Normal People*. The thesis of English Literature Department, Faculty of Humanities, State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim, try to find social conflicts in Sally Rooney's *Normal People*, identifying the causes of social conflict in Sally Rooney's



Normal People, and determining the causes of social conflict on Marianne in Sally Rooney's Normal People. This study's focus is Sally Rooney's Normal People. The literary criticism approach was used to analyze this study. Using literary sociology as a method, the researcher applies Muin's theory to determine the social conflict's impact in addition to Lewis A. Coser's social conflict theory.

Second study, M. Lindsay Kaplan literature journal in 2016 with the title *Others and Lovers in The Merchant of Venice*. The Merchant of Venice explores the tension between same and other in several contexts; This chapter focuses in particular on the ways that a Christian ideology present in the play tries to absorb and integrate women and Jews into a social hierarchy. It analyzes the play's differentiation issue in light of Emmanuel Levinas's theories of alterity and otherness as presented in his philosophical work Totality and Infinity. The drama *The Merchant of Venice* portrays otherness or separateness as an apparently bad Jewish value; nonetheless, alterity also offers a solution to the play's main dilemma. Both Shylock and Portia try to defend their independence from those who would seek to undermine it by using the legal system. Even though Portia outperforms Shylock in the end, she doesn't follow the ethics of alterity to its natural conclusion.

Third, Dwi Handayani (2022) with the title *Social Conflict As Seen in Animal Farm Novel by George Orwell*. The thesis is from State Islamic University Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi. The social conflicts covered in this study were those found in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm*. Descriptive qualitative research design was used in this study. In order to address the problem formulation, the theoretical data used for analysis includes the theory of social conflict by Fink (2021), types of social conflict by Setiadi & Kolip (2011), causes of social conflict by Turner (2011), and finally the impact of social conflict by Setiadi & Kolip (2011). Sociology is the method applied in this study.

Next is Nurhamdiah (2022) with the title *Social Conflict in the Novel A Study in Scarlet Letter by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. Thesis, State Islamic University Sultan Thaha

Saifuddin Jambi. Examining the societal problems shown in the novel *A Study in Scarlet* is the main goal of this study. The M. Afzalurrahman and Soedjono Soekanto theory was applied in this investigation. The data were assessed using the qualitative descriptive research method. The novel presents two distinct forms of social conflict: intrapersonal conflict and interpersonal conflict.

Then, Darussalam (2022) with the title *Social Conflict in The Trial of Chicago 7 Film by Aaron Sorkin 2020*. The thesis comes from State Islamic University Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi. The societal issues depicted in Aaron Sorkin's film *The Trial of Chicago 7* are the subject of this study. This study employs a descriptive qualitative design, and the author applies theory—specifically, Horald

A. Phelps and Mukhlis's theory—to examine the data before applying a sociological method. The writer used both descriptive and documenting techniques while gathering facts.

The study of the five previous theses or journals comes from the keywords of this research, social conflict and *The Merchant of Venice*. Previous studies of the influence of leading roles and unique supporting roles. Most of the previous studies focused on the behavior of the main character in this drama. While research using the keyword "Social conflict" focuses on sociological aspects, therefore, in this thesis, the writer has the opportunity to describe and study the recovery actions of the antagonist in the play *The Merchant of Venice*. What are the influences behind these actions and the causes and consequences of these actions.

## **Research Method**

The design of this research, researcher used a descriptive qualitative method as the design of this research. Then the researcher will employ the descriptive qualitative method because the design of the qualitative method is more descriptive and the data was collected in the form of words or images rather than numbers, thus the emphasis is not

placed on the numbers. This research design emphasizes the researcher as the primary instrument, uses natural conditions, and isolates the experiment from the source data. With this method, sense is given more weight, and as a result, descriptive qualitative research aims to describe, clarify, and offer more comprehensive answers to the problems under investigation. This requires extensive personal investigation and the transcription of actual statements or words from conversations (Sugiono, 2018).

The data gained from English drama script it was script from *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare used on the book by Heinemann Shakespeare which was published in 1994. Content analysis examines various human communication mediums, such as books, newspapers, and dramas, to find trends, themes, or biases. This means that content analysis is about identifying the message that an object is trying to convey rather than drawing conclusions. (Leedy & Ormrod, 2016).

## **Analysis**

In this chapter, the researcher discussed the problems that have been formulated in the first chapter. Discussion about social conflict is important because the researcher to learn many things by knowing social conflict. Social conflict in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* is analyzed into two aspects: 1) Causes of social conflict, 2) Impact of social conflict. It has been previously informed that within the limits of the research, the conflict that will be discussed in this study are only social conflict. Therefore, conflict other than social conflicts will be eliminated.

### **A. Causes of Social Conflict as seen in the Drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare**

the researcher refers to the theory of social problems by Soekanto in classifying the causes of social conflict in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare.

However, based on the analysis conducted by researcher in the drama *The Merchant of Venice*, only 5 social problem cause social conflict in this drama.

## 1. Crime

The first cause of social conflict in *The Merchant of Venice* is crime. One type of social conduct will lead to another type of social behavior. Based on a sociological analysis, we can conclude that a "crime" is a social behavior that originates from or is strongly associated with the social organization in which it takes place (Soekanto, 1990).

### **ACT 1**

#### **SCENE 3**

*SHYLOCK: Why look you how you storm.*

*I would be friends with you, and have your*

*love, Forget the shames that you have*

*stained me with, Supply your present wants,*

*and take no doit*

*Of usance for my moneys-and you'll not hear me.*

*This is kind I offer.*

*BASSANIO: This were kindness.*

*SHYLOCK: This kindness will I*

*show-*

*Go with me to a notary, seal me*

*there Your single bond, and in*

*merry sport, If you repay me not*

*on such a day,*

*In such a place, such sum or sums as*

*are Expressed in the condition , **let the**  
**forfeit Be nominated for an equal**  
**pound**  
**Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and**  
**taken In what part of your body**  
**pleaseth me.***

*ANTONIO: Content, i'faith, I'll seal to such a bond,*

*And say there is much is much kindness in the Jew.*

*(P. 33-35)*

From dialogue above, act 1 and scene 3 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about a loan agreement between Antonio, a Christian merchant, and Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. Antonio wants to borrow 3.000 ducats to help his friend Bassanio, who wants to purpose to Portia. Shylock agrees to lend the money without interest, but on the condition that if Antonio fails to pay on time, he must surrender one pound of his flesh to Shylock. Antonio, confident that his ships would soon return with great profits, accepted the terms without hesitation. Bassanio, however, was suspicious and uncomfortable with the agreement. This is a form of social conflict about crime. Because this is included in gambling or legal persecution, where Shylock makes the law for his evil desires.

## **ACT 2**

### **SCENE 4**

GRATIANO : Was not that letter from fair Jessica?

LORENZO : I must needs tell thee all. She hath  
directed

**How I shall take her from her father's  
house, What gold and jewels she is**

**furnished with, What page's suit she  
hath in readiness.**

If e'er the Jew her father come to  
heaven, It will be for his gentle  
daughter's sake. And never dare  
misfortune cross her foot, Unless she  
do it under this excuse,  
That she is issue to a faithless Jew.  
Come go with me, peruse this as thou  
goest. Fair Jessica shall be my touch-  
bearer. (P.63)

From dialoge above, act 2 scene 4 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about Lorezo's plan to escape with Jessica, Shylock daughter, that night. Lancelot brings a letter from Jessica to Lorenzo, saying that she will steal gold and jewels from his father and run away with Lorenzo dressed as a torchbearer. Lorenzo was very happy and told Gratiano about the contents of the letter. They both hoped that their plan would succeed. This is a form of social conflict about crime. Because theft is a form of crime.

## 2. Family Disorganization

The family is a part of the social organization of the society. For a few of them, disagreements are a natural part of their surroundings. This is due to the fact that, although being a family, each member has unique beliefs, passions, and other potentially conflicting elements (Soekanto, 1990).

The following data and analysis found by the Researcher in this scene of  
drama Table 1. Family Disorganization

Datum 1	Datum 2
<b>ACT 1</b>	<b>ACT 2</b>
<b>SCENE 2</b>	<b>SCENE 6</b>
<p><i>PORTIA: If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions. I can asier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching.</i></p> <p><i><b>The brain may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree; such a hare is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the cripple. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose m a husband. O me, the word 'choose'! I may neither choose whom I would, nor refuse whom I dislike; so is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead</b></i></p>	<p><i><b>Enter JESSICA above, in boy's clothes</b></i></p> <p><i>JESSICA: Who are you? Tell me for more certainly, Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.</i></p> <p><i>LORENZO: Lorenzo and thy lve.</i></p> <p><i>JESSICA: Lorenzo certain, and my love indeed, For who love I so much? And now who knows But you lorenzo, whether I am yours?</i></p> <p><i>LORENZO: Heaven and thy thoughts are witness that thou at.</i></p> <p><i>JESSICA: Here, catch this casket, it is worth the pains. I am glad'tis night, you do not look on me, For I am much ashamed of my exchange. But love is blind, and lovers cannot see The pretty follies that themselves commit, For it they could, Cupid himself would blush To see me thus transformed to a boy.</i></p>

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**father.** *Is it not hard nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?*

**NERISSA:** *Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations, therefore the lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of gold, silver, and lead, whereof who chooses his meaning chooses you, will no doubt never be chosen by any rightly, but on who shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come? (P.15)*

**LORENZO:** *Descend, for you must be my torch-bearer.*

**JESSICA:** *What, must I hold a candle to my shames? They in themselves, good sooth, are too too light.*

*Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love, And I should be obscured.*

**LORENZO:** *So are you, sweet, Even in the lovely garnish of a boy. But come at once, For the close night doth play the runaway, And we are stayed for at Bassanio's feast. JESSICA: I will make fast the doors, and gild myself With some moe ducats, and be with you staright. (P.69-70)*

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From dialogue above, act 1 and scene 2 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about the love situation of Portia, a rich woman from Belmont, who cannot choose her own husband because of the will of her dead father. Her father left a riddle that the suitors who wanted to marry Portia had to guess. Applicants had to choose one of three chests made of gold, silver and lead. Only the person who chooses the correct chest can take Portia as his wife.



Portia and Nerissa, her maid, discuss the suitors who have come to ask for her hand and Portia criticizes them one by one for having many flaws. This is a form of social conflict about family disorganization while act 2 and scene 6 is the scene where Jessica, Shylock's daughter, dresses up as a boy and runs away from her father's house with Lorenzo, a Christian nobleman who loves her. Jessica also brought her father's jewelry and gold coins as her wedding dowry. This is a form of social conflict about family disorganization. Because this scene shows the conflict between Jewish and Christian families, as well as between love and wealth. Jessica must abandon her identity as a Jew to be with Lorenzo, while Shylock loses his daughter and his fortune due to Jessica's betrayal. This scene also displays different character traits

### 3. Violation of Social Norms

- 1) Prostitution: Prostitution in unrestricted sexual relations with individuals for financial gain is known as prostitution. Prostitution can be suppressed through having sex and understanding the symptoms.
- 2) Child crime: In Indonesia, child criminality is well known when it comes to finding solutions for the "Cross boy" and "Cross girl" problems. Terms like "cross boy" and "cross girl" are used to characterize groups of young criminals. Their unlawful actions in society are connected to this criminal activity.
- 3) Alcoholism: The issue with alcoholism is not whether it is legal or not; rather, it is about who, what, and when people consume alcohol.
- 4) Homosexuality: Homosexuality is a preference about sexual orientation in comparison to individuals of the same sex. Since it plays a part in society, we need an explanation to comprehend the causes of homosexuality.

## ***ACT 1***

## **SCENE 1**

**ANTONIO:** *In sooth I know not why I am so sad.*

*It wearies me, you say it wearies you;  
But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,  
What stuff'tis made of, whereof it is  
born, I am to learn.  
And such a want-witsadness makes of  
me, That I have much ado to know  
myself.*

**SALERIO:** *Your mind is tossing on the ocean,  
There, where your argosies with portly  
sail, Like signiors and rich burghers on  
the flood, Or as it were the pageants of  
the sea,  
Do overpeer the petty traffickers  
That curtsy to them, do them reverence,  
As they fly by them with their woven wings. (p.3)*

From dialogue above, act 1 and scene 1 is the opening scene from the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. In this scene, Antonio, a wealthy merchant in Venice, expresses his inexplicable feelings of sadness. His friends, Salarino and Solanio, try to cheer him up for various reasons, such as being worried about his merchant ships, or being in love. However, Antonio rejected all these reasons and said that he did not know why he was sad. This scene suggests a possible homosexual relationship between Antonio and Bassanio, although it is never explicitly confirmed by Shakespeare.

**ACT 1**

**SCENE 1**

**ANTONIO:** *You know me well, and herein spend but  
time To wind about my love with  
circumstance; And out of doubt you do  
me now more wrong In making question  
of my uttermost  
Than if you had made waste of all I have.*

*Then do but say to me what I should do  
That in your knowledge may by me be  
done, And I am prest unto it. Therefore  
speak.*

**BASSANIO:** *In Belmont is a lady richly left,  
And she is fair, and fairer than that word,  
Of wondrous virtues-sometimes from her eyes  
I did receive fair speechless messages. (p.11-13)*

From dialogue above, act and scene 1 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about the friendly and financial relationship between Antonio and Bassanio, his relative and friend. Bassanio ask Antonio to lend him money so he can go to Belmont, where he hopes to marry Portia, a rich and beautiful woman. Antonio say that he has no cash at the moment, as all his property is tied up in his trading expedition. However, he is willing to guarantee any loan that Bassanio can get form someone else. Antonio seems very supportive of Bassanio, and he isn even willing to lend Bassanio his money, even though he already owes Antonio a lot of money.

This could be interpreted as a sign of great affection, or even self-sacrifice, from Antonio to Bassanio.

**ACT 4**

**SCENE 1**

**ANTONIO:** *But little; I am armed and well  
prepared. Give me your hand Bassanio,  
fare you well. Grieve not that I am  
fallen to this for you; For herein  
Fortune shows herself more kind Than  
is her custom: it is still her use  
To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,  
An age of poverty; from which lingering  
Penance Of such misery doth she cut me off.  
Commend me to your honourable wife.  
Tell her the process of Antonio's end.  
Say how I loved you, speak me fair in  
death; And when the tale is told, bid her  
be judge Whether Bassanio had not once  
a love.  
Repent but you that you shall lose your  
friend, And he repents not that he pays  
your debt.  
For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,  
I'll pay it presently with all my heart.*

**BASSANIO:** ***Antonio, I am married to a wife  
Which is as dear to me as life  
itself,***

*But life itself, my wife, and all the  
world, Are not with me esteemed  
above thy life I would lose all, ay  
sacrifice them all Here to this devil,  
to deliver you. (p.163)*

From dialogue above, the quote in act 4 and scene 1 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* is about Bassanio's words to Antonio. When he saw that Antonio was willing to sacrifice his life to pay his debt. This quote shows how strong Bassanio's friendship and loyalty was to Antonio, whom he considered more valuable than his own wife.

#### 4. Demographic Issue

In the process of its construction, as the subject and object of the building itself, a nation needs its inhabitants. The nation must thereby ensure the welfare of its citizens. Demographic shifts frequently cause prosperity itself to be disrupted (Soekanto, 1990).

The following data and analysis found by the Researcher in this scene of drama.

Table 2. Demographic Issue

Datum 1	Datum 2	Datum 3	Datum 4
<b>ACT 1</b>	<b>ACT 2</b>	<b>ACT 3</b>	<b>ACT 4</b>
<b>SCENE 3</b>	<b>SCENE 8</b>	<b>SCENE 1</b>	<b>SCENE 1</b>
ANTONIO : Well Shylock, shall we be beholding to you? SHYLOCK :  Sign ior Antonio, many a time and Oft In the Rialto you have rated me About my moneys and my usances. Still have I borne it with a patient shrug, For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe. You call me misbeliever, cut- throat dog, And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine, And all for use of that which is mine own. Well then, it now appears you need my help. Go to then, you come to me, and you say, 'Shylock, we would have moneys'- you say so; You that did void	Venice  Enter SALERIO and SOLANIO  SOLANIO : I never heard a passion so confused, So strange, outrageous, and so variable, As the dog Jew did utter in the streets: 'My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter! Fled with a Christian! O my scorned my nation, Christian ducats! Justice! The law! My ducats, and my daughter! A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats, And jewels, two stones, two rich and precious Stones, Stolen by my dauhter. Justice! Find the girl! She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats. (p.82-83)	SALERIO : Why I am sure, if he forfeit, thou wilt not take his flesh, what's that good for? SHYLOCK : To bait fish withal. If it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and hindrered me half a million, laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies and what's his reason? I am Jew. Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, sense, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warned and	PORTIA : A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine; The court awards it, and the law doth give it. SHYLOCK : Most rightful judge. PORTIA : Tarry a little, there is something else. This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood, The words expressly are 'a pound of flesh,. Take then thy bond, take tho thy pound of flesh, But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed One drop of Christian bloo, thy lands and Goods Are by the laws of Venice confiscate Unto the state of Venice. (p.164- 165)

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*your rheum upon my  
beard, And foot me as  
you spurn a stranger  
cur Over your  
threshold-moneys ia  
your suit. What should I  
say to you? Should I not  
say, 'Hath a dog money?  
Is it possible A cur can  
lend three thousand  
ducats? Or Shall I bend  
low, and in a bondman's  
key With bated breath,  
and whispering  
humbleness Say this:  
'Fair sir, you spat on me  
on Wednesday last, You  
spurned me such a day,  
another time You called  
me dog; and for these  
courtesies I,ll lend you  
thus much money's?*

*cooled by the same winter  
and summer, as a Christian  
is? If you prick us do we not  
bleed? If you tickle us do  
we not laugh? If you poison  
us do we not die? And if  
you wrong us shall we not  
we not revenge? If we are  
like you in the rest, we will  
resemble you in that. If a  
Jew wrong a Christian, what  
is hil humility? Revenge. If a  
Christian wrong a Jew, what  
should his sufferance be by  
Christian example? Why  
revenge. The villany you  
teach me I will execute, and  
it shall go hard but I will  
better  
the instruction. (p.96-97)*

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From dialogue above, act 2 and scene 3 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about Jessica, Shylock daughter, deciding to leave her father and run away with Lorenzo, a Christian man she loves. Jessica also took her father's jewelry and money, and planned to convert to Christianity. Shylock is very angry and sad because he feels he has lost his children and property and also because he feels betrayed by Jessica who abandoned her religion while dialogue above, act 2 and scene 8 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about Solanio and Salerio, two of Antonio's friends, make fun of Shylock because he lost his daughter and his money. They imitate Shylock clamoring for Jessica, calling him a "miserly Jew" and an "old devil". They also say that Shylock cares more about his money than about his daughter, and that he is not worthy of being called a human being.

And then on the act 3 and scene 1 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about Shylock talks to Salanio and Salerio about his misfortune. He complained that he had been treated unfairly by Christians, who insulted, kicked and spat at him. He also demands that Antonio pay his debt, or he will take his pound of flesh as compensation. He questioned why Christians considered Jews to be different creatures, when they also had the same bodies, feelings and interests. He said that he would repay the ill treatment he received from Christians in the same way while dialogue at act 4 and scene 1 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about Shylock confronts Antonio in court, where he refuses to accept money in exchange for his pound of flesh. He insists that he is entitled to what was agreed upon in the agreement, and he will not listen to apologies or mercy from Antonio or anyone else. However, he ultimately lost the trial, because he was not allowed to take a sponge of Antonio's flesh without spilling his blood, which was against Venetian law. He was also forced to leave half his property to Antonio, and the other half to the state. In addition, he had to convert to Christianity, which was the heaviest punishment for



him.

## **B. Impact of Social Conflict as seen in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare**

Social conflict will always raise other issues which may refer to an individual or society. The impact of the social conflict itself is certainly not separated from negative attitude and perception which finally cause another act. This kind of thing is also illustrated in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare, where the social conflict occurred in the story also raises other issues. Problems that occur due to social conflict also ultimately have an impact.

Soekanto has explained 5 impacts of social conflict, but researchers only found 3 impacts, including increased in-group solidarity, disintegration and breakdown of the group's unity, changes in the personality of individuals

### **1. Increased in-group solidarity**

If a group is in conflict with another group, solidarity between members of the group will usually become stronger. They even willing to make sacrifices for the integrity of their group (Soekanto, 1990).

## ***ACT 1***

### ***SCENE 1***

*ANTONIO: You know me well, and herein spend but  
time To wind about my love with  
circumstance; And out of doubt you do  
me now more wrong In making question  
of my uttermost  
Than if you had made waste of all I  
have. Then do but say to me what I*

*should do That in your knowledge may  
by me be done, And I am prest unto it.  
Therefore speak.*

***BASSANIO: In Belmont is a lady richly left,  
And she is fair, and fairer than that word,  
Of wondrous virtues-sometimes from her  
eyes I did receive fair speechless  
messages.  
Her name is Portia, nothing undervalued  
To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia.(P.11-12)***

From dialogue above, act and scene 1 in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* are about the friendly and financial relationship between Antonio and Bassanio, his relative and friend. Bassanio ask Antonio to lend him money so he can go to Belmont, where he hopes to marry Portia, a rich and beautiful woman. Antonio say that he has no cash at the moment, as all his property is tied up in his trading expedition. However, he is willing to guarantee any loan that Bassanio can get from someone else. This scene shows that there is an increase in-group solidarity because when Bassanio has no money but wants to marry a rich woman in Belmont, Antonio is eady to help by providing collateral for the debt to the moneylender, Shylock.

#### 1. Disintegration and Breakdown of the Group's Unity

If conflict between groups occurs within a particular group, the result is the opposite, namely the disintegration and breakdown of the group's unity (Soekanto, 1990).

### ***ACT 2***

### ***SCENE 6***

*Enter JESSICA above, in boy's clothes*

*JESSICA: Who are you? Tell me for more certainly,  
Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.*

*LORENZO: Lorenzo and thy lve.*

*JESSICA: Lorenzo certain, and my love indeed,  
For who love I so much? And now who  
knows But you lorenzo, whether I am  
yours?*

*LORENZO: Heaven and thy thoughts are witness that  
thou at. JESSICA: **Here, catch this casket, it is worth  
the pains.***

***I am glad'tis night, you do not look on  
me, For I am much ashamed of my  
exchange. But love is blind, and lovers  
cannot see The pretty follies that  
themselves commit,  
For it they could, Cupid himself would  
blush To see me thus transformed to a  
boy.***

*LORENZO: Descend, for you must be my torch-  
bearer. JESSICA: What, must I hold a candle to  
my shames?*

*They in themselves, goodsooth, are too too light.  
Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,  
And I should be obscured.*

From dialogue above, act 2 and scene 6 is the scene where Jessica, Shylock's daughter, dresses up as a boy and runs away from her father's house with Lorenzo, a Christian

nobleman who loves her. Jessica also brought her father's jewelry and gold coins as her wedding dowry. This scene shows the conflict between Jewish and Christian families, as well as between love and wealth. Jessica must abandon her identity as a Jew to be with Lorenzo, while Shylock loses his daughter and his fortune due to Jessica's betrayal. This scene shows that the love between Lorenzo and Jessica resulted in the breakup of a group. Because Jessica chose to convert to Christianity and live with Lorenzo and leave her father.

1. Changes in the personality of individuals.

In conflicts that take place within groups or between groups, there are always people who sympathize with both sides. There are individuals who can withstand such situations, but there are many who feel pressured, so it is mental torture. If conflict occurs between two different groups, then usually individuals will identify themselves with only one group, and then another group that is considered an opponent (Soekanto, 1990).

**ACT 4**

**SCENE 1**

**DUKE:**     *You hear the learned Bellario what he  
writes, And here, I take it, is the doctor  
come.*

***Enter PORTIA, dressed like a doctor of laws***

*Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario?*

**PORTIA:**   *I did my lord.*

**DUKE:**     *You are welcome, take your place.*

*Are you acquainted with the difference*

*That holds this present question in the court?*

**PORTIA:**   *I am informed thoroughly of the cause.*

*Which is the merchant here? And which the  
Jew? DUKE : Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth.  
(p.157)*

From dialogue above, the trial begins in the presence of the Duke of Venice, who feels sorry for Antonio and tries to persuade Shylock to forgive Antonio. However, Shylock insist on getting his rights according to the law. He sharpened the knife and got ready to cut Antonio's flesh. However, at the last moment, a young lawyer named Balthazar arrives, who turns out to be Portia in disguise, Bassanio's wife. Portia manages to find a legal loophole that saves Antonio and punishes Shylock. This scene shows that the conflict that occurs can change a person according to circumstances, where lawyer in Antonio and Shylock's trial.

## **Conclusion**

Social conflict will provisionally be taken to mean a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals (Coser, 1958). This means that social conflict could be born from problems of an individual, and/or social dysfunction. In this study, the researcher refers to the theory of social problems by Soekanto in classifying the causes of social conflict in the drama *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. However, based on the analysis conducted by researcher in the drama *The Merchant of Venice*, only 5 social problem causes social conflict in this drama, including crime, family disorganization, violation of social norms, demographic issues, bureaucracy.

Soekanto has explained 5 impacts of social conflict, but researchers only found 3 impacts, including increased in-group solidarity, disintegration and breakdown of the group's unity, changes in the personality of individuals.

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