

**ANALYSIS OF DYSFUNCTIONAL MARRIAGE THROUGH CONFLICTS
IN GILLIAN FLYNN'S *GONE GIRL* (2012)**

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis disfungsi pernikahan Amy dan Nick Dunne melalui konflik-konflik yang terjadi dalam pernikahan mereka. Perkawinan disfungsional adalah rusaknya hubungan perkawinan, dan perkawinan tidak berjalan dengan baik sebagaimana mestinya. Sebuah pernikahan bisa menjadi disfungsional karena adanya konflik tak terselesaikan yang menyelimuti pernikahan tersebut. Penelitian ini merupakan studi sastra yang menggunakan informasi tekstual dalam novel sebagai dasar analisisnya. Data utama dalam penelitian ini adalah novel *Gone Girl* (2012) karya Gillian Flynn, beserta artikel jurnal dan informasi pendukung lainnya. Penelitian dilakukan dengan menganalisis konflik yang menggambarkan bahwa pernikahan Nick dan Amy dalam kondisi disfungsional. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada beberapa konflik, seperti komunikasi yang buruk, ketidakpuasan terhadap pasangan, dan ketidakjujuran yang terjadi dalam pernikahan Amy dan Nick Dunne, yang mana didasari oleh diri mereka sendiri, itulah sebabnya pernikahan menjadi disfungsional.

Kata Kunci: gone girl, pernikahan disfungsional, konflik, pernikahan.

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the dysfunctional marriage of Amy and Nick Dunne through the conflicts that occur in their marriage. Dysfunctional marriage is the breakdown of marital relations, and marriage does not run as healthy as it should. A marriage can become dysfunctional because of the insoluble conflict that surrounds the marriage. This study is a literary study that uses textual information in the novel as the basis for its analysis. The primary data in this study is the novel *Gone Girl* (2012) by Gillian Flynn, along with journal articles and other supporting information. The study was conducted by analyzing the conflict, which depicts that Nick and Amy's marriage is in a dysfunctional condition. The results showed several conflicts, such as lack of communication, dissatisfaction, and dishonesty, that occurred in Amy and Nick Dunne's marriage, which were based on themselves, which was why their marriage was dysfunctional.

Keywords: gone girl, dysfunctional marriage, conflicts, marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Humans are creatures that cannot be separated from interactions and relationships with each other, both socially and personally. Their interactions and relationships can occur through various things, one of which is marriage. In marriage, the wife and husband have agreed to commit themselves together for the rest of their lives. However, not all interactions and relationships formed by humans in marriage can run smoothly and function as they should. Even so, it is undeniable that internal conflicts almost always lead to

dysfunctional marriages and the stability of human nature. Relationship dynamics give happiness and conflict in marriage. There are stresses and conflicts in married life that humans will and cannot avoid. It is because not everything is satisfactorily and perfect; there are enough things that can put a person or partner in a dysfunctional married life. Occasionally, even if people have kept their relationship intact, one of the other things cannot work well and does not function properly all the time.

Furthermore, it can be a source of problems in a marriage that can continue to branch off. Moreover, it impacts the quality of life of the couple who runs it in the short and long term (Nissa Egsavia, 2021). Hence, in marriage, it is necessary to have mental maturity and self-preparation to regulate emotions so that couples can understand each other's feelings and know what they need to understand more about the meaning of marriage itself so that a dysfunctional marriage does not occur (Khairani Amanda & Sriwartini, 2020). The quality of the husband and wife relationship is becoming more necessary because it can directly affect the nature of the fan and how long the marriage can last (Fiore & Swensen, 1977b). In a dysfunctional marriage, there is almost always little or no meaningful happiness for the couple.

Nowadays, dysfunctional marriage is no longer a surprising thing to be brought up in art and literature work. Many popular cultures have raised this issue in art and literature as a separate reflection of marriage, relationships, life, and human nature, such as Novels. Not only that, but people can also read it as introspection and understand the things that surround it. Numerous authors are not afraid to show, represent, and provide criticism through their novels regarding the problems and issues of dysfunctional marriages. It is because literature and human topics, including marriage and love, are interrelated with each other, which will give dynamics and characteristics of their own to the literary work. Likewise, Gillian Flynn, through her phenomenal novel *Gone Girl* (2012).

In literature, an American writer and journalist, Gillian S. Flynn, approaches and depicts the topic of a dysfunctional marriage in her novel, namely *Gone Girl* (2012). Gillian Schieber Flynn, born in 1971, is a woman writer who dares to explore themes and characters in her works. Flynn's works generally raise the outline of a murder story accompanied by mysteries and riddles. Flynn gained great success in her third novel, *Gone Girl*. *Gone Girl* has over 15 million copies in print worldwide, becoming a New York Times bestseller for 130 weeks and numerous awards such as the *Grand Prix des Letricces de Elle*.

In *Gone Girl*, Flynn combines murder, mystery, revenge, marriage intrigue, and other character developments, such as controversial thoughts and attitudes. *Gone Girl* tells about the marriage relationship of Nick Dunne and Amy Dunne, both of whom are former writers and decide to move to North Carthage,

Missouri. *Gone Girl* presents a prolonged conflict in the story of the couple Nick and Amy Dunne, right on their fifth wedding anniversary. Flynn delivers a romantic, lying, and sadistic marriage relationship, complemented by the presence of Amy's diary entries exploring love life from the point of view of opposite reality. Nick and Amy have been in a dysfunctional marital relationship for years. Their marriage did not stick to honesty from the start, so it did not work out as well as they thought during their courtship. The two are involved in self-created conflicts during their marriage, ranging from personality changes to lies, infidelity, and secrets they keep to themselves.

Previous studies have given different results regarding *Gone Girl* and the topics discussed in this study. According to Ahmed Hussein (2020), *Gone Girl* gives a face to the potential for patriarchy, which not solely presents a plot related to the disappearance of Amy Dunne, so her other identities are also slowly disappearing when trying to destroy the patriarchal constellation in society. On the other hand, Resti and Seolistyarini (2016) stated that *Gone Girl* features a *Femme Fatale* character who represents anti-feminism, which fuels the misogynistic notion that women are dangerous when they are in power and are determined to destroy them, resulting in hatred of women. Meanwhile, M.A Veraldy (2017) argues that *Gone Girl* provides a more psychological and solid sociological aspect that influences the in-laws' relationship with Amy and Nick. Another study by Prabowo and Fajria (2021) stated that jealousy pervades the character of Amy Dunne to drag her into her manipulative scenario.

The study above shows several results of studies related to the topics in the novel *Gone Girl*, which connect to the topic or theme that will be discussed. Those studies and the media generally discuss the psychological aspects and the personality of the protagonists in the novel. Nevertheless, this study is concerned with the issue of their marriage problem, specifically, the dysfunctional marriage of Amy and Nick Dunne, and the underlying it happened as seen through the dialogues, Amy's diary, their thoughts on marriage, and each other. Hence, this raises a question for further discussion and analysis: what conflicts in *Gone Girl* describe Amy and Nick Dunne's dysfunctional marriage?

METHODS

In this study of the novel *Gone Girl*, the researcher used literary research methods to collect more data in words related to dysfunctional marriage, especially what happened to Amy and Nick Dunne in the novel *Gone Girl*. The method is based on an interpretive developed based on social descriptions, data, or other categories, with a knowledge claim approach and design narrative (Creswell, 2013). In addition, this research method also focuses on collecting data from various references to obtain diverse perspectives, opinions, and understandings in more detail on a problem or topic (Nassaji, 2015). The descriptions data can be obtained through a thorough object analysis related to the topic or issues.

This study tries to classify the dysfunctional marriage of the married life of the main characters, Amy and Nick Dunne, in the novel. The data are collected from dialogues and monologues of the main characters, opinions, and actions that deal with dysfunctional marriage. The primary source is the novel *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, first published in 2012 by Crown Publishers in New York. Data collection also includes information or statements from other supporting media, such as books and articles. The data collection steps include reading, identifying, citing, and classifying based on research questions.

Sociology of Marriage

Sociology commonly explores and understands something through careful examination (Charon, 2009). Sociology defines marriage as the union of two or more individuals of the opposite sex in the general populace who are socially recognized, legitimized, and gain support (Tischler, 2010). In this case, sociology also sees marriage as a tradition that has been running consistently, is an underlying sexual bond, and implies a lasting relationship. Meanwhile, Ubesekara and Jiaojiang tated that it was a tradition built by society to maintain the sex life of human beings. Generally, marriage occurs between two people (male and female) who are bound and committed to each other. Other possibilities may occur before the marriage begins, during the marriage, or after the marriage takes place, it all depends on each individual and the couple. Therefore, each person or certain community groups will have their definition of marriage; their views on starting, living, or even ending it.

Marriage and family are historically closely connected, making human relationships more complex (Little et al., 2014). *Marriage* is a guide that has become a precept for humans in personal and social relationships. Hence, society intends to build a family and expand the network of relationships between individuals around them through marriage. According to Tischler (2010), a person must have a very close relationship with the person they marry because spiritual and emotional connection is more important than financial security. Marriage aspirations were commonly about love, sacrifice, or even noble duty. However, now it can move into self-fulfillment, such as sexual and leisure (Fals-Stewart & Lam, 2010). Typically, two people get married based on love, economic status, sacrifice, to the desire to achieve their sense of self-satisfaction. In addition, many studies also state that the role expectations of the married couple are necessary to provide satisfaction in the relationship they have together as a couple (Fiore & Swensen, 1977a; Mandibaye, 2021).

Even so, marriage still provides a binder. It is in the form of norms that apply in society traditionally. Norms can vary, ranging from the characteristics of the candidate, place of residence, to occupation, and may regulate the selection of partners, such as who can only marry whom and where the newlyweds live (Tischler, 2010). Another example, Endogamy is a rule that limits the social category from which a partner comes, such as ethnicity, religion, or specific social status. Meanwhile, Exogamy is a rule whereby a group determines someone from outside their culture to marry; for example, someone with a surname is encouraged to marry someone, not of the same clan.

Conflict in Marriage

Conflict in marriage can be said to belong to an interpersonal conflict, which occurs because a perception or action blocks the desires or dreams of others (Miller, 2015; Murdiana & Agustiani, 2015). The emergence of conflict in marriage is natural and cannot be avoided by the couple. It was because it brought together two humans and two different minds. However, problems and gaps in relationships sometimes go so far, and not every couple's dreams go as expected. It can include everything around the couple, such as misbehavior, verbal and physical abuse, and characteristics (Fincham, 2003). In addition, dysfunctional marriage conflicts tend to be unresolved, which could undermine trust and love for the partner.

Conflict can also occur if one of the partners has a strong stand against himself rather than a commitment to marriage; it tends to happen because of the high selfishness of the couple toward each other (Sandhya, 2009). It tends to require more self-reflection, introspection, and honest views of each other in the resolution process. It will make it easier for the couple to find agreement and solutions together with a healthy situation. According to Gottman (1999), all conflicts in marriage fall into one of two types of conflict:

- Perpetual conflict: A conflict persists and makes couples tend to argue over the same issue for years. It may be ruled out in a stable marriage as it matures, but it will destroy an unstable marriage. Unresolved problems will make them hurt and reject each other, even mentally and physically tired..
- Solvable problem/conflict: The conflicts are sometimes simple but crucial for couples; there are usually effective techniques to solve those problems.

In addition, conflicts in marriage usually arise due to two factors. First, internal factors that occur because of the couple themselves, such as selfishness, differences in principles, and other things. The second is external factors caused by problems or external parties; for example, the presence of a third person between husband and wife.

Dysfunctional Marriage

Dysfunctional marriage is a marriage life condition that is not working well or functioning appropriately. A dysfunctional marriage can occur because of and result in problems in the relationship, such as conflict, relationship gaps, marital violence, or others that do not indicate the state of a healthy marital relationship. It sometimes leads them to divorce, protracted conflict, depression, a tendency to do bad things, and having a direct or indirect influence on themselves (Fals-Stewart & Lam, 2010). Thus, each partner can affect the conditions of the marriage itself. Although, it is kind of hard to see the difference between a functional and a dysfunctional marriage. Tharp (1963) states that marriage can achieve the desired level of happiness like a husband can carry out the role that his wife expects and vice versa. Hence, based on the above explanation, dysfunctional marriage can solely be defined as the damage to the married relationship, and the marriage does not run as healthy as it should be.

Dysfunctional marriages cannot be detected or defined by the couple. It can sometimes be handled well by the couple through agreement and deliberation. However, not rarely, it will continue without finding a solution. The dynamics of a couple's life and relationships that are not always smooth and in line can put the couple in a dysfunctional marriage (Joie Bose, 2017). The dysfunction in marriage can occur from the beginning of marriage because of the lack of sincerity and value of commitment from the partner or couple. Nevertheless, it can also appear slowly over time, which can happen because of what the couple has done unhealthy that will ultimately harm both parties in the marriage. Consciously or unconsciously.

Characteristics of Dysfunctional Marriage

In a dysfunctional marriage, partners tend to blame each other for the cause of one or more events that befall their married life. Dysfunctional marriage manifests itself in various forms, usually characterized by impaired communication, low levels of caring between partners, lack of genuine commitment in relationships, and poor conflict resolution (Fals-Stewart & Lam, 2010). Joie Bose (2017) also mentions that the characteristics of dysfunctional marriages are lack of satisfaction and time in having sex, ongoing fights, harassment of partners in verbal and non-verbal forms, to domestic violence.

Not only that, insecure and comfortable feelings towards partners and cold situations often occur in dysfunctional marriage conditions. Other signs of a dysfunctional marriage include keeping secrets constantly, not discussing mutual issues with each other, disloyalty, infidelity, and attempted murder. Therefore, dysfunctional marriage conditions can affect a person mentally and behaviorally, which can affect actions and the continuity of social relations or the marriage itself.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dysfunctional Marriage in *Gone Girl*

The marriage relationship in this novel is like a killer compared to Amy's devious plans. Since the beginning, Amy and Nick's marriage has shown unstable conditions even though both are intoxicated with romance and knit a marriage that they consider happy and satisfying. The plot reveals that their marital relationship became chaotic and dysfunctional when they both lost their jobs and had to move to Missouri.

However, it also suggests that the two are not really in a functional relationship from the start, even though they constantly compliment each other before.

“What are you thinking? How are you feeling? Who are you? What have we done to each other?” (Gone Girl, 2012:3).

Nick and Amy complimented each other by saying they used to be their dream couple. Amy argues that Men like Nick love women like her role, Cool Girl. However, then everything changed. Nick starts the story described his wife as a little strange. He shows that he does not even know his partner, Amy, and cannot guess and understand what is going on in his wife's head. They give the story from each point of view to the reader. It shows readers with several statements of honesty that their marriage conditions are indeed chaotic and dysfunction.

Social Status

The economic or financial condition of Amy and Nick Dunne becomes the most visible problem in their story. From the time they met until they got married. It is also one of the masterminds of conflicts or other issues in their marriage. Nick and Amy are both writers but on different paths. Their career is stable enough, and Amy's family is affluent because her parents are famous book writers.

Nick, who lost his job first because of the recession that never subsided, became frustrated because their finances were running low. On the other hand, Amy has publicly stated that she is emotionally exhausted by this, and she initially thought Nick would be safe from being fired. Amy feels that every problem that comes into her married life with Nick seems to come at once and cause emotional wounds.

Frustrated by his firing, Nick becomes even more stressed because Amy has also been fired from her job. It made the two of them not even talk because Nick did not want to talk. Amy claims that she is also concerned about what happened to Nick and Nick feels that Amy is mocking him because he used to be so passionate about his career.

"Now I can feel Amy looking over my shoulder, smirking at the time I've spent discussing my career, my misfortune, and dismissing her

experience in one sentence. That, she would tell you, is typical." (Gone Girl, 2012:5)

Nick seems annoyed and self-conscious about how Amy judges him, from his job to his family's finances. Although he also liked and used Amy's remaining possessions for some time, he certainly did not want to be seen as under Amy just because of money.

“We opened a bar. We borrowed money from Amy to do this, eighty thousand dollars, which was once nothing to Amy but by then was almost everything. I swore I would pay her back, with interest. [...] *Well, there are all kinds of men*, his most damning phrase, the second half left unsaid, and *you are the wrong kind*.” (Gone Girl, 2012:8)

In that case, Nick did not want to be another husband or man like his father or anything terrible. However, he also could not avoid borrowing his wife's property, even when they had both lost their jobs. The money is used to provide income and a new career, but rather for Nick. Nick mentions that Amy will either find a new career or not does matter, but the income is used in Amy's funds. However, unknowingly this did not erase his frustration because he could embarrass himself if other people found out or when Amy brought it up.

It is similar to how they hate each other from their partner's hometown. Nick does not like Amy's New York-style life, and Amy hates Nick's dramatic life in Missouri. When Nick compromises (forces) with Amy to move to Missouri because his mother is dying, he even knows that Amy hates the decision.

“One of us was always angry. Amy, usually. [...] Do not blame me for this particular grievance, Amy. The Missouri Grievance. Blame the economy, blame bad luck, blame my parents, blame your parents, blame the Internet, blame people who use the Internet.” (Gone Girl, 2012:4)

At some point, Nick gives the impression that he feels humiliated and does not like being humiliated by Amy because she comes from a small area, while Amy comes from a metropolitan area, a wealthy family, and is the inspiration for the book *Amazing Amy*.

Corrosive Conflict Resolution

Dysfunctional marriage manifests itself in various forms, usually characterized by impaired communication, low levels of caring between partners, lack of genuine commitment in relationships, and poor conflict resolution (Fals-Stewart & Lam, 2010). Nick and Amy show poor and corrosive conflict resolution because they do not show each other's approach to resolving conflicts in their married life. Both know that each other has unique qualities in their marriage. However, neither one showed any initiative to repair the damage to their marriage, instead hiding in their inner anger and "compromised" marriage.

"...the *I so don't want to be mad but I'm going to be feeling*. [...] Because a rule, a good rule, a nice rule is being broken. Or maybe *rule* is the wrong word. Protocol? Nicety? But the rule/protocol/nicety—our anniversary—is being broken for a good reason, I understand, I do" (Gone Girl, 2012:72)

Nick knows that compromise in their marriage is becoming increasingly unhealthy. Unlike the usual compromise, because only he agreed and Amy would curse in her mind. What she thought was a great idea was not what Amy wanted. Though, Nick did it and believed in his own decision. Meanwhile, Amy also said 'yes' because she wanted to continue to do her role as the ideal wife, the wife Nick wanted. Briefly, they create their internal conflicts and have no immediate goal of resolving them.

In marriage, Nick and Amy should communicate with each other regarding their partner's insensitivity to their respective feelings, then carry out good conflict resolution. It can be done by them or mediated by their families, so their relationships and interactions do not feel wrong. Even so, the financial conditions and the problems that came with their married life and their parents did make it quite difficult for them. Then lead them to a dysfunctional and increasingly broken marriage.

Lack of Communication

Communication problems are at the root of dysfunctional marriages, and so are Nick and Amy's marriages. The lack of communication is shown when Nick loses his job and their finances run low. Nick's frustration as a husband is quite natural, and Amy seems to be trying to understand that.

However, the lack of healthy communication they have as a couple creates poor prejudices that they make toward their partner. Nick did not want to be blamed for the misfortune that befell them. Amy is also dissatisfied with her husband's attitude and even avoids her.

Amy is fed up with her husband's attitude; she suspects Nick of being dishonest with her but insists on playing the ideal wife, Cool Girl, and Amazing Amy in an unstable household. Meanwhile, Nick also questions Amy's changes which he considers unpleasant, and she shows her true nature.

"My wife was no longer my wife but a razor-wire knot daring me to unloop her, and I was not up to the job with my thick, numb, nervous fingers. [...] She was not the thing she became, the thing I feared most: an angry woman." (Gone Girl, 2012:50)

Nick and Amy have realized that both are changing, and their relationship is going downhill and tumultuous. There is no happiness in their relationship anymore. Amy, who knew that Nick was having an affair, just kept quiet and did not do any confrontation because she held it in and did not want to communicate anything to Nick because maybe their days as a couple would be more unpredictable.

If their relationship is stable from the start, they will sit down and talk to each other, discuss, let down their egotism, and find a way out. However, the marriage they built with a touch of roles and personal secrets could not work that way because of the selfishness of the two.

Dissatisfaction

The next conflict that depicts a dysfunctional marriage in *Gone Girl* is dissatisfaction. The stress of marriage is generally placed on the satisfaction of individuals regarding their emotional needs and view of the marriage (Fowler, 2007). *Dissatisfaction* is an unhappy feeling that arises because something does not meet expectations. It means that there is a feeling of dissatisfaction with a relationship or partner that is being lived.

This conflict also shared by Amy and Nick Dunne in their marriage. Of course, both are not completely satisfied and match our relationship during

their marriage. As far as the story goes, Amy has dissatisfied with Nick; of how Nick reacts to himself, his sex life, and Nick who likes Cool Amy but doesn't like Real her.

“So it had to stop. Committing to Nick, feeling safe with Nick, being happy with Nick, made me realize that there was a Real Amy in there, and she was so much better, more interesting and complicated and challenging, than Cool Amy [...] Can you imagine, finally showing your true-self to your spouse, your soul mate, and having him not like you?” (Gone Girl, 2012:254)

Amy's dissatisfaction is that Nick does not like the "real Amy" when she wants to be herself in their marriage. Although the honest Amy appears because Amy is sick of acting constantly, she does not prepare herself properly when facing Nick, who does not like the original version of herself. On the other hand, Nick also feels dissatisfied with the honest Amy, who is different from incredible Amy's personality. However, both play the role of being the preferred version of each other. Neither could be more trustworthy than the two, that they performed the role from the beginning..

“For several years, I had been bored. Not a whining, restless child's boredom (although I was not above that) but a dense, blanketing malaise. It seemed to me that there was nothing new to be discovered ever again.” (Gone Girl, 2012:80)

Besides, Nick's point of view stated that he had been boredom for several years in his marriage. Not because there were no children or feeling excessively sad, but he believed that it was because there was nothing new to be found in his marriage with Amy. Until then, he chose to have an affair with his student. Amy knew it, but Nick seemed to ignore it.

His boredom shows that he is not satisfied with the marriage he has been living in so far. Nick wants something new in his life because that is how he wants his life to go, the same way he wants to be a writer. He wanted excitement and renewed passion in his marriage, but neither he nor Amy did because they wanted to be what each other wanted them to be. Thus, dissatisfaction in the conditions of their marriage, which also includes disappointment and boredom, comes from themselves. Their charades, secrets, and dishonesty make them very

sick and dissatisfied with their marriage, like a problem covered with another problem without a solution..

Continual Secret and Dishonest

Nick and Amy are dishonest, lying to each other and the readers. The two have liked each other from the first time they met and have the potential to be a perfect couple. Therefore, from the beginning, Amy and Nick's marriage was not based on complete honesty and sincerity. Their marriage showed instability as their family faced a financial slump that they initially thought would not be as severe. However, their poor honesty caused disappointment in the two of them.

They do not show their true selves from the start and do not even share their feelings and secrets during the marriage, a form of communication that married couples need. Nick has never communicated to Amy regarding his parent's health condition, which is good to talk about since she is his wife. In her diary entry, Amy mentioned,

“.... there is something wrong with us, perhaps unfixable, if my husband wouldn't think to tell me this.” (Gone Girl, 2012:111)

They even stated that they were not who they were when they were together; they act out as distinct individuals that the couple liked from the beginning of their married life before eventually going awry. Amy had doubts about Nick and hid them in her mind, which was, in fact, much like how Nick had hidden from Amy. Their marriage is filled with secrets that they keep to themselves, and dishonesty to their partners, which in the end leads them to fear, suspicion, and distrust of each other.

“Nick loved me. A six-o kind of love: He looooved me. But he didn't love me, me. Nick loved a girl who doesn't exist. I was pretending, the way I often did, pretending to have a personality.” (Gone Girl, 2012:250)

Furthermore, Nick frustrates by constantly pretending to be the excellent husband that she wants him to be, and the pressure is getting heavier by the day. He leaves his original, small-town self and forces himself to follow Amy's metropolitan lifestyle. Then, he got fed up with his true self, which he kept secret from his wife. Likewise, Amy pretends to be a cool girl and keeps a devious plan to frame her husband for his

disgust. Keep every detail of the disgust felt at her husband's frustration and the marriage situation is no longer the same.

Subsequently, only the lies and secrets they keep regarding each other shroud their marriage. It makes them not know each other. The (real) Nick and the (real) Amy as if buried by their lies and secrets; even Amy's diaries are full of lies. This dishonesty, which is not only to Amy but also to other people, also shows the dysfunctional relationship between the two. He could cover up his affair with whom he spent many times and was not as honest as he was in routine investigations. It shows they could have been doing many lies in their married life. So, their marital relationship does not work as it should because sincerity and honesty are very low on them.

CONCLUSION

This paper discusses the dysfunctional marriage of Nick and Amy Dunne in *Gone Girl* (2012) through the conflicts that exist in their marriage life. These conflicts indicate a condition where their marriage is chaotic and does not function properly. In the discussion above, it was found that several conflicts provide a candid picture of the condition of Nick and Amy Dunne's dysfunctional marriage, including lack of communication, corrosive conflict resolution, dissatisfaction, and dishonesty that continue to occur among them.

The conflicts included in the characteristics of dysfunctional marriages, where they do not communicate and resolve it immediately and appropriately. Their relationship that is not based on honesty with each other has led them to a very high probability of an unhappy marriage. Therefore, every conflict between them tends to be perpetual because they will continue to bring up each other's mess in their silence. Their marriage is like uncertainty, falsehood, and the function of marriage itself seems uncertain, what they should do with each other or what they should do at their wedding. Henceforth, they defend the falsehood or the lie and decide to keep their wrong togetherness in a dysfunctional marriage.

Conclusively, no marriage will go on smoothly and happily without conflict or challenges. However, as a couple, it is good to start with honesty and get through the obstacles without blaming each other. Thus, there

are no secrets and prejudices against each other, and problems do not accumulate for a long time.

Gone Girl is a complex novel that provides many views, considerations, and descriptions of the world of marriage and how the reality of life as a couple is not always smooth and happy. Even though marriage is dysfunctional, we can learn from there and find out how dysfunctional married life is through conflict in this novel. So, it can be a lesson for many people.

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