

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **ANALYSIS**

In this chapter will analysis three short stories by Joyce Carol Oates entitled “The Girl With The Blackened Eye”, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” and “Four Summers”. This study analyze self-concept and conflict that done by the main characters. Furthermore in this three short stories this study also analyze the solve of conflict found a relevance both of them.

#### **4.1 Analysis of Self-Concept of the Main Characters in “The Girl With Blackened Eye”, “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” and “Four Summers”**

##### **4.1.1 Self-Concept of the Main Character in “The Girl With Blackened Eye”**

A girl 15 years old is a main character in short story of The Girl With The Blackened Eye. The self concept of her are physical, me in social and mental capabilities perception. Following the quotation of self-concept physical perception:

“Fifteen years old and a sophomore at Menlo Park High, living with my family in Menlo Park, California, where Dad was a dental surgeon (which was lucky: I’d need dental and gum surgery, to repair the damage to my mouth). Weird, and wild. Ugly” (The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

The girl says that herself is a ugly girl and she has teeth is bad. Following the self-concept in “Me in social” perception and physical perception of girl :

“This black eye I had, once! Like a clown’s eye painted on. Both my eyes were bruised and ugly but the right eye was almost shut, people must’ve seen me and I wonder what they were thinking, I mean you have to wonder. Nobody said a word—didn’t want to get involved, I guess. You have to wonder what went through their minds, though.” (The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

“And he said things to me like he knew me, he knew all my secrets, what a dirty minded girl I was, what a nasty girl, and selfish, like everyone of my privileged class as he called it. I’m saying these things were done to me but in fact they were done to my body mostly (The Girl With The Blackened Eye).

The girl had characteristics black bruised in both of her eye. and she is worry by the way of other people to judge herself. And she got a judge by the abductor that she had a self-concept as a nasty girl and selfish. The Following this quotation of self-concept mental capabilities perception:

“What you call your personality, you know? - it’s not the actual bones, or teeth, something solid. It’s more like a flame. A flame can be upright, and a flame can flicker in the wind, a flame can be extinguished so there's no sign of it, like it had never been.” (The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

“Like my own kids, grown, would call Mom-my! in some nightmare they were trapped in. But I never think of such things.” (The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

This is the self-concept mental capabilities perception of her when she were abducted. She imagine her personality as flame and she does not call her mother when she had tortured by abductor.

#### 4.1.2 Self-Concept of the Main Character in “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”

Connie is main character in short story of Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?. Connie is 15 years old. She is preoccupied with typical teenage concerns, her looks and popular music. She hangs out with friends in restaurant, movie theaters, and shopping malls. She is beautiful girl.

Following the quotation of self-concept of Connie :

“Her name was Connie. She was fifteen and she had a quick, nervous giggling habit of craning her neck to glance into mirrors or checking other people’s faces to make sure her own was all right. Her mother, who noticed everything and knew everything and who hadn’t much reason any longer to look at her own face, always scolded Connie about it. “Stop gawking at yourself. Who are you? You think you’re so pretty?” she would say. Connie would raise her eyebrows at these familiar old complaints and look right through her mother, into a shadowy vision of herself as she was right at that moment: she knew she was pretty and that was everything.”(Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been, 1993: 153)

Connie is a beautiful girl. She had interested with handsome men. With the result that she had wear opened clothe and flirt. She always be expressed the beautiful of her body. Following this quotation the self-concept:

“They must have been familiar sights, walking around the shopping plaza in their shorts and flat ballerina slippers that always scuffed the sidewalk, with charm bracelets jingling on their thin wrists; they would lean together to whisper and laugh secretly if someone passed who amused or interested them. Connie had long dark blond hair that drew anyone’s eye to it, and she wore part of it pulled up on her head and puffed out and the rest of it she let fall down her back. She wore a pull-over jersey blouse that looked one way when she was at home and another way when she was away from

home.”(Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been, 1993:544)

“Everything about her had two sides to it, one for home and one for anywhere that was not home: her walk, which could be childlike and bobbing, or languid enough to make anyone think she was hearing music in her head; her mouth, which was pale and smirking most of the time, but bright and pink on these evenings out; her laugh, which was cynical and drawling at home – “Ha, ha, very funny,” - but highpitched and nervous anywhere else, like the jingling of the charms on her bracelet.”( Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been, 1993:544)

Connie is a beautiful girl. And she is always trying to attractive of attention of handsome men. She wore a flirt clothe and charm bracelets jingling. She likes to hang out with her friend to the mall. And flirt handsome men. She is always imagine of handsome men come to her life and loves her.

There are two self-concept that is done by Connie that difference, when at home and when she were together her friends in out home. When Connie’s house appears hopeless and fright but during with her friends, she felt bright and flirt. Connie’s self-concept to her pyhsical’s body whom flirt. This matter attractive a psychopath who named Arnold Friend want to be possessed of her.

#### **4.1.3 Self-Concept of the Main Character in “Four Summers”**

Sissie is main character in short story of Four Summers. In this short story divided in four of section. In every section the story told time of Sissie’s grow child until she become teenager and got merried.

Following this quotation the self-concept of Sissie when she was 14 years old :

“When I cross through the crowded tavern I’m conscious of people looking at me. My hair lost its curl because it was humid today, my legs are too thin, my figure is flat and not nice like Marian’s – I want to hide somewhere, hide my face from them.”(Four Summers, 1963:538).

This self-concept give evidenced that sissie is girl of prude. She feel herself is unconfidence. Sissie does not realize that she is a beautiful girl. She feel herself is ugly girl and thin. She jealous with her friend’s Maria. But she does not realize that people look at her because she is beauty. And she is in a wrong place for her age.

In four section, Sissie has self concept that difference. In this time, Sissie has self-concept when she were teenager and when she were pregnant.

“I catch sight of myself in a dusty window as we pass. My hair is so long, down to my shoulders. I am pretty, but my secret is that I am pretty like everyone is. My husband loves me for this but doesn’t know it. I have pink mouth and plucked darkened eyebrows and soft bangs over my forehead; I know everything, I have no need to learn from anyone else now. I am one of those girls younger girls study closely, to learn from. On buses, in five - and- tens, thirteen – year – olds girls must look at me solemnly, learning, memorizing.”(Four Summers, 1993:540)

Sissie’s self-concept is being a confidence girl and being a beautiful woman. And Sissie realize that she is a beautiful girl. And when she adolescent, she able to be attracted a handsome Marine boy and merried him in young old.

## **4.2 Analysis of The Main Character's Conflict in "The Girl With The Blackened Eye", "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" and "Four Summers"**

### **4.2.1 Analysis of the Main Character's Conflict in "The Girl With Blackened Eye"**

In this short story occurred social conflict on the main character. The conflict between the girl and the abductor. The abduction that occurred because the girl has a self-concept that known by abductor. This is self-concept "me in social" perception. And the girl did not realize that she had done self-concept that accuse by abductor. The quotation the self-concept of girl that known by abductor as follow :

"And he said things to me like he knew me, he knew all my secrets, what a dirty minded girl I was, what a nasty girl, and selfish, like everyone of my privileged class as he called it. I'm saying these things were done to me but in fact they were done to my body mostly (The Girl With The Blackened Eye).

The girl accept judgement by abductor but she deny to herself that herself is not like that. And this is self-concept of her. Follow this quotation of her conflict :

"I'd come to the mall after school with some kids, now I was headed home, and somehow it happened, don't ask me how, a guy was asking me questions, or saying something, mainly I registered he was an adult my dad's age possibly, every adult man looked like my dad's age except obviously old white haired men. I hadn't any clear impression of this guy except afterward I would recall rings on his fingers which would've caused me to glance up at his face with interest except at that instant something slammed into the back of my head behind my ear, knocking me forward, and down, like he'd thrown a hook at me from in front, I was on my face on the sunheated

vinyl upholstery of a car, or a van, and another blow or blows knocked me out. Like anesthesia, it was. You're out”

The girl was abducted in front of her house. The first he ask some question to the girl and then he kick her and throw her in the car. The girl was unconscious. After that the girl was torturing by abductor in somewhere that far away from town.

“It’s like they say. You are there, and not-there. He drove to this place in the Sonoma Mountains, I would afterward learn, this cabin it would be called, and he raped me, beat me, and shocked me with electrical cords and he stubbed cigarette butts on my stomach and breasts, and he said things to me like he knew me, he knew all my secrets, what a dirty minded girl I was, what a nasty girl, and selfish, like everyone of my privileged class as he called it. I’m saying these things were done to me but in fact they were done to my body mostly. Like the cabin was in the Sonoma Mountains north of Healdsburg but it was just anywhere for those eight days, and I was anywhere, I was holding onto being alive the way you would hold on to a straw you could breathe through, lying at the bottom of deep water. And that water opaque, you can’t see through to the surface.”

The torturing was hard and painful for the girl. A girl had experienced terror and torturing and also violation. But she able to endure of her pain. Through the self-concept of hers she is passing the torturing. The self-concept of hers is self-concept of mental capabilities perception. She accepted the torturing with no scream and does not struggle.

#### 4.2.2 Analysis of the Main Character's Conflict in "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"

The conflict that occurred in the short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" is social conflict. Conflict between Connie and Arnold Friend. The occurrence of conflict in "Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?" it is caused by the self-concept that on the main character of Connie was excessive. This matter attracted a psychopath who named Arnold who wanted to be opposed of her. All of this can be known there is a relationship between Connie's self-concept to the appearance of conflict. This is a quotation of conflict:

"She is too fat. I don't like them fat. I like them the way you are, honey," he said, smiling sleepily at her. They stared at each other for a while through the screen door. He said softly, "Now, what you're going to do is this: you're going to come out that door. You're going to sit up front with me and Ellie's going to sit in the back, the hell with Ellie, right? This isn't Ellie's date. You're my date. I'm your lover, honey."  
 "What? You're crazy –"  
 "Yes, I'm your lover. You don't know what that is but you will," he said. "I know that too. I know all about you. But look: it's real nice and you couldn't ask for anybody better than me, or more polite. I always keep my word. I'll tell you how it is, I'm always nice at first, the first time. I'll hold you so tight you won't think you have to try to get away or pretend anything because you'll know you can't. and I'll come inside you where it's all secret and you'll give in to me and you'll love me – "(Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?, 1993:550).

In this quotation explain that Arnold loves Connie and wants to possess her. Arnold Friend was in admiration of Connie with excessive and imagination of her. Arnold Friend liked her beautiful in physical. It is caused by Connie always making provocative clothes when she



was in her friends and she has a excessive self-concept. This is the quotation of conflict :

“ “Shut up! You’re crazy!” Connie said. She backed away from the door. She puts her hands up against her ears as if she’d heard something terrible, something not meant for her. “People don’t talk like that, you’re crazy,” she muttered. Her heart was almost too big for her chest and its pumping made sweat break out all over her. She looked out to see Arnold Friend pause and then take a step toward the porch, lurching. He almost fell. But, like a clever drunken man, he managed to catch his balance. He wobbled in his high boots and grabbed hold of one of the porch posts.

“Honey?” he said. “You still listening?”

“Get the hell out of here!”

“Be nice, honey. Listen.”

“I’m going to call the police –“(Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?, 1993:550).

“ “You listening honey? Hey?”

“ – I’m going to call the police – “

“Soon as you touch the phone. I don’t need to keep my promise and can come inside. You won’t want that.”

She rushed forward and tried to lock the door. Her fingers were shaking. “But why lock it,” Arnold Friend said gently, talking right into her face. “It’s just a screen door. It’s just nothing.”( Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?, 1993:551)

“ You don’t want them to get hurt,” Arnold Friend went on.

“Now, get up, honey. Get up by yourself.” (Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?, 1993:553)

The climax of conflict is happen when Connie forced to out from her house and Arnold threatened her. Connie was scared and there is no way to run. Connie threatened to call the police but Arnold threatened back to hurt her family. There is no way for Connie to runaway. Arnold wants Connie and loves her too much. This conflict is happen because of self-concept of Connie that excessive. This is the kind of social conflict. Arnold and Connie conflict.

#### 4.2.3 Analysis of the Main Character's Conflict in "Four Summers"

The conflict that occurred in the short story "Four Summers" is inner conflict. The conflict that occurred because Sissie has self-concept that she did not realize keep away from her love. The self-concept of Sissie that appear a conflict is physical perception.

"I catch sight of myself in a dusty window as we pass. My hair is so long, down to my shoulders. I am pretty, but my secret is that I am pretty like everyone is. My husband loves me for this but doesn't know it. I have pink mouth and plucked darkened eyebrows and soft bangs over my forehead; I know everything, I have no need to learn from anyone else now. I am one of those girls younger girls study closely, to learn from. On buses, in five - and- tens, thirteen - year - olds girls must look at me solemnly, learning, memorizing."(Four Summers, 1993:540)

Quotation based above proven her husband loved her because of her beauty. And Sissie is not realize that she doesn't love him. And Sissie realize when she met the man anymore. This quotation of conflict :

"I am tempted to put my hand on Jesse's arm and tell him about that man, but how can I? Jesse is talking about trading in our car for a new one... I can't move, my mind seems to be coming to a stop. Is that the man I kissed, or someone else? A felling of angry loss comes over me. Why should I lose everything? Everything? Is it the same man, and would he remember? My heart bothers me, it's stupid to be like this."(Four Summers, 1993:541)

"The man at the bar tosses some coins down and turn to go. I want to cry out to him," Wait! Wait!" but I cannot. I sit helplessly and watch him leave. "I watch the man at the door and think that I could have loved him, I know it. But suddenly I feel my tears in my ayes."(Four Summers, 1993:541).

Sissie realized that she was falling in love with the man. But it is too late for her to possess him. And she can not do anything to defend her love. She will be a mother for her baby and married with Jessie. And Sissie regret all of that occurred in her life.

### **4.3 Analysis of Conflict's Solving of the Main Characters in "The Girl With The Blackened Eye", "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" and "Four Summers"**

#### **4.3.1 Analysis of Conflict's Solving of the Main Character in "The Girl With The Blackened Eye"**

The solve of conflict in "The Girl With The Blackened Eye" is through the self-concept mental capabilities perception that doing by the main character. This is the quotation of self-concept:

"What you call your personality, you know?—it's not the actual bones, or teeth, something solid. It's more like a flame. A flame can be upright, and a flame can flicker in the wind, a flame can be extinguished so there's no sign of it, like it had never been."

"Like my own kids, grown, would call Mom-my! in some nightmare they were trapped in. But I never think of such things."

From these self-concepts, the girl was survive from torturing that doing by abductor. In the finally, the abductor give chance of life to the girl. This is the quotation of abductor :

"The man with the rings on his fingers, saying, There's some reason I don't know yet, that you have been spared"(The Girl With The Blackened Eye).

“Know what, girl? You're not like the others. You're special. That's the reason.”(The Girl With The Blackened Eye”

The cutoff in the short story can be proved that the girl is survive with the self-concept and the abductor has a interest and friendly.

“Later I would look back and think, there was a turn, a shifting of fortune, when he first allowed me to wash. To wash! He could see I was ashamed, I was a naturally shy, clean girl. He allowed this. He might have assisted me, a little. He picked ticks out of my skin where they were invisible and gorged with blood. He hated ticks! They disgusted him. He went away, and came back with food and Hires Diet Root Beer. We ate together sitting on the edge of the cot. And once when he allowed me out into the clearing at dusk. Like a picnic. His greasy fingers, and mine. Fried chicken, french fries and runny cole slaw, my hands started shaking and my mouth was on fire. And my stomach convulsing with hunger, cramps that doubled me over like he'd sunk a knife into my guts and twisted. Still, I was able to eat some things, in little bites. I did not starve. Seeing the color come back into my face, he was impressed, stirred. He said, in mild reproach, Hey, a butterfly could eat more'n you (The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

Abductor feel pity to the girl and give a chance for her life. In the end of story the abductor let go the girl and he does not kill her. When the abductor is arrested in place and shooted, before he is dying the abductor inform a place the girl is hidden.

“I'm gonna let you go, girl, you know that, huh? Gonna give you your freedom.”

“A few days later he would be dead. He would be shot down by police in a motel parking lot in Petaluma. Why he was there, in that place, about fifty miles from the cabin, I don't know. He'd left me in the cabin chained to the bed. It was filthy, flies and ants. The chain was long enough for me to use the toilet. But the toilet was backed up. Blinds were drawn on the windows. I did not dare to take them down or break the window panes but I looked out, I saw just the clearing, a haze of green. Overhead there were small planes sometimes. A helicopter. I wanted to think that somebody

would rescue me but I knew better, I knew nobody would find me.”

“But they did find me.”

“He told them where the cabin was, when he was dying. He did that for me. He drew a rough map and I have that map! not the actual piece of paper but a copy. He would never see me again, and I would have trouble recalling his face for I never truly saw it.”(The Girl With The Blackened Eye)

In this quotation of story proven that self-concept by the main character can be solving the conflict and proven the self-concept relating to solve the conflict.

#### **4.3.2 Analysis of Conflict’s Solving of the Main Character in “ Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”**

The solve of conflict in “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” is when Connie felt about something that life in herself. Something that she felt in her heart. At the first time, she feel herself in her heart. She regard her body is not important and beat of her heart is herself who make life of her. This is the self-concept of psychological perceptions of herself. This quotation :

“She felt her pounding heart. Her hand seemed enclose it. She thought for the firts time in her life that it was nothing that was hers, that belonged to her, but just a pounding, living thing inside this body that wasn’t really hers either.” (Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?, 1993:553)

Through the judge of herself based on quotation above, Connie solving her conflict with away let herself to Arnold Friend, this quotation:

“She put out her hand against the screen. She watched herself push the door slowly open as if she were safe back somewhere in the other doorway, watching this body and this head of long hair moving out into the sunlight where Arnold Friend waited”

““My sweet little blue-eyed girl,” he said, in half-sung sigh that had nothing to do with her brown eyes but was taken up just the same by the vast sunlit reaches of the land behind him and on all sides of him, so much land that Connie had never seen before and did not recognize except to know that she was going to it.”( *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?*, 1993:554)

In the end of this story is proved that in this story the self-concept of main character interference occurred the conflict in her life. But the self-concept will be finished the conflict. Although in this story is not happy ending but Connie realizes that there is a matter more important than a beautiful her body is a heart in herself.

#### **4.3.3 Analysis of Conflict’s Solving of the Main Character in “Four Summers”**

The solving of inner conflict in “Four Summer” that doing self-concept by main character. The main character in this short story is Sissie. A teenager who had married and pregnant. Inner conflict that occur when she met a man that ever kissed her when she were 14 years old. She realizes if she fall in love to him. To solve the inner conflict she has self-concept following as :

“My heart bothers me, it’s stupid to be like this: here I sit, powdered and sweet, a girl safely married, pregnant and secured to the earth, with my husband beside me. He still loves me. Our love keeps on. Like my parents’ love, it will subside someday, but nothing surprises me because I have learned everything.”(Four Summers, 1993: 541)

In through the self-concept, Sissie effort solving the inner conflict in herself. In the end of story, Sissie decision to stay with her husband and her baby, and forgotten her love. Following solving the inner conflict in hers :

“I let my hand fall onto my stomach to remind myself that I am in love: with this baby, with Jesse, with everything. I am in love with our house and our life and the future and even this moment – right now – that I am struggling to live through.”(Four Summers, 1993:542)

In this story can be verified that the self-concept on the main character, effort solving the conflict in herself. In the result can be showed , conflict that occurred relation between self-concept and solve the conflict.