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DOI : 10.32734/lwsa.v7i3.2111  
Electronic ISSN : 2654-7066  
Print ISSN : 2654-7058

*Volume 7 Issue 3 – 2024 TALENTA Conference Series: Local Wisdom, Social, and Arts (LWSA)*



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## Conflict between Characters in Akiyoshi Rikako's Novel *Seibo*

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### Abstract

This study aims to examine the conflict between characters and the relationship between characterization and setting elements in *Seibo* by Akiyoshi Rikako. To achieve this goal, the method of analysis used is the structural approach. The data source used in this research is a Japanese novel entitled *Seibo* by Akiyoshi Rikako. This novel has been translated into Indonesian with the title *Holy Mother*. From the results of the research, there are several forms of conflict between characters in *Seibo*: the conflict between Makoto and Hideki in the form of violence and sexual harassment, the conflict between Makoto with Yukio and Satoshi in the form of murder, the conflict between Honami and Detective in the form of traces of murder omitted by Honami, the conflict between Honami and Hideki in the form of murder and making Hideki the perpetrator of the murder case in Aiide City, the conflict between Honami and Yasuhiko in the form of Yasuhiko hurting Honami's feelings, and the conflict between Masatohi and Yukio in the form of violence. From the results of the data analysis, the relationship between conflict characterization and setting is found. There is excessive anxiety in Makoto so she kills Yukio and Satoshi. Regarding the setting, the city of Aiide which is considered calm and quiet makes Makoto free to commit the murder.

Keywords: structural approach; conflict; character; background

### 1. Introduction

Literature is the result of human creative work that is poured in the form of writing which contains human life and all aspects of life. One form of literature that authors use as a medium to convey their ideas and experiences is the novel. According to Nurgiyantoro (2010: 4) novel is an imaginative work of fiction, which is built through various intrinsic elements such as theme, character, characterization, setting, and conflict.

The method of studying novels can be done in various ways, one of which is the structural approach. Structural approach is an approach used to analyze a literary work based on its building blocks. In researching *Seibo*'s novel, the author uses a structural approach by looking at the intrinsic elements, namely conflict, characterization and setting contained in the novel.

Stanton divides conflict into two categories, namely internal conflict and external conflict (Nugiyantoro, 2010: 124). Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs in the soul or heart of a character in the story. External conflicts are conflicts that occur between a character and other characters or something outside himself. External conflict is divided into two parts, namely physical conflict and social conflict. Social conflict is caused by social contact between humans or problems that arise due to contact between humans Nurgiyantoro (2010: 124). For example in the form of murder, harassment, quarrels and other social cases. Social conflict only occurs when one character fights another character, one character fights many characters or one character fights with a community group or vice versa. So it can be concluded that conflict between characters is part of social conflict.

A character refers to an actor or character who plays in a narrative literary work. Meanwhile, characterization is the overall movement driven by psychological motivations presented by the author in a literary work. Characterization is also a clear description of a person in a story.

The setting is the place where the events are told. The setting provides a concrete and clear story footing because a story must be clear when and where it happens, as well as what the atmosphere or situation in the story is (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 217). The setting is divided into three, namely place setting, time setting and atmosphere setting.

In this study, the author chose the novel *Seibo* by Akiyoshi Rikako as the object of research. This novel was published in Japan in 2015 and then translated into Indonesian and published by Penertbit Haru in 2016.

This novel tells the story of Tateshina Hideki's rape of Tanaka Makoto, which led Makoto to give birth to a daughter named Kaoru. Makoto meets two boys who are always abusive towards girls. She was afraid that one day the two children would abuse Kaoru so he killed the two children. Honami, Makoto's mother, knew that her son had committed the crime. But because she loves Makoto so much, she removes all the evidence of Makoto's murder and keeps the evidence in Hideki's apartment so that the police assume that Hideki is the perpetrator of the murder.

From the explanation above, various conflicts that occur in the novel *Seibo*. So the formulation of the problem discussed, namely how the form of conflict that occurs between the main character and other characters and the relationship between conflict with characterization and setting in the novel *Seibo* by Akiyoshi Rikako.

There are several relevant studies that can be used as a reference in conducting research on Akiyoshi Rikako's *Seibo* novel. The first research is a thesis by Cahyawati (2017) with the title "Conflict between Characters in the Novel *Senbazuru* (千羽鶴) by Yasunari Kawabata (Structural Review)". Cahyawati's research explains the form of conflict between characters and the relationship of conflict with characterization and setting. The second research is a thesis by Riansyah A. Pidde with the title "Social Conflict in Minato Kanae's Novel *Kokuhaku* (Structural Review) Riansyah's research discusses the form of conflict, the factors behind social conflict, and the resolution of social conflict in the novel *Kokuhaku* by Minato Kanae.

## 2. Research Method

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative, where the depiction of this method as a whole utilizes interpretation which is presented in the form of description (Ratna, 2006: 46). The data taken by the researcher is in the form of quotations or sentences related to the form of conflict between characters and the relationship of conflict with characterization and setting.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The story in *Seibo* begins with the murder of the boys Yukio and Satoshi. The emergence of the murder made Honami determined to protect her daughter. The perpetrator of the murder of these children is a high school student named Tanaka Makoto who has experienced sexual harassment from his childhood friend named Tateshina Hideki. This harassment led to the emergence of various conflicts in *Seibo*'s novel.

Before discussing the conflict between characters in the novel, author will introduce the characters in the novel. The characters in question include:

Tanaka Makoto is the perpetrator of a child murder in Aiide City.

Honami is the wife of Yasuhiko and the mother of Tanaka Makoto. She can do anything to protect her daughter.

Tateshina Hideki is the person who sexually assaulted Tanaka Makoto.

Yaguchi Yukio, the first victim of a murder case in Aiide City. He was a mischievous boy who was always bullying and hitting children who were younger than him.

Sanbogi Satoshi, the second victim of the Aiide City murder case.

Detectives Sakaguchi and Tanizaki are members of the police force handling murder cases in Aiide City.

Yasuhiko is Honami's husband.

Yaguchi Masatohi is Yaguchi Yukio's father who has always been abusive towards his son.

### 3.1. Overview of Conflict between Characters

#### 3.1.1. Conflict between Makoto and Hideki

##### 1. The Violence Tateshina Hideki Committed Against Makoto

Makoto and Hideki have known each other since childhood. They have been friends since they were in elementary school. Hideki was a bad boy who always bothered Makoto.

振り返ってみれば、兆候はあった。幼少の頃、真琴は秀樹に陰湿な暴力を振るわれたことが時折あった。携が目立たないところをつねられたり、蹴られたりなどだ。「だってお前の泣き顔、見たくなるんだもん」泣きじゃくる真琴に向かって、秀樹はにたにたと笑いながら言った。

(聖母, 2015: 270)

Come to think of it, there were already signs. Ever since she was a little girl, Makoto had been on the receiving end of nasty beatings from Hideki. The boy would sometimes pinch her in places she couldn't see, or kick her. "I want to see your crying face!" Hideki burst out laughing at the sobbing Makoto.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 258)

Since childhood, Hideki's behavior has been insolent towards Makoto. Makoto always received harsh treatment from Hideki such as being pinched, kicked or hit. Hideki loved the expression on Makoto's face as she cried when he did these harsh things to her. For Hideki, seeing Makoto's face crying in fear is a very pleasant thing while Makoto can only accept the harsh treatment and cannot fight Hideki.

## 2. Tateshina Hideki's Sexual Abuse of Makoto

The incident began when Makoto was in junior high school. Makoto met Hideki while passing through a park. As in the quote below.

すでに公園は暗く、ひと気はない。秀樹は真琴を奥へと連れて行くと、「ここだよ」と茂みを示した。覗き込んだ途端に押さえつけられ、そのまま強姦された。まだ性の知識も浅かった真琴は、ただただ怖ろしくて声も出せず、されるがままに暴行を受けた。

(聖母2015: 271)

The park was already dark, and there was no sign of anyone. Hideki leads Makoto further in, then points out a bush. When Makoto tries to look, she is pushed and raped. Makoto, who has no idea what intercourse is, is terrified and unable to scream. She can only take Hideki's beatings and rough treatment.

(Holy Mother, 2016: 258-259)

Makoto is tricked by Hideki with the lure of a dog stuck in a ditch. With the park dark, Hideki takes Makoto to a place where no one can see her and he abuses her. Makoto, who is a junior high school student who does not know what intercourse is, can only accept Hideki's treatment without putting up a fight.

## 3. Tateshina Hideki Threatens Makoto's Character

Hideki not only harassed Makoto but he also threatened Makoto. This can be seen in the quote below.

「誰にも言うんじゃないぞ」おぞましい行為が終わって服を直しながら、秀樹は念を押した。「ビデオカメラをセットしてたんだ。裏切ったら、ネットで流すからな」

(聖母, 2015: 271)

"Don't tell anyone." Hideki warned after everything was done, while adjusting his clothes again. "I've installed a video camera. If you play around, I'll put the video on the internet."

(Holy Mother, 2016: 259)

In the quote above, Hideki is recording the rape he committed on Makoto. He also makes a threat by saying that he will spread the video on the internet if Makoto tells anyone about what Hideki did to Makoto.

### 3.1.2. Conflict between Makoto and Yukio

#### 1. The Murder Plan Makoto Devised for Yukio

Makoto's desire to kill arose when she saw Satoshi. He planned to kill the boy for hitting the girl who turned out to be his own sister. He stood in front of Satoshi's door while listening to the girl who was still crying. Makoto looked around to make sure that there were no CCTV cameras recording her standing in front of Satoshi's door.

そしてここ数日は、「さんぼんぎさとし」を連れ去り、殺害し、遺棄するまでの一部始終を、頭の中で綿密かつ克明に思い描いている

(聖母, 2015: 48)

Then for the past few days, he thought in detail and carefully about how to kidnap, kill, and dispose of Sanbogi Satoshi's corpse.

(Holy Mother, 2016: 127,131)

After confirming that Satoshi's residential area had no security cameras, he visited the area more and more often and thought of how to kidnap and kill Satoshi so that he wouldn't get caught.

#### 2. Makoto Murders Yukio's Character

Makoto saw Satoshi at the back of an alley where hardly anyone passed by. Makoto took advantage of the situation to carry out his plan. She offered Satoshi to play games at his house and the boy agreed.

真琴はさとの背後に回って立て膝をついた。右腕をさとの首に回し、ぐっと締めつける。

(聖母, 2015: 175)

Makoto walked up behind Satoshi and knelt down. His right arm wrapped around the boy's neck, and Makoto choked him.

(Holy Mother, 2016: 167)

In the quote above, after taking Satoshi to his house, he let the boy play games while eating snacks. But after the child focused on playing, Makoto stepped behind Satoshi and strangled him using his arms because if he used his hands, the police could find

out his height and finger size. After realizing there was no movement from Satoshi, Makoto released the strangulation. Finally Makoto finished killing Satoshi.

### 3.1.3. Conflict between Honami and Detective

#### 1. Honami Gave False Testimony to Detectives

Honami saw Hideki around Yukio's murder scene in the middle of the night carrying a large bag, so she reported it to the police. But the bag Honami suspected only contained plant tools. Not only that, when Satoshi's murder case came up, Honami testified to the detective by saying that Hideki took Satoshi to the former Shirota hospital as if he saw Hideki kill Satoshi. But in fact she did not witness the murder. As in the quote below.

もちろん実際に事件を目撃したわけではない。ファストフード店にいたことも、ガソリンスタンドにいたことも当然知っている

(聖母, 2015: 238)

Of course he didn't witness the incident himself. He also knew that Tateshina was at the gas station and also at the fast food restaurant.

(Holy Mother, 2016: 227)

Honami learned that Hideki was elsewhere when Satoshi was killed. He thought that if he was a witness to the murder, then the police would definitely arrest Hideki. Therefore, he made a false testimony and made Hideki the perpetrator of the murder.

#### 2. Honami Outwits Detectives

Honami finds out that Makoto killed Yukio. But because her affection for Makoto is very great, Honami secretly took actions that made the detective fooled. As in the quote below.

また、肛門粘膜に擦傷があり生活反応がないことから、死後に性的暴行が加えられたと考えられます。

(聖母, 2015: 27)

"Then, there was a wound on her rectum that could confirm that she was sexually abused by the perpetrator after being killed, because daily activities could not cause such an injury."

(Holy Mother, 2016: 26)

In the quote above, Honami shows Yukio's corpse as if she had been raped in order to make the detective think that the perpetrator of this murder is a man. In the novel, it is written that the perpetrator commits a sex crime if the suspect is a man. So the detective thought that it was a man who committed the murder.

#### 3. Honami Removes Traces of Makoto's Murder

Honami knows that Makoto killed Satoshi, so she tries once again to keep the detective from realizing that it was Makoto.

「今回は、指が切り落とされておりました。手の指、十本、全部です。」

(聖母, 2015: 204)

"His fingers were cut off. All ten fingers. All of them."

(Holy Mother, 2016: 195)

Honami deliberately cut off Satoshi's fingers because they contained Makoto's DNA. Honami eliminated the traces of Makoto's murder without Makoto's knowledge.

### 3.1.4. Conflict between Honami and Hideki

#### 1. Honami Follows Hideki Silently

Honami had reported Hideki to the police several times that the perpetrator of the murders of the children in Aiide City was Hideki. However, the police did not believe her due to lack of evidence. Finally, Honami intends to do it herself by spying on what Hideki is doing. He followed Hideki into the restaurant and saw that Hideki kept the key on the table. When he saw Hideki waiting in line at the cash register, he took the key and put it in his pocket.

「合鍵を作りたいんですけど」

(聖母, 2015: 192)

"I want to make a duplicate of the key."

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 184)

After retrieving the key, Honami hurriedly took it to the key duplication place. After duplicating it, she saw Hideki enjoying his meal without realizing that the key was gone. Honami then handed the key to the restaurant staff saying that she found the key that had fallen out.

## 2. Hideki Honami's Murder of Hideki

Honami snuck into Hideki's apartment. She came when it was very quiet in the neighborhood as it was three in the morning. She took out a rope from her bag and made a loop with it. She then put Hideki's head inside the loop. As in the quote below.

それから慎重に、蓼科の頭を輪の中に通した。ちょうど紐の上に喉ぼとけがくるようにして、保奈美は手を離す。頭が枕から数センチ浮き、ゆらゆらと揺れた。

(聖母, 2015: 249)

Then, she carefully placed Tateshina's head into the loop. Honami placed it in such a way that the rope was above the Adam's apple. Then the woman let go of her hand. The head stopped a few centimeters above the pillow and wobbled.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 237)

After Honami made sure the rope was around Hideki's neck, she released her hand so that the rope pulled up and suffocated Hideki. She checked the man's pulse under his ear to see if he was dead or not. It turned out that Hideki was no longer breathing so Honami assumed he was dead. After killing Hideki, Honami then kept the evidence of the murder in Hideki's apartment. As in the quote below.

シンク下の収納から、由紀夫ちゃんと聡ちゃんのものともみられる性器、また切断に使用されたとみられるカミソリの刃が発見された。ユニットバスには酸素系の漂白剤もあった。

(聖母, 2015: 263)

Under the dishwasher, the genitals of boys who probably belonged to Yukio-chan and Satoshi-chan were found, as well as a razor that was allegedly used to cut the genitals. Bleach was also found in the bathroom.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 250)

Honami not only killed Hideki, but she also kept all the evidence of Makoto's murder in Hideki's apartment. The evidence included Yukio and Satoshi's genitals, the razor Makoto used to cut Yukio and Satoshi's genitals, and the bleach detected on the two children's skin. Honami did all of this to make the police assume that Hideki was indeed the perpetrator of the children's murders.

### 3.1.5. Conflict between Honami and Yasuhiko

#### 1. Yasuhiko Hurts Honami's Feelings

This conflict began when Honami had difficulty conceiving, so she had to undergo various treatments that required a lot of money. As in the quote below.

「こんなに金がかかるなんて。貯金もできない、家も買えないね」靖彦もため息交じりに言った。

(聖母, 2015: 10)

"I can't believe this requires so much money, we can't save up, nor can we buy a house, huh," Yasuhiko said accompanied by a sigh.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 9)

Honami's various infertility treatments, ranging from the smallest to the highest level of treatment, did not produce any results. This made Yasuhiko complain about not being able to save money and buy a house because of the high cost of infertility treatments. She said it was as if all of this was Honami's fault.

#### 2. Yasuhiko's Insensitivity to Honami

Honami and Yasuhiko really wanted a child. So they did tests to see how her treatment was progressing.

「ねえ、すごく痛かったんだよ……？吐いたんだよ？」

「俺もなんか今日さー、イク時、痛かったんだよ。溜まってたからかな」靖彦は大真面目な顔で、まるで重大なことのように言った。

(聖母, 2015: 59-60)

"Listen, that hurt a lot, you know. I had to vomit."

"Me too today.....when the sperm came out it also hurt like hell. It's been a while, too," Yasuhiko said with a completely serious face.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 58-59)

Based on the quote above, Honami tells about the test she did was so painful that it made her vomit and almost fainted. But Yasuhiko just nodded and replied to Honami's words that she also felt sick with the test she did, as if the test was nothing like the test Honami did.

### 3.1.6. Conflict between Masatohi and Yukio

#### 1. The Violence Masatohi Committed Against Yukio

After Yukio's death, the police began conducting investigations including ascertaining alibis from people around Yukio including his father, Yaguchi Masatohi.

「それで、あのう」言いにくそうに言葉を切り、「由紀夫ちゃんが、しょっちゅう叩かれているのを見たんです」と声をひそめた。

「母親にですか？それとも父親に？」

「父親です。それも、一度や二度じゃありません。あと、冬の寒い日にベランダに出されて、開けて開けて」って泣いて -」

(*聖母*, 2015: 107)

So, um .... "She seemed to have a hard time saying it. "I often see Yukio-chan getting beaten up. "His voice has shrunk. "

"By his mother? Or by his father?" "His father. And not just once or twice. Once he was taken out onto the veranda in the freezing winter, until the child cried out, 'Open the door! Open it!'"

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 106-107)

Detective Tanizaki got information from a person who used to live behind Yukio and his father's house. The person said that he saw Yukio being hit by his father. It was not just once or twice, but many times he saw it. In addition, the detective also got information from Yukio's teacher who saw a bruise on Yukio's arm and when the bruise disappeared, another bruise appeared. The appearance of bruises repeatedly makes the detective even more convinced that Yukio was tortured by his father.

### 3.2. Relationship of Conflict with Characterization and Setting

#### 3.2.1. Relationship between Conflict and Characterization

Characterization is the painting of a clear picture of a person in a story. In this study, Honami and Makoto are the main characters. These two characters have the most roles and are the characters who cause many conflicts with other characters.

#### 1. Characterization of Makoto's characters

##### a. Makoto's overanxiety

Makoto has excessive fear and worry for her daughter. As in the quote below.

娘もいつか、同じ目に遭うのではないか

(*聖母*, 2015: 282)

Her daughter, may one day experience the same thing....

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 269)

It started when Kaoru was treated rudely by Yukio. The treatment made Makoto remember the rape she had experienced. She feels anxious and afraid that someday Kaoru will experience the same thing she has experienced. This excessive anxiety triggers Makoto's desire to kill Yukio.

##### b. Makoto's ingenuity in eliminating traces of murder

Makoto is a smart student. She has a lot of knowledge about DNA. As in the quote below.

DNAはもろい。そして消すこともできる。海外では実際にDNAを消すための薬品が市販されている。しかしそんな薬品をわざわざ輸入すれば足がつくから、身近なもので代用できないか調べてみた。すると、家庭にあるごく普通のものが、真琴の求めているものにぴったりであることがわかった - 酸素系漂白剤だ。

(*聖母*, 2015: 127-128)

DNA is fragile. And can be easily cleaned. Overseas, chemicals are actually sold to clean DNA. However, if he had to deliberately import it, it would surely be discovered immediately. Therefore, he investigated if there were any items around him that could serve as substitutes. Eventually Makoto found a common item in all homes, which could fulfill his need. Peroxide-type clothes bleach.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 124-125)

Makoto knew that DNA was easy to clean. He could have bought chemicals overseas to clean DNA but he would have been caught. So he used a peroxide-type bleach that is common in every home to clean the bodies of Yukio and Satoshi, because the bleach can destroy DNA. This made Makoto's DNA undetectable on Yukio and Satoshi's corpses.

c. Makoto's thoroughness in covering up the crime

In the case of Yukio and Satoshi's murders, the police found no evidence that could point to the perpetrators of the murders. Makoto carefully did things that could help him not to leave traces of the murder. As in the quote below.

さとしを全裸にすると、真琴は黒いウィンドブレーカーの上下に着替え、水泳キャップを被った。それからラテックス製の、ぴったりとした手袋、水泳用ゴーグル、立体マスクを着ける。

(聖母, 2015: 177)

After making Satoshi completely naked, Makoto changes his own clothes into a waterproof jacket suit, and puts on a swimming cap. He also wore tight gloves made of latex, swimming goggles, and a mask.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 168)

Makoto carefully executed his plan so as not to make any mistakes. Makoto changed into a waterproof jacket and put on a hat and mask to avoid getting clothing fibers, hair, spit, or anything else that could stick to Satoshi's body. He also wore gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints.

d. Makoto's ruthlessness in killing

Makoto has a cruel nature. This is because he killed serially and without any mercy. He killed two small children who were 4 years old in a row. In addition to killing, Makoto also tortured when the two children died.

真琴は性器の先端をつまむと、カミソリの刃を滑らせる。

皮下組織の弾力に押し返されながらも、何とか切断を成功させる。手袋が、真っ赤に染まる。切り取ったものを、チャック付きのポリ袋にそうっと収めた。ちゃんと中身が見えるよう、透明性の高いものだ。

(聖母, 2015: 177)

Makoto held the tip of the boy's cock, and slid the razor. Although the blade stalled several times to cut off the boy's cock, Makoto managed to cut off the boy's cock. His gloves were covered in blood. The item she had just cut was carefully stored in polyester plastic. Of course, the plastic was clear so that the object inside could be seen clearly.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 169)

After killing Satoshi, Makoto also cut off the boy's genitals. He cut it using a razor. After cutting it he stored it in clear plastic. Makoto could have used the scalpel at his school or bought a sharper tool at the store, but that would have raised suspicion. So he used a razor because it was common.

2. Characterization of Honami's characters

a. Honami's excessive affection

この子を、娘を、守ってみせる。そのためなら何でもする。母親は、娘を守るためなら全能になれるのだ。

(聖母, 2015: 19)

This child, her daughter, she must protect. For that, she is willing to do anything. A mother who protects her child will exert all her strength.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 18)

Honami loves her daughter so much, she won't let the murder case destroy her family. She will ensure her daughter's safety. This loving nature makes Honami willing to do anything for her daughter including covering up all the crimes Makoto committed.

b. Honami's cunning in distorting facts

「誰だったと思う？なんと、蓼科秀樹なのよ。だけど大丈夫よ。あの男ね、死んだんですって。自殺よ」

(聖母, 2015: 288-289)

"Who do you think you are? It's Tateshina Hideki, you know!". But it's okay. The man is said to be dead. Suicide, he said.

(*Holy Mother*, 2016: 274-275)



One of Honami's traits is cunning. She distorted the facts by saying that the perpetrator of the murder case that occurred in Aiide City was Hideki. She also said that Hideki had died by suicide. When in fact Honami knew that Makoto was the original perpetrator of the murder and he also killed Hideki by showing as if he died by suicide.

### 3.2.2. Relationship between Conflict and Setting

As explained in the previous chapter, the setting is the place where the events that are told occur. The setting provides a concrete and clear foothold for the story because a story must be clear when and where it happens, as well as how the atmosphere or situation in the story (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 217).

#### 1. Aiide City Murder Case

『東京都藍出市で幼稚園児を遺体で発見猟奇殺人か』

(聖母, 2015: 17)

Playgroup student's body found in Tokyo, Aiide City. Abnormal Murder Case?

(Holy Mother, 2016: 15)

One of the settings in Seibo's novel is Aiide City. Aiide City is described as a quiet city compared to other cities, this actually makes Makoto's actions to kidnap and kill the two children run smoothly without being caught by others. So it can be concluded that the quiet city of Aiide is one of the settings that influence the conflict in Seibo's novel.

#### 2. Sexual Harassment in Japan

##### a. Sexual relations that are considered natural

One of the social settings in Seibo's novel is a sexual relationship that is considered normal. As in the quote below.

付き合ってたからエッチしたの。自然なことだと思うけどね。俺たちまだガキだけど、真剣に愛し合ってたからさ」

(聖母, 2015: 272-273)

We're dating, so we have sex. It's normal, right? We're both kids, but we love each other."

(Holy Mother, 2016: 260)

Based on the quote above, Hideki told Makoto's parents that he and Makoto had sex because they were dating and loved each other, so he said that having sex while dating was normal even though they were children.

##### b. Gender discrimination in sexual violence

「ですが、日本では女と男の違うことを消すべきがあった」

「それは？」

「強姦事件」

(聖母, 2015: 78)

...However, in Japan there is one difference between men and women that must be eliminated.'

"What?"

"Rape cases."

(Holy Mother, 2016: 77)

One of the social settings raised in this novel is gender discrimination. The novel explains that there are differences between women and men. A case will be called rape if the victim is a woman and the perpetrator is a man. So women cannot possibly be the perpetrators of a rape case. This is what made Honami commit an immoral act on Yukio's corpse so the police assume that the perpetrator of this abuse is a man because a woman could not possibly be the culprit.

## 4. Conclusion

The author examines the novel Seibo using a structural approach to analyze the conflict between characters as well as the relationship of conflict with characterization and setting in the novel Seibo by Akiyoshi Rikako.

The results showed that there are several conflicts between characters, among others: Conflict between Makoto and Hideki, Makoto and Yukio, Makoto and Satoshi. Conflict between Honami and Detective, Honami and Hideki, Honami and Yasuhiko. Conflict between Masatohi and Yukio. Characterization and setting play an important role in the conflict that occurs in Seibo's novel. As in the character Makoto who has excessive anxiety about his daughter so that he is willing to commit crimes against Yukio and Satoshi. In addition, there is also the character Honami who has excessive affection so that she covers up Makoto's crimes. Furthermore, the background aspect that triggers the conflict in Seibo's novel is Aiide City, which is the place where the

murder case occurred. This city is considered a calm and quiet city so that the crime committed by Makoto runs smoothly without being caught by others.

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