

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN LESSING'S NATHAN THE WISE

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This study was aimed to describe the interaction of cultures on conflict. In nature, conflict within society was influenced by variety of cultures. Previous study found that conflict as because of different cultures and religions. But few of study investigated why and how different culture and religions within different situation effect differently to the conflict intensities. This study was aimed to investigate the phenomena of differences of culture which probably effect to conflict behavior. Thus we proposed the prediction that different conflict intensity was mediate by the communication intensity among characters.

The result showed that to decrease the intensity of conflicts, communication between among characters was meaningful. Conclusion and future orientation was discussed.

Keywords: culture, conflict, communication.

Introduction

Content of Nathan the Wise

The action place is on the time of the Third Crusade during a cease-fire in Jerusalem. When the Jew Nathan comes back from his travelling, he knows that his daughter Rachel (adopted daughter) has been saved by a young Christian temple of the Lord from the fire of his burning house.

After this tragedy, Nathan will invite Temples Lord to his house, in order to receive the thanks of nathan and his daughter. But Temples Lord doesn't come to them because he is anti-Jewish. He does not agree with the view that the nation Jews are the chosen people of god and more powerful than other nations.

Meanwhile, Saladin has a very serious problem of budget deficits. He asked for help to nathan to solve financial problems. When he met Saladin he wanted to proof the wisdom of Nathan. Therefor, Saladin has asked him question about truth of religion. From the many monotheis religion, which religion is the most correct (the true religion)? Nathan did not answer a direct question, he replied with a story about the *parable of the ring*. Ancient times there was a father to bequeath the ring to his son. He had a problem, he had three

children. Finally, he has reproduced the ring into three. Thus the children get a ring. Each of them felt he was the original ring. Saladin quickly understood the message of the equality of the three monotheistic religions. With a very wise answer is finally Nathan and Saladin's brothers and friends. They help each other. A harmony relationship was marked by finance help from Nathan to Saladin.

The Templar falls in love with Rachel, a dopted daughter of Nathan and wants to marry her. He had the information from daya that Rachel was a Christian and her biological parents were Christians. But Nathan did not agree with the Templar desire. Templar was very curious why Nathan did like that. Finally, all has known that the Templar and Rachel were brothers and sister and they were the kinder of Assam. Thus, they were also still niece and nephew of Saladin, Muslims, which demonstrates the close relationship of religion again. Nathan is recognized as the father in the sense of kinship and adoption.

From the above stories can be found that there are many conflicts between the characters. The cause of these conflict are they have different religions, namely Islamic, Christian and Jewish. They have cultures and different point of view for something. In their interactions he quickly give value before they get a further explanation. But the interesting thing from this drama is that all conflicts can be resolved by them. How do they interact, how do they solve problems is an interesting thing to be further investigated.

Focus Issues

1. Multiculturalism on drama Nathan the Wise

2. Conflict occurs between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity

3. How do they resolve their conflict?

1. Multiculturalism on drama Nathan the Wise

This drama appeared in the time or the time of enlightenment or Aufklärung. Enlightenment era was marked by the functioning of reason to solve problems of human life. Lessing was felt that there were important issues to be resolved, namely the conflict between the religion of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. In addition to Lessing personally has experienced a trauma of conflict premises of a priest. Lessing has written fragments of the

dispute (Fragment eines Ungenanten). Lessing argued with Goeze because his work. Some publication ban was imposed against Lessing. As a result, the implied Lessing's idea of deism in this drama.

From the background of drama writing can be seen that the multicultural was an inspiration in this drama. He has described the forms of multicultural diversity represented by the religion professed by the figure in it. For example:

Nathan has a tradition and Jewish culture, Tempelherr has Christian culture, and the sultan Saladin has a tradition and Islamic culture.

2. Conflict occurs between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity

a. Conflict between Nathan dan Tempelherr

In this drama is told that as a manifestation of a sense of gratitude to Tempelherr who had saved her from fire, Nathan intended Tempelherr to invite to his house. But the invitation was rejected by Tempelherr..This is because due to religious differences. Nathan is Jew Tempelherr is a Christian. This conflict occurs because there is the view that Jews are God's chosen people. This can lead to hostility between the Jews with other religions.

Nathan.

Ha! You do not know much firmer

I now urge me to you'll. Come,

we must, must be friends!-Scorned

My people so much you want. We both have

We Auserlesen not our people. Are

We are our people?What does that men for people?

Christian and jew are more christian and jew,

As human being?Ah!. If I need a more in you

have found in you.

Have found. Is content to bear, a man

Too hot! (2Akt/5 Appearance)

b. Conflict between Patriarch (uskup Agung) dan Sultan Saladin

Tempelherr has been given the task of the archbishop to spy on and kill the Sultan Saladin.

Templar

I were to Saladin guilty of my life:

And deprives him of his?

Friar (Klosterbruder)

Ugh!-Would, however,-says

The patriach, -stil Saladin an enemy of Christiany, which your friend

Could be acquire no right.

3. How do they resolve their conflict

At first the characters with its cultural background conflicting. But in the end all the conflict ended with the harmony. It is a extraordinary multicultural interactions. The conflict between Nathan and Tempelherr ended with harmony after Nathan explained him that all nations are the same. There is no Jewish nation better than other nations. Nathan and Saladin conflict also ended in harmony. Saladin asks Nathan questions about the most correct of religion . Nathan wisely replied with a story, the story of the ring parabel. After hearing the answer from Nathan, Saladin learn more about Nathan, that Nathan was a Jew who is very wise.

From the two examples of such conflicts can be deduced how they resolve their conflicts. There are three key words in the resolution of the conflict, namely dialogue, empathy, and tolerance. Three key words are a powerful form of communication because it

can destroy the pettiness, arrogance, and human dignity. These words have managed to disarm one of perception the Tempelherr to Nathan that he was willing to engage in dialogue. And the dialogue can produce tolerance and empathy.

The third word also has brought Nathan and Saladin in unity, unity together in two cultures and different religions, to reconcile two different perceptions. These words have made their relationship become a warm and full of brotherhood without negative prejudice. Finally they can live together, interact together and help each other even though they differ in many things.

Conclusion

1. The world is full of diversity. There is no same faces in this world. there is still difference in Twins . This is what we are all aware that human beings must live with others in cultural diversity, religion, traditions, customs, way of thinking, way of eating and other diversity. In this drama there are religions and cultural diversity. There are three religions monotheis shown in this drama, namely, Islam, Christian, and Jewish. These three religions are the three largest religions in the world who are often in conflict either in international, national, regional, or local. In this drama is Islam represented by the Sultan Saladin, Christian represented by Tempelherr, and Jewish represented by Nathan. Each figure is carrying the tradition, culture, and different religions.
2. Humans tend to equality. They are not happy with things differently because of differences usually cause inconvenience in life. In this drama there are many different things. Cultural and religious diversity have disturbed them in communication and interaction. So that conflicts arise due to the existence of such diversity. Conflict between characters is represented by the characters of Nathan and Tempelherr. The conflict is caused because of differences religion. Nathan is Judaism while tempelherr a Christian. Conflict occurs because there is a difference of perception that templeherr a statement that the Jews have a principle that Jews are better than other nations. The second conflict occurs between Nathan and Saladin. This conflict occurs because the religion, Nathan is the Jewish, Saladin is Islam. The bottom line conflicts occur in this drama because of cultural and religious diversity.
3. Major conflicts that occur in this drama can be resolved properly because the figures that fight each other can communicate well in the difference. each of them have a

dialogue to make the same perception among of them. It turns out that this dialogue can produce forms of empathy and tolerance. Dialogue, empathy and tolerance can produce a hamony. Harmony in cultural and religious diversity. multicultural will exist if there is honesty and there is no negative prejudice against other cultures.

References

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