

# CONFLICT IN *THE DA VINCI CODE* BY DAN BROWN

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**Abstract** : This research is mainly to find out cause of conflict reflected in Brown's novel entitled *The Da Vinci Code* through the characters named Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu. In conducting her research, the writers use qualitative research since the data collected are in form of words not number. The objective approach is used in analyzing the data. As the result of this research, it is found that conflict can be revealed in the story *The Da Vinci Code*. In a conflict resolution involving multiple parties, Langdon and Sophie are filled with fear because several times they are almost killed by gunshots from secret hunters about Sang Real, one of them is Sir Leigh Teabing who is their friend when on the way to solving the conflict betraying them for the sake of a secret. Although they face some obstacle but finally they can solve conflicts that have occurred.

**Keywords** : *Conflict, conspiracy, mystery*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Novel is a fiction prose narrative of considerable length, representing character and even as it in real life by a plot of scheme of section of greater or less Complexity at large (Funk and Wagnall, 1996:886). Based on statement above, novel is a narrative prose that includes a story of human being.

Live is a never easy in as a human being, there are so many challenges and problems that come in every moment in people life, it sometimes brings both suffering and depression. So many people's lives are in practically sometimes they want to the each other down for the sake of themselves.

*The Da Vinci Code* first time was published in 2003 by Dan Brown. *The Da Vinci Code* is a novel which tells about an expert symbolically named Rober Langdon who killed a museum curator named Jacquest Sauniere. When he was in Paris to do business Robert Langdon, urgent phone call late at night that language expert Sophie Neveu, granddaughter of Jacques Sauniere. In their adventures through the streets of Sophie and Langdon, they should

race against a mysterious enemy who continue to follow their every step.

*“Conflict is an escalation of a disagreement, which is common prerequisite, and is characterized by the existence of conflict behaviour, in which the beings are actively trying to damage one another. Conflict can occur between individuals, labour strikes, competitive sport, or armed conflict”* (Nicholson,1992:13).

The writers are interested in analyzing the topic because the story in this novel is very interesting and gripping. Each person must have his or her own secret (of course he or his knows what kind a secret is). Only trusted people can be told but some group of people are willing to lose their life for the sake of the secret. Just as the story in Brown's novel, who call themselves the Priori of Sion, that will die for the sake of the great secreet that causing conflict involving an expert symbol Robert Langdon, as also main character in *The De Davinci Code*, novel written by Dan Brown.

## RIVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Conflict

Conflict refers to some form of friction, disagreement, discord arising within a group when the beliefs or action of one or more members of the group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more members of another group. Conflict can arise between members of two or more group, and involve violence, interpersonal discord, and psychological tension, known as intergroup conflict. Conflict in-group often follows a specific course. Routine group interaction is first disrupted by an initial conflict, often caused by differences of opinion, disagreement between members, or scarcity of resources. At this point, the group is no longer united, and may split into coalitions. This period of conflict escalation in some cases gives way to a conflict resolution stage, after which the group can eventually return to routine group interaction once again (Nicholson, 1992:197).

Although the involved parties may hope to reach a solution to their dispute quickly, psychological and interpersonal factors can frustrate their attempts to control the conflict, and in this case, conflict escalation occurs. A number of factors including increased commitment to one's position, use of harder influence tactics, and formation of coalitions propel the escalation of the conflict (D. R Forsyth, 2010).

Conflict is common in the way about the possibility of divergent perception and ideas in a society. Griffith (1986:45) in *Writing Essay about literature* state that: *"there are two general categories of conflict, external conflict and internal conflict take a between individual or between individual and force nature."*

From the definition, it can be concluded that conflicts happen or take place between a person and himself, between people and another group.

### **Definition of Literature and novel**

Literature is a one of the media that people use to express their thought and feeling, pour down his or idea in an expectation that his or her idea may be shared to another as what Hudson (1965:10) asserted:

*"Literature is a vital record of what man have seen in life. When they experienced in life. What they have thought and feel about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for human beings."*

Literature is different from the other informative writing such as geography or history because it has different language in use. Literature usually uses diction or imagery, while informative language used the daily language. That is why literary language usually has implicit meaning and we need to analyse it. In the other hand, literature refers merely to imaginative works; it has identified particularly with artistic forms or verbal expression. Wellek and Warren (1963:22) states that seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is a creative written by an author with aesthetic values, which makes literature regarded as an art. Literature differentiates from the other art products, and its aesthetics or artistic values, make it different from other writing.

Novel is a fiction misleading for although fiction including made up imagery elements, it has potential for being true nature of reality, true to human experience (Griffith, 1986:41).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design**

Qualitative research is a system of inquiry, which seeks to build a holistically, largely narrative, description, to inform the researcher's understanding of a social or cultural phenomenon. Qualitative research takes place in natural setting employing a combination of observation of observation, interviews, and document review. Mcmilan and Schumacher (1993:794) says that *"Primarily an inductive process of organizing data into categories and indentifying patterns (relationship) among categories"*. This definition implies that data and meaning emerge "organically" from the research context.

Qualitative research of strategy is predication on underlying assumption and perspectives. Wiersma (1995:211-212) summarized these as:

- a. Phenomena are viewed in its entirety holistically, is not possible to reduce complex phenomena into a few interdependent or independent factors.
- b. Investigators research in “nature”. Researchers do not impose their assumptions, limitations, and delimitations, or definition, or research designs upon emerging data. The researcher’s role is to record what he or she observes and/or collects from subject’s in their natural environment.
- c. “Reality” exists as a subjects see it. The researcher is to record, fully, accurately, and unbiasedly, that reality as seen through the eyes of subjects.
- d. Pos hoc conclusions emerge from emerge from the data. Prior conclusion are avoided.

### Data Collection

In order to get the best result of the studies analysis, the writers decide about how the data collects. The writers divide the data into two categories that can be explained as the primary data and secondary data. Primary data is work itself and the secondary data is the other sources that supported the primary data.

### Data Analysis

In this research, the writers use objective approach that focuses on the work itself, as pointed out of Abrams (1979:26):

Objective orientation, which on the work itself, as pointed out of Abrams (1979:26) :

*“Objective orientation, which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all external points of reference, analyse it as self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relation, sets out or*

*judge solely by criteria intrinsic to its mode of being”.*

So it means that objective approach focuses on the literary work itself without any influences from external factors of the novel. This statement does not mean that the writer does not need to have other materials, but it means that the central point of this research is the novel itself.

## 3. ANALYSIS

### Trigger of the Conflict

*The Da Vinci Code* begins with the murder of a French Museum Curator his named Jacques Sauniere. A scholarly Harvard Profesor and a beautiful French cryptologist are commissioned to desipher a message left by curator before his death. The message turns out to reveal the most profound conflict in the history of human kind a cover up of the true message of Jesus Christ by a secret arm of the roman Catholic Church named Opus Dei.

Before Jacquest Sauniere died the tried to leave a mark so that someone can solve mystery, which has been stored, as describes in under quotation:

*I must so some way, he was trapped inside the Grand Galery, and there existed only one person one earth to whom he could pass the torch. Sauniere gazed up the walls of his opulent prison. A collection of the world’s most famous paintings seemed to smile down on him like old friend.*

*Wincing in pain, he summoned all of this faculties and strength. The desperate task before him, he knew, would require every remaining second of his life (Brown, 2003:4).*

Quotation above proves that Sauniere has left some clues about the secret of the Holy Grail to someone.

Brown solving his conflict through the expert symbolists named Robert Langdon with Sophie Neveu, a police cryptographer. They reveals conflict with keystone and some famous drawing from Leonardo Da

Vinci that is Vitruvian Man, The last supper and Madona of the Rock.

*The Da Vinci Code* also involves several parties in the conflict of Opus Dei, the Priory of Sion and the expert symbolist named Robert Langdon.

### **Secret hunter causes conflict**

Opus Dei was conservative Catholic sect that seeks to destroy a big secret that is protected by another group who becomes enemies. Opus Dei headed by a person calling himself the Teacher/Rector. Teacher ordered a bishop Manuel Aringarosa to hunt down the secret is in store by enemies. But Aringarosa did not execute that command alone, he ordered two of his subordinates namely Silas, an albino, and Bezu Fache who were captain of the French police homicide Jaquest Sauniere. As describes in under quotation:

*As president-general of Opus Dei, Bishop Aringarosa had spent the last decade of his life spreading the message of "God's Work"- literally, Opus Dei. The congregation, founded in 1928 by the Spanish priest Josemaria Escriva, promoted a return to conservative Catholic values and encouraged its members to make sweeping sacrifices in their own lives in order to do the Work of God (Brown, 2003:24).*

Explanation above is about what Opus Dei and when the establishment of the organization.

The Teacher never tells the Bishop Aringarosa about who he was, so that the Bishop only takes orders over the phone the teacher has ever met. It is describes in under quotation:

*Unfortunately, the Teacher's protocols for caution included a refusal to give Aringarosa any kind of contact number. I alone will initiate contact, the Teacher had*

*informed him. So keep your phone close (Brown, 2003:178).*

### **Secret protector causes conflict**

Priory of Sion is a selected group of people who keeps a secret hunted by Opus Dei. Priory of Sion headed by Jaquest Sauniere (at that time) after some famous personalities, among others Da Vinci, Botticelli, Pousin, Bernini, Mozart, and Victor Hugo. It is as describe in under quotation:

*"The Priory of Sion," he began, "was founded in Jerusalem in 1099 by a French king named Godefroi de Bouillon, ... Fearing his secret might be lost when he died, he founded a secret brotherhood—the Priory of Sion—and charged them with protecting his secret by quietly passing it on from generation to generation (Brown, 2003:132).*

That is why Sauniere left some clues to Langdon and Sophie though he was dying because of the secret must be passed on to anyone who can be trusted to keep it.

### **Langdon Involvement in the Conflict**

When Sauniere died, he left a hidden message in the form of an anagram written beside his body and pentagram drawn on him body. This involves Langdon because the message written in Langdon's full name so as to make the French police think that Langdon is he perpetrator of the murder. This situation can be proved from this quotation:

*"The last line of the message," Sophie said, "was something Fache did not want you to know about. "She paused. "At least nit until he was done with you."*

*"Sophie produced a computer printout of a photo from her sweater pocket and began unfolding it. "Fache uploaded images of the crime scene to the Cryptology Department earlier tonight in hopes we could figure out what Sauniere's message was trying to say. This is a photo of the complete message."She handed the page to Langdon looked at the image. The close-up photo revealed the glowing message on the parquet floor. The final line hit Langdon like a kick in the gut"*

13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5

*O, Draconian devil!*

*Oh, lame saint!*

P.S. Find Rober Langdon (Brown,2003: 57).

By looking at the quotation above,it is very clear how Langdon ia involved.

Message bearing the name of Robert Langdon make the police think that the perpetrator of the killing was Langdon's own. As describe in under quotation:

*I belive Sauniere wrote this note to tell us who kikkled him." Langdon started. "But that makes no sense whatsoever."*

*"No?" "No," he fired back, tired and frustrated. "You told me Sauniere was attacked in his office by someone he had apparently invided in. " "Yes." "So it seems reasonable to conclude that the curator knew his attacker." Fache nodded. "Go on."*

*"So if Sauniere knew the person who killed him, what kind of indictment is this?" He pointed at the floor. "Numeric codes? Lame saints? Draconian devils? Pentacles on his stomach? It's all too cryptic."*

*Fache frowned as if the idea had never occurred to him. "You have a point."*

*"Considering the circumstances," Landon said, "I would assume that if Sauniere wanted to tell you who killed him, he would have written down somebody's name."*

*As Langdon spoke those words, a smug smile crossed Fache's lips for the first time all night. "Precisement," Fache said. "Precisement" (Brown*

Quotation above proves that according to Fache, Langdon is the prime suspect of the murder.

After they break existing code in Museum Louvre, Langdon and Sophie fled to an isolated place to decode the next left by Jacques Sauniere along with keystone they found in the Museum.

## Secret behind the Conflict

Each of us is faced with problem very day of our live, and with each problem, we make choices in how we react. Puzzle and code that's the main theme of *The Da Vinci Code*. They story's villains are those who seek the secret of the Grail for the power that secret brings. Of course, unlocking a secret is not the same as knowing the truth.

The story in this novel reveals about a big secret that lead to conflicts that make some people had lost their lives. After his three friends, Sauniere is Master of the Priory of Sion most recent Opus Dei killed by members is an albino named Silas. It is as describe in under quotation:

*Renowned curator Jacques Sauniere staggered through the vaulted archway of the museum's Grand Gallery. He lunged for the nearest painting he could see, a Caravaggio. Grabbing the gilded frame, the seventy-six-year-old man heaved the masterpiece toward himself until it tore from the wall and Sauniere collapsed backward in a heap beneath the canvas.*

*The curator lay a moment, gasping for breath, taking stock. I am still alive. He crawled out from under the canvas and scanned the cavernous space for someplace to hide.*

*A voice spoke, chillingly close."Do not move."*

*On hands and kness, the curator froze, turning his head slowly.*

*Only fifteen feat away, outside the sealed gate, the mountainous silhouette of his attacker stared through the iron bars. He was broad and tall, with ghost-pale skin and thinning white hair. His irises were pink with dark red pupils. The albino drew a pistol from his coat and aimed the barrel through the bars, directly at the curator (Brown, 2003:3).*

The quotation above is evidence of how Silas killed Sauniere at the time to pursue a secret that was hidden by hm.

Although already of gunshot wounds in his body, Sauniere continued to insist to protect the secret. As describe in under quotation:

*“You should not have run.” His accent was not easy to place. “Now tell me where it is.”*

*“I told you already,” the curator stammered, kneeling defenceless on the floor of the gallery. “I have no idea what you are talking about!”*

*“You are lying.” The man stared at him, perfectly immobile except for the glint in his ghostly eyes. “You and your brethren posses something that is not yours” (Brown, 2003:3).*

When Silas wanted to shoot dead Sauniere, he raised his hand and told about the secret but it is part of the protocol, and what was said by Sauniere and his three friends are nothing but lies to cover up the truth. It can be seen in this quotation below:

*Sauniere held up his hands in defense. “What,” he said slowly. “I will tell you what you need to know.” The curator spoke his next words carefully. The lie he told was one he had rehearsed many times... each time praying he would never have to use it.*

*When curator had finished speaking, his assailant smiled smogly.*

*“Yes. This is exactly what the others told me” (Brown, 2003:3).*

The quotation above makes it clear that Sauniere informed Silas of the secrets was pursuing but by following the rules he had agreed with his other friends who had been killed by Silas.

When Langdon and Sophie break existing code in the Museum, they find a keystone that brought them their need to visit a storage place in Paris, the Depository Bank of Zurich. Is describe in under quotation:

*Sophie reached in her pocket and produced the UV penlight. Langdon took it and switched it on, shining the beam on the beckof the key.*

*The back luminesced instantly. There was writing there. In penmanship that was hurried but legible.*

*“well,” Langdon said, smiling. “I guess we know what the acohol smell was.”*

*Sophie stared in amazement at the purple writing on the back of the key. 24 Rue Haxo*

*An adres! My grandfather wrote down an adres! (Brown, 2003:129).*

Then they managed to take deposits, and it turns out these deposits form rosewood box which is a five-petal rose, symbol Prioory of Sion that has meaning for Langdon’s interesting to know the secret of what is in the rosewood box.

Langdon had harboured several fantasies about what they might find inside this box, but clearly he had been wrong and every account. Nestled snugly inside the box’s heavily padded interior of crimson silk lay an object Langdon could not even begin to comprehend (Brown, 2003:166).

Because he is not an expert, Langdon does not know exactly what the function of the object. So, Sophie began to explain that Cryptex it is a tool that serves to send secret messages to be save for long-distance, entrusted to certain man to deliver it. Cryptex player has five letters and included small roll of paper containing a secret message or instruction. Because Da Vinci is too smart for that. He designed the Cryptex so that if you try to force it open in any way, the information self-destructs. It is described in under quotation:

*Sophie reached into the box and carefully lifted out the cylinder. “Any information to be inserted is first written on papyrus scroll.”*

*“Not vellum?”*

*Sophie shook her head. “Papyrus. I know sheep’s vellum was more durable and more common in those days, but it had to be papyrus. The thinner the better.”*

*“Okay.”*

*“Before the papyrus was inserted into the cryptex’s compartment, it was rolled around a delicate glass vial.” She tipped the cryptex, and the liquid inside gurgled.”A vial of liquid.”*

*“Liquid what?”*

*Sophie smiled. “Vinegar”*

*Langdon hesitated a moment and then began nodding. “Brilliant.”*

*Vinegar and papyrus, Sophie thought. If someone attempted to force open the cryptex, the glass vial would break, and the vinegar would quickly dissolve the papyrus. By the time anyone extracted the secret message, it would be a glob of meaningless pulp (Brown, 2003:169).*

Hearing that, Langdon begins to confusion and draws up a conclusion, from the death of Sauniere, keystone and rosewood are pieces of coded map to reveal great secret of the hiding place Holy Grail. This secret of Holy Grail that is hunted by members of the Opus Dei resulting in some members of the Priory of Sion should lose their life.

With their efforts trying to open the Cryptex but still it does not work, so they really do not know how. Fortunately, Langdon knows of a friend who has fairly high interest of the Holy Grail and the thought, they need help. It is as describes in under quotation:

*“No, I have a plan. There’s a religious historian I know who live near Versailles. I can’t remember exactly where, but we can look it up. I’ve been to his estate a few times. His name is Leigh Teabing. He’s a former British Royal Historian.... Teabing’s life passion is the Grail. When whisperings of the Priory keystone surfaced about fifteen years ago, he moved to France to search churches in hopes of finding it. He’s written some books on the keystone and the Grail. He may be able to help us figure out how to open it and what to do with it” (Brown, 2003:182).*

The quotation above proves how Leigh’s involvement from another standpoint in the conflict exists.

After that, they came to the Teabing’s house, they were welcomed and then they told about the purpose of their visit to his home and more fortunate turns Teabing want to help them. One of their goals came to the home of Leigh was asked for clarification regarding the Holy Grail because it has another meaning not just the cup. It can be seen in this quotation:

*“Does this fresco tell us what the Grail really is?”*

*“Not what it is,” Teabing whispered. “But rather who it is. The Holy Grail is not a thing. It is, in fact... a person” ...*

*Langdon nodded. “A woman, in fact, legend tells us the Holy Grail is a chalice—a cup. But the Grail’s description as a chalice is actually an allegory to protect the true nature of the Holy Grail. That is to say, the legend uses the chalice as a metaphor for something far more important” (Brown, 2003:201)*

The quotation above proves that the Holy Grail is not a cup with a broad sense but in another sense known only to the Priory of Sion and Opus Dei.

The Holy Grail is a woman prostitute who repented at the time Jesus Christ, namely Mary Magdalene. The secret about the location of the tom and her descendants who are hunted by Opus Dei, giving rise to a conflict

It is between Opus Dei himself with the Priory of Sion, the secret keeper. And then, the three of them leave the country with Teabing’s plane, where they concluded that the right combination of the letters is “SOFIA”, Neveu given name. After opening Cryptex, they found a smaller Cypdex in it, together with another puzzle that will eventually lead this group to the tomb of Isaac Newton in Westminster Abbey.

When they were in Westminster Abbey, revealing the identity of the actual Leigh that he is the Teacher, the mastermind of all

conflicts between Opus Dey and the Priory of Sion. It can be seen in this quotation:

*Langdon couldn't save the image of Leigh Teabing being held captive, probably tied up in the back of his own limousine. Whoever had ordered the top Priory members killed would not hesitate to eliminate others who stood in the way. It seemed a cruel irony that Teabing—a modern British knight—was a hostage in the search for his own countryman, Sir Isaac Newton (Brown, 2003:333).*

The quotation above proves that Leight is obsessed with the Holy Grail and the mastermind of the conflict.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

After conducting the analysis, ultimately it comes to the final step of the research conclusion. Based on the analysis, the writers conclude that Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* portrays about a Conflict involving a group of people who call themselves, Opus Dei and the Priory of Sion. The cold war between the two organizations creates a conflict involving a symbolist, Robert Langdon.

Each person must have he or her own secret that will be desperately guarded so that no one else knows. In the story of this novel, the protector here is not just one person, but a group of people organization. The great secret kept neatly by the Priory of Sion began to be unsafe when an Opus Dei member named Silas Kill the great Priory of Sion, Jacques Sauniere. Since then, the hunt continued and caused some other victims.

The secret of location of Mary Magdalene's tomb and the fact that she is married to Jesus Christ and has offspring is a major problem that creates conflict, thereby making Robert and Sophie involve Teabing to help them decipher the code to unlock a Cryptex they look at the ancient depository, Bank of Zurich. However, Teabing's involvement did not work either to make complicated that problem and it turned out that Teabing was the mastermind of all the problems or conflicts that were going on.

In the end, Leigh was caught by police, Silas was shoot dead by police, Aringarosa was hospitalized for being shoot by Silas and the secrets of Mary Magdalene were safely preserved by the Priory of Sion.

*The Da Vinci Code* talks about conflict conducted a person, who wants to divide a union the existing, strong desire to get something, sometimes can lead to evil thoughts so that what is want must be obtained with any way, although having to sacrifice someone.

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