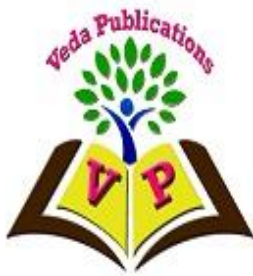




RESEARCH ARTICLE

**INTRAPERSONAL CONFLICTS OF MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE TESTAMENTS
BY MARGARET ATWOOD: KURT LEWIN CONFLICT APPROACH**Anubha Gupta^{1*}, Dr. Balkar Singh²^{1*}(Research Scholar, Department of English, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India.)²(Professor, Department of English, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India.)Emails: anubhagupta0321@gmail.com ; balkar.singh@lpu.co.inDoi: <https://doi.org/10.54513/JOELL.2024.11401>**ABSTRACT****Article history:**

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This study examines the intrapersonal conflicts experienced by the main characters in Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Testaments*, through the lens of Kurt Lewin's conflict theory. Focusing on the psychological struggles faced by Agnes, Nichole and Aunt Lydia, the research addresses three primary questions: First, "How are the characters and their characterizations depicted?" The second, "What is the main intrapersonal conflict do they undergo?" and the third, "How do they resolve those conflicts?" The analysis aims to reveal the transformation in characterization and the nature of the psychological conflicts that the main characters experience. By closely analyzing the characters' internal conflicts and their development throughout the narrative, this study utilizes qualitative methods, including descriptive theory and data collection techniques such as detailed scene analysis and script notation. The research documents the psychological changes in the characters, demonstrating their evolution from their initial portrayals to more complex and nuanced personas. The study applies Kurt Lewin's conflict theory to categorize and understand the types of intrapersonal conflicts the characters face, including approach-approach, approach-avoidance, and avoidance-avoidance conflicts. Through the application of Lewin's theory, the study highlights how the characters in *The Testaments* navigate their internal struggles, showcasing their growth and changes in character and characterization. The findings reveal that the main characters majorly experience approach-avoidance conflict that significantly impact their development.

Keywords: *Intrapersonal, Conflicts, Lewin, The Testaments*



INTRODUCTION

The novel used in this study is *The Testaments*, written by Margaret Atwood. The novel continues the harrowing narrative initiated in *The Handmaid's Tale*, delving deeper into the dystopian world of Gilead through the perspectives of three distinct female characters. This novel not only expands on the social landscape of Gilead but also intricately explores the psychological turmoil experienced by its protagonists. This novel follows the intertwined stories of three key characters: Aunt Lydia, Agnes, and Daisy. Aunt Lydia is a high-ranking enforcer in the theocratic regime of Gilead, but secretly undermines the system from within. Agnes is raised to be an obedient daughter within Gilead's rigidly structured society, while Daisy grows up outside of Gilead, unaware of her true origins or the oppressive world beyond her borders. Their narratives converge, revealing the intricate layers of resistance, betrayal, and the emotional costs of survival in a dystopian society.

The study finds two central themes in the novel: culture and social interaction. The culture of Gilead is vastly different from that of contemporary times, where rigid hierarchies govern every aspect of life, particularly gender roles. In Gilead, women are stripped of autonomy and status unless they serve the regime's specific purposes, such as the Aunts, who enforce its rules. However, even within this strict system, the wealthy and powerful, such as the Commanders and their Wives, are treated with greater respect than the Handmaids and the impoverished Marthas. Social interactions are driven by status and control, with frequent gatherings reinforcing the divide between the elite and the powerless, much like the extravagant ceremonies that reinforce the subjugation of women in Gilead. The research majorly focuses in analyzing the internal conflict faced by the three main characters in *The Testaments*. Each character experiences significant intrapersonal conflict. Aunt Lydia wrestles with guilt, self-preservation, and the desire to dismantle the system she helped build. Agnes struggles with her predetermined role in Gilead's society, questioning her future as a Wife, while Daisy grapples with the

shocking revelation of her true identity and the weight of her role in the resistance. The instability of their personal desires, shaped by the harsh world around them, leads to inner turmoil. Aunt Lydia's internal conflict between loyalty to Gilead and her hidden rebellion reflects the complex choices people must make under authoritarian regimes. Similarly, Agnes and Daisy's journeys highlight how individuals, especially young people, grapple with maturity, self-awareness, and the pressures imposed by societal expectations. By exploring these intrapersonal conflicts, the reader gains deeper insight into how the characters navigate their personal struggles amidst the rigid confines of Gilead. This analysis of intrapersonal conflict not only deepens the reader's understanding of these characters but also mirrors the internal battles we all face in dealing with societal expectations, identity, and personal freedom. In this study, the intrapersonal conflicts are examined through the lens of Kurt Lewin's conflict theory, which provides a structured approach to understanding the nature and resolution of internal struggles.

Kurt Lewin, a pioneering figure in social psychology, proposed a conflict model that categorizes psychological conflicts into three primary types: approach-approach, approach-avoidance, and avoidance-avoidance. Each of these conflict types encapsulates different scenarios of decision-making and internal strife, making Lewin's theory an apt framework for analyzing the complex emotional and cognitive battles within Atwood's characters. The main characters in *The Testaments* grapple with profound moral dilemmas, loyalties, and fears, all of which drive their development and actions throughout the narrative. This research aims to dissect the characters' intrapersonal conflicts, elucidating how these conflicts shape their identities and destinies. Through a meticulous analysis of character development and internal conflicts, this study seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on psychological conflict in literature.



CONCEPT OF CONFLICT

Intrapersonal conflict is an internal struggle that takes place within an individual's mind. It is a psychological form of conflict that involves personal thoughts, values, principles, and emotions. Lewin developed a comprehensive framework for understanding these conflicts within the context of social psychology. Field theory serves as the foundation for his understanding of conflicts. Field theory posits that behavior is the result of the individual and their environment, which together form a dynamic field. In this field, various forces interact to influence behavior. Lewin proposed that conflicts could be resolved by changing the forces within the field. This can be achieved through various strategies. One way to resolve conflict is to diminish the negative aspects associated with a particular choice, making it more attractive. Another strategy involves enhancing the positive aspects of an option to make it more appealing. Altering the overall environment or context in which the decision is made can also help resolve conflicts. This could involve changing the individual's perception or the actual circumstances. Lewin identified three main types of conflict:

a) Approach-Approach Conflict

An approach-approach conflict arises when an individual is faced with two equally attractive options but must choose between them. Kurt Lewin (1931) explains that this type of conflict occurs when a person has to decide between two appealing alternatives, leading to a difficult decision. Although both choices seem desirable, the person experiences internal conflict, uncertain about which option to pursue. This form of conflict is typically resolved when the individual moves closer to one of the goals, making it easier to make a final decision.

b) Approach-Avoidance Conflict

Approach-avoidance conflict occurs when a situation or decision presents both positive and negative aspects, leading to mixed feelings of attraction and repulsion toward a single goal. Forster (1980) explains that this type of conflict involves one goal

that has both advantages, which draw the person closer to it, and disadvantages, which push the person away. As competing emotions arise, the stronger feeling often prevails. This type of conflict is particularly challenging and stressful because both choices are undesirable, creating a scenario where the individual feels trapped between a rock and a hard place.

c) Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict:

Avoidance-avoidance conflict involves a situation where an individual must choose between two undesirable options. According to Gaines A. (2003), this type of conflict is particularly challenging because neither choice is appealing, often resulting in a tendency to delay making any decision in the hope that a better option will arise. This situation creates an internal struggle, as neither option is desirable. People experiencing avoidance-avoidance conflict often make decisions reluctantly and with dissatisfaction. As Timothy J. (2020) notes, this type of conflict can lead to negative reactions and difficulty in trusting one's own decisions, given the lack of appealing outcomes. In this case, the individual is simultaneously drawn to and repelled by the same option, leading to an internal struggle as they weigh the pros and cons.

Lewin emphasized that these conflicts are dynamic and can evolve over time. The forces within the field are constantly changing, making conflict resolution an ongoing process rather than a one-time solution. Kurt Lewin's concept of conflicts provides a robust framework for understanding the complexities of human behavior in situations involving choice and decision-making.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. How are the characters and their characterizations depicted in the novel?
- ii. What psychological conflicts do they undergo, and which is the dominating conflict?
- iii. How do they resolve those conflicts?



OBJECTIVES

The three main objectives of the research are:

- i. To explain the situation of their conflict.
- ii. To explore the dominating intrapersonal conflict.
- iii. To analyse the resolution of their conflict.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted using the content analysis method, a technique used to draw inferences from text. In this case, the selected text focuses on characters experiencing intrapersonal conflict in *The Testaments*. Suwardi Endaswara (2011, p.160) defines content analysis as a method for identifying, presenting, and interpreting literary texts. This process involves reading, selecting key parts of the text, and then interpreting these sections to reveal deeper meanings. By applying content analysis, the study not only explores the presence of specific words, themes, or concepts but also examines the relationships between them. The analysis begins by identifying specific items within the text, particularly actions, dialogues, thoughts, and statements made by or about the characters. This process helps to clarify the intrapersonal conflicts experienced by key figures in the story. The characters analyzed in this study include Agnes, Nicole, and Aunt Lydia, with a focus on understanding their inner struggles. Their actions, thoughts, and interactions provide insights into how they navigate internal conflict, and the analysis culminates in a clear explanation of these conflicts within the narrative structure of *The Testaments*. Additionally, the study utilized a range of primary resources and references, including books, online materials, and dictionaries, all of which provided supporting theories to ensure a well-defined theoretical framework and clear direction for the research.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Dystopian literature often explores the psychological struggles of characters living under oppressive regimes. According to Baccolini and Moylan (2003),

dystopian narratives serve as a critique of contemporary socio-political structures, highlighting the inner turmoil of characters as they navigate repressive environments. In this context, the psychological conflicts of characters are crucial in understanding their resistance and conformity. Also, Margaret Atwood's novels frequently feature complex characters grappling with internal and external conflicts.

Brad Evans (August 16, 2013) defines intrapersonal conflict as a type of conflict that occurs within an individual, taking place in the person's mind. This psychological conflict involves the individual's thoughts, values, principles, and emotions. Intrapersonal conflict can range from everyday dilemmas, such as deciding whether to eat organic for lunch, to more significant decisions, like choosing a career path. This inner struggle can be challenging to navigate, especially when deciphering one's own emotions and motivations is difficult. If unresolved, it can lead to restlessness, anxiety, or even depression. In such situations, seeking support through communication with others can help alleviate the tension. Overcoming intrapersonal conflict can lead to personal empowerment and positive growth, as it often brings clarity and self-awareness. Abdul Hannan (2011) identifies several causes of intrapersonal conflict. These include difficulty in decision-making due to uncertainty, being pulled in opposite directions by conflicting motivations, being faced with equally strong forces, or needing to choose between mutually exclusive options. Conflict may also arise when a person is required to perform tasks that do not align with their expertise, interests, goals, or values.

This study highlights the importance of understanding these intrapersonal conflicts to fully appreciate the depth of Atwood's characterizations. Kurt Lewin's conflict theory has been widely applied in various fields, including literary analysis. Forsyth (2010) discusses the relevance of Lewin's model in understanding characters' psychological conflicts, emphasizing the theory's utility in categorizing and analyzing different types of intrapersonal struggles. This approach allows for a structured examination of



characters' internal battles, making it particularly useful for studying complex literary characters. In an analysis of *The Testaments*, Levene (2020) explores how Atwood portrays the psychological evolution of her characters amidst the backdrop of Gilead's authoritarian regime. Levene argues that the characters' internal conflicts are pivotal to their development, driving the narrative forward and deepening the reader's engagement with their personal journeys and underscores the significance of intrapersonal conflict in understanding character growth within dystopian settings. It is observed that feminist literary criticism often focuses on the internal conflicts experienced by female characters as they struggle against patriarchal systems. Showalter (1985) examines how these conflicts are depicted in literature, arguing that they reveal the psychological impact of gender-based oppression. This perspective is particularly relevant to *The Testaments*, where the female protagonists' intrapersonal conflicts are intertwined with their resistance to Gilead's misogynistic structures.

A recent study by Dyer (2022) explores the intrapersonal conflicts in *The Testaments* and their impact on character identity. Dyer emphasizes how Atwood's characters navigate complex psychological landscapes, confronting their past traumas and current moral dilemmas. This analysis highlights the importance of intrapersonal conflict in shaping character identities within dystopian narratives. Brown (2021) also discusses the applicability of Kurt Lewin's conflict theory in analyzing contemporary literature, focusing on its relevance in understanding character dynamics in dystopian novels. Brown's work demonstrates how Lewin's model can effectively dissect the internal struggles of characters, providing deeper insights into their psychological conflicts and development. Further, Johnson (2023) examines the psychological depth of characters in Atwood's dystopian works, including *The Testaments*. The study underscores how Atwood portrays intrapersonal conflicts to reflect broader societal issues, enhancing the psychological complexity of her characters. Johnson's research contributes to understanding how Atwood's characters internalize and respond to oppressive

environments. Furthermore, Smith (2020) provides a feminist analysis of the psychological conflicts in *The Testaments*, focusing on how these conflicts illustrate the characters' struggles against patriarchal oppression. Smith argues that the internal battles faced by Atwood's female protagonists are crucial to understanding their resistance and resilience, offering a contemporary feminist perspective on intrapersonal conflict.

In their recent work, Adams and Green (2021) explore how the narrative structure of *The Testaments* enhances the portrayal of psychological conflict. They argue that the multiple perspectives in the novel allow for a multifaceted exploration of intrapersonal struggles, providing a richer understanding of the characters' internal conflicts. This study highlights the innovative narrative techniques Atwood uses to depict psychological depth. In an article entitled "The Conflicts of The Main Character in The Novel Entitled Still Alice by Lisa Genova" written by Pratami, Djohan, and Purwaningsih (2016) discussed the types of conflict and types of conflict that occur dominantly on the main character in the novel Still Alice. They used the theory of social psychology proposed by Kurt Lewin to identify the main character's type of conflict. They found several types of conflict based on the data source they have analyzed, such as approach-approach conflict, avoidance – avoidance conflict, approach-avoidance conflict, and double approach avoidance conflict. From the analysis, the result that they found about the dominant conflict that happens by the main character is approach-avoidance conflict. The discussion used different theories to explain the types of conflict is used the theory from Kurt Lewin while this study used the theory of Kenney.

ANALYSIS

In *The Testaments*, the dystopian world of Gilead continues to unfold through the perspectives of three women: Aunt Lydia, Daisy, Agnes Jemima (Offred's daughter). Once a powerful figure in Gilead, Aunt Lydia narrates her story from within the regime, reflecting on her rise to power and her role in enforcing Gilead's strict laws. She is both a keeper of



secrets and a manipulator, navigating the dangerous political landscape to secure her own survival while influencing the future of Gilead. Second, raised in Canada under the name Daisy, is unaware of her true identity as the daughter of Offred, the protagonist of *The Handmaid's Tale*. She is recruited by Gilead as part of an elaborate plan to undermine the regime from within. Her journey reveals the harsh realities of Gilead and the impact of its ideology on individuals. The third narrator Agnes, provides a perspective on Gilead from the perspective of a younger generation, highlighting the effects of the regime on families and the broader society. The novel intertwines their stories as they navigate the oppressive world of Gilead, revealing the complexities of power, resistance, and survival within this dystopian society.

At the beginning of *The Testaments*, Agnes grapples with several deep-seated internal conflicts that reveal her struggle to navigate her identity within the confines of Gilead's oppressive society. Her struggle with identity is poignantly captured in her reflection: "I find myself wondering if I'm really myself, or just an image of what I'm supposed to be" (Page 120). This encapsulates Agnes's internal conflict as she questions whether her sense of self is genuine or merely a construct of Gilead's societal expectations. This profound self-doubt highlights her struggle to align her true identity with the roles and expectations imposed upon her by the regime. Agnes's moral dilemma is evident when she states, "Sometimes I think I'm complicit in this cruelty, just by being here and accepting it" (Page 145). This reflects her growing unease with her role in perpetuating the regime's cruelty. Her internal conflict arises from the tension between her passive acceptance of the status quo and the ethical implications of Gilead's practices, illustrating her increasing discomfort and moral questioning. The conflict between familial loyalty and personal beliefs becomes clear when Agnes wonders, "How can I stay loyal to my family when I'm beginning to see the cracks in their beliefs?" (Page 175). This reveals her struggle to reconcile her allegiance to her family with her realization that their beliefs and values might be fundamentally flawed. This internal conflict underscores the broader theme of questioning

authority and traditional values in the face of personal moral awakening. Agnes's desire for freedom is vividly expressed in her yearning for an alternate life: "I dream of a world beyond these walls, where I could be free to choose my own path" (Page 200). This longing for freedom highlights her dissatisfaction with her current restrictive environment and emphasizes her internal struggle against the limitations imposed by Gilead. Her desire for autonomy reflects her deep-seated dissatisfaction with her constrained existence.

Finally, her discomfort with societal norms is captured in her assertion, "Every time I conform, a part of me feels like it's being erased" (Page 225), reveals Agnes's internal struggle with the loss of her individuality as she conforms to Gilead's societal expectations. Her discomfort underscores the tension between maintaining her personal identity and adhering to the restrictive norms of her society. Each of these internal conflicts highlights different facets of Agnes's struggle within the repressive society of Gilead, reflecting her complex journey toward self-discovery and moral integrity amidst profound societal constraints.

On the other hand, Nichole's journey in *The Testaments* is marked by a series of profound internal conflicts that reveal her struggle within Gilead's oppressive society. One of her significant challenges is balancing guilt with self-preservation. She articulates this internal conflict with the reflection: "I feel guilty for what I'm a part of, but I know that speaking out could cost me everything" (Page 130). This captures Nichole's struggle between her conscience, which is troubled by the injustices of Gilead, and her instinct for self-preservation, which warns her of the severe consequences of dissent. Her internal conflict embodies the broader theme of personal morality versus survival in a repressive regime. Nichole also faces an identity crisis as she questions, "Who am I really, beyond what Gilead has made me?" (Page 155). This quote highlights her struggle with self-identity amidst Gilead's manipulation and control. Her questioning reflects the theme of self-discovery and the difficulty of maintaining one's sense of self in a society that



imposes rigid roles and expectations. It is also seen that the conflict between loyalty to her family and her personal beliefs is evident when Nichole asks, "How can I reconcile my feelings about Gilead with the love I have for those who uphold its principles?" (Page 180), which reveals her struggle to align her emerging personal beliefs about the regime with her affection and loyalty toward her adoptive family, who continue to support Gilead's principles. This internal conflict underscores the complexity of navigating familial relationships amid ideological differences. Additionally, Nichole's fear of rebellion is poignantly expressed in her statement: "Rebelling might be the right thing, but the fear of retribution keeps me silent" (Page 200) reflecting her internal struggle between the moral imperative to resist Gilead's oppression and the paralyzing fear of the potential repercussions. Her fear highlights the theme of resistance versus conformity in the face of a repressive regime. Finally, Nichole's struggle for autonomy is evident when she notes, "Even small acts of defiance feel like a victory, but they come with the cost of constant vigilance" (Page 225). This captures her internal conflict between asserting her individuality and the constant need to be cautious in a society that monitors and controls every aspect of life. Her efforts to maintain some level of personal freedom amidst Gilead's surveillance illustrate her ongoing struggle between self-expression and societal conformity. Each of these internal conflicts reveals different dimensions of Nichole's character, highlighting her complex emotional and moral landscape as she navigates life in the oppressive world of Gilead.

Further, Aunt Lydia's character in *The Testaments* is marked by deep internal conflicts that reveal her complex relationship with her role in Gilead's regime. Her struggle with complicity versus guilt is poignantly captured when she reflects, "I sometimes wonder if my efforts to uphold Gilead's laws are worth the suffering they cause" (Page 105). This illustrates Aunt Lydia's internal struggle between her role in enforcing Gilead's harsh laws and her growing guilt over the suffering these laws inflict. Her moral struggle underscores the complexity of her position within the oppressive regime, revealing the tension

between her duties and her personal sense of ethics. The conflict between maintaining power and personal doubts is evident in her observation: "The power I wield is a double-edged sword; it protects me but also isolates me from the truth" (Page 135). This highlights Aunt Lydia's realization that her authority, while providing her with protection, also isolates her from the true nature of Gilead's injustices. Her internal conflict reflects the broader theme of power versus personal integrity, as she grapples with the isolation and moral dilemmas that come with her position of control. Aunt Lydia's struggle to align her personal values with Gilead's ideological demands is captured in her admission: "I am forced to conform to Gilead's ideology, but it's a constant battle against my own principles" (Page 160). This underscores her internal conflict between her own values and the rigid requirements of Gilead's ideology. Her ongoing battle to reconcile her personal beliefs with societal expectations highlights the broader theme of self-versus societal conformity.

Furthermore, The tension between moral justification and reality is evident when Aunt Lydia confesses, "I find myself justifying actions I know are wrong, simply to maintain the facade of righteousness" (Page 185). This reveals her struggle to reconcile the moral implications of her actions with the need to maintain a facade of righteousness. Her internal conflict between self-justification and the harsh realities of her role reflects the theme of self-deception and the moral complexities inherent in her position. Finally, Aunt Lydia's fear of rebellion is vividly expressed in her statement: "The thought of rebellion makes my heart race with fear; I know how easily my power could be stripped away" (Page 210). This captures her deep-seated anxiety about the potential for rebellion and the fragility of her authority. Her fear underscores the constant threat to her power and the internal struggle to balance control with the anxiety of potential uprisings. Each of these internal conflicts reveals the multifaceted nature of Aunt Lydia's character, highlighting her complex emotional landscape and the moral ambiguities of her role within the repressive society of Gilead.



CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of intrapersonal conflict characters in *The Testaments* and the discussion in the previous chapter, this chapter aims to conclude the analysis and provide suggestions for future literature studies.

The examination of intrapersonal conflicts within *The Testaments* reveals complex character dynamics and internal struggles. Agnes's journey illustrates her profound struggle with identity, moral dilemmas, familial loyalty, desire for freedom, and conformity. Her internal conflicts reflect a deep tension between her true self and the roles imposed by Gilead, as she wrestles with guilt, personal values, and a yearning for autonomy in a repressive environment. Agnes's reflections highlight her difficulty reconciling her authentic self with societal expectations and familial pressures. Similarly, Nichole's internal conflicts provide insight into her personal struggles within Gilead's constraints. Her grappling with guilt versus self-preservation, identity crisis, loyalty to family versus personal beliefs, fear of rebellion, and struggle for autonomy illustrate her complex emotional landscape. Nichole's character reveals the tension between her moral convictions and the harsh realities of her environment, emphasizing the broader themes of resistance, conformity, and the quest for self-identity. Aunt Lydia's character further exemplifies the theme of internal conflict within Gilead. Her struggles with complicity versus guilt, maintaining power versus personal doubts, conformity versus individual values, moral justification versus reality, and fear of rebellion highlight the complexities of her position. Aunt Lydia's internal conflicts illustrate the moral ambiguities, and the personal sacrifices involved in upholding Gilead's oppressive regime, shedding light on the isolation and self-deception inherent in her role.

The resolutions of these intrapersonal conflicts differ significantly among Agnes, Nichole, and Aunt Lydia. Each character's response to their internal struggles reveals varying degrees of resilience, moral questioning, and adaptation to their oppressive

environment. While Agnes's journey reflects a deep internal struggle with identity and conformity, Nichole's experiences highlight the difficulties of reconciling personal beliefs with familial loyalty and societal expectations. Aunt Lydia's position reveals the moral complexities and fears associated with maintaining authority in a repressive regime.

In *The Testaments*, the characters and their characterizations are shaped by their internal struggles, each facing distinct psychological conflicts within Gilead's oppressive regime. Agnes, Nichole, and Aunt Lydia wrestle with challenges that illuminate their personalities and moral dilemmas. Agnes grapples with her identity, familial loyalty, and her desire for autonomy, while Nichole is caught between guilt, self-preservation, and the clash between personal beliefs and societal expectations. Aunt Lydia's internal conflict revolves around her complicity in Gilead's regime and her moral doubts about the system she helps maintain. The dominating psychological conflict for these characters is largely *approach-avoidance*. Each character is pulled between the desire for personal freedom or integrity (approach) and the fear or pressure of conforming to Gilead's rules (avoidance). Agnes desires freedom but fears betraying her family and societal expectations. Nichole struggles between personal autonomy and the guilt of leaving her family. Aunt Lydia seeks power and control yet grapples with guilt and the moral ambiguity of her actions. Each resolution underscores the differing degrees of resilience and moral questioning, revealing how they adapt, resist, or compromise in the face of oppression.

In conclusion, the intrapersonal conflicts explored in *The Testaments* offer valuable insights into the characters' inner lives and their responses to Gilead's oppressive society. Future literature studies could benefit from a deeper exploration of these themes, focusing on the psychological and emotional dimensions of characters' struggles within dystopian settings. Analyzing the ways in which characters navigate their internal conflicts and their resolutions could provide a richer understanding of the human condition in literature.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In general, this study seeks to give information and add insight when experienced by a conflict. Specifically, it is anticipated that this study's findings will have the following advantages: theoretically, it can make better plans to solve when an individual is having conflicts that are being experienced. Also, this research is valuable not only for college students but also for lecturers in enhancing the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. Additionally, the findings of this study can serve as a useful reference for other researchers in supporting their own work. It is hoped that this study will help readers gain a more comprehensive understanding of intrapersonal conflicts within novel characters, making it easier to analyze and appreciate such conflicts in literature. The study clearly highlights the nature of intrapersonal conflict in characters and hopes it will benefit both students and lecturers in the future. Furthermore, it provides insights into intrapersonal conflict through the application of relevant theories, offering a deeper understanding of different types of character conflicts. It also contributes to the existing body of research on character conflicts, with a particular focus on intrapersonal conflicts in novels.

LIMITATION

Various issues arise in *The Testaments*, but it is necessary to narrow the scope of analysis for clarity and depth. This study is limited to examining the characteristics and intrapersonal conflicts of the three central characters: Aunt Lydia, Agnes, and Nicole. By focusing on their internal struggles, the analysis delves into how these conflicts shape their actions, thoughts, and roles within the oppressive regime of Gilead. This limitation allows for a more focused understanding of the psychological battles each character faces in navigating their complex lives in a dystopian society.

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