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**| RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**The Relationship between Conflict and Social Change in the Perspective of Expert Theory:  
A Literature Review**

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**| ABSTRACT**

Conflict and social change are a couple that influences each other. Conflict inevitably drives social change. Social changes also inevitably lead to conflict. These conditions can manifest in large or small sizes. Every society that exists on this earth in their life will certainly experience what is called changes. The existence of these changes will be known if we compare by examining society at a particular time which we then compare with the state of society in the past. Changes that occur in society are a continuous process. This situation means that every society will, in fact, experience changes. This study aims to collect argumentative views on the relationship between conflict and social change. The conclusions of this study have a significant impact in providing illustrations and projections of what social situations occur before and after conflicts or social changes occur. This research is a discourse relation analysis research. This type of research analyzes the relationship between two or more variables and then describes each contextual factor. This study concludes that the argumentative view of implying and exposing the relationship of conflict to social change is vital and sensitive.

**| KEYWORDS**

Conflict, Social change, relationship, expert theory

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**1. Introduction**

In this life, a variable cannot stand alone. A variable will never only be affected and affect itself. The situation was an impossibility. When a variable is skewed in a direction, a contextual variable must be affected by the movement. This condition is called the nature of mutual influence.

This condition also occurs in two variables, namely conflict and social change. These two things are a couple that influences each other. Conflict inevitably drives social change. Social changes also inevitably lead to conflict. These conditions can manifest in large or small sizes.

Every society that exists on this earth in their life will certainly experience what is called changes. The existence of these changes will be known if we compare by examining society at a particular time which we then compare with the state of society in the past. Changes that occur in society are a continuous process. This situation means that every society will, in fact, experience changes.

Reality shows that changes between one society and another are not always the same. Sometimes, some communities experience changes faster than other societies. These changes can be in no significant changes or do not show a change. Some changes have a broad or limited impact. In addition, there are also chances that slow processes and changes take place quickly. Changes in society can also occur in social values, social norms, patterns of organizational behaviour, the composition of social institutions, layers in society, power and authority, social interaction, and so on. Sweeping social change will only occur through conflict. Without conflict, there will be no comprehensive social transformation.

New research is worth doing if it touches at least one of these two traits: urgent and interesting (Siregar et al., 2021, p. 51). This study aims to collect argumentative views on the relationship between conflict and social change. The conclusions of this study

have a significant impact in providing illustrations and projections of what social situations occur before and after conflicts or social changes occur.

## **2. Literature Reviews**

Conflict is a difference or conflict between individuals or social groups that occurs because of differences in interests and efforts to fulfil goals by opposing the opposing party accompanied by threats or violence (Soerjono Soekanto, 2006, p. 91). The definition of conflict, according to some experts, are:

According to Webster, the term conflict in Latin means a fight, war, or struggle, namely in the form of a physical confrontation between several parties (Pruitt and Rubin, 2009, p. 9).

In the Big Indonesian Dictionary compiled by Poerwadarminta, conflict means conflict or strife. The contradiction itself appears in the form of an ideological or physical conflict between two opposing parties (in Novri Susan, 2009, p. 4).

Pruitt and Rubin define conflict as a perception regarding the perceived divergence of interest or a belief that the aspirations of the conflicting parties cannot find common ground (Pruitt and Rubin, 2009, p. 9). The interest in question is how people feel about what they want, where these feelings tend to be central in people's thoughts and actions that form the core of many of their attitudes, goals, and intentions.

Social change can be thought of as changes within or including social systems. More precisely, the difference between the states of a particular system over different periods. (Sztompka, 2008, p. 3). According to Kingsley Davis, social change is part of cultural change. Cultural change includes all its parts: art, science, technology, philosophy, and so on, even changes in the form and rules of social organization (Soerjono, 2007, p. 266). According to Mac Iver (Nanang, 2012, p. 4), social change is a change that occurs in social relationships or as a change to balance. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, change is different from the previous condition.

The word change is often associated with social and cultural. Social change occurs because of the processes experienced in social life, namely changes in social systems and structures. Social change can be about social values, patterns of organizational behaviour, the composition of social institutions, layers in society, power and authority, social interaction, Etc. Social changes that occur in society are planned, unplanned, fast, and slow changes. Diversity of norms and values allows new generations to choose various patterns of life or recombine with cultural elements with new patterns that are deemed appropriate. Based on the opinion of several experts, social change can be known by looking at the different conditions in different periods. Social change in one society with another is not the same because social change does not always occur in all spheres of social structure in society. Sometimes social change only occurs in several spheres of social structure in society. This condition dramatically affects the size of the change. That happened in that place.

In Soerjono (1982), the forms of social change can be divided into several forms, namely as follows:

### **A. Change as progress**

Change as progress is a change that gives and brings progress to society. Changes in the conditions of traditional societies are greatly affected by science and technology, as well as a superficial level of education to become an advanced society with various technological advances and an increase in inadequate education levels. This condition is a change towards progress.

### **B. Change as a regression.**

Changes that occur in society do not always lead to direction of progress. There are times when the changes in society have a negative impact that leads to a decline called regress or change as a setback.

### **C. Rapid change**

Revolution has a difference with the form of social change another. The differences are: revolution causes a change in the broadest range; touching all levels and dimensions of society: economy, politics, the culture of social organization, everyday life, and human personality; in all these fields, the changes are radical, fundamental, touching the core of social structures and functions; changes are happening very fast. (Sztompka: 1994 in Nanang).

### **D. Slow Change**

Evolution is a change that takes a long time and the succession of minor changes that follow each other with slow (Soerjono, 1982).

### **E. Minor changes**

Small changes occur in elements of the social structure that do not directly impact society (Nanang, 2012).

## F. Big change

*Significant changes* bring considerable influence on society (Nanang, 2012).

## G. Desired changes

Desired (planned) changes are planned by the parties who want to make changes, called agents of change (Nanang, 2012). *Desired social change* is a change that is desired by the community itself to change existing conditions into new forms and situations that are different from the previous situation.

## H. Unwanted changes

Unwanted changes are changes that occur unplanned, take place outside the reach or control of the community, and can cause unwanted social consequences (Soerjono, 1982, p. 273).

Literature analysis is an effective and efficient strategy in finding conclusions about a problem. This analysis is essential as a context review because the literature provides context and meaning in the writing that is being done, and through this literature review, the researcher can also state explicitly. The reader knows why someone wants to research a problem that must be investigated. In terms of the subject to be studied and any environment in terms of the relationship between the research and other relevant research. (Afifuddin, 2012).

### 3. Research Methods

This research is a discourse relation analysis research. This type of research analyzes the relationship between two or more variables and then describes each contextual factor. Perception, sharp analysis, and sharp argumentation are mandatory elements present in this type of research. The step of describing each variable is the first step in this research. However, this study uses only important and necessary elements and factors as data.

### 4. Results and Discussions

Rogers and Shoemaker (in Hanafi 1986, p. 16-17) define social change as a process where there is a change in the structure and function of a social system. The national revolution, establishing a village development institution, and adopting the family planning method by a family are examples of social change. Changes, both in function and in social structure, occur due to various individual statuses and orderly group statuses. The functioning of the status is a set of roles or natural behaviour of a person in a certain status. Status and roles influence each other. *Social changes* occur in social institutions in a society that affect the social system, including values, social attitudes, and behaviour patterns among groups in society (Soemardjan, 1974, p. 23).

William F. Ogburn argued that the scope of social changes includes elements of culture, both material and immaterial, emphasizing the significant influence of elements of material culture on immaterial elements. Kingsley Davis defines social change as changes that occur in the structure and function of society. Maclver says that social changes are changes in social relationships or the equilibrium of social relations. J.L. Gillin and J.P. Gillin says social changes are a variation of accepted ways of life, either because of changes in geographical conditions, material culture, population composition, ideology, or diffusion or discoveries in society. Samuel Koenig said that social change refers to the modifications that occur in the patterns of human life.

It can be concluded that the notion of social change is the changes that occur in a society that include changes in the structural aspects of a society, or due to changes in environmental factors, due to changes in population composition, geographical conditions, and systems of social relations.

Let us talk about conflict. Conflict is the basis of life. This point is an expression to describe the phenomenon of conflict as a basic fact in life. Humans everywhere will always face the possibility of conflict. Conflict is another color of life that cannot be erased throughout human civilization on earth. Darwinism even has long seen the phenomenon of conflict in ordinary life as a struggle and survival of the fittest (Veeger, 1993, p. 210). This principle means that there is always a struggle for survival in human life, which causes conflict.

Conflict applies in all aspects of social relations, which are relations between individuals, relationships between individuals and groups, or between groups and groups (Garna, 1996, p. 65). However, only objective and conflicting structural relations are the focus of attention in the sociological analysis of conflict. Meanwhile, subjective feelings such as anger, hatred, antipathy, desire for revenge, Etc are not objective and structural conflicting relations, so they are not a concern of conflict theory analysis. For example, people can be friends with one another, even though objective things separate them. On the other hand, people are also hostile to each other, even though no objective basis separates them (Veeger, 1993, p. 212).

Conflict is part of the social dynamics that are common in every social interaction in the daily social order of society. Conflict can act as a trigger for the process towards creating social balance. Even if the conflict can be adequately managed, it can also be glue in people's lives. Conflict in society can bring good conditions because it encourages community change and bad conditions if it

continues without finding solutions that are considered beneficial for all parties. Therefore, the cause of the conflict must be sought and overcome (Garna, 1996, p. 66).

Conflict theory views that social change does not occur through adjusting values that bring about change but occurs as a result of conflicts that result in compromises that are different from the original conditions. This theory is based on the ownership of production as the main element of class separation in society.

Conflict theory emerged as a reaction to the emergence of functional, structural theory. The most influential thought or the basis of this conflict theory is the thought of Karl Marx. In the 1950s and 1960s, conflict theory began to spread. Conflict theory provides an alternative to structural-functional theory.

Marx put forward a basic conception of class society and its struggle at that time. Marx did not define class at length, but he showed that the society in 19th century Europe in which he lived consisted of the capitalist class (bourgeoisie) and the poor working class as the proletariat. These two classes are in a hierarchical social structure. The bourgeoisie exploits the proletariat in the production process. This exploitation will continue as long as false consciousness exists within the proletariat, namely in the sense of surrender, accepting the situation as it is and is maintained. The tension between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie led to the great social movement, namely the revolution. This tension occurs when the proletariat is aware of the exploitation of the bourgeoisie against them.

There are several basic assumptions of conflict theory, namely:

- A. Conflict theory is the antithesis of structural-functional theory, where the functional structural theory emphasizes order in society. Conflict theory looks at dissension and conflict in social systems.
- B. Conflict theory sees that society will not always be order. The proof is that there must have been conflicts or tensions in any society.
- C. Conflict theory sees the existence of domination, coercion, and power in society.
- D. Conflict theory talks about different authorities. These different authorities result in superordination and subordination. The difference between superordination and subordination can lead to conflicts due to differences in interests.
- E. Conflict theory says that conflict is necessary for social change. While structural-functional says that social change in society always occurs at the equilibrium point, conflict theory sees social change as caused by conflicts of interest. Nevertheless, the community could reach a mutual agreement at a certain point. In a conflict, negotiations are always carried out to create a consensus.

Furthermore, according to conflict theory, society is united by "coercion." The regularity in society is actually due to coercion (coercion). Therefore, conflict theory is closely related to domination, coercion, and power. The central concepts of conflict theory are authority and position.

Conflict is also related to social stratification and resource dynamics. Collins explains the emergence of conflict due to social stratification and resource dynamics. However, Collins emphasizes conflict patterned by the stratification structure with the intensity of domination, with resources that encourage groups to organize and mobilize. Conflict seen from social stratification is an operation through the structure and intensity of domination, with resources that encourage groups to organize and mobilize with resource control.

Conflict is also related to organizations that are used as conflict arenas. According to Collins, conflicts that occur in both political and work organizations are more emphasized on maneuvers to damage corporate bonds than damage in a physical sense. In conflict theory, Collins shows that conflicts affect social solidarity, social ideals, moral sentiments, and altruism because the distribution of material and organizational conditions produces ideas and feelings that can dominate hierarchies or groups. Conflict also gives birth to subsequent conflicts. Potential conflicts are turned on by groups that have some sense of moral consciousness. In conflict theory, Collins also divides the typology of conflict into 2, namely the form of conflict that tends to continue for a more extended period than severe conflict. The following form is a relatively mild conflict that tends to reduce the greatness of bureaucratization. In a severe conflict, more emphasis is placed on emotional resources in the short term while it requires more material resource factors in the long term.

Structural functionalism assumes that social dysfunction, tension, and deviation result in societal changes in the form of increasingly complex social differentiation. This variable occurs due to the influence of external (external) factors. According to David Lockwood (in Nasikun, 1992: 14), this kind of assumption ignores the following facts:

- A. Every social structure contains internal conflicts and contradictions, which become a source of social change.
- B. The reaction of the social system to changes that come from outside (extra systemic change) is not always an adjustment.
- C. A social system can also experience social conflict in an academic circle for a long time.
- D. Social change does not always occur gradually through gentle adjustments but can also occur revolutionary.

Because it ignores this fact, the structural functionalism approach is considered reactionary and less able to analyze the problem of social change. This approach is also considered to ignore internal conflicts and contradictions as a source of social change and pay less attention to the fact that a social system is not always able to adapt to changes that come from outside.

Social systems can often adapt to external changes without experiencing social disintegration, but on the other hand, a social system can also resist external changes either by maintaining the status quo or by making reactionary changes. This situation can cause certain parts or elements of the social system to become dysfunctional due to the emergence of social tensions. If external factors are strong enough to influence that part without adjustments from other elements, dysfunction and tension will develop into revolutionary social changes.

What adherents of structural functionalism have not paid attention to, as described above, has become the focus of attention of conflict theorists in analyzing social change that originates from within the social system itself.

According to Ralf Dahrendorf, the main character of conflict theory from the Non-Marxist Structuralist circles, different from structural functionalism, the view of conflict theory stems from the following basic assumptions (in Nasikun, 1992, p. 16-17; see also Veeger, 1993, p. 213-214; and Johnson, 1990, p. 194):

- A. Every society is always in the process of change that never ends. In other words, social change is a symptom inherent in every society.
- B. Every society contains conflict within itself, or in other words, conflict is a symptom inherent in every society.
- C. Every element in a society contributes to disintegration and social change.
- D. Every society is integrated on control or domination by several people over many others.

Coser divides the conflict into two, namely:

- A. Realistic Conflict stems from disillusionment with particular demands in the relationship and the participants' estimates of possible benefits aimed at objects perceived as disappointing. For example, employees who go on strike so that their demands for increased wages or salaries are increased.
- B. Non-Realistic Conflict, a conflict that does not stem from the goals of antagonistic rivals but from the need to defuse tension, at least from one of the parties. Coser explained that in an illiterate society, revenge usually takes place through occult sciences such as *teluh*, witchcraft, and others, just as developed societies do scapegoats as a substitute for their inability to fight against groups that should be their opponents.

According to Coser, there is a possibility that someone is involved in realistic conflict without hostility or aggression. For example, two lawyers who were still students were close friends. Then after graduating and becoming lawyers, they were faced with a problem that required them to face each other at the court. Each aggressively and meticulously protects his client's interests, but after leaving the trial, they forget their differences and head to a restaurant to talk about the past.

However, if a conflict develops in intimate relationships, the separation (between realistic and non-realistic conflict) will be more challenging to maintain. Coser states that the closer a relationship is, the greater the affection embedded, the greater the tendency to suppress rather than express hostility. While in secondary relationships, such as with business partners, hostility can be expressed relatively freely. This condition is not always the case in primary relationships where the participants' total involvement makes expressing such feelings a danger to the relationship. If the conflict goes beyond the limits, causing an explosion that jeopardizes the relationship. Conflicts between husband and wife and conflicts between lovers are an example.

According to Coser (in Garna, 1992, p. 66; see also Veeger, 1993, p. 212), if there is no conflict within the group, it means that the group's integration with society is weak. In large or small structures, in-group conflict indicates a healthy relationship. Coser strongly opposes sociologists who always see conflict only in a negative light. Differences are specific events that can strengthen social structures.

A social change is always manifested in chaos in social life, but not all of these changes' manifest major social chaos. Most of the time, there is chaos in the tiny spheres of social life, which usually starts in family life. Social chaos can result in social conflicts, but a social conflict cannot last forever, so at one time, peace is realized, and a new social order becomes in the social life of the community concerned. Efforts to overcome conflict usually also come from within the community itself, namely several community members aware of the disadvantages of conflict, but it can also be due to the presence of forces outside the community (Ranjabar, 2015, p. 11).

Conflict is part of the social dynamics that are common in every social interaction in the daily social order of society. Conflict can act as a trigger for the process towards creating social balance. Even if the conflict can be adequately managed, it can also be used as glue in people's lives. Conflict in society can bring good conditions because it encourages community change and bad conditions if it continues without finding solutions that are considered beneficial for all parties. Therefore, the cause of the conflict must be sought and overcome (Garna, 1996, p. 66).

Conflict becomes unusual and a source of disaster and destruction of people's lives when accompanied by acts of anarchy and brutality. It was shown as happened at the end of the New Order government and the beginning of the reformation period. Conflicts often occurred and escalated into social unrest in various areas: Ambon, Aceh, Sampit, Poso, and others. Even recently, if someone looks closely at the news coverage through the mass media, the appearance of violent mass conflicts from time to time is getting more diverse and stylish. This variable is the wrong side of the conflict, which demands a strategy to overcome it to become a force for community change.

In recent sociological developments, because of the influence of functionalism, social change is somewhat ignored or considered an exceptional event. Emphasis is placed on the stability of social systems and value and belief systems and consensus (rather than differences of opinion and conflict) in any society. However, it should be clear that all societies have aspects of continuity and change, and one of the main tasks of sociological analysis is to reveal how continuity and change are interrelated. The existence of continuity is maintained and maintained by social control (which is not impossible to manifest as coercion) and also by education which transmits culture to the next generation. In addition, some conditions encourage change, for example, the growth of knowledge and conflict, which is one of the critical factors in social changes (Ranjabar, 2015, p. 68-69).

As a factor in social change, social conflict can be studied from various aspects, as follows:

- A. Historically, conflicts between societies played an essential role in forming larger and broader social units, strengthening the system of social stratification, and broadening the diffusion of discoveries in the socio-cultural field. International conflicts have affected economic and political structures and norms, although little attention has been paid to these problems.
- B. Conflict between groups may encourage changes and discoveries.
- C. The existence or possibility of intergenerational conflict (Soekanto, 1983, p. 27).

Then, what is the real impact of social change on people's lives? The existence of a social change in society due to social conflict depends on the condition of the community itself experiencing social change. In other words, social changes that occur are not always progressing. It can also be a setback for society.

The speed of change in each region varies depending on the support and readiness of the community to change. Differences in these changes can lead to the emergence of social jealousy, which must be avoided.

There are several public responses as the impact of social change that causes dissatisfaction, community deviation, backwardness, or ignorance of the changes, which are as follows.

- A. Changes received by the community are sometimes not by the wishes. This condition is because everyone has an idea about the changes they think are good so that the changes that occur can be interpreted vary according to their social values.
- B. Changes threaten the interests of established parties. The privileges received from the community will decrease or disappear so that changes are threatening various aspects of life. In order to prevent it, any changes should be avoided and opposed because they are not according to the interests of particular groups of people.
- C. Change is considered progress, so any change must be followed regardless of the pros and cons of life. Change is also considered to bring new modern values.
- D. Ignorance of the changes that occur. This variable resulted in someone missing information about world developments.
- E. Ignorance of change. This variable is due to the social changes that are deemed not to affect him.
- F. Unpreparedness to face change. A person's knowledge and abilities are limited; the impact of social changes that occur, he does not have the opportunity to adapt to the changes that occur.

In addition, social change also causes social problems such as crime, juvenile delinquency, or other social ills. According to Merton (in Soekanto, 1983, p. 31), a problem is called a problem if it meets several criteria, namely as follows:

- A. There is no congruence between social measures and values with social facts and actions.
- B. Initially, there was a wrong opinion stating that social problems are sourced directly from social conditions or processes. This opinion is unsatisfactory and has been abandoned. The main thing here is not the source but the result of these phenomena (both social and non-social phenomena that cause social problems).
- C. The parties determine whether inequality is a social problem or not. In this case, the order is very relative.
- D. There are open social problems and closed social problems. These social problems arise due to inequalities in society. This condition is because of the incompatibility of actions with the norms and values of society. As a result, people do not like actions that deviate and are contrary to the prevailing values.

Social problems are the process of incompatibility between elements in the culture of a society that endangers the lives of social groups. In other words, social problems cause obstacles in meeting the needs of citizens. This situation results in social disintegration or the breakdown of social ties.

The process of disintegration as a result or impact of social changes that occur in society can take the form, among others, as follows:

- A. Upheaval and Rebellion: The proclamation echoed as a statement that Indonesian independence can be accepted in various regions, although not simultaneously. People welcome and support him. Therefore, it immediately formed a new social order and life. This series of events is called a revolution. There were upheavals and rebellions in various post-independence areas aimed at bringing down the position of the rulers at that time, as well as expressing their disapproval of the government's ideology.
- B. Protests and Demonstrations: Protests are also called demonstrations that always occur in human life. This condition happens because everyone has different opinions and views. Protests can occur when something directly affects the interests of individuals or groups due to a sense of injustice in the rights that must be accepted. As a result, the individual or group is dissatisfied and takes action to resolve it.
- C. Crime: Social changes that occur in life allow everyone to change. However, these changes do not necessarily lead everyone in the direction they want them to lead. This variable results in social differences based on wealth, knowledge, behaviour, or association. These social changes can lead a person or group to deviate from actions because unfulfilled or satisfying desires influence them in their lives.
- D. Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism: The developing Indonesian nation needs to have a clean and authoritative administrative system, free from corruption, collusion, and nepotism. The corruption problem involves various social and cultural aspects. Bung Hatta (in Mubyarto) said that corruption is a cultural problem. If this has become entrenched among the Indonesian people or has become part of its culture, it will not be easy to eradicate. As a result, it will hinder the national development process. To eradicate corruption, not only one or several government institutions must play a role, but all Indonesian people must be determined to eliminate corruption.
- E. Juvenile Delinquency: Juvenile delinquency is a disintegration of the integrity of a society. This situation is because the actions they take can disturb the community. Therefore, juvenile delinquency is referred to as a social problem. The emergence of juvenile delinquency is a life turmoil caused by social changes in society, such as a shift in family functions because both parents work so that the role of family education is reduced.

Furthermore, the shift in societal values and norms resulted in the development of individualism. Also, the shift in the structure of society resulted in the community more submitting every problem to the authorities. Changes in social, economic, cultural, and other cultural elements can disintegrate. This reality implies that social change colours the dynamics of people's lives. The positive impact that accompanies it is indeed the hope of the community. Nevertheless, society must understand how to anticipate social changes that cause social conflict.

## 5. Conclusion

This study concludes that the argumentative view of implying and exposing the relationship of conflict to social change is vital and sensitive. Experts also describe the aftereffects, which are the logical consequences of their relationship. Some experts believe that something constant or constant is social conflict, not social change. Because change is only a result of the conflict, this view arises based on the assumption that change will also follow if the conflict persists.

Conflict can cause social change because the people involved are the people themselves. In general, social conflicts can be caused by 3 things: differences of opinion, interests, and social jealousy. Conflict can have both positive and negative impacts. The positive impact of social conflict is to encourage social changes such as policy changes that cause social inequality, strengthen integration and internal group solidarity, to trigger a more dynamic society.

Henceforth, it is highly recommended to start doing actual research and dissect what significant factors have positive and negative effects. This research's point of view and conclusions will be advantageous in anticipating the unfavourable conditions and influences of a social phenomenon that occurs.

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