



Research Paper

## Household Conflicts in Jerusalem A Novel by Israeli Woman Writer

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**ABSTRACT:** Jerusalem has always been the world's attention all the time. This is because of the historical and socio-political events that occurred in the city, which have interested many researchers to study from. This paper addresses the city from the perspective of literature. The corpus used in this study is a novel entitled *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, English-translated as the original is in Hebrew, written by an Israeli woman novelist SaritYishai Levi. The objective is to see the theme that an Israeli woman writer would bring up concerning the city, whether it would be the same as other literary works written by Arab authors which concerns about social-political conflict between Arabs and Israelis. This study uses the qualitative descriptive method which analysis leads to detailed descriptions of the novel. An objective approach is also used to concern the novel itself, not the author, the reader, the state of society etc. In addition, the structural approach is also used to see the intrinsic elements contained in the novel in detail, such as themes, characters, background settings, moral message, plot, point of view and the relationship between these elements to see what theme the novel carries. The theory used in this research is the theory related to theme analysis, such as the analysis of story structure in order to see the unit of story content contained in the novel and the theory about isotopys to see the relationship of meaning between the contents of the story. From the results of research on the novel, it is found that the theme carried by the novel is not of socio-political conflict as is often discussed lately and raised by the works of Arabic literature, but it concerns the households of four generations.

**Keywords:** Jerusalem, Novels, Israel, Literature

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### I. INTRODUCTION

This study deals with Jerusalem from a literary point of view. The corpus used in this study is a novel entitled *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* by the Israeli novelist SaritYishai Levi. The purpose is to see the theme that the writer would bring up concerning the city, whether it would be the same as other literary works written by Arab authors which concerns about social-political conflict between Arabs and Israelis. The reason a novel is chosen as the corpus in this research is considering the view of Suroto (1989: 17) that mentioned that a novel contains conflicts in the life of the characters in the story. A novel tells the story of one's life journey as a series of one's story, or the moments of a character's life. According to Al-Ma'ruf (2010: 17) a novel is a fictional story which sometimes is also called narrative text. Through a novel, an author can present various issues around human and humanity or other aspects of life. A novel is imaginative but sometimes is also sensible and has some truth in it.

Meanwhile, the reason why we choose SaritYishai Levi is because she is a famous journalist and writer in Israel. Yishai Levi was born in Jerusalem in 1947 from a Sephardic family who had lived in the city of Jerusalem for seven generations. She studied at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio and Tel Aviv University. Before becoming a journalist, Yishai Levi was active in theatre and film for several years. She is a correspondent for various Israeli magazines and newspapers, including *Monitin*, *HaOlamHazeh* and *Hadashot*. Yishai-Levi has also hosted Hebrew programs on TV and radio in Los Angeles. Currently, she works as a senior correspondent on *OlamHa'isha* magazine and organizes TV shows on tourism and lifestyle. She has published four books of fiction. Her first novel, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, received the Gold Award and Platinum Publisher 2014 and the Steimatzy Prize for best-selling book in Israel of the year (2014). The novel *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* is expected to have its film adaptation.

The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem is originally a Hebrew-language novel which was translated into various languages. Because it raises an Israeli family polemic, the novel is planned to be filmed. This novel depicts the beautiful city of Jerusalem and is filled with love and conflict. This novel holds a story of an Israeli family living in Jerusalem for four generations. According to Shapiro, a best seller novel writer in New York "The Muralist and The Art Forger", The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem is an extraordinary literary work, full of interesting characters and covers Sheparadic women for four generations. The novel "describes the struggle of the family in the face of war, economic turmoil and social problems both physically and socially. Very interesting to read." Another opinion expressed by Talia Carner, a novelist of Hotel Moscow and Jerusalem Maiden, stating that the novel can connect an unbroken thread through the generation Sheparadic described and the intricate life of everyday life because it uses the background of Jerusalem which is illustrated with a very appropriate and detailed background.

This novel is entitled The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem because it depicts a beautiful princess from Jerusalem, although in fact this novel does not tell about the kingdom but tells the story of the domestic life of the women of Ermosa whose family is well-regarded and wealthy in Jerusalem. This novel is able to illustrate the state of Jerusalem that is not only seen from the side of war, but also convey a message to readers about the beauty of families living in the city of Jerusalem.

Research on Jerusalem has been widely practised, among them by Yoav Lavee and Ruth Kat of the University of Haifa in Israel, entitled "The Family in Israel: between Tradition and Modernity" published in 2003. This study discusses marriage customs of the people of Israel, which consists of cases of traditions, divorces, interethnic marriage and the impacts of modernisation in Israeli marriages, as well as the descriptions of conditions of marriage from various aspects. They discuss the social conflicts that occurred at an Israeli marriage, meanwhile our study discusses the conditions of women's social conflicts contained in the novel The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem. The similarity of their research with our study are the discussion about the social conditions in the Israeli family.

Another study was written by Kim Treiger-Bar-Am entitled "Women's Voices of Renewal Within Tradition, The Women of the Wall of Jerusalem" published at Bar Ilan University Israel in 2017. This study discusses how Israeli women are fighting for their rights to pray at the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem. Another research entitled "Stronger Than Men and Braver Than Knights" was written by Leigh Ann Craig of Ohio State University in 2003. This study discusses the social conditions of women who participated in the long-distance pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the oma in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. On the way, they face social and economic barriers. In this study it is idescribed how women face social conflicts before and during their journey. The next study is "A Planning Doctrine for Jerusalem" which was written by Andreas Faludi in 1997. This study describes the state of Jerusalem during the Middle East conflict through the geopolitical perspective.

In this research, qualitative descriptive research method is used, which is an analysis that leads to a detailed description of the concept of the condition of an object, by portraying the actual portrait that occurs in the field of study (Sutopo, 2006: 137). In addition, another approach used in this study is the objective approach whose objectives are literary works and not related to authors, readers, community circumstances and others (Atmazaki, 1990: 12-13). This study also uses structural approaches which is aimed at deconstructing and explaining as careful and as deeply as possible concerning the interrelation and interdependence of all elements of the literary aspect which together result in a comprehensive meaning. Structural analysis is not only enough to sum up the elements, but what important is the contribution given by all these phenomena to the overall meaning in their interrelationship and interconnection, as well as the various levels, phonic, morphological and semantic. (Teeuw, 1983: 62)

Meanwhile, the theories used in this study are in regards to the analysis of intrinsic elements, such as themes, characters, characterisation, background, moral message, plot and point of view. This paper also uses a theory that specifically discusses the theme which is the theory of story structure analysis that aims to get the composition of text by dividing the text into sequence-shaped units concentrated on a single point of attention, the single and the same object, in a coherent time and space, sometimes marked by things in outside of the language, whether expressed in sentences or higher units (Zaimar, 1991: 33). In addition, this study also uses the theory of isotopy. According to Hartoko (1986: 142), what is meant by isotopy is semantic relevance in the text based on general categories of meaning, such as everything that lives, the world of zoology, eroticism, social and so on. If some texts discuss the circumstances at home, then the next part should not jump to irrelevant discussion and still have to do with the previous part.

## **II. ANALYSIS OF INTRINSIC ELEMENTS**

This research begins with a discussion of intrinsic elements. Things that are included in intrinsic elements are themes, characters, characterisations, backgrounds, plot and point of view (Tarigan 2003: 173). The Ermosas are respected Sephardic Jews who own a food store in the Mahane Yehuda Market. Even though they are wealthy, a curse seems to befall the Ermosa family because every Ermosa family member suffers from

an unrequited love. The story of this curse repeatedly occurred to four generations of women in the Ermosa family. The first generation begins with the story of Mercada who gets married to Rafael, Mercada thought their married life would be happy but after marriage then Mercada realized that Rafael has fallen in love with a blue-eyed Ashkenazi (European Jew) girl. Rafael was only duly married to Mercada, Gabriela's great-grandmother whom he did not love at all. Hence Mercada undergoes a difficult marriage without love and affection, even though Mercada has given birth to their first child Gabriel.

The second-generation story is Rosa's story married to Gabriel. Rosa is the future wife chosen by Mercada for Gabriel. She is an orphan and poor girl in the city of Jerusalem. Since the beginning of marriage Gabriel has never loved Rosa until the end of his life because Gabriel has had another woman before marriage, who is a woman of Ashkenazi descent that did not have acceptance from Rafael. Gabriel initially stands firm against his stand of marrying the Ashkenazi woman, but he cannot bear to see Rafael's last request in his deathbed for him to marry a woman of Mercada's choice. As a result of the compulsion, Rosa's life is full of misery due to her husband's indifferent attitude even though Rosa had given birth to the first Ermosa family who takes the name Rafael after her father-in-law's brief life. Then the first granddaughter of the family, Luna, was born and she received the nickname The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem from the surrounding community. Gabriel's love for Luna makes Rosa jealous and envious of her own Luna, as only with Luna, Gabriel speaks and only with Luna, Gabriel buys all the children's needs in branded stores. Gabriel's love for Luna never diminishes in the slightest despite the next Rachelika and Becky have been born. This leads to the uncomfortable relationship between Rosa and her daughter, Luna. In addition, Gabriel's indifference is also due to his affair with a woman named Aisha. Gabriel always asks permission from Rosa for business trips, but behind all that Gabriel always plans for a date with Aisha.

The story of the third generation is when Luna is so loved by his father Gabriel that Rosa becomes envious of her. Luna lives independently and is very critical in facing problems. Luna marries David, a devout man of Jewish descent. In the beginning of their meeting, Luna is convinced that David is a dream prince on a white horse who will accompany her until the end of her life. But all that changed because Luna finds out that David still loves his previous girlfriend, Isabela. This situation makes Luna depressed and eventually she becomes quiet and reserved. After suffering from a bland marriage, she is unintentionally shot during a ceasefire and treated in a hospital. During her stay in the hospital, Luna finally realizes that her doctor, Gidi, is her longed prince on a white horse. When Gabriela is born, David tries to improve his relationship with Luna but it is all in vain as Luna has surrendered her heart to Gidi, although Luna has to lead a double life of being a woman who has three children and a woman who is having an affair. Luna tries to be a good mother to Luna and Ronny but she cannot give her full affection and attention to her children because she always prioritises her date with Gidi. When Gidi passes away, Luna's motivation to life is weakened and then she suffers from cancer. Tired with Luna's attitude, David finally brings Vera, his lover, openly to meet Luna. However, Luna never cares about David and Vera until the end of her life.

The story of the fourth generation is the story of Luna's daughter, Gabriela, who also has a conflict with his mother. Gabriela always tries to improve her relationship with Luna but it is all for nothing because Gabriela is not a child of love between Luna and David. So, Luna is always ignorant, and because Luna does not love David, taking care of Gabriela is only a burden and is not a gift or pleasure for Luna. Gabriela is very fond of her mother after she realized that when her mother is sick, her father often brings his affair home. Gabriela does not understand that David does so because Luna is the first one who starts having an affair. Finally, over time Gabriela knows the true story behind David and Luna. Gabriela forgives David and begins accepting Vera as her new mother. After Gabriela realizes that Luna acts with such misery as Rosa and Mercada, this gives Gabriela a trauma and so she rejects Amnon who loves her, for the fear of facing their family's curse. Gabriela prefers to live with Philips, the man she does not love, and spend the time to have fun. Until finally Luna's aunt, Rachelika, makes Gabriela aware that her choice was wrong and has just wasted the time of her youth. Finally, Gabriel dares to take a decision and accept Amnon's love and live happily ever after.

In analyzing the characters, this study uses the Abrams's theory which implies that a character is someone who plays a role in fictional or drama works. Characters are distinguished into main characters and supporting characters, where the main character is a figure who plays an important role in the literary work and most often appear in the event. While the supporting character is a character whose role is less and the presence is related to the main character (Nurgiyanto 1995: 63). Characters in novels usually appear completely, such as correlation of physical characteristics, social conditions, behavior, characteristics and habits and relationships between characters, either directly or indirectly. This complete appearance will give a clearer and concrete picture of the situation of the characters in the story (Wicaksono, 2014:172).

The main characters in this novel are Gabriela, Luna, Rosa and Mercada who are the main character in every generation of women of Ermosa descent, while supporting characters are Rafael, David, Gabriel, Rachelika, Moise, Becky, Philips, Amnon, Ronny, Aisha, Isabela, Vera, and Gidi. Gabriela is the daughter of Luna and David and he has a sister, named Ronny. Luna is the first child of Gabriel and Rosa. Rosa is the

daughter-in-law of Mercada and Rafael, whose husband is David and has three children who are Luna, Rachelika and Becky. The next character is Mercada, Rafael's, whose son is Gabriel and daughter-in-law Rosa. Mercada is also the grandmother of Luna, Rachelika and Becky, as well as the great-grandmother of Gabriela and Ronny. The next character is Rafael who is the husband of Mercada and is the father of Gabriel, the grandfather to Luna, Rachelika and Becky, and the great-grandfather to Gabriela and Ronny. The next person is David, Luna's husband and the father of Gabriela and Ronny. The next character is Gabriel who is Rosa's husband, the father of Luna, Rachelika and Becky, the grandfather of Gabriela and Ronny. Rachelika is Luna's sister and the daughter of Rosa and Gabriel. The next person is Moise who is Rachelika's husband and the uncle to Gabriela and Ronny. Becky is the youngest sister of Luna and the aunt of Gabriela and Ronny. The next character is Philips who is a friend of Luna in London and Amnon who is Gabriela's lover. Aisha is Gabriel's affair. Isabela is David's previous girlfriend and Vera is David's affair. The last character is Gidi, a doctor who is Luna's affair.

In analyzing the plot, this study uses the theory of Abrams' (Nurgiyanto 1995: 63) which states that plot has an important role in a story. A plot is the sequence of events intertwined in the story. A plot serves to connect between several events in the story, because the events are related to each other with fictional characters. In Sukada (1987: 93), it is mentioned that the plot not only grows from the logical because of events or characterization, but also because of the further consequences of one or both elements acting together, thus develops the character's motion, the inner conflicts of the characters or the combination of further consequences. According to Wicaksono (2014: 111), plot is divided into three, namely progressive, regressive and mixed plot.

Based on the above theory, the plot in this novel is a mixed plot. The beginning of this story tells of Luna's death at the dining table in front of her children, Gabriela and Ronny. This is the first climax in the opening of the novel. But this story then flashes back to the past when Rosa tells the secret of their family. Luna's death is the door to the opening of the Ermosa family's problem for four generations, starting from the romance of Rafael and Mercada who underwent unhappy marriage because during marriage Rafael remained faithful to the Ashkenazim (European Jewish) girl. Then it is followed by the story of Rosa and Gabriel who happened to be in a forced marriage which resulted in Gabriel's affair for years with an Arab girl named Aisha. The next story is the story of Luna who has an affair with his doctor Gidi when she survives because of a shot during a ceasefire in the war when she already has children, Gabriela and Ronny. After that, it is followed by Gabriela's story who hates her father because her father has an affair with Vera during his mother's illness, causing the death of his mother Luna until finally Gabriela chooses to escape to London and live freely with Philips. The end of this story is when Gabriela forgives her father and finally is willing to open a new page of her life to love Amnon.

In analysing the characterisations in this research novel using the theory contained in Aminudin (1987: 80) which states that in understanding characters, the reader can trace it through the author's writings on the characteristics of the characters, the image the author gives through his living environment or the way he dresses, see how the character talks about himself, understand his way of thinking, see how other characters talk to him, and how the character is thought in other characters.

The first character is Gabriela is loving and independent but has a hot-tempered and stubborn nature. Gabriela's loving character is seen when she is so depressed upon her mother's death hence she chooses to leave Jerusalem because it reminds her of her mother, while the hot-tempered nature of Gabriela's character is seen when Gabriela chooses to leave her father when she sees something she dislikes, as well as when Gabriela goes to London and spends her time with more independent social life to vent her anger towards the father character. While the stubborn character of Gabriela is the repeated refusal of the Gabriela to Rachelika's advice to return to Jerusalem.

The second character is Luna who has an independent nature, selfish and also has a stubborn nature. Independent attitude of the character Luna seen when Luna struggled to open her own business as a designer. The selfishness of the character Luna is based on the attitude of staying with her affair over to her family. The stubborn trait of Luna is seen when Luna is prohibited to go out of the house because of a ceasefire but Luna decides to go out anyway and consequently gets shot. This trait is also seen when Luna is advised by Rachelika to leave her affair, Gidi, but Luna remains firm to defend Gidi. The third character is Rosa, a patient woman despite her jealousy and envy. These are seen from Rosa's patience in defending his family even though Gabriel has been cheating her and acts indifferently to her for years, while at the same time she despises Luna because Luna is Gabriel's favorite child.

The next character is the Mercada, who has a loving, loyal and devoted nature to her husband. This character seems to be faithful to love to Rafael and always takes care of Rafael until the end of her life even though Rafael loves another woman. The next character is Rafael, Mercada's husband, who loves his family but is loyal to another woman. This is seen in Rafael's persistence in earning a living for his family so that the Ermosa family becomes a respected family of much luxury and wealth. Rafael is also a faithful figure because



he still loves his first love of Ashkenazi girl descent despite having a wife. The next character is Gabriel, someone who is hardworking and loving but likes to cheat and lie. Seen in the novel, Gabriel is a workaholic figure for the satisfaction of his children and he always buys his children clothes and branded goods. However, Gabriel likes to cheat and lie because Gabriel always asks for Rosa and his children's permission to have business trips to Beirut, but in fact he sees his affair, Aisha.

Next, is Rachelika. She is a compassionate, a wise and caring woman. This is seen from the character Rachelika who loves her siblings, Luna and Becky. Rachelika's trait is also wise and has a strong concern proved by her actions, such as when the Rachelika strategises first very carefully to help Luna's marriage with David. Rachelika also cares deeply about her niece Gabriela when she is depressed. The next character is Moise, a faithful man who is faithful to his family and friends. Seen in his daily life, Moise is a man who is faithful and never cheats, and his loyalty to his friend David is proved by the duration of friendship starting from them both wandered until they are both married. The next character is Becky who is an obedient person. In this story, Becky is the youngest child who always acts according to the words of his brother and parents. Next is Philips, a man who is naughty and extravagant but loyal to his friends. This trait is seen in the story when Gabriela leaves the city of Jerusalem for London, Gabriela lives in an apartment along with Philips and from him she learns about free sex, discotheque and drinking. But Philips is very royal to Gabriela and is always faithful to accompany his friend Gabriela who is depressed because of her family.

The next character is Amnon who is loyal to women, strives for them, and is helpful to people. This is seen in the story when Gabriela is sad or gets into trouble, Amnon is always there for Gabriela. The faithful nature of Amnon is seen when she is rejected by Gabriela. Amnon does stay away and goes to India but only to calm himself, after returning from India Amnon reaffirms his feelings to Gabriela. The next character is Ronny who is wise and cheerful. He is very fond of the family, seen from the figure of a neutral Ronny who does not go mad at the treatment of his father who brings his affair Vera. Ronny is also depicted as a character who never complains or cries, and always tries to protect and accompany Gabriela. The next character is Aisha who is lonely, selfish, gentle and compassionate. This is seen from her lonely figure until finally she meets Gabriel embracing her life. Aisha's words and behaviour are very gentle and polite that Gabriel loves her to the end of his life. Aisha also has a selfish nature of her that knowing Gabriel had a wife and child, she still retains her love and does not reprimand Gabriel's wrong behaviour.

Next is Isabella, a religious and sociable woman who has many friends. Isabela is a star on campus because she is famous for her beauty and her hospitality. When David and Isabela love each other, Isabela accepts the David family's decision to ban marriage from different religions. Isabela herself does not want to be a Jew simply because of a marriage, Isabela prefers to remain a Christian even though eventually, she does not marry David. The next character is Vera, a woman who is always patient, helpful and selfish. Seen in the story of the character Vera always accompanies David in times of hard when David face the problem of Luna having an affair, the character Vera is also patient because she does not immediately openly ask David to divorce Luna, but Vera waits patiently until Luna passes away. The nature of Vera also tends to be selfish because at the moment Vera knows that she introduces herself in front of the Luna's children, Gabriela and Ronny, when Luna is dying. The last character is Gidi, a doctor who spends his life to help the community. Gidi has the nature of attentive, loving, selfish, and anxious. In this story, the compassionate character of Gidi looks lovingly caring for Luna who is sick due to the gunshot. Gidi's attention and affection are what make Luna finally fall for Gidi. The selfish character of Gidi is described when Gidi knows that Luna already has children but Gidi still asks Luna to continue their relationship without caring that later Luna's family will be affected negatively. Although Gidi agrees to have an affair with Luna, Gidi is still anxious and carefully plans a date with Luna so as not to suspect people.

In analyzing the background setting, this study uses the theory that there Nurgiyantoro (2010: 227) which states that the setting relates to the understanding of place, time and social environment where the occurrence of events is. Background setting is divided into three categories: the place setting which is the location of the story in a work of fiction, the time setting of the story in a work of fiction, and social setting that explains about the social environment in fictional stories, such as upper middle class or lower middle class economy. In Lesmana (2010: 79) it is mentioned that if the author tells of an event that takes place in Mecca in the first century of Hijri, then he has to describe it well: the house, the street, the market, the clothes and the character of the people there at that time. If one describes an event in modern times, then he should describe the exact time and place in order to be expressive and impressive.

The place setting in this novel is Jerusalem, where the Ermosa family lives for four generations, Tel Aviv as the workplace of David, Beirut where Gabriel's business is, London where Gabriela escapes to during her quarrel with David. While the time setting in this novel is the year 1948, during Israel and Palestine war. This war is called the war of independence. Furthermore, the social setting in this story is the upper middle class because the Ermosa family is a respected and wealthy family, therefore is very selective in finding a partner for the sons and daughters. In the family, they are prohibited from marrying descendants of Ashkenazi and Arab.

In analysing the point of view, this study uses the theory in Wityami (2008: 40-41) which states that a viewpoint functions to determine who is telling the story. This is divided into first and third persons point of view. Meanwhile, Harry Shaw in Sudjiman (1988: 76) states that a point of view consists of a physical point of view, a mental point of view and a personal point of view. In a personal point of view, the author uses the point of view of the character, the point of view of supporting characters, and the personal perspective in the background story. In this novel, the first person's perspective is used because the novel uses the pronoun "I" in every story so that in this story, it seems as if the character "I" tells all the journey of her life from beginning to end. The character "I" in this novel is Gabriela.

The final analysis in this novel is an analysis of the moral message. In Nurgiyantoro (2010: 240) it is mentioned that a moral message conveyed by the author through his work is also called a fundamental message in the literary work. The moral message of this novel is that married life must be upheld with love. Wealth, position and good physical features will not make a person happy. This is seen in the story between generations described in this novel suffers when married to a person who is not loved, such in the story of Rosa with Gabriel who initially Rosa received a proposal because Gabriel is a handsome and wealthy young man, but the life of Rosa throughout his life after marriage is only filled with sadness because Gabriel loves another woman. The moral message is not to spend time with a person who is not loved because it will only waste time and effort, let alone just for fun and not for the purpose to forge the future. This is seen in Gabriela's problem when she escapes to London to calm herself and have fun with Philips, but all Gabriela gets is a time-consuming false happiness. Another moral message in this novel is not to easily choose a divorce when facing family problems. If there is an affair in the family, be patient to maintain the household because it will only make the child a psychological victim. In this novel, this is seen from the miserable Sephardic family in their marriage but none of them has ever taken the path of divorce for four generations despite having affairs between them, such is the story of Gabriel's marriage to Rosa, Rafael with Mercada, Luna with David. Another message is that having affair in the family makes the relationship between mother and child to lose its harmony. This is seen from the story of Rosa with Luna having an uncomfortable and inharmonious life, as well as the story of Luna and Gabriela. No matter how strong the love is, both sides must be based on the blessing of both parents. In this story, this is depicted by Rafael's love story with Ashkenazi girl which is not accepted by the parents, thus Rafael finally decides to marry Mercada, followed by Gabriel's story who was forced to marry Rosa for the same exact reason, and followed by the story of David and Isabela who do not got the blessing because of different religions and so David finally decides to marry Luna.

From the intrinsic analysis of the above elements, we can see the interrelationship between the elements and therefore conclude that the theme raised in the novel is the domestic conflict that occurred in Jerusalem. This novel tells a story of a Jewish family living in Jerusalem who has repeatedly had problems in marriage for four generations. The problems experienced among them are the problem of affairs, jealousy, and disputes between children and parents. The first problem is that Gabriel who has an affair with Aisha when his position is the father of Luna, Rachelika and Becky. The second problem is the quarrel that often arises in the storyline that is when Mercada has a dispute with Gabriel for not wanting to leave a woman who is not accepted by his parents. And then, Luna fights with her mother, Rosa, because Rosa is jealous of her who always gets attention from David, and eventually Luna has an affair at the end of her life despite already having children, Ronny and Gabriela. Gabriela quarrels with Luna because Luna gives Gabriela less attention. All of the problems described in this novel are based on one problem: the internal conflict that a family has experienced over four generations. In accordance with Lesmana (2010: 80), a theme is an idea that is in the story, which is spread around events and characters. Themes do not only exist in a single phrase or a particular chapter but will be depicted when the story is read as a whole. The themes in the story are various. There are stories with social, history, and philosophy. Likewise, the number of pages vary. One of them is a long piece of literary work containing a set of core events which is called a novel.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

From the analysis of the intrinsic element of the novel *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* by Sarit Yishai Levi, we find that the theme raised in this novel is a classic theme commonly adopted in other novels which occurs in other Middle Eastern countries in particular as well as other countries of the world. The concern of this novel is the conflict in the household. In general, especially the authors of the Arab and other Arab States, the theme raised generally contains the socio-political conflicts that occurred in Jerusalem. However, this novel is quite the opposite. The theme raised in this novel is another side of the infamous situation in the city.

Speaking of Jerusalem, people will surely think that the novel would tell of a matter of Israeli oppression of the Arabs. However, this novel portrays another matter entirely different from that which generally happens. In other literary works about Jerusalem, stories usually tells of sadness or pain caused by the oppression of the Israelites, but this novel talks about the contrary. It describes the pleasure or freedom of some of the inhabitants of Israel, as well as their internal family problems.

Moreover, what distinguishes this novel from other works is the different structure of the story. Other novels generally only tell about household conflicts in one family, but this novel tells of conflicts running in some household of four generations. According to the author's idea of dividing the novel into 4 parts in which the story of each generation is described, it can be said that this is something different from other novels and makes this novel has its own unique characteristic.

From this novel, readers find a literary experience that turns out to be on another side of Jerusalem, where there are residents who are not as miserable as those described in other literary works. From the description contained in this novel, it can be interpreted that the socio-political situation in Jerusalem produces two different streams in literature. The first stream is the Palestinian and non-Palestinians Arabic writers who always raise the theme of the socio-political conflicts that occurred in Jerusalem. In contrast, the second stream is a group of Israeli writers who raise a theme entirely different from the previous stream, which is about their daily life in love and family.

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