

# **A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO INTERNAL CONFLICT IN J. K. ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER SERIES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

As humans, we are inevitably confronted with circumstances wherein we must decide whether to make an easy or challenging decision. This is due to factors that might lead to the emergence of the individual's inner conflict, which then prompts the manifestation of psychological conflict. In literature, conflicts are what generally make a plot develop and progress. The main emphasis of this article pertains to the concept of internal conflict, which can be described as a psychological battle that arises within an individual. This study seeks to examine the primary characters, namely Harry Potter, Albus Dumbledore, Severus Snape, Voldemort, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley, and Draco Malfoy, featured in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels. The analysis will focus on their internal conflicts and the consequential impact on their decision-making processes, as well as the amplification of the central themes within the novels. For this purpose, Kurt Lewin's classification of internal conflicts will be used to identify the type of inner conflicts each character encounters. In this way, a better understanding of the aforementioned characters can be formed.

**KEYWORDS:** Harry Potter, J. K. Rowling, Kurt Lewin, Internal Conflict, Psychological Conflict.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Conflict is a clash between two or more forces due to different or contradictory ideas that lead the main plot and its events to progress and develop. Conflict can be either external "man versus the world", or internal "man versus self". According to Fakhruddin (2015:55), conflict was first described in ancient Greek literature as the agony, or central contest in tragedy. Moreover, a person might experience inner struggles, often known as

psychological conflict or internal conflict. A psychological conflict arises when individuals must undertake harsh decisions. Thus, internal conflict is a critical moment in an individual's struggle to achieve a given psychological state (Alwisol in Damayanti & Mujiono, 2016). It may also allude to a mental crisis, which can be a period of frailty or strength because individuals strive for achievement and failure as well.

According to Nasution (2020:9), the conflict which occurs within an individual is called 'internal conflict'. Likewise, Permana (2017:6) states that mental conflict, inner conflict, happens in the psyche of a character. Furthermore, in *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice*, Marcus, (2000, p.366) emphasizes that conflict is the incompatibility of ideas, beliefs, behaviour, roles, wants, desire, values, and so on. While Cahn states that conflict is an emotionally charged occurrence that often incorporates hostility and/or fear (1992, p.9). Thus, conflict is manifested via characters, according to (Rea and Irving, 2010, p.10). Meaning, an individual desire something, is frustrated or dissatisfied in some manner, acts, and encounters conflict. According to Kurt Lewin, internal conflict is classified into four major types; The Approach-Avoidance conflict refers to a decision or a behavior which is simultaneously associated with desirable and undesirable consequences (Ehrlich & Fasbender, 2017). The Approach-Approach conflict occurs when an individual is presented with two desirable alternatives, but only one alternative can be obtained. Desirable alternatives are termed positive goals (Frank, 2002). The Avoidance-Avoidance conflict exists when the individual wants to either escape from or avoid two undesirable alternatives. Undesirable alternatives are termed negative goals (2002). The Double Approach-Avoidance conflict exists when an individual simultaneously perceives two goals in both positive and negative terms. This conflict is a more complex version of the singular Approach-Avoidance conflict. (2002)

It is safe to say that the characters in the Harry Potter series encounter numerous conflicts, specifically internal conflicts, throughout the events of the story which, consequently, heighten the main themes of the novels. When it comes to moral characteristics, the Potter universe is organized into a complicated matrix. According to Wandee Saengakad (2006: 42), certain

ethical issues are challenging as they involve a conflict between two options that appear to reflect morals. Moreover, the Harry Potter series has been researched extensively concentrating primarily on personality. Hataitip Jaisook (2007) investigated the growth of seven characters and in her findings revealed that all the characters acquired ideas, feelings, and actions in accordance with personality theories. In addition, Wandee Saengakad (2006) studied how Harry Potter and the Philosopher Stone fostered cultural and ethical development. Using Kohlberg and Toan J. Glass' development theories, she contends that the characters, through their actions served as role models for an individual's ethical and social growth.

## **2. METHODOICAL APPROACH**

According to the social psychologist Kurt Lewin in (Bruno, 2002, p.114-116), there are four fundamental approaches to categorize internal conflicts: the approach-approach conflict, the avoidance-avoidance conflict, the approach-avoidance conflict, and the double approach-avoidance conflict.

When an individual is posed with two desired choices, but only one of the alternatives can be obtained, a conflict known as the approach-approach conflict arises. In such a case, positive aims are defined as alternate outcomes that are desired. An approach-approach conflict might generate relatively minimal stress. That is, the person has at least two desirable alternatives. But such a conflict might in certain situations cause quite an amount of discomfort.

However, the avoidance-avoidance conflict occurs when a person probably wishes to flee or dodge two unfavorable choices. Negative aims are unwanted outcomes. The primary issue with this type of conflict would be that straying from one negative objective leads to the other negative one.

Moreover, when an individual evaluates the same objective from its both desirable and undesirable aspects, an approach-avoidance conflict occurs. Individuals trapped in an approach-avoidance conflict frequently undergo a prolonged period of internal turmoil prior to actually reaching a final decision.

Finally, the double approach-avoidance conflict takes place when an individual considers two objectives in both positive and negative perspectives at the same time. This is a rather complicated version of the single approach-avoidance conflict. This type of conflict may be fairly severe.

### **3. INTERNAL CONFLICT IN J. K. ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER SERIES**

Internal conflict in the *Harry Potter* series plays a crucial role in determining the movements of the events and their development. While habitual actions can reflect the unchanging, static aspect of the character, one-time actions can show us a more dynamic side of the character (61, 62). In the following section, some major characters' internal conflicts and their actions and choices will be explored.

According to Kurt Lewin's classification of internal conflict, the approach-approach conflict is the least type of conflict to be encountered. This type of conflict is evident in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* through Harry's encounter with many obstacles that force him to choose either one of the presented choices. One of the situations in which Harry had to make a choice is when he decided to go after the Remembrall of Neville, which Malfoy throws in the air, on his broomstick". Give it here! "Harry yelled." but Malfoy had leapt onto his broomstick and taken off." (Rowling, 1997:148). Knowing that it is against the rules to use the broom on school ground without supervision, Harry mounted his broom in order to return the glass ball from Malfoy, but Malfoy realizes this and throws the ball high in the air. Harry swoops into

the air in order to catch the ball and return it to Neville. "Catch it if you can, then!" he shouted "and he threw the glass ball high into the air and streaked back toward the ground" (1997:149). Harry then catches the ball in mid-air and flies down on the grass only to hear Professor McGonagall calling his name. Naturally, Harry thought he is in trouble and might get expelled to his surprise, McGonagall escorts him to the Quidditch captain and tells him "I've found you a Seeker" (1997:151). Therefore, Harry chose to break the rules and to fly in order to help Neville restore his Remembrall, by doing so, McGonagall notices his flying skills and introduces him to Wood-Quidditch team captain. Thus, he became a Seeker for the Gryffindor team, which can be interpreted as a positive goal. The alternative decision for Harry was not to fly and restore the glass ball. By choosing not to fly, Harry would have stuck to Madam Hooch's instructions "You leave those brooms where they are or you'll be out of Hogwarts before you can say 'Quidditch'" (1997:147). In such manner, had he chosen this alternative, he would not have risked himself getting in trouble or expelled. This alternative as well, would have been considered as a positive goal. Both alternatives are positive for Harry, as in both cases Harry would have ended up with satisfying results, consequently, they represent the concept of Lewin's approach-approach conflict.

With regards to another significant type of internal conflict, approach-avoidance conflict, it is evident when Harry must select between keeping the Elder Wand or leaving it behind in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. After the war in Hogwarts had concluded and Voldemort had been defeated, Harry, Ron, and Hermione went to the principal's office. He made the choice regarding the decision to hold onto the Elder Wand to himself or not.

I don't want it," said Harry. "What?"  
said Ron loudly. "Are you mental?" "I  
know it's powerful," said Harry

wearily. "But I was happier with mine. So .... (Rowling, 2007:748).

Harry informs his friends that he understands the Elder Wand's abilities, but he does not desire it since he was satisfied with the wand he previously possessed, which Hermione destroyed by mistake. Harry, still in the office, puts his fractured wand on the desk and attempts to restore it with the Elder Wand. Despite the fact that damaged wands were unrepairable, Harry attempts desperately to fix his damaged wand through using the Elder Wand and, to his surprise, succeeds.

I'm putting the Elder Wand," he told Dumbledore, "Back where it came from. It can stay there. If I die a natural death like Ignottus, its power will be broken, won't it? The previous master will never have been defeated. That'll be the end of it." (2007:748).

Harry questioned Dumbledore's image, after successfully fixing his wand, whether his supposition regarding the Elder Wand's potency was true. "Dumbledore nodded" (2007:748). Harry, ultimately placed the Elder Wand to Dumbledore's grave; as a result, the Elder Wand's abilities could no longer be accessible to other wizards. In this manner, Harry prevented other wizards to battle and murder over the Elder Wand, and now no more damage would be inflicted by the wand to anyone, including himself, and it would never fall into the clutches of evil wizards like Voldemort. Positively, by choosing not to wield the Elder Wand, Harry protected himself and others from the deadly deeds that the Elder Wand's owner would be capable of committing. However, Harry had the opportunity to utilize the Elder Wand for his personal gain, but he declined the chance of becoming the world's greatest wizard. "'This wand is more bother than it's worth," Harry muttered. "I've experienced enough hardship in my life."' (2007:749).

Consequently, Harry's choice to surrender the Elder Wand might be seen negatively. Harry had a terrible period of emotional conflict when he made his ultimate decision, which was whether or not to hand in the wand to its old location, Dumbledore's tomb. As a consequence, the two options described above reflect an Approach-Avoidance conflict.

Moreover, in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Dumbledore makes one of the most difficult choices of his life. He begs Snape to murder him. Voldemort initially planned for Draco Malfoy to murder Dumbledore. "He threatened to murder me if I didn't do it. "I've got no choice," Draco (Rowling, 2005:591) declared, as punitive action for his father's inability to obtain the prophecy ball from Harry. As Voldemort desired and attempted to kill Dumbledore prior due to the fact that he is the sole wizard Voldemort has ever feared and had to kill in order to acquire the Elder Wand and turn into world's most powerful wizard. Dumbledore nearly died while wearing Marvolo Gaunt's ring, owing to Snape's assistance, since the ring was cursed by Voldemort when he transformed it into a Horcrux. Considering Dumbledore was aware that he would die within a year's time and was aware of Draco's plot, he determined that Snape, not Draco, should be responsible for murdering him. "'Are you going to let him murder you?" Snape asked. "Absolutely not. "You must assassinate me," Dumbledore replied" (Rowling, 2007:682). "'That boy's soul is not yet so damaged," said Dumbledore. "I would not have it ripped apart on my account."' (2007:683). Dumbledore's choice to save Draco from this heinous deed might be considered a good objective since he still believed in Draco's goodness.

As Draco refrained to murder Dumbledore after finding him ill and unarmed, Dumbledore's choice to save Draco proved accurate, and his soul is just not dark enough to allow him to murder Dumbledore. The opposite side of

this choice, however, was not as favorable to Snape in comparison to Draco. Harry observed the whole thing as Dumbledore locked himself inside the invisibility cloak when Draco approached them after Snape carried out the plan and murdered Dumbledore. As a result, Harry spread the word about what had unfolded, and since Snape's persona had previously been defined and meant to make others feel as he was a monster, the news that he was one of Voldemort's ardent supporters seemed only right. After killing Dumbledore, Snape tried all he could to stay hidden and appear to be on Voldemort's cause whenever the opportunity arose. Concurrently, he assisted Harry and others in a variety of circumstances without anyone's awareness; for example, he assisted Harry in obtaining the Gryffindor sword on Dumbledore's orders.

Now, Severus, the sword! Do not forget that it must be taken under conditions of need and valor — and he must not know that you give it! If Voldemort should read Harry's mind and see you acting for him —" "I know," said Snape curtly. (2007:689).

Prior to the final battle of Hogwarts, Harry learned all there was to understand about Snape, that he was on their side and a spy for Dumbledore all along. As a result, Dumbledore's choice to have Snape kill him was a negative objective since it harmed Snape's commitment to Dumbledore and his image throughout the wizarding world. As a consequence, Dumbledore put a lot of thought into his strategy of determining that Snape must be his murderer, which resulted in both a good and bad outcome, reflecting the Approach-Avoidance conflict.

Yet another character that goes through approach-avoidance conflict is Sevrus Snape. Although Snape's persona is cold, ruthless, and complicated throughout the *Harry Potter* books, he cherished and was devoted to

Harry's mother, Lily Evans. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, it was disclosed that Snape was the person who told Voldemort about the prophesy regarding a child who would vanquish the Dark Lord. Voldemort determined to murder Harry Potter and his parents despite Snape's request that he pledged to spare Lily's life.

He thinks it means her son, he is going to hunt her down — kill them all —" "If she means so much to you," said Dumbledore, "surely Lord Voldemort will spare her? Could you not ask for mercy for the mother, in exchange for the son?" "I have — I have asked him — (Rowling, 2007:677).

After Voldemort disregarded his promise and murdered Lily, Snape was shocked and then outraged, leading him to vow to become Dumbledore's spy as a double agent and serve with him against Voldemort.

You know how and why she died. Make sure it was not in vain. Help me protect Lily's son." said Dumbledore. "He does not need protection. The Dark Lord has gone —" said Snape. "The Dark Lord will return, and Harry Potter will be in terrible danger when he does. (2007:679).

Snape agreed to become a double agent for Dumbledore and promised to safeguard Harry on the premise that Dumbledore kept it between them exclusively. Snape's desire to become a double agent also led him to protect Harry, which might be considered a good objective since he occasionally attempted to aid him in different circumstances when Harry was unaware that Snape was assisting him. For instance, in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Umbridge requests Veritaserum, a potion that compels the user to reveal the truth, to use on Harry. "Yes,

please, another bottle of Veritaserum as soon as possible," Umbridge remarked. "You stole my last bottle to question Potter," (2003:744) but Snape offers her a bogus one so Harry will not tell her the truth.

Snape's choice to be a double agent, on the other hand, proved incredibly difficult; he had to perform his role as a double agent without allowing anybody suspect him, particularly Voldemort and his supporters. His role got considerably more difficult after he murdered Dumbledore since both forces then assumed he was a Voldemort loyalist yet his devotion was remained with Dumbledore. To demonstrate, Dumbledore's picture requests that Snape gives Harry the Gryffindor sword, which Snape does without informing anyone, even Harry (2007:689). Throughout this duty, Snape encountered numerous difficult conditions in order for his plan to remain unknown by anyone; as a consequence, preserving this role as a spy led to his execution by Voldemort, which might be considered an unfavorable outcome. As a result, Snape's choice to become a double agent for Dumbledore had two consequences: the first was that he was capable of protecting Harry in several instances, which is a positive consequence, and the second was that his position as a spy untimely culminated in his death, which is a negative consequence. As a result, Snape's choice mirrors the Approach-Avoidance conflict.

As for a more intense type of internal conflict, avoidance-avoidance conflict, it is distinctively caught in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* when Harry struggles to prevent Voldemort's penetration of his own mind. This occurs because Voldemort put a curse on Harry's forehead when he attempted to murder him as a newborn, creating a link between their thoughts. In one dream, Harry witnessed Mr. Weasley being assaulted through the eyes of Najini, Voldemort's snake. Ron was standing next to Harry when he awoke; he tells Ron what

occurred, but Ron believes Harry was merely dreaming. Neville goes for assistance, Professor McGonagall comes a few minutes later, and Harry explains to her what he witnessed. Professor McGonagall bluntly said, "I believe you, Potter." "Put on your dressing gown; we're going to see the headmaster." (Rowling, 2003:465). Upon learning this, Dumbledore sent a pair of magical images on the wall to investigate Mr. Weasley, after several minutes, it was determined that Harry's visions were accurate. Dumbledore thus sent Professor Snape to teach Harry Occlumency, which Snape defined as "the magical defense of the mind against external penetration." (2003:519). Harry did not make much success in protecting his thoughts after a few classes of Occlumency since he despised Professor Snape and desired to see through Voldemort's eyes and stay on top of what he was doing. Therefore, Snape quitted providing Harry with Occlumency lessons.

In light of Voldemort's ability to access Harry's mind and show him false images that may mislead him into perilous circumstances, Harry's choice to disregard his Occlumency training can be seen as a bad one. Simultaneously, Harry dreamt that his godfather Sirius Black was being taken captive in the Department of Mysteries by Death Eaters and Voldemort. Thus, Harry assumes that this dream, like the one he had about Mr. Weasley, is indeed true, and he begs Hermione and Ron to assist him in rescuing Sirius. Later, at the Department of Mysteries, Harry and his companions discover that Sirius was never taken and that Voldemort had placed false images in Harry's head. Therefore, a battle between the Death Eaters and the members of the Order ensues, and one of the Death Eaters, Bellatrix Lestrange, shoots Sirius with a death spell that kills him instantly. Harry was too astonished to realize what had occurred. Lupin said, "There's nothing you can do, Harry... nothing... He's gone" (2003:806). Harry chose to trust the vision despite

Hermione's several efforts to persuade him that it was false and a trap; as a result, Sirius perished attempting to defend him during the battle. In the headmaster's office, while conversing with Dumbledore, Harry determines that he is responsible for Sirius's death.

I didn't practice, I didn't bother, I could've stopped myself having those dreams, Hermione kept telling me to do it, if I had he'd never have been able to show me where to go, and – Sirius wouldn't – Sirius wouldn't – . (2003:829).

Thus, Harry's choice to believe the vision regarding Sirius might likewise be characterized as a poor decision. In conclusion, Harry's decision of not mastering occlumency, in relation to Frank's definition of this type of conflict, led him to the other negative alternative of deciding to go to the Department of Mysteries to save Sirius, which can be considered negative decisions because both of them resulted in negative and terrible outcomes; thus, both decisions reflect and illustrate the Avoidance-Avoidance conflict.

Another instance of avoidance-avoidance conflict is seen in Lily Potter's ultimate sacrifice. While James Potter's destiny was predetermined. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the reader learns that Severus Snape steered Voldemort forward towards the Potters. James had almost no influence over his fate, Lily did. Snape had requested that the Dark Lord spare her life, therefore she should have been safe.

He could hear her screaming from the upper floor, trapped, but as long as she was sensible, she, at least, had nothing to fear. (2007: 344)

James and Harry were condemned to be cursed that evening, but Voldemort meant to honor his word to Snape. She was capable of surviving. Lily did not have to die

when she sacrificed herself willingly. She sacrificed her life to protect her kid. When Voldemort barged into the Potter's house and into Harry's room, Lily stood in the way of Voldemort to stop him from getting to her son. She did so by standing before Harry and shielding his body with hers.

"Not Harry, not Harry, please not Harry!" "Stand aside, you silly girl . . . stand aside now." "Not Harry, please no, take me, kill me instead –" "This is my last warning –" "Not Harry! Please . . . have mercy . . . have mercy. . . . Not Harry! Not Harry! Please – I'll do anything – " "Stand aside. Stand aside, girl!" He could have forced her away from the crib, but it seemed more prudent to finish them all. . . . The green light flashed around the room and she dropped like her husband. (2007: 344)

Lily Potter made the ultimate sacrifice to defend her young son, Harry, from Lord Voldemort (Anelli, 2005). Voldemort had told Severus Snape that he would not murder Lily except if she stood in his path. As a result, Lily was given the opportunity to stand aside, however, making that choice would have resulted in the death of her son. Hence, she would have lived her life grieving over the death of both her husband and son (2005). However, due to her deliberate reluctance to cooperate with Voldemort's command, she ends up being killed by Voldemort, leaving her son an orphan under the mercy of the evil lord (2005). Thus, Lily's conflict can be classified as an avoidance-avoidance conflict where both choices bare catastrophic outcomes.

Yet another avoidance-avoidance conflict occurs in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, where Severus Snape murders Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of

Hogwarts. It relieved Draco of the obligation to do it. Although Draco was undeniably a bully, he was not a murderer. Dumbledore believed that accomplishing the assignment given to him by Voldemort would leave a lasting mark on young Malfoy, perhaps driving him deeper towards the Dark Arts. Snape, although having redeemed himself in Dumbledore's eyes, has likely murdered previously in Voldemort's service, therefore Dumbledore's killing would not transform him into a murderer. In fact, Dumbledore was seeking to relieve Draco of the responsibility of taking a life by asking Snape to carry it; a task Snape was extremely hesitant to undertake considering the regard he had developed for Dumbledore.

Dumbledore, upon realizing that he had just under a year to live, and in an effort to avoid a painful and terrible death, asked Snape to execute him when the opportunity arose. He desired for Snape to maintain his position as a trusted member of the Death Eaters and to demonstrate his dedication and competence to Lord Voldemort.

Dumbledore also desired to safeguard Draco's soul since he was aware that Lord Voldemort had ordered Draco Malfoy to murder him. He was aware that Draco would indeed be unable of completing the mission. As he has been such a wonderful teacher, he did not want his murder to harm any of his students in any manner.

"I refer to the plan Lord Voldemort is revolving around me. His plan to have the poor Malfoy boy murder me." Said Dumbledore. "The Dark Lord does not expect Draco to succeed. This is merely punishment for Lucius's recent failures. Slow torture for Draco's parents, while they watch him fail and pay the price." Said Snape. (2007: 681-682)

Despite the fact that Snape did not want to murder Dumbledore, he was compelled to do it. First, he had already made a commitment to Dumbledore. Also, he chose to do it in order to protect Draco and to remain a trusted member of the Death Eaters.

"Now, I should have thought the natural successor to the job, once Draco fails, is yourself?" said Dumbledore. (2007: 682)

In such manner, Snape faces a conflict where he has to kill his friend Dumbledore; which is considered a negative outcome. Otherwise, he must refrain from doing so which would put his position with Voldemort in danger and, also, put Draco and his family's lives in danger. This as well is deemed to be a negative outcome. In this avoidance-avoidance conflict, Snape chose to follow the path that led to a seemingly negative outcome to himself, which is murdering his friend. However, his decision carried favorable results to Draco and the greater good of all.

Moreover, in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Hermione demonstrates her intelligence by erasing her parents' memory of her before embarking on the Horcrux search with Harry. Hermione's decision to cast the Memory Charm on her parents in *Harry Potter* is a perfect illustration of how safety may come at a price.

In the first installment of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Hermione Granger casts Obliviate on her parents. She knew that Voldemort will indeed cease at nothing to locate and murder Harry now that the Second Wizarding War had started. Hermione was also aware that her family and anybody else she loved would be in grave risk as a result of her association with Harry. Therefore, she decided to remove herself from her parents' memories. Hermione wanted to safeguard her parents from Voldemort by guaranteeing that he had no incentive to visit their home.



It is not hard to comprehend why Hermione cast such potent magic on her parents, despite the possibility that she may not be able reverse it. From the facts in the *Harry Potter* books, we may conclude that the Obliviate Charm cannot be completely reversed without brain damage. For her, shielding them from He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named was significantly more essential than losing the family who had always encouraged and cherished her. This could sound severe in comparison to merely concealing them from the Death Eaters, but this is a world wherein magic prevails, and it is much too simple for wizards of Voldemort's level to locate people. Hermione is intelligent enough to recognize this.

"I've also modified my parents' memories so that they're convinced that they're really called Wendell and Monica Wilkins, and that their life's ambition is to move to Australia, which they have now done. That's to make it more difficult for Voldemort to track them down and interrogate them about me— or you, because unfortunately, I've told them quite a bit about you. Now, Wendell and Monica Wilkins don't know that they've got a daughter, you see." Hermione's eyes were swimming with tears again. (2007: 97)

If Hermione had not chosen to cast the Obliviate spell on her parent, she would have risked their lives as well as the outcome of the wizarding war. Additionally, in the case of Hermione's death, her parent may have been devastated by her passing, and they could have remained miserable permanently. By casting the spell and withdrawing herself from their life, she was able to convince them to leave the country without their having to be aware of the dreadful cause for doing so. However,

the chance for reversing the spell is impossible as mentioned previously in the *Harry Potter* books and she will have to live her life without her parent's memory of her. Thus, an avoidance-avoidance conflict arises.

In addition, Draco Malfoy also faces the avoidance-avoidance conflict. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Harry, Ron and Hermione hide themselves through disguising via a magic spell cast by Hermione to make it impossible for the Death Eaters to recognize them. However, they are caught and taken to Malfoy's manor to be inspected and recognized by Draco Malfoy since he knows how Harry looks. When Harry hid and Bellatrix questioned Draco whether it was Harry or not, Draco lied.

"Well, Draco?" said Lucius Malfoy.  
He sounded avid. "Is it? Is it Harry Potter?" said Lucius Malfoy "I can't — I can't be sure," said Draco. (2007: 434)

His father inquired again, but he said, "I don't know," and moved toward the fireplace, where his mother was waiting. He recognized it was Harry, and he realized that the additional two individuals beside him were Ron and Hermione, who hang out with Harry frequently, but he nonetheless responded "I don't know," rather than "yes". Choosing "yes" might have been the simplest and safest route for him and his parents, while saying "no" would have been the most hazardous. He picked "I don't know" since he did not want to entirely give them in, but he was also too afraid to say "no" because if they figured out he was dishonest, they would have condemned him and his parents. In the context, it seems reasonable for him to be quite terrified and not particularly bold, but still, it was fairly courageous of him to not simply say "yes". In the long run, his dread of the Death Eaters discovering his deception and executing him, as well as his parents, contributes to the possibility that if the Death Eaters

discovered his lie, they could have learned that it was Harry, and then they would have murdered him. Draco's motivation for not saying "no" was to shield himself and his parents, but if Draco had answered "yes," Harry's life would have been in danger. In this situation, Draco encounters an avoidance-avoidance conflict where whichever choice of the two he makes, he puts lives in jeopardy.

The final character who faces the avoidance-avoidance conflict is Voldemort. Voldemort was not as innocent as the other orphan children at the orphanage where he was raised. While Tom Riddle, like Harry, grew up without parents, his actions were ruthless, arrogant, and self-centered, which led to his persona as Lord Voldemort. Unlike Harry, who was reared by his aunt and uncle who did not demonstrate any warmth, love, or affection, he did not follow in his aunt and uncle's dark path as Riddle did.

When Dumbledore appeared at the orphanage to see Riddle, the matron, Mrs. Cole, warned him, "He terrifies the other children." Rowling (Rowling, 2005:676). In one incident, Riddle hangs one of the orphanage's rabbits because they quarreled the day before "Billy Stubbs' rabbit (...) it didn't hang itself from the rafters, did it?" (2005:267). Voldemort learned from Snape that "and either must die at the hand of the other for neither can live while the other survives" (2003:841). Voldemort was terrified by the prophecy's prediction and hence planned to murder Harry and his parents. One of the consequences of this action was Voldemort's own demise, since he almost perished when he attempted to murder Harry because his mother had cast a protective spell on him before Voldemort killed her.

"Your mother gave her life to rescue you. (...) He didn't comprehend that a mother's love for you leaves its own imprint. (...) will provide us with

some protection even after the person who loved us has passed away. "It's in your very flesh," Dumbledore remarked. (1997:299).

As a consequence, Voldemort's corporeal body was destroyed by the murdering spell that was designed to kill Harry. Voldemort's decision to murder Harry backfired and ruined him, which might be considered a negative objective since it ended in a dreadful manner for Voldemort. Similarly, another result of Voldemort's action went against him. The night he attempted to kill Harry, the spell backfired on him, and just before he was destroyed, a part of his soul penetrated the spell and left more than a scar on Harry's forehead, a connection between the two characters that allowed them to see through each other's eyes and sometimes feel what the other character felt. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Harry looks through Voldemort's eyes to see where Voldemort is and what he is up to since they were apprehended and transported to Malfoy's manor to be delivered over to Voldemort. Voldemort then breaks into a jail, which turns out to be Nurmengard castle, where Gellert Grindelwald is imprisoned.

Kill me, then!" demanded the old man. "You will not win, you cannot win! That wand will never, ever be yours —" And Voldemort's fury broke: A burst of green light filled the prison room and the frail old body was lifted from its hard bed and then fell back, lifeless, and Voldemort returned to the window, his wrath barely controllable. (2007:472)

In this manner, through this connection, Harry was capable of seeing through Voldemort's eyes to keep count of what he was doing, as well as sense what Voldemort was feeling whether he was furious or joyful. Although

Voldemort planned deceptive images in Harry's head in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the link generally harmed him and resulted in negative consequences, which may be referred to as a negative objective, for Voldemort rather than benefiting him. To summarize, Voldemort's desire to murder Harry nearly destroyed him instead, and this was followed by the link between the two, therefore both outcomes may be classified as negative outcomes and eventually represent the Avoidance-Avoidance conflict.

However, the most intense conflicts faced by the characters are double approach-avoidance conflicts. these types of conflicts are more complicated than the other three types because each decision of the two options has both positive and negative outcomes. In *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, mysterious events occur inside Hogwarts concerning a chamber believed to contain a deadly monster located beneath the school. Tom Riddle, the young Lord Voldemort, uses a notebook called Riddle's Diary to trick Ginny Weasley into opening the Chamber of Secrets. As a consequence, Ginny became a victim of Riddle's deception and opened the chamber. In the room, Ginny was so engrossed in Riddle's journal that she did not realize what she was doing, and she let Riddle come out of the diary, knocking her down, making Riddle stronger by the second as Ginny's health deteriorated. Harry eventually made it inside the Chamber of Secrets, only to discover Ginny sprawled on the floor. He meets Riddle there, and after a lengthy talk, the latter informs Harry that he is Lord Voldemort. "Ginny poured her soul out to me, and her soul happened to be precisely what I craved... I got stronger and stronger on a diet of her greatest fears, her darkest secrets," Riddle said (Rowling, 1998:310). Then Riddle summons the monster of the room, which turns out to be a basilisk, a massive snake. Harry managed to slay the basilisk after a bloody battle, but not before being bitten by it. Harry's condition

continues to worsen, and suddenly Fawkes appears, and upon discovering that Harry was ready to die, it begins crying on Harry's injuries, which heals him nearly instantaneously. "Phoenix tears..." Riddle muttered gently, his gaze fixed on Harry's arm. "Of course... healing abilities... well, I forgot..." (1998:322). Just then, Harry stabs the diary with one of the basilisk's teeth, killing Riddle. Ginny awoke disoriented after Riddle's death, and they eventually escape the chamber carried away by the phoenix Fawkes. In this way, Harry's choice to walk down to the Chamber of Secrets resulted in two outcomes: one good, saving Ginny's life and murdering Tom Riddle, and one bad, placing his life in great risk and almost killing him. On the other hand, Harry had the option of not entering the chamber, which would have had both good and bad consequences. The first is by not putting his life in danger by entering the Chamber of Secrets. If Harry had not entered the room, he would not have met Tom Riddle or the basilisk, and hence more victims of Riddle would have been petrified since he controlled the basilisk, which can petrify anybody who looks into its eyes. As a result, if Harry did not enter the chamber, Ginny's health would continue to decline since Riddle controlled her via the journal. As a result, she was unaware of much of what she was doing, and she would eventually die while Riddle grew stronger. As a result, if Harry picked this option, there would still be two outcomes. He would not jeopardize his life after almost dying from the basilisk's bite, which is a good choice for his health and life. Simultaneously, Ginny would die since, without Harry, no one could open the chamber's gate, which is the negative result of this choice. In other words, Harry had the option of choosing between two options, each of which had a good and bad side effect. In terms of courage and curiosity, the first option is the more realistic choice for Harry. He endangered his life by entering the chamber and battling the basilisk, which is a

bad objective, but he ultimately rescued Ginny, which is a good goal. Meanwhile, the second option is the more rational choice for Harry in terms of his life and safety; by refusing to enter the chamber, he would not have jeopardized his life, which is a good objective; nevertheless, Ginny would die, which is a bad goal. Finally, since both options reflect the Double Approach-Avoidance conflict, both possibilities have a good and negative outcome.

Another instance of double approach-avoidance conflict is caught in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Snape is murdered by Voldemort, upon his last breath, he sheds tears of light, almost crystal tears. While he is on the verge of death, he asks Harry to take his tears and drop it in the pensive to find out the truth and figure out how to defeat Voldemort while both were known only by Dumbledore who was now dead. After Harry puts the tear in the pensive, he realizes that Dumbledore knew all along that the only way to defeat Voldemort was through Harry's death in the hands of Voldemort. This was due to the fact that a part of Voldemort's soul was trapped in Harry as a Horux when he attempted to kill Harry as a new born. "'So the boy . . . the boy must die?" asked Snape quite calmly. "And Voldemort himself must do it, Severus. That is essential." said Dumbledore" 687.

By killing Harry, Voldemort would be killing himself. Harry understood at last that he was not supposed to survive, His job was to walk calmly into death's welcoming arms. Along the way, he was to dispose of Voldemort's remaining links to life. Based on this, Harry decides to secretly go to his own death. By doing so, he would sacrifice his life but would save everyone else's.

Voldemort had raised his wand. His head was still tilted to one side, like a curious child, wondering what would happen if he proceeded. Harry looked back into the red eyes, and wanted it

to happen now, quickly, while he could still stand, before he lost control, before he betrayed fear — He saw the mouth move and a flash of green light, and everything was gone. (2007: 704)

In this manner, Harry was in an inner conflict where he had to choose between two alternatives in which both had positive and negative outcomes. He had to either make the ultimate sacrifice, which is a negative outcome, and save everyone he knows and loves, which is a positive outcome, or save his own life, which is a positive outcome, and put everyone else in danger by continuing the war with Voldemort, which is a negative outcome. Ultimately, Harry chose the prior decision and walked to Voldemort and did not raise a wand to defend himself.

Moreover, when Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore is assassinated by Severus Snape in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, the events take a dark turn. Snape murdered Dumbledore for three basic reasons. First and foremost, the Hogwarts Headmaster was already passing, and this deed would be Snape's final act of kindness and allegiance to him. When Dumbledore found out he only had a year to live, Dumbledore asked Snape to murder him whenever the opportunity arose, hoping to avoid a disgraceful and terrible death. The second reason was for Snape to remain a trusted Death Eater while also proving Lord Voldemort's allegiance and demonstrating that he had not failed in following his path. The final reason for Dumbledore's request was to safeguard Draco's soul since he was aware that Lord Voldemort had ordered Draco Malfoy to murder him. He knew Draco would not be able to complete the mission which would put Draco and his family's lives in jeopardy. Also, he did not want the murder to have any impact on one of his pupils, since he has always been a terrific teacher.

For the first time, Dumbledore was pleading. Snape said nothing, but walked forwards and pushed Malfoy roughly out of the way. The three Death Eaters fell back without a word. Even the werewolf seemed cowed. Snape gazed for a moment at Dumbledore, and there was revulsion and hatred etched in the harsh lines of his face. 'Severus ... please ...' Snape raised his wand and pointed it directly at Dumbledore. 'Avada Kedavra!'. A jet of green light shot from the end of Snape's wand and hit Dumbledore squarely in the chest. (2005: 758)

Snape, here, faces a double approach-avoidance conflict where he must choose between two alternatives. On one hand, he could save Dumbledore's life, his friend, but risk the lives of Draco and his family plus ruin Dumbledore's plan which serves for the greater good. On the other hand, he could choose to kill Dumbledore and keep on the path of Dumbledore's plan and remain a loyal ally of Voldemort, and, also, save Draco and his family's lives. Those two choices, both, have positive and negative outcomes which place Snape in a double approach-avoidance conflict.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The Harry Potter series has garnered significant acclaim worldwide due to its ability to immerse readers in a realm of magic, while also exploring themes of personal development. The narrative takes place within a fantastical realm, yet the human characters within the story demonstrate inherent vulnerabilities and undergo personal development. Moreover, they confront obstacles

that bear resemblance to those faced by individuals in actuality. Throughout their journeys, individuals encounter a multitude of challenges that engross them in a diverse range of internal conflicts, which significantly impact their decision-making processes, the trajectories of their lives, and ultimately their very existence. The aforementioned conflicts play a pivotal role in the amplification of the central themes encapsulated by J. K. Rowling in the Harry Potter series. Based on the preceding analysis, the research concludes that the novels under examination encompass four distinct categories of conflicts, as outlined by Kurt Lewin. The author employs the literary device of approach-avoidance conflict to convey the concept of making sacrifices for the betterment of humanity. This theme is evident in various instances throughout the novel, such as Harry's internal struggle regarding the Elder Wand, Dumbledore's determination that Snape should be the one to end his life rather than Draco, and Snape's choice to assume the role of a double agent. Within these particular scenes, the depicted characters make the conscious decision to relinquish their personal aspirations, well-being, and even mortality in order to fulfil the needs and welfare of others. Furthermore, an example of a less demanding form of internal conflict is the approach-approach conflict, as exemplified by Harry's deliberation over whether to assist Neville in retrieving his Remembrall and his act of defying Madam Hooch's directives. The conflict at hand serves to amplify a prominent thematic element within the novels, namely the aspiration to assist others or exhibit heroic qualities. Nevertheless, the avoidance-avoidance conflict, which is a more arduous form of conflict compared to the aforementioned types, is highly prominent within the narrative of the Harry Potter series. This particular form of conflict serves to accentuate various themes within the novels. Harry's choice to forgo the acquisition of Occlumency skills and his endeavor to

save Sirius serve to underscore the thematic element of emotional inundation, whereby Harry is confronted with overwhelming feelings that prove challenging to regulate, subsequently impairing his capacity for logical thinking and deliberate action. Furthermore, Voldemort's choice to eliminate the infant Harry and subsequently exploit the psychic bond between them contributes to the exploration of imperious spirits, egotism, and folie de grandeur. On a more optimistic note, Lily's choice to make a profound sacrifice in order to protect her son exemplifies the theme of a mother's unwavering commitment to her child's welfare. In the same manner, the decision faced by Hermione to either erase her parents' recollection of her existence or subject them to potential harm, thereby influencing the course of the wizarding conflict, serves to further emphasize the overarching motifs of self-sacrifice and altruism. Moreover, in the climactic moments of the novels, the theme of loyalty emerges as Snape grapples with the decision of whether to assassinate his ally Dumbledore or jeopardize the safety of himself, Draco, and his own kin. Similarly, Draco's dilemma regarding whether to hide Harry and Ron from the Death Eaters or expose himself and his family to the risk of death contributes to the themes of self-sacrifice, redemption, and remorse. This pivotal moment in Draco's life represents a potential turning point and offers him the chance for personal transformation. Finally, the double approach-avoidance conflict, which is the most consuming and potent form of internal conflict, is employed by the novelist to enhance the theme of self-sacrifice, heroism, selflessness, and loyalty. This is evident in the scenes depicting Harry's conflict as he puts his life at risk to save Ginny, as well as his dilemma of choosing between making the ultimate sacrifice or endangering the lives of his loved ones during the Wizarding War. Additionally, Snape's conflict is portrayed, wherein he must decide between saving

others and risking the lives of his mentor and himself. In conclusion, the research findings indicate that the characters in the study frequently encounter two primary types of inner conflicts: avoidance-avoidance conflict and double approach-avoidance conflict. These particular conflicts are identified as the most distressing forms of internal conflicts. However, the influence of all four types of internal conflicts on the characters' decisions is significant, as these decisions serve to illuminate their personalities and lead to a range of consequences. As a result, the conflicts within the narrative serve to both shape and amplify the central themes of heroism, self-sacrifice, the dichotomy between evil and good, and the pursuit of redemption that are deeply embedded in the overarching plot of the series.

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