Chapter-V

Conclusion
In this research study an attempt has been made to examine and scrutinize the concept of ‘Conflict’ considering various views of scholars and deliberately delineating various conflicts rendered by Erich Segal. Conflict is inherent in human relations. It doesn’t mean that every social relationship is entirely or even partly conflicting all the time. Nor does it mean that every underlying conflict in relationship will be expressed with the same degree and kind of hostility or violence.

Since ancient period conflict is one of the important themes in literature. The term was first described in ancient Greek literature as central contest. Aristotle assumes that conflict is necessary in order to create interest in literary work while Collin asserts that conflict causes due to difference and contradiction in human purposes. Conflict can appear between two individuals, group or groups of individuals but it is not necessary that every time two or more parties should involve in it. It also can appear within an individual. According to Oxford English Dictionary, opposing ideas, opinions, feelings and situations cause conflict.

Conflict can be divided into external and internal in general and socio-cultural, political, economical and psychological in particular. Psychological conflict is the part of internal conflict while external conflict can be divided into political, economical, cultural and social conflicts. From various scholars views regarding conflict it can be concluded that it is an opposition of interests, ideas, beliefs, faiths, behavior, needs, desires, values, human greed or purposes. One cannot separate conflict from human needs. Conflicts vary in their bases,
duration, mode of settlement, outcomes and consequences. An attempt also being made to explore the causes and consequences of conflicts, which Segal has predominantly dealt with in his novels.

The present research work has focused realistic delineation of conflict external and internal conflicts in general and socio-cultural, political relationship conflicts in particular. in the novels of Erich Segal. Basically the study revolves around social, psychological and relationship conflicts.

Second chapter of the study, social conflict deals with conflict between rich class and poor class, factory owners and workers, blacks and whites, inter-religion and intra-religion, national and international conflict. Erich Segal has focused on class conflict in his novels, social discrimination and religious conflict. In Love Story and Oliver’s Story, the novelist deals with class conflict. The conflict appears between the rich and poor class due to the exploitation and unfair treatment of rich class to poor class. The novelist realistically has delineated the detail causes and impacts regarding the conflict of rich and poor class; and tried to show its impact on political-economical conflicts. Though people of both classes live in the same country but there is an absence of cordial, harmonious relationships between them. Their way of living, traditions and views towards life differs. The novelist remarkably focuses on rich class’s unfair and unequal treatment to the working class. To Aristocratic people, their hypocritic status is more important than humanistic and social values. Segal has attacked on material greed, selfish nature and hypocrisy of upper class.
While delineating the dominance of industry owners on the poor and the labour class, the novelist remarkably has rendered that even subordinated classes are unaware about their victimization. Segal has lead the character of Oliver to raise the voice against the exploitation of workers and to create awareness among the working class people by the taking the stand against the injustice of his own family. The conflict of Oliver leads to change his father’s perspective regarding labourers.

In Love Story, Segal has depicted classes of two generations which have different views and perspectives towards life. Each generation views life according to its own point of view. But the perspectives of both the generations are opposite to each other. Therefore it causes conflict among them. In Love Story and Oliver’s Story, the same protagonist of both the novels, Oliver takes a stand against the exploitation and tries to create awareness among the workers. Oliver does not mould his principles for the sake self betterment of inherited property. Erich Segal remarkably analyzes the confused state of mind of modern human being.

In Acts of Faith, Segal remarkably deals with the conflict between religious faiths, beliefs and modern perspectives towards life. Modernness in Deborah, Daniel and Timothy refuse to accept the traditional religious set up and prefers humanistic approach about life. The novel also focuses on conflict of hybrid identity and hybrid culture which have been developing prominently in most of the Europian countries. The development of hybrid culture is a new version of modernness which also rejects blind imitation of religious beliefs.
The novelist has remarkably rendered the internal and external conflicts raised due to the diasporic identity and religious beliefs of pre and present contemporary period.

The love relationship between Deborah and Timothy points out that love is sacred and beyond the restrictions of any religion. Through this novel, Segal delivers a message that love has no religion. Deborah and Timothy believe in two different religions and respect about each other’s religious beliefs. Through the novel *Acts of Faith*, Segal has circulated the true meaning of love, humanity and religious harmony. The novel deals with the major characters journey from religious jealousy to the religious harmony. In the end of the novel the timid thoughts of Timothy are enlarged into humanity.

Erich Segal has wonderfully depicted intra-religion as well as inter-religion conflict in his novels. His *The Class, Doctors* and *Acts of Faith* has focused on religious conflict. The conflict of Jews and Christians is depicted very craftily. Erich Segal is of the view that every religion is for the betterment and happiness of human being. He also believes that there is no harm in accepting some good and morals of other religion like Mahatma Gandhi’s spiritual ideology. With the help of religious conflict, Segal has raised a very important question. He asserts that human being has been changing since ancient period according the circumstances and why religion can’t. The novelist intends to advice that outdated traditions and beliefs should be changed or replaced in the course of time. Religion is for the betterment of human being and not for the imprisonment.
In most of his novels, the novelist has presented the ideas of Christianity and Judaism. But he did not advocate any particular religious belief and social ideology of any religion. He neither supports Christianity nor Judaism. Instead of supporting any religious and social ideologies, he prefers to support religion of humanity. Segal assumes that human being has created religion for the betterment of the human society.

Most of the Segal’s novels too deal with racial discrimination. According to the novelist, it is man’s inhumanity with man. Few characters of every novel depicted by Segal motivate others for racial discrimination in order to fulfill their selfish motives. It is one of the important weapons for people which provide excuse to deny equal access to education, jobs and income resources to suppress and rule over the few group of people. Major characters of Segal’s novels preserve moral and human values than traditional religious beliefs. Mostly in all the novels, Segal has depicted the characters which are victims of discrimination. The discriminative attitude of Aristocratic society tries to keep specific groups of society away from their goals, rights and development. The characters of Segal are aware about the power of conflict. To the end Segal lead his characters achieve everything which was forbidden to them due to some prejudices.

In The Class and Doctors, the novelist has taken efforts to show that even America has accepted equality by the law but in practical life there is social inequality. Such people make discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ancestry or color. Segal has raised a voice against such people hoping
that everybody should receive fair and equal treatment in the society. Segal
himself was a Jew and the victim of discrimination. The novelist is of the view
that any kind of discrimination is always harmful to the society and nation. In
*Doctors*, Blacks are supposed to be intellectually inferior; but Segal asserts that
intellect is not the monopoly of any one class of the society. Anybody can
achieve great success or high position by hard work.

In *Doctors* and *The Class*, Segal has woven fictitious characters with
historical events. Massacre of Jews during the Second World War was the
cruellest face of the people who believed in discrimination and against the social
equality. Segal has proved how discrimination leads the social, economical,
political and cultural conflicts in the society. Impact of discrimination on
psychological conflict of lower classes is also highlighted by the novelist in
each and every novel.

Third chapter of the study deals with Psychological conflict consisting
internal turmoil encompassing socio-political and cultural impacts which
becomes cause of disturbance. There are several situations in novels which
cause psychological conflict of various characters. The situations make the
characters confuse. The real cause of sufferings of Segal’s most of the
characters is greediness and materialistic attitude. Greed for love, physical
pleasure, wealth, reputation, higher status in society and power is responsible
for their sufferings and pain. Greed for worldly pleasure is very prominent in all
his novels. The greed of wealth and power also cause internal conflict of the
characters.
Being the novelist himself suffers due to unsettlement in life, he has experienced the turmoil in his own life. On the one hand there was his teaching career and the other a writing career. He turned towards writing only due to the immense success of his first novel Love Story. The popularity of the novel made him to think about the writing career and he left his teaching profession. It was the decision due to which he got the popularity, name and fame as a screenwriter and novelist.

Fear, confusion, disturbance and unbelief are the major roots of psychological conflict. Fear in characters mind plays very important role in appearing and resolving psychological conflict in Segal’s most the novels. In Man, Woman and Child a continuous fear of losing each other of Sheila and Bob arise psychological conflict in their life. In Oliver’s Story, basic reason behind Oliver’s psychological turmoil is his love to his late wife Jennifer Cavillery. He is in confusion whether to marry with Marcy or not. His genuine, true, never-ending and endless love for Jennifer makes him confuse and hence he is unable to make decision of remarriage. He doesn’t accept the reality that Jennifer is dead. He is always haunted by the past memories of Jennifer. The character of Oliver presented in Love Story and Oliver’s Story is an innocent, true and gentleman with human values. He also becomes the victim of the internal conflict. His psychological disturbance makes him unable to decide to follow right or wrong. Racial discrimination resulted in internal conflict of Jason Gilbert and Ted Lambros also about their identity and nationality, in the novel The Class.
Segal himself seem to accept that life is with full of conflict. Erich Segal’s novels attempt to reveal the truth about confused state of human mind. He believes that only conflict of any kind has ability to lead change and which is necessary for the development of society.

The fourth chapter of the study deals with conflict in human relationships. The characters depicted by Segal in his novels are extraordinary but regarding relationship conflict they are victims. Traditional beliefs and modern views also cause conflict in human relations to some extends. Most of the major characters of Erich Segal are ambitious and devoted to their goals. They set their goals in the life and throughout the novels struggle with the competitors to reach on the top positions. High ambition and vigor of doing something different make them to struggle. In relationship conflict, the novelist has analyzed thoroughly the causes of complications in family institutions and socio-cultural groups.

Marriage always stands on trust one of the most important pillars of family institution. Qorina asserts: “Marriage is a process to make a smallest unit in society which is called as family.”(Qorina, 03) Even in every relationship trust plays an important role. Trust is very important in husband-wife relationship. It makes relationship concrete and strong. But lack of trust is an open invitation to create relationship conflict. The very base of husband-wife relationship is trust and faithfulness to each other. Unfaithfulness is the major reason in husband-wife conflict. Remarkably and realistically, Segal has delineated the human greed of physical pleasure and unfaithfulness in all
novels. Unfaithfulness creates conflict in Bob and Sheila, Ted and Sara, Danny and Maria, Andrew and Faith’s relationship. “But in Love Story, Oliver remains faithful with Jennifer may be because for the first time he felt real love for her.” (Tuti Wardani, 07)

Another most important relationship in family institution is parent-children, which also scrutinized by the novelist in his novels. Parent-children relationship in Man, Woman and Child suffer due to the fear. Bob’s daughters, Jessica and Paula do not want to lose their father. Both the girls suffer due to a fear that their father would leave them.

Human world is built on the ground of hopes and expectations. In every family, family members have certain expectations from other member. In family institution even identity of someone is being formed by other members. Someone’s status, importance and recognition is only considered and take the form by existence of other. It can be seen in Segal’s novels that when expectations do not complete, it causes conflict in relationship. The parent-children relationships in Segal’s novels are affected due to the high expectations of parents. The novelist has beautifully highlighted the generation gap in parent and children which lead to create conflict. Different opinions, perspectives and principles of both generations also cause conflict all his novels.

Through his writing, Erich Segal has focused on the extramarital affairs of man and woman too. The extramarital affairs are mostly responsible for disturbance of family relationship. The couple should understand and respect
each other’s feelings. The husband and wife should be faithful to each other. Through his writing, Segal has tried to guide the disturbed families. He has presented Oliver and Jennifer as a role model of happy married life. Laura rightly asserts: “The love between Oliver and Jennifer does not end after the death of the heroin, but it continues in the memory of the hero.”(67) *Love Story* is a model of happy married life.

Segal’s novels prove that he can read human minds like a real psychiatrist. His literary work gives the feeling that the writer might be a psychiatrist or human mind reader. The way he has presented confused state of human mind is unbelievable. His work appeal to the reader about how to overcome from confused state of mind.

Segal’s novels too narrate some autobiographical elements. Comparing all novels, it can be easily concluded that his sixth novel, *Acts of Faith* contains the most autobiographical elements. Segal was a son of orthodox Jew. His father was a famous Rabbi. The characters of Daniel Luria and Rav Moses Luria resemble with him and his father respectively. In real life his own father had the intension that his son should become a Rabbi. But fate had different plans about Erich Segal. Like the novelist, in *Acts of Faith*, Daniel is not interested in becoming a Rabbi. The conflict and family atmosphere of Rav Moses Luria and Daniel Luria’s family depicted by the writer resemble with Segal’s own life. Most of Jewish characters of his novels are taken from his Jewish identity in real life.
Another novel, *The Class* also contains autobiographical elements. The novel deals with the class reunion of Harvard students. In real life, the novelist has attended class reunion of Harvard in 1983. The novels of Segal are not mere imaginary but also realistic rendered from his past life. He has woven historical events and his own bitter experiences with imaginary characters in his literary work.

Erich Segal demonstrates the characters which are struggling throughout their life for peace of mind and satisfaction. The characters run behind the wealth and worldly pleasure in order to achieve peace of mind and satisfaction. But finally they realize the truth that real happiness and worthful life cannot be purchased with the help of money. Human greed is worthless.

Erich Segal is an excellent story teller. His novels are full of inspiration and motivation. Many characters of Segal are grounded on the reality and satisfy the reader. Segal has remained successful, healing and inspiring writer. His most of the novels deal with the characters that spend their own lives to achieve the desired goal, the real pleasure of life.

To conclude, Erich Segal is a notable novelist realistically delineated various conflicts caused by relationship, socio-political and economical setup encompassing various spectrums of lives of masses by using his skill of use of symbols, flashback technique, style of storytelling and characterization.
References-


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