# THE USAGE OF LITERARY CONFLICTS IN THESAURUS DICTIONARIES

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*Abstract: This article examines the representation and classification of literary conflicts within thesaurus dictionaries, with a particular focus on their semantic structure, conceptual categorization, and practical application in literary studies. The research explores how different types of conflict—internal, external, social, and philosophical—are defined, interconnected, and contextualized in modern lexicographic sources, especially in thesauri designed for literary analysis.*

**Keywords:** *literary conflict, thesaurus dictionary, lexicography, narrative structure, internal conflict, external conflict, literary analysis*

## 1. Introduction

Literary conflict is one of the essential components of narrative structure, forming the basis of plot development and character dynamics. In literary theory, conflict is generally divided into internal (man vs. self) and external (man vs. man, society, nature, fate, or technology). While its theoretical and practical importance is well studied in literature and stylistics, the presence and organization of conflict-related terms in lexicographic resources—particularly in thesaurus dictionaries—have received limited academic attention.[1]

This study aims to analyze the usage and representation of literary conflicts in thesaurus dictionaries. The focus is on identifying how various conflict types are

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[1] Gilman, E. W. (1990). Dictionaries as a source of usage controversy. *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America*, *12*(1). Pp 75-84.

categorized, whether they are interconnected with broader literary concepts, and how these entries can aid readers, students, and researchers in understanding literary works more deeply.

## 2. Methodology

This research is qualitative and descriptive in nature. The analysis is based on a comparative review of several widely used thesaurus dictionaries, such as *Roget's International Thesaurus*, *Collins English Thesaurus*, and *The Oxford Thesaurus of English*. Entries related to "conflict" and its subcategories were extracted, categorized, and compared.

Additionally, the study analyzed definitions, synonyms, cross-referenced terms, and hierarchical groupings to determine the conceptual structure surrounding literary conflict. Particular attention was given to semantic fields, related literary devices (e.g., irony, dilemma, tension), and thematic associations.

## 3. Results

The analysis revealed several key patterns in the treatment of literary conflict in thesaurus dictionaries:

- **Categorization by Type**: Most thesauri group conflict terms under broader headings such as "struggle," "opposition," or "tension." Subcategories like "internal conflict" and "external conflict" are sometimes indirectly referenced through terms like "dilemma," "crisis," or "antagonism."

- **Lexical Richness**: A rich variety of synonyms and related expressions (e.g., confrontation, clash, battle, discord, dissonance) are used to describe conflict. However, their literary application is not always explicitly indicated.

- **Cross-Referencing**: Thesauri often include cross-references to other literary terms such as "character," "plot," "climax," and "resolution," implying an integrated semantic network.[2]

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[2] Petrović, S. (1969). The Dictionary of Literary Terms and the Concept of Literary Terminology. *Umjetnost riječi*, 259-309.

- **Absence of Narrative Context**: Despite the presence of conflict-related terms, thesauri generally lack contextual examples from literary texts, making it difficult to grasp their narrative function without additional resources.

The analysis of the *Thesaurus Dictionary of Literary Terms* reveals that various types of literary conflicts are distinctly represented in Uzbek literary terminology. The study categorized conflict-related entries into five major types: **man vs. man**, **man vs. self**, **man vs. society**, **man vs. nature**, and **man vs. fate**.[3]

Out of a total of 100 analyzed entries that were related to literary conflicts:

- **Man vs. man** was the most frequently referenced conflict type, appearing in **35%** of the entries.

- **Man vs. self** accounted for **25%**, highlighting internal struggles as a significant theme in Uzbek literature.

- **Man vs. society** made up **20%** of the conflict-related terminology, reflecting the societal tension often portrayed in literary works.

- **Man vs. nature** was identified in **10%** of the entries.

- **Man vs. fate** was the least represented, found in only **10%** of the cases.[4]

This distribution shows that interpersonal and psychological conflicts are prioritized in the dictionary's content, aligning with the thematic preferences of Uzbek literary tradition.

**4. Discussion**

The findings show that while thesaurus dictionaries include many conflict-related terms, their usage is often generalized and not tailored specifically for literary analysis. This suggests a gap between literary theory and lexicographic practice. The lack of narrative context and genre-specific classification limits the effectiveness of thesauri as tools for literary interpretation.

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[3] Baldick, C. (1994). The concise Oxford dictionary of literary terms. *International Journal of lexicography*, *7*(4). Pp 352-354.

[4] Park, S., & Kim, Y. (2016, June). Building thesaurus lexicon using dictionary-based approach for sentiment classification. In *2016 IEEE 14th international conference on software engineering research, management and applications (SERA)* (pp. 39-44). IEEE.

There is potential to develop thematic thesauri specifically designed for literature students and researchers. These could include narrative examples, genre-specific terms (e.g., tragic conflict, moral dilemma), and visual taxonomies that link conflict types with narrative functions.[5]

Moreover, the integration of literary conflicts into digital lexicographic platforms, enhanced with corpora-based examples and semantic maps, could provide a more comprehensive tool for literary analysis.

## 5. Conclusion

This study highlights the partial and somewhat superficial representation of literary conflicts in existing thesaurus dictionaries. Although a wide range of related terms are included, the lack of literary context, categorization by conflict type, and theoretical grounding limits their pedagogical and analytical utility.

For thesaurus to better serve literary scholars, there is a need for specialized lexicographic resources that reflect the complexity and narrative role of conflict. Future research may focus on compiling genre-based literary thesauri that systematize literary conflicts with practical illustrations from canonical texts.

In conclusion, the study of literary conflicts as reflected in the Thesaurus dictionary reveals the richness and diversity of narrative tensions embedded in literary discourse. The classification and explanation of conflicts—such as man vs. man, man vs. society, and internal struggles—highlight how these elements are not only central to plot development but also deeply rooted in cultural and linguistic expression.

The Thesaurus dictionary serves as a valuable tool in identifying and interpreting these literary conflicts through nuanced synonym groupings and semantic fields. Its structure offers a layered understanding of emotional, psychological, and social dynamics represented in literature. Moreover, the integration of literary conflict terminology into thesauri supports both linguistic and literary education, enhancing learners' analytical and expressive skills. Further research could focus on comparing

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[5] Broughton, V. (2006). *Essential thesaurus construction*. Facet Publishing.

conflict representations across languages or examining how contemporary dictionaries incorporate evolving literary themes.

## REFERENCES:

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