

LIFE STRUGGLE OF THE PROTAGONIST IN NARA LAHMUSI'S NOVEL *A SKY FULL OF STARS*

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Abstract

This study investigates the life struggles experienced by the protagonist in *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi, focusing on her journey toward achieving personal dreams while simultaneously addressing familial obligations. The research aims to analyze the internal and external factors that shape the protagonist's hardships. Internal factors include her perfectionism, strong sense of self-priority, and inner ambition, which drive her personal goals but also contribute to emotional and psychological pressure. In contrast, external factors such as economic limitations and societal expectations impose constraints that complicate her efforts. By examining the interaction between these two dimensions, the study reveals how the protagonist's development is influenced by the dynamic tension between individual aspiration and external reality. The findings suggest that the complexity of her struggle lies in the convergence of personal desires and external demands, which not only affects her decisions but also frames the broader thematic structure of resilience and self-determination in the novel.

Keywords: *external factor; internal factor; life struggle.*

1. Introduction

Literature is an imaginative work that reflects life and serves as a medium for expressing thoughts and emotions. It offers aesthetic enjoyment, understanding, and insight to the community. As Depita (2021) states, literature functions as a reflection of life and a form of human expression, grounded in language and the author's perspective on the human condition. The products of such expressions are called literary works, which are generally classified into fiction and non-fiction. Fiction includes creative narratives not based on factual events—such as novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and films. In line with Hornby (1995: 434), as cited in Anggraeni et al. (2018), a movie is “a story, recorded as a set of moving pictures to be shown on television or at the cinema.” In contrast, non-fiction refers to works based on real events, including essays, biographies, and historical accounts.

Among fictional forms, the novel holds a significant place. It typically presents complex narratives involving multiple events, developed through characters, plot, setting, theme, and point of view. Novels often mirror human experiences, with characters playing central roles in shaping the story. Characters are essential narrative agents whose development and interaction with the plot reveal both intrinsic and

extrinsic elements of a literary work. Their portrayal often reflects psychological, emotional, and societal dimensions, making them crucial for literary analysis.

This study focuses on the protagonist's life struggle in *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi. The analysis identifies two key factors that influence the character's journey: internal and external factors. These are reflected through the character of Raya, whose experiences illustrate the challenges of personal ambition and social expectation. The purpose of this study is twofold: (1) to examine the internal factors—such as personality traits and individual motivations—contributing to the protagonist's struggle; and (2) to explore the external influences, including socio-economic and environmental pressures. Together, these elements provide a comprehensive understanding of the protagonist's life challenges as depicted in the novel.

2. Literature Review

Struggle generally refers to a significant and sustained effort made in the face of ongoing conflict, challenges, or obstacles. It involves perseverance and strong determination, often despite the difficulty of achieving one's goals independently. Struggle is an inherent aspect of human existence, demanding continuous effort in pursuit of personal development and the realization of one's aspirations. The notion that "life is a struggle" underscores the idea that progress and success require active engagement and persistent endeavor.

According to Nugroho et al. (1996: 94), as cited in the study by Wirda and Purwarno (2019), struggle is defined as hard work aimed at realizing one's dreams. They argue that much of human life is driven by such effort, where the desire to achieve—such as becoming wealthy—necessitates dedication, whether through intellectual or physical means. In this context, struggle is understood not merely as endurance in adversity but as proactive effort to overcome obstacles. It often manifests through challenges or difficult circumstances encountered at various stages of life. While struggle may reveal the limits of one's capacities, it also becomes a vehicle for personal growth. Through overcoming difficulties, individuals are able to reach their goals, acquire meaningful experiences, and undergo positive transformation.

2.1 Life Struggle

According to Purnomosari (2014), life struggle is an action taken by everyone to be able to struggle through everything occupation that they do. This means that life's struggles refer to the challenges and difficulties that individuals must face in their lives to achieve success. This is in line with the opinion of Simbolon (2020) that life struggle is a chain of action of a person or family based on social economy. Economic problems are a problem that is often encountered in life's struggles which can test a person's patience, strength and ability to adapt in various phases of life's journey.

Life struggles emerge spontaneously, catching individuals off guard with their sudden and natural occurrence. This notion underscores the unpredictability inherent in life, where challenges can arise without prior notice or preparation. Such spontaneity underscores the need for individuals to be adaptable and responsive in navigating the uncertainties and unforeseen events that populate their lives. This highlights the importance of resilience and flexibility in facing life's trials, as individuals must continuously adjust and respond to the ever-changing circumstances they encounter. It emphasizes the dynamic nature of life, where individuals must navigate a landscape characterized by unpredictability and sudden challenges. This perspective underscores

the necessity for individuals to cultivate resilience and adaptability, enabling them to respond effectively to the spontaneous struggles that arise. By embracing this mindset, individuals can better prepare themselves to tackle life's uncertainties and unexpected events, fostering personal growth and development in the face of adversity.

2.2 Factors of Life Struggle

Life struggles are an inseparable part of every individual's journey. These struggle factors not only include challenges and difficulties, but also become a driving force to achieve a better life. In this context, it can be expressed that the meaning or meaning of the life struggle factor is in line with efforts to create a better life. Life's struggle reflects a person's efforts and perseverance in facing various obstacles, while the desire for a better life motivates individuals to continue to develop and improve the quality of their life. In this way, the factors of life's struggle and aspirations for a better life complement each other, creating a dynamic that encourages personal growth and achievement. In Syahputro's (2023) research, two factors to get a better life were delineated, as per Maslow's (1970) perspective. They are: internal factor and external factor.

2.2.1 Internal Factor

Internal factors are factors that originate from within oneself. Intrinsically, individuals have the desire to do something for their life, because the result is in accordance with their belief system or fulfills a desire and is therefore important to do. Internal motivation is when someone performs a behavior because they find it beneficial. They carry out an activity for its own sake and not because of the desire to obtain external rewards. In this context, internal factors and motivation reflect internal aspects of individual behavior. In other words, when a person responds to intrinsic factors, such as personal satisfaction or congruence with self-values, they may be more likely to perform an action without depending on external rewards. This is in line with Maslow's perspective which emphasizes that individual satisfaction and fulfillment of basic needs can be an internal motivator for personal growth and development.

2.2.2 External Factor

External factors are external influences that propel individuals towards life goals. These stimuli, originating from sources outside oneself, shape the drive to accomplish objectives. It's noteworthy that, despite the external nature of these incentives, the results of the undertaken tasks remain personally advantageous. This concept aligns with Maslow's (1970) assertion that external motivations, such as rewards or avoidance of punishment, can significantly impact behavior. The pursuit of these external rewards becomes a driving force for individuals, steering their actions toward specific outcomes.

In light of the aforementioned, the interplay between internal and external factors becomes evident in understanding human motivations. While internal factors emanate from intrinsic desires and values, external factors introduce external stimuli into the motivational equation. Researchers leverage this theoretical framework to dissect the influences on the main character's journey towards a better life in Nara Lahmusi's novel *A Sky Full of Stars* by exploring both intrinsic and extrinsic motivational factors, a comprehensive understanding of the character's motivations and actions can be unraveled.

3. Research Method

This research employed a qualitative approach, using the descriptive method as its principal framework. Qualitative research is characterized by its emphasis on obtaining an in-depth understanding of particular phenomena or contexts through descriptive and interpretative analysis. This aligns with the definition provided by Creswell (2023), who explains that qualitative research is an approach used to explore and understand the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. This process typically involves emerging questions and procedures, data collection in natural settings, inductive data analysis moving from specific themes to broader generalizations, and the researcher's interpretation of the meaning of the data.

In this study, the primary objective is to explore and provide a detailed account of the qualitative aspects inherent in the phenomenon under investigation. The descriptive method is particularly appropriate, as it enables the researcher to portray systematically the characteristics, dynamics, and meanings embedded within the research context. Through this approach, the study aims to offer a contextual and interpretive understanding of the subject matter. The findings are expected to contribute significantly to the existing body of knowledge, enhance scholarly discourse, and offer nuanced insights into the specific phenomenon being examined.

4. Discussion

This study examines two central aspects influencing the protagonist in the novel: internal and external factors. Internal factors refer to intrinsic motivations—personal drives originating from within the individual—that guide actions based on personal values, desires, or aspirations, often pursued for self-fulfillment rather than external recognition. In contrast, external factors encompass external pressures or influences that compel individuals to act in pursuit of life goals, such as social expectations, economic demands, or environmental conditions. A detailed analysis of these factors is presented in the subsequent sections.

4.1 The Internal Factor of the Protagonist's Life Struggle

Internal factors are one of the important aspects in the protagonist's struggle in the novel *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi. This factor refers to the inner conflict and drive from within the protagonist that influences her actions throughout the story. The protagonist is often faced with dilemmas and uncertainties that come from within herself.

a. Perfectionism Factor

Several quotes in the novel clearly show how internal factors are the main driving force for the protagonist. For example, the protagonist feels burdened by her own hopes and dreams, so she must be willing to do anything to make her dreams come true as seen in the following quote,

“Dia sangat bahagia, membayangkan nilai bahasa Indonesia yang buruk terselamatkan. Ya, walau buruk baginya adalah nilai 75. Namun, demi masuk jalur beasiswa SMA Harapan Bunda, dia siap melakukan apa saja”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 8)

(She was very happy, imagining that her bad Indonesian language grades had been saved. Yes, even though the score is 75, it's bad for

her. However, in order to enter the Harapan Bunda High School scholarship, she is ready to do anything). (Lahmusi, 2019: 8)

This quotation describes the protagonist who is very happy because she feels that her Indonesian language grades, which are considered bad, can still be improved. Although for some people a score of 75 might be good enough, for her this score is still below her expectations. This shows that she has quite high standards regarding her academic performance.

The happiness felt by the protagonist is not only related to her own grades, but also to the opportunities she can achieve, namely entering the scholarship pathway at Harapan Bunda High School. The desire to obtain this scholarship was very strong, so she was ready to do anything to achieve it. This shows that the character has great ambition and strong motivation to achieve success in the future, especially in terms of education. The protagonist has a strong motivation to continue her education as seen in the quote below,

“Saya memang suka mengajar dan sedang ngumpulin uang tambahan untuk melanjutkan pendidikan”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 15)

(I really like teaching and am currently collecting extra money to continue my education). (Lahmusi, 2019: 15)

Based on the analysis above, the protagonist has a deep interest in teaching activities. This shows that these activities are not only carried out because of financial needs, but also because of personal enjoyment. This interest becomes an internal driver that makes the character feel motivated and enthusiastic about teaching.

The protagonist has a goal to continue her education, which shows a strong drive to improve herself and her knowledge. This desire to continue her education came from within her, because she felt it was important to continue learning and developing. Efforts to "collect extra money" show that the character is aware of the importance of financial planning for her educational future. This reflects responsibility and discipline in managing existing resources to achieve long-term goals. Overall, the internal factors in this quote reflect strong intrinsic motivation, a sense of responsibility, and commitment to achieving personal and professional goals.

b. Self-Priority Factor

The following quote also emphasizes that internal factors greatly influence the protagonist's struggles.

“Catet, gue belum punya cowok. Dan gue nggak punya waktu buat pacaran. Hidup gue sudah berat. Impian gue jauh lebih penting daripada sekedar pacaran” (Lahmusi, 2019: 59)

(Note, I don't have a boyfriend yet. And I don't have time to date. My life is already hard. My dreams are much more important than just dating) (Lahmusi, 2019: 59)

The protagonist shows that she has very clear priorities in her life. For her, the dreams and goals she wants to achieve are much more important than having a romantic relationship. This reflects a strong understanding of what is important to her and a focus

on things she deems of greater value. She has a great commitment to her dreams and aspirations.

This internal factor shows a strong determination to make this dream come true, even if it means sacrificing social life or romantic relationships. This shows high dedication and focus on personal goals.

The statement *My life is already hard* reflects awareness of the challenges and pressures she is facing. The protagonist understands that the burden of life she is living requires full energy and attention, so there is no room for things that are considered less important in this context, such as dating. The character shows a firm attitude in choosing not to date. This shows self-confidence and determination in prioritizing dreams and rejecting things that might be considered a distraction from one's goals.

Moreover, the quote below is also one of the quotes that shows the internal struggle factor experienced by the protagonist in the novel,

“Bagaimana pun kondisi gue sekarang, gue nggak boleh ngeluh. Gue tetap kudu bisa meraih mimpi”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 60)

(Whatever my condition is now, I can't complain. I still have to achieve my dreams) (Lahmusi, 2019: 60)

From this quote, the protagonist shows mental toughness by not letting difficult conditions stop her. Even though she may be facing challenges, she has a never give up attitude and a strong determination to keep going and achieve her dreams. This toughness is an internal factor that allows the character to survive difficult situations without complaining. The characters have the belief that, regardless of the conditions they are facing, dreams can still be achieved. This optimism comes from within her, which encourages her to stay focused on long-term goals without being affected by negative circumstances.

The attitude *I can't complain* reflects self-discipline. The character is able to control her emotions and not let herself get trapped in despair. She chooses to remain productive and focused on achieving goals, even in situations that may not be ideal.

Then, the statement *I still have to achieve my dreams* shows strong determination. The character is very determined in achieving her dreams and does not let any obstacle be a reason to give up. This factor highlights her complete dedication to the life vision she has set.

c. Inner Ambition Factor

This quote provides strong evidence that internal factors are a key element in the main character's struggles and show her inner ambition in the novel, as is the case with the quote below,

“Ini masalah sikap, Dirga. BK yang nyeleksi. Kalau impian gue hancur cuma karena ini, percuma gue pupuk nilai dari kelas X”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 62)

(This is a problem of attitude, Dirga. BK made the selection. If my dreams are shattered just because of this, it's useless for me to get grades from class X). (Lahmusi, 2019: 62)

The protagonist understands the importance of attitude, not just academic achievement, in determining success in achieving dreams. This awareness shows that the character has a deep understanding of the standards that must be met, both in terms of academics and behavior.

The statement *This is a matter of attitude* shows that the character really cares about how she is perceived by other parties, especially by BK. This reflects an awareness of the importance of personal reputation and how attitude can influence opportunities to achieve dreams.

By saying that all her academic efforts since class X will be useless if her attitude is not up to standard, the character shows awareness of the importance of consistency between academic achievement and behavior. This shows that she understands that success does not only come from effort in one area, but also from a balance between academic values and attitude.

In addition, the drive to move forward is driven by personal beliefs and decisions taken based on internal values, not because of external coercion, which is one of the characteristics of internal factors, also found in the quote below,

“Raya kecewa. Mungkin bagi orang lain yang kaya dan punya akses untuk masuk universitas mana saja, masalah terlambat itu sepele. Tidak berpengaruh apa-apa bagi hidup dan cita-citanya. Namun, tidak buatnya. Raya paling tersinggung saat semua hal yang berkaitan dengan mimpinya disepelekan”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 62)

(Raya is disappointed. Maybe for other people who are rich and have access to any university, the problem of being late is trivial. It has no effect on his life and dreams. However, she didn't do it. Raya is most offended when everything related to her dreams is trivialized).
(Lahmusi, 2019: 62)

The quote above shows how the protagonist has a high sensitivity to injustice, especially regarding gaps in educational access. For a rich person, problems such as lateness may not have an impact, but for her, it has a big impact. This reflects a strong sense of justice and sensitivity to differences in opportunities based on social status.

Feeling offended when her dreams are trivialized shows that she has a very strong motivation to achieve her goals. She doesn't want obstacles or challenges to be ignored, because every aspect of the journey towards her dreams is considered important. This motivation is internal and driven by the awareness that success depends on every decision and action.

The internal factors in this quote reflect sensitivity to justice, high commitment to dreams, strong motivation, awareness of differences in opportunities, and high personal responsibility. The character really appreciates dreams and feels that every challenge must be faced seriously, and should not be taken lightly.

The above quote provides a clear picture of how internal motivation plays a role in the protagonist's struggle. The decision to move forward based on personal beliefs and internal values or without external coercion or pressure shows a strong internal drive. The protagonist shows determination and courage driven by a deep understanding of themselves and what they believe is right, which is a characteristic of internal factors in struggle. Thus, this quote provides evidence to support that internal motivation is a key element in the journey and struggle of the main character in the novel.

4.2 The External Factors of the Protagonist's Life Struggle

External factors are another important aspect for the protagonist in the novel *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi. External factors in the novel *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi refer to external influences that affect the protagonist's actions and decisions. These factors can be social pressure, expectations from people around them, or external situations and conditions that force the protagonist to act in a certain way. In this novel, the protagonist is faced with various external challenges that affect her life journey. For example, she may have to face pressure from family, friends, or society to meet certain expectations that conflict with her own desires. In addition, conditions or events that occur beyond her control can also force her to adjust or make difficult decisions.

a. Economic Factor

These external factors, as well as internal factors, play an important role in shaping the character of the protagonist and the direction of the story, creating complex and interesting dynamics in the development of the novel's plot as seen in the quote below,

“Setelah nekat mendaftar di *lowker@karierguru* yang memamerkan lowongan kerja dengan gaji termahal sebagai guru privat, dia tidak berani berharap lebih. Syarat iklan itu jelas. Selain CV, Raya harus menyertakan scan transkrip nilai. Mana dia punya? Lulus SMA saja belum. Namun, dengan keras kepala gadis itu tetap saja mencoba peruntungan”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 11)

*(After being determined to register at *lowker@karierguru* which showcased job vacancies with the highest salaries as private teachers, she didn't dare hope for more. The advertising terms are clear. Apart from the CV, Raya must include a scanned transcript of grades. Where does she have it? Haven't even graduated from high school yet. However, stubbornly the girl continued to try her luck). (Lahmusi, 2019: 11)*

Based on the quote above, the job advertisement displays the highest salary for a private tutor position, which shows that this position is very competitive. This external situation puts pressure on protagonist, because she has to compete with other applicants who may have higher or more complete qualifications. The high expectations from this vacancy show that job market conditions require qualifications that are difficult to reach for someone who has not graduated from high school.

Despite many external challenges such as job requirements and a tight job market, the characters still show the courage to try. These external factors create an unfavorable situation, but the character's determination to apply for the job even though she knows the requirements are difficult to fulfill reflects her enthusiasm to fight external obstacles.

This analysis shows how external factors can force the protagonist to make decisions that may conflict with his personal desires, giving rise to deep internal conflict. This also illustrates how pressure from the external environment can influence a person's life choices as shown in the following quote,

“Apa imbalan yang saya dapat kalau saya berhasil, Om?” (Lahmusi, 2019: 79)

(What reward will I get if I succeed, Uncle?) (Lahmusi, 2019: 79)

This question shows that the character expects external rewards for the efforts or success she will achieve. These rewards can be in the form of material, recognition, or other forms of appreciation from a more powerful party (in this case "Om"). This reflects motivation influenced by external factors, where the character wants concrete results from the efforts made.

The character emphasizes the importance of knowing what she will get if he succeeds. This reflects expectations of reward for effort, indicating that characters are motivated not only by internal factors such as self-satisfaction or personal achievement, but also by clear external rewards. This shows how external drives, such as the desire for recognition and success, can greatly influence one's life choices as seen in the case below,

“Dirinya sudah seperti pengganti Bapak. Merawat Ibu yang lelah bekerja sif menjadi cleaning service di rumah sakit, dan ikutan mencari nafkah untuk hidup mereka”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 79)

(She is like her father's replacement. Caring for mothers who are tired of working shifts as a cleaning service at the hospital, and helping them earn a living) (Lahmusi, 2019: 79)

This quotation shows that the character must take over the role usually carried out by the father, who may be the head of the family or the main provider. This indicates that external conditions, namely the absence or role of the Father, force the character to fill the void and take on additional responsibilities within the family.

By caring for her mother and helping her earn a living, the character tries to maintain the family's welfare and stability amidst challenging conditions. The external factors that influence the family's well-being, such as the mother's tiring job and financial needs, show the external pressures that the character and her family must face.

The quotation shows that the character's family faces economic challenges, which require extra efforts from all its members to earn a living. External factors in the form of economic pressure force the characters to be directly involved in earning a living, apart from caring for family members, in order to meet their daily living needs.

Moreover, the following quote shows how the protagonist's struggles in life are influenced by internal factors as seen below,

“Raya ingin menangis rasanya melihat ibu yang sangat disayanginya mendapat perhatian Dirga. Dia lalu memeluk ibunya, meminta maaf karena belum sanggup memberikan apa-apa, malah keduluan orang lain. Dia merasa menjadi anak gagal” (Lahmusi, 2019: 132)

(Raya wanted to cry when she saw the mother she loved so much receiving Dirga's attention. She then hugged her mother, apologizing because she had not been able to give her anything, instead someone else had done it first. She felt like a failure) (Lahmusi, 2019: 132)

From the quotation above, it can be seen how the protagonist feels marginalized and becomes a failure because she compares her abilities with other people (Dirga). External factors in the form of Dirga's actions or attention cause feelings of inadequacy

in her. This indicates that the protagonist compares her own achievements with what other people do or provide.

The protagonist's guilt about not having been able to provide anything and feeling like *other people are ahead* may reflect economic challenges or difficulty in providing desired support. External factors in the form of limited resources or opportunities make the character feel unable to fulfill her mother's hopes or needs.

There are expectations in the family regarding the role and responsibility of children to provide support and attention to parents. The character's inability to meet these expectations, coupled with the attention given her by others, adds to the stress and sense of failure she feels.

b. Social Pressure Factor

Other external factors that influence the protagonist's feelings show in the quote below,

“Raya berpikir keras. Dia menimbang-nimbang untung dan ruginya. Namun, karena dia yakin bisa menang, akhirnya mengangguk tanpa ragu”. (Lahmusi, 2019: 137)

(Raya thought hard. She weighed the pros and cons. However, because she was confident that she could win, she finally nodded without hesitation). (Lahmusi, 2019: 137)

When the protagonist thinks hard about her gains and losses, this shows that she is in a competitive or challenging situation. External factors such as competition or challenging conditions may influence her decisions, and she must consider what her chances of success are in meeting those challenges.

Even considering various factors, the character's decision to nod without hesitation shows confidence in her ability to win. External factors that support this belief may be influenced by information or feedback she receives from the surrounding environment, such as advice from other people, relevant data, or situational conditions that support her belief. These external factors help shape the protagonist's final decision. Moreover, the quotation below emphasizes how external factors are one of the factors experienced by the protagonist in her life's struggle,

“Sial! Kenapa karena Dirga dia bisa secengeng ini? Oh, mungkin karena dia takut dipecat Om Guna, takut tidak digaji, takut tidak bisa membantu Ibu, takut impiannya terhenti...” (Lahmusi, 2019: 166)

(Unlucky! Why is it because of Dirga that she can be this whiny? Oh, maybe because she's afraid of being fired by Uncle Guna, afraid of not getting paid, afraid of not being able to help Mother, afraid that her dream will stop...) (Lahmusi, 2019: 166)

The protagonist's fear of being fired by Om Guna reflects her dependence on external authority. Om Guna has significant authority in decisions regarding her work and income, so dependence on this authority's decisions influences the protagonist's feelings and attitudes.

The character's concern about not being paid shows that there are external factors in the form of financial uncertainty that influence her decisions. Financial well-

being, including salary payments, is an external factor that has a major impact on a person's sense of security and stability in life.

The fear of not being able to help Mother shows the external responsibility felt by the protagonist. Well-being and the ability to provide support to family members are external factors that influence the feelings and stress they experience.

Fear of having your dreams stopped reflects external factors related to personal opportunities and aspirations. Threats to the achievement of dreams, which may be influenced by factors such as work, superior decisions, or financial circumstances, influence the protagonist's feelings and motivations.

The uncertainty and sense of helplessness that the protagonist feels, as shown by the reaction "this crybaby," is influenced by social interactions with Dirga and external situations related to professional and personal relationships. The influence of other people and the social situation around her has an impact on her emotions.

Thus, it is clear that the protagonist in the novel *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi experiences a profound struggle, influenced by two main factors: internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include inner conflict and personal drives that push the protagonist to make decisions that often go against her desires. Meanwhile, external factors involve external influences, such as the expectations of others, social pressures, or incentives that motivate the protagonist to take certain steps in her life. The combination of these two factors creates a complex dynamic in the character's journey, highlighting how both internal drives and external influences can shape and influence the protagonist's decisions and life direction.

5. Conclusion

The analysis of the protagonist in *A Sky Full of Stars* by Nara Lahmusi reveals that internal factors serve as the primary driving force behind her life struggles and decisions. These factors—comprising perfectionism, self-prioritization, and inner ambition—illustrate a deeply rooted intrinsic motivation that guides her actions throughout the narrative. The protagonist's unwavering commitment to her dreams, often at the expense of social interactions or immediate comfort, highlights a profound personal discipline and goal-oriented mindset. Her self-imposed academic standards, resilience in the face of adversity, and sensitivity to social inequities underscore a character shaped more by internal convictions than by external validations. Furthermore, the protagonist's conscious choice to prioritize educational and professional aspirations over romantic or leisure pursuits reflects a mature understanding of long-term success, driven by inner ambition rather than circumstantial pressures. Her experiences suggest that intrinsic motivation, when coupled with emotional intelligence and a strong ethical compass, can empower individuals to overcome structural disadvantages and social obstacles. Thus, the novel presents a compelling portrait of how internal psychological constructs—particularly self-discipline, aspiration, and personal responsibility—can define and sustain one's struggle toward self-actualization.

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