CHAPTER IV
MAIN CHARACTERS’ CONFLICTS

4.1 The Main Characters

The story is talking about people and what they do and also usually focus on a few characters that are at issue in a story (Card, 1988:14). The characters are characters in a story, the author wishes he had acted according to the story (Keraf, 2007:164). This is what makes a very important character in a fiction, novels, romances, short stories or drama. Cause characters can build the course of a story (Mayer, 1990:61). To create a satisfying story that should display one or several characters whose have personalities are intelligent, wise, full of motivational and full of inspiration. And also some characters who are poor as opposed to the main character. The process of showing and describing the characters is called characterization (Keraf, 2007:164). How they act, behave and act in the most good and positive an important lesson for a reader or the audience in a drama.

Tuloli (2000:29) Stated character in a fictional story in general is the human family, but may also animals or objects are humanized. Animals or objects that like behave, think and speak as a symbol of man. In the role, a character in a story consists of two types, namely the main characters and supporting character. The main character is a character that has an important role in a story. Characteristic main character is shown continuously in the story, the time used to tell the character's older, character that become the
foundation of enactment of the events even though he did not attend the event and most widely associated with another character in a story. While the subordinate character is character which opponents of the main character (Tuloli, 2000:32)

As for the main character in the play *The Importance of Being Earnes*, written by Oscar Wilde is John Worthing (Jack Cardew) and his friend Algernon Moncrieff named (Algy). They both are at the center in a cheerful conversation. While Gwendolen Fairfax, Lady Bracknell, Cecily Cardew, Miss Prism, Canon Chasuble, Merriman and Lane Butler Manservant are as subordinate character that support the story.

4.1.1 John Worthing (Jack Cardew)

As the main character, Jack, in the play “*The Importance of Being Earnest*” as a figure who is not married and his age is twenty nine years old. He lives at Manor House in the country, and sometimes in the town. He desires to come to town just looking for pleasure, as Algy said. However, his main aim coming to town just to meet Gwendolen as he wants to express his love to her. Therefore, he has two different names. He uses the name of Ernest in the town and Jack in the country. He likes to introduce himself as Ernest to everyone especially to a girl he loves. And every woman really wants to marry a man named Ernest. This is what made him change his name to Ernest. Wilde also created Jack as an orphan person. This was revealed when he wanted to apply for Gwendolen as the person she loves, but Lady Bracnell as her mother did not agree if his daughter married to someone who
is less obvious who he was. He tells everything truly about himself to Lady Backnell, because Lady Bracknell asks him. He explains that He does not know his personal history, when Lady Bracknell asks him about his parents. He is confused how to explain to her. Then, he frankly speaks that he lost both his parents. Astoundingly, Lady Bracknell is shocked to hear what Jack says. Losing one parent, Lady Backnell said, is a misfortune, but losing both parents is a careless. (Wilde, 2006: 21)

Then, Jack tries to explain that he has been taking care by Mr. Thomas Cardew since he was a child. He said that Mr. Thomas Cardew found him in a handbag in Victoria Station. Mr. Thomas Cardew gave Jack the name of Worthing because he turns out to have a first-class ticket for Worthing in his pocket at that time.

**Jack.** I am afraid I really don’t know. The fact is, Lady Bracknell, I said I had lost my parents. It would be nearer the truth to say that my parents seem to have lost me... I don’t actually know who I am by birth. I was... well, I was found.

**Lady Bracnell.** Found!

**Jack.** The late Mr. Thomas Cardew, an old gentleman of a very charitable and kindly disposition, found me, and gave me the name of Worthing, because he happened to have a first-class ticket for Worthing in his pocket at the time. Worthing is a place in Sussex. It is a seaside resort. (Wilde, 2006: 21)

Jack is a perfect flatterer. He tries to attract Gwendolen and express his love. In a different room at Algernon’s place, he has a good chance to express his love.

**Jack.** [Nervously.] Miss Fairfax, ever since I met you I have admired you more than any girl... I have ever met since... I met you. (Wilde, 2006: 16)
Jack. My own one, I have never loved anyone in the world but you. (Wilde, 2006: 18)

Gladly Gwendolen replies Jack’s love. She says that she loves him too. She said that his name of Ernest makes her desire to love Jack. According to her, the name is very inspired as it is able to produce a vibration like music.

As Jack has two different names, he, occasionally, lies by introducing himself as Ernest. He says to Algernon Jack is a liar. He always introduces himself as Ernest. He says to Algernon that his name is Jack in the country and Ernest in town. Even, Cecily, his niece, believes him that he has a brother named Ernest in town.

Jack. Well, my name is Ernest in town and Jack in the country, and the cigarette case was given to me in the country. (Wilde, 2006: 9)

Jack confesses to Gwendolen that he likes her, and she admits that she likes him too, especially since she has always wanted to love someone named Ernest. Jack asks if she would still love him if his name were not Ernest, for instance Jack. She said she would not. She said that the name Ernest is suitable with him. He proposes to her, and she accepts.

However, eventually Gwendolen knows that Jack has been lying to her. And Jack cannot deny it, because he also does not know his real name since he knows that he was a baby found in a hand-bag by Mr. Thomas Cardew in a cloakroom at Victoria station.

Jack. [Very seriously.] Yes, Lady Bracknell. I was in a hand-bag - a somewhat large, black leather…
**Lady Bracknell.** In what locality did this Mr. James, or Thomas, Cardew come across this ordinary hand-bag?

**Jack.** In the cloak-room at Victoria Station. It was given to him in mistake for his own. (Wilde, 2006: 22)

He seems to try hard all this time to know his real parents. Finally, Miss Prism is the key of his problem. Because of her, he knows that actually Algernon is his elder brother through Lady Bracknell’s explanation. Then, he immediately seeks out through the military periodicals of the time, and reveals that his father’s name was Ernest. He learns that his name Ernest John Moncrieff as first sons is always named of the father. Delightfully, Jack tells Lady Bracknell that he has realized, for the first time in his life, "the vital Importance of Being Earnest."

**Jack.** The Army Lists of the last forty years are here. These delightful records should have been my constant study. [Rushes to bookcase and tears the books out.] M. Generals... Mallam, Maxbohm, Magley, what ghastly names they have - Markby, Migsby, Mobbs, Moncrieff! Lieutenant 1840, Captain, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, General 1869, Christian names, Ernest John. [Puts book very quietly down and speaks quite calmly.] I always told you, Gwendolen, my name was Ernest, didn’t I? Well, it is Ernest after all. I mean it naturally is Ernest. (Wilde, 2006: 77-78)

Because Jack has many sides in his personality, he can be categorized as a round character.

### 4.1.2 Algernon Moncrieff (Algy)

Algernon is bachelor with high fortune and a superior class. He lives in a flat in a prominent part of London. He is Lady Bracknell’s nephew, and
Jack is his closest friend in town. He is not a great in playing piano, but he can play it with wonderful expression.

**Algernon.** I’m sorry for that, for your sake. I don’t play accurately - anyone can play accurately - but I play with wonderful expression. As far as the piano is concerned, sentiment is my forte. I keep science for Life. (Wilde, 2006: 4)

Algernon is a great pretender. He creates someone else as Jack does. He makes an invalid friend named Bunbury. He uses the name as a reason to avoid Lady Bracknell’s dinner invitation. He said that Bunbury gets sick, so he has to visit him. And he also takes advantage of the name Bunbury in order he can set off into country as often as he likes.

**Algernon** … I have invented an invaluable permanent invalid called Bunbury, in order that I may be able to go down into the country whenever I choose… (Wilde, 2006: 11)

**Algernon.** It is a great bore, and, I need hardly say, a terrible disappointment to me, but the fact is I have just had a telegram to say that my poor friend Bunbury is very ill again. [Exchanges glances with Jack.] They seem to think I should be with him. (Wilde, 2006: 15)

He is not a serious person to the problem he faces. For example, when Jack finds that Algernon is bunburying in his house, Manor House, using the name of Ernest, though he has told to everyone in Manor House that his brother, Ernest, was die in Paris suffered from chili. Innocently Algernon can make the situation become cheerful such someone who lost his brother and suddenly found his brother. He is a romantic man. As Ernest, he really does, especially in front of Cecily.

**Cecily.** You dear romantic boy. (kisses her, she puts her fingers through his hair)… (Wilde, 2006: 48)
He is a smart person. He is able to make Jack confess that he has been “bunburying” all the time, and he successes to get Cecily’s love through many struggles and obstacles. He pretends as Ernest at Manor House in order Cecily will impress him and accepts his love. However, once Cecily uncovers his undercover, and it causes a big anger of her. Then Algernon tries to clear up the problem by explaining that he did everything for her and would sacrifice anything for her. It seems a satisfied explanation and acceptable towards Cecily.

**Algernon.** Well, I simply wanted to be engaged to Cecily. I adore her. (Wilde, 2006: 60)

Algernon can be categorized as round character, as he has two different names with different character. Besides, he also acts as Ernest to get Cecily’s love, and finally Cecily makes him to be Algernon again. Therefore, Algernon has no choice, and cannot deny it.

### 4.2 The Conflicts of the Main Characters

According to Barbu in Rahman (2004:13) a conflict is a functional requisite of society, it’s stressed that conflict is defined models of relationship between individuals or groups and such as stimulate intra societal contacts and communication. It means that the conflicts are inherent in human relation and it is always ubiquitous in the practice. The definition of conflict can be extended from individuals to groups such as states or nations, and more than two parties can be involved in the conflict.
Conflicts may be considered as an element that can make a story more attractive to be read. Conflicts in a story or literary work could happen to main character/protagonist toward antagonist. Conflicts may be divided into two, namely internal conflict and external conflict.

4.2.1 The Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is a conflict that exists inside a character’s mind. In other word, conflict is a fight against himself (Nurgiyantoro, 1995:124). Wilde's story is built through the conflicts faced by the characters which they use duplicate names.

4.2.1.1 Internal Conflict of Jack

It is beginning when Jack uses Ernest name, while Algy using the pseudonym Bunbury. Jack spread the story in his village that he has a brother named Ernest, and is currently living in Albany. This is the beginning of the onward conflict affect the storyline. Since Jack want to apply for Gwendolen is pleased with a man named Ernest. However, he worried that someday the woman he loves Gwendolen knew that actually he is not named Ernest, but Jack. Gwendolen would love him if it happened that, on the other hand he continued to feel afraid because he had been lying to Cecily by saying that he has a brother named Ernest who lives in the city. And also other problems he himself did not know who he really was and where the family actually. He too did not know where they are. According to the story of Mr. Cardew, that he only found in the hand-bag in the waiting room at the Victorian railways. Jack was an orphan. And finally he met with Miss Prism, Cecily’s Teacher.
Who often come to his house in the country as the responses of the problem with all the concerns and fears.

Its mean Wilde as the writer of Drama make Jack conflicts with himself as well when he insists Gwendolen to marry him because he is afraid if Gwendolen knew his name was not Ernest she would love him anymore. His worry shows his internal conflict that may be one day his ambiguous personality will be revealed.

**Jack.** Well, really, Gwendolen, I must say that I think there are lots of other much nicer names. I think Jack, for instance, a charming name.

**Gwendolen.** Jack?... No, there is very little music in the name Jack, if any at all, indeed. It does not thrill. It produces absolutely no vibrations... I have known several Jacks, and they all, without exception, were more than usually plain. Besides, Jack is a notorious domesticity for John! And I pity any woman who is married to a man called John. She would probably never be allowed to know the enthrancing pleasure of a single moment’s solitude. The only really safe name is Ernest.

**Jack.** Gwendolen, I must get christened at once - I mean we must get married at once. There is no time to be lost. (Wilde, 2006: 17)

Jack’s confession that he has no brother shows that he getting afraid if keep lying Gwendolen will not love him anymore. But, however, his confession still makes Gwendolen angry with him.

**Jack.** [Slowly and hesitatingly.] Gwendolen - Cecily - it is very painful for me to be forced to speak the truth. It is the first time in my life that I have ever been reduced to such a painful position, and I am really quite inexperienced in doing anything of the kind. However, I will tell you quite frankly that I have no brother Ernest. I have no brother at all. I never had a brother in my life, and I certainly have not the smallest intention of ever having one in the future. (Wilde, 2006: 58)

**Gwendolen.** I am afraid it is quite clear, Cecily, that neither of us is engaged to be married to anyone. (Wilde, 2006: 58)
And also this conflict does not involve anyone else, this conflict was marked by turmoil that arises within oneself about such things as values. Strength of character will be seen in his attempt to face turmoil and also usually has something to do with a choice like choosing between right and wrong or it may have to do with overcoming emotions or mixed feelings.

The internal conflict happens to Jack when Jack is curious about his real names. He tries to find it in Army List of the last forty years. And finally he finds his real name that is Ernest.

**Jack.** .........The Army Lists of the last 40 years are here. These delightful records should have been my constant study. M. Generals...Mallam, Maxbohm, Magley, what ghastly names they have – Markby, Magsby, Mobbs, Moncrieff! Lieutenant 1840, Captain, Lieutenant – Colonel, Colonel, General 1869. Christian names, Ernest John. I always told you, Gwendolen, my name was Ernest, didn’t I? Well, it is Ernest after all. I mean it naturally is Ernest. (Wilde, 2006: 77-78)

### 4.2.1.2 Internal Conflict of Algy

While internal conflict which is experienced by Algernon begins when he knows for the first time about “Ernest” from Cecily, namely he is surprised when he knows that he has been engaging with Cecily for three months. (Wilde, 2006: 46-47). He is also surprised when he knows that “Ernest” has ever written some letters to Cecily.

**Cecily.** Yes, you’ve wonderfully good taste, Ernest. It’s the excuse I’ve always given for your leading such a bad life. And this is the box in which I keep all your dear letters. [Kneels at table, opens box, and produces letters tied up with blue ribbon.]

**Algernon.** My letters! But, my own sweet Cecily, I have never written you any letters. (Wilde, 2006: 47)
Those Cecily’s confessions make Algernon very glad to be Ernest, as unexpectedly “Ernest” is very close to Cecily and he is everything for Cecily. It is a very fortune for him. He, at last, really falls in love with Cecily.

Algernon is getting worried because Cecily likes the name of Ernest. Cecily says she would not love him if his name were not Ernest.

**Algernon.** But, my dear child, do you mean to say you could not love me if I had some other name? (Wilde, 1959: 45)

**Cecily.** But I don’t like the name of Algernon.

**Algernon.** Well, my own dear, sweet, loving little darling, I really can’t see why you should object to the name of Algernon. It is not at all a bad name. In fact, it is rather an aristocratic name. Half of the chaps who get into the Bankruptcy Court are called Algernon. But seriously, Cecily... [Moving to her]... if my name was Algy, couldn’t you love me?

**Cecily.** [Rising.] I might respect you, Ernest, I might admire your character, but I fear that I should not be able to give you my undivided attention. (Wilde, 2006: 48-49)

Algernon has to confess, at last, that his friend Bunbury has died because he only wants to be an “Algernon” who loves Cecily, and may be according to him the Bunbury will bother his love to Cecily someday.

### 4.2.2 The External Conflict

External Conflict is conflict between individual and other that is Interpersonal conflict. And also conflict between individual and group. Interpersonal conflict is a conflict between a person with another person because of conflict of interest or desire. This often happens between two people of different status, occupation, occupations, and others. Interpersonal
conflict is a very important role in the dynamics of organizational behavior. Conflicts between individuals and groups, this often relates to how individuals face pressures to achieve conformity, which emphasized to them by their work groups. For example it can be said that one individual can be punished by a working group because he cannot achieve the productivity norms of the group in which he resides (Stoner in iyandri, 2010)

In the play the external conflicts experienced by Jack and Algernon, Gwendolen, Lady Bracnell, Cecily, and conflict between Miss Prism is the answers to all program. Occur in many occasions and with others character.

4.2.2.1 Conflict between Jack and Algernon (Algy)

Jack and Algenon are two friends who always play together. In spare time Jack spend his time by visiting to Algy’s home in the town. Algy has a beautiful cousin, her name is Gwendolen. And Jack in love to her then he say that he wants to engage Gwendolen. The conflicts begin when Jack wants to propose Gwendolen, but Algernon do not give his consent to him because he suspects that Jack has another girl named Cecily.

**Algernon.** It isn’t. It is a great truth. It accounts for the extraordinary number of bachelors that one sees all over the place. In the second place, I don’t give my consent.

**Jack.** Your Consent?

**Algernon.** My dear fellow, Gwendolen is my first cousin. And before I allow you to marry her, you will have to clear up the whole question of Cecily. (Wilde, 2006: 7)

Jack is very angry when he reveals that Algernon is at the Manor House. Jack knows what Algernon’s aim to meet Cecily, that is why he wants
Algernon to leave the Manor House. He does not want Algernon to bunbury in Manor House by using the name of Ernest to flirt Cecily, because Cecily is too young for Algernon.

Algernon. I would rather like to see Cecily.

Jack. I will take very good care you never do. She is excessively pretty, and she is only just eighteen.

Algernon. Have you told Gwendolen yet that you have an excessively pretty ward who is only just eighteen? (Wilde, 2006: 25)

Jack blames Algernon because his secret of being Ernest is finally revealed. According to him, it due to his “bunburying” at Manor House. Therefore, as Cecily’s guardian he does not agree if Algernon engages Cecily, because it is very impolite.

Jack. This ghastly state of things is what you call Bunburying, I suppose? (Wilde, 2006: 59)

Jack. As for your conduct towards Miss Cardew, I must say that your taking in a sweet, simple, innocent girl like that is quite inexcusable. To say nothing of the fact that she is my ward. (Wilde, 2006: 59)

Algernon reciprocates Jack by saying the same thing that he will not let Jack marries with Gwendolen, as she is his cousin.

Algernon. I don’t think there is much likelihood, Jack, of you and Miss Fairfax being united. (Wilde, 2006: 60)

Algernon. I can see no possible defence at all for your deceiving a brilliant, clever, thoroughly experienced young lady like Miss Fairfax. To say nothing of the fact that she is my cousin. (Wilde, 2006: 59)
Again, Jack resists Algernon’s will to marry Cecily, although Lady
Bracknell gives her consent to both Algernon and Cecily. Finally he gives
and offering to Lady Bracknell that he would give his consent to Algernon to
marry Cecily if only she gives her consent to him to marry Cecily.

**Lady Bracknell.** [To Cecily.] Come here, sweet child. [Cecily
goes over.] How old are you, dear?

**Cecily.** Well, I am really only eighteen, but I always admit to
twenty when I go to evening parties.

**Lady Bracknell.** You are perfectly right in making some slight
alteration. Indeed, no woman should ever be quite accurate about
her age. It looks so calculating... [In a meditative manner.] Eighteen, but admitting to twenty at evening parties. Well, it will
not be very long before you are of age and free from the restraints
of tutelage. So I don’t think your guardian’s consent is, after all, a
matter of any importance. (Wilde, 1959: 70)

**Jack.** But my dear Lady Bracknell, the matter is entirely in your
own hands. The moment you consent to my marriage with
Gwendolen, I will most gladly allow your nephew to form an
alliance with my ward. (Wilde, 2006: 71)

4.2.2.2 Conflict between Jack and Lady Bracnell

When Lady Bracknell knows that her daughter, Gwendolen, has just
been engaged by Jack. As a mother of Gwendolen she did not give its
approval to Jack to marry his daughter.

**Lady Bracknell.** Pardon me, you are not engaged to anyone. When
you do become engaged to someone, I, or your father, should his
health permit him, will inform you of the fact. ... (Wilde, 2006: 19)

Jack has to face Lady Bracknell’s questions first before he engages
Gwendolen. After several questions from Lady Bracknell are answered by
Jack, he still does not get Lady Bracknell’s consent to marry Gwendolen.
Lady Bracknell is very astonished when she knows that Jack is an Orphan and has an unclear origin.

**Lady Bracknell.** Me, sir! What has it to do with me? You can hardly imagine that I and Lord Bracknell would dream of allowing our only daughter - a girl brought up with the utmost care - to marry into a cloak-room, and form an alliance with a parcel? Good morning, Mr. Worthing! (Wilde, 2006: 23)

### 4.2.2.3 Conflict between Jack and Cecily

Actually, the conflicts between Jack and Cecily already long. Where, he also loves the child of Mr. Cardew who found him at the Station. Mr. Cardew asks Jack to keep Cecily who were aged eighteen years old. And Jack has been considered as a niece who also loves because her face is beautiful. To express his love Jack use the duplicate name is Ernest. He said to Cecily that Ernest is his brother who was in Albany. Cecily also love for a man named Ernest. So every time he would go to town she often got a letter from Cecily. And Jack as Ernest, through a letter applying for Cecily.

At first, this took place with controlled Victimization and so beautiful. But everything is finally falling apart when Jack's friend that is Algernon visit to Cecily's house. He wants to see the beautiful women according by Jack explanation that is Jack niece. The plans Unbeknownst by Jack, Algy has come to his house in the country and meet Cecily. Because Algy use name Ernest to propose Cecily, its make Cecily knows that he is Jack brother. The conflict comes when Jack arrives to his house and found Algy have talk with Cecily in the Garden at manor house. Jack said that Ernest was died, but Algy has introduces his self as Ernest.
When Cecily reveals that Jack does not have any brother and is surprised that her “Ernest” is actually Algernon, she immediately goes mad. And it happens to Gwendolen as well, she finally reveals that Jack has been lying to her. She is disappointed as soon as she knows that her “Ernest” is Jack.

**Jack.** [Slowly and hesitatingly] Gwendolen - Cecily - it is very painful for me to be forced to speak the truth. It is the first time in my life that I have ever been reduced to such a painful position, and I am really quite inexperienced in doing anything of the kind. However, I will tell you quite frankly that I have no brother Ernest. I have no brother at all. I never had a brother in my life, and I certainly have not the smallest intention of ever having one in the future. (Wilde, 2006: 58)

**Gwendolen.** I am afraid it is quite clear, Cecily, that neither of us is engaged to be married to anyone. (Wilde, 2006: 58)

### 4.2.2.4 Conflict between Jack and Miss Prism

A conflict between Jack and Miss Prism also takes place when Jack insists Miss Prism to say the truth, who his parents is. After showing a handbag, Miss Prism admits that it is hers, where she put the baby and left it in the cloakroom of Victoria Station. He thinks that Miss Prism is his mother, but actually she does not, because she has never married yet before, even at her age now. He finally reveals his parents through the explanation of Lady Bracknell.

**Jack.** Miss Prism, this is a matter of no small importance to me. I insist on knowing where you deposited the hand-bag that contained that infant. (Wilde, 2006: 74)

**Miss Prism.** I left it in the cloak-room of one of the larger railway stations in London. (Wilde, 2006: 74)

Miss Prism. [Quite crushed.] Victoria. The Brighton line. [Sinks into a chair.] (Wilde, 2006: 74)

Miss Prism. [Calmly.] It seems to be mine. Yes, here is the injury it received through the upsetting of a Gower Street omnibus in younger and happier days. Here is the stain on the lining caused by the explosion of a temperance beverage, an incident that occurred at Leamington. And here, on the lock, are my initials. I had forgotten that in an extravagant mood I had had them placed there. The bag is undoubtedly mine. I am delighted to have it so unexpectedly restored to me. It has been a great inconvenience being without it all these years. (Wilde, 2006: 75)

Jack. [In a pathetic voice.] Miss Prism, more is restored to you than this hand-bag. I was the baby you placed in it. (Wilde, 2006: 75)

Miss Prism. [Recoiling in indignant astonishment.] Mr. Worthing! I am unmarried (Wilde, 2006: 76)

The writer concludes that both internal and external conflicts of the main characters start when they are using different name in different place. Firstly, they are comfortable with the situation the do. However, eventually, their duality causes them to choose one of two different names. In the end, Algernon has “to kill” and chooses to become himself, Algernon, because he has no choice since Cecily knows that he was not Ernest. And Jack chooses to become Ernest, although he has intended to Ernest disappear, but he finally finds that he is the real Ernest.

4.3 The Plot of Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest

According to Forster in Tuloli (2000:19) in a fictional series of events arranged in order of time and based on the law of cause and effect is called
the plot. Through a sequence of events in the plot as the reader can already know what will happen next, but it also we can find out why it happened and how the end of a story (Waluyo in Tuloli 2000:19) The composition of plots in each story is not always same but also has more differences. In general arrangement has three part of the plot, the first event or the beginning of the story, consisting of eksposition and Rising action. The second event are consists of complication and climaks. While the third events are include the Falling action and Denoument (Tuloli, 2000:20)

4.3.1 Exposition

Introduction of the scene, time, topic and also the characters in a story called exposition. The exposition of the play is some obstacles faced by Jack and Algernon. Jack faces many obstacles to his romantic union with Gwendolen. One obstacle is presented by Lady Bracknell, who objects to what she refers to as Jack’s origin family.

Lady Bracknell. To lose one parent, Mr. Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness. Who was your father? He was evidently a man of some wealth. Was he born in what the Radical papers call the purple of commerce, or did he rise from the ranks of the aristocracy? (Wilde, 2006: 21)

Another obstacle is Gwendolen’s obsession with the name “Ernest,” since she does not know Jack’s real name. Jack afraid Gwendolen will not love him again if his name is not Ernest.

Jack. But you don’t really mean to say that you couldn’t love me if my name wasn’t Ernest?

Gwendolen. But your name is Ernest.
Jack. Yes, I know it is. But supposing it was something else? Do you mean to say you couldn’t love me then? (Wilde, 2006: 17)

Although Jack does not care either his name Ernest or not, but Gwendolen loves very much the name of Ernest as the name is suitable for Jack and, according to her, it can create “a vibration” like music.

Gwendolen. It suits you perfectly. It is a divine name. It has a music of its own. It produces vibrations.

Gwendolen. Jack?... No, there is very little music in the name Jack, if any at all, indeed. It does not thrill. It produces absolutely no vibrations... I have known several Jacks, and they all, without exception, were more than usually plain. Besides, Jack is a notorious domesticity for John! And I pity any woman who is married to a man called John. She would probably never be allowed to know the entrancing pleasure of a single moment’s solitude. The only really safe name is Ernest. (Wilde, 2006: 17)

Other obstacle faced by Algernon also comes from Jack. When, Algernon wants Jack to explain clearly about a name of Cecily. Algernon will not allow Jack to marry Gwendolen before he explains about the matter.

Algernon. My dear fellow, Gwendolen is my first cousin. And before I allow you to marry her, you will have to clear up the whole question of Cecily. [Rings bell.]

Jack. Cecily! What on earth do you mean? What do you mean, Algry, by Cecily! I don’t know any one of the name of Cecily. (Wilde, 2006: 7)

Meanwhile, the obstacle faced by Algernon is Jack does not allow him to know his address in the country. Because Jack suspects him Algernon will meet her, and maybe will fall in love with her.

Algernon. Where is that place in the country, by the way? 
Jack. That is nothing to you, dear boy. You are not going to be invited... I may tell you candidly that the place is not in Shropshire. (Wilde, 2006: 10)
4.3.2 Rising Action

After the various kinds of events happen then it will begin to increase so that it broke into a conflict that is what is called a rising action (Tuloli, 200:20) seen in the drama of how Wilde started the conflict between the figures came from the insistence by Algernon to Jack to explain who it is Cecily. Jack initially evasive but after Algy providing packs of cigarettes owned by Jack who left home Algy, is written in it "To the Beloved uncle Jack" Jack finally said that Cecly is a very beautiful cousin. He lived in the village of the same house with him. Hearing the explanations Algernon discovers that Jack is leading a double life and that he has a pretty young ward named Cecily.

**Jack.** My dear fellow, there is nothing improbable about my explanation at all. In fact it’s perfectly ordinary. Old Mr. Thomas Cardew, who adopted me when I was a little boy, made me in his will guardian to his grand-daughter, Miss Cecily Cardew. Cecily, who addresses me as her uncle from motives of respect that you could not possibly appreciate, lives at my place in the country under the charge of her admirable governness, Miss Prism. (Wilde, 2006: 10)

Furthermore, the revelation of Jack’s origins causes Lady Bracknell to forbid his union with Gwendolen. Lady Bracknell doesn’t want her daughter, Gwendolen, marries a man who has undefined life background.

**Lady Bracknell.** Me, sir! What has it to do with me? You can hardly imagine that I and Lord Bracknell would dream of allowing our only daughter - a girl brought up with the utmost care - to marry into a cloak-room, and form an alliance with a parcel? Good morning, Mr. Worthing! (Wilde, 2006: 23)
And Algernon also asked for the address of Jack in the village to meet Cecily, because Cecily is still 18 years old, still very young and that's what makes Algy wanted to meet him, but did not receive approval from Jack.

Finally, Algy knows Jack’s address in the country. He carefully snoops and listens when Jack is speaking to Gwendolen. He writes Jack’s address in the country and immediately plans to go to the country for “bunburying”.

Gwendolen. The story of your romantic origin, as related to me by mamma, with unpleasing comments, has naturally stirred the deeper fibres of my nature. Your Christian name has an irresistible fascination. The simplicity of your character makes you exquisitely incomprehensible to me. Your town address at the Albany I have. What is your address in the country?


[Algernon, who has been carefully listening, smiles to himself, and writes the address on his shirt-cuff. Then picks up the Railway Guide.] (Wilde, 2006: 27)

After found the address of Jack that he listen from Jack and Gwendolen talking up. Algy prepare himself to go the country for meet Cecily by using Ernest name as Jack’s brother who live in the town. Algernon visits Jack’s house in the country and falls in love with Cecily.

Algernon. To-morrow, Lane, I’m going Bunburying.

Lane. Yes, sir.

Algernon. I shall probably not be back till Monday. You can put up my dress clothes, my smoking jacket, and all the Bunbury suits . . . (Wilde, 2006: 28)
4.3.3 Climax

At this section, where Wilde as the author shows his prowess in writing, although just only in the not serious story, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. After passing through some hassle on several occasions and finally the complexity of conflict is the peak achievement (Tuloli, 2000:20). The climax when Algernon comes to Jack’s house (Manor House) for meeting Cecily. He confesses to Cecily as Ernest, Jack’s brother. Then problems come as soon as Gwendolen arrives at the Manor House. Cause Gwendolen also want to visit Jack's home along with his mother Lady Bracknel. Meanwhile, Jack has also come more quickly than usual. But he was late because Algy had preceded him. Algy meet Cecily when he proposed to her immediately and accepted by a Cecily because she also had long waited for Ernest come back to home.

Both Cecily and Gwendolen argue each other that they are Ernest’s fiancée.

**Gwendolen.** I felt there was some slight error, Miss Cardew. The gentleman who is now embracing you is my cousin, Mr. Algernon Moncrieff. (Wilde, 2006: 57)

**Cecily.** [Breaking away from Algernon.] Algernon Moncrieff! Oh! [The two girls move towards each other and put their arms round each other’s waists protection.] (Wilde, 2006: 57)

**Cecily.** Are you called Algernon?

**Algernon.** I cannot deny it.

**Cecily.** Oh! (Wilde, 2006: 57)
Finally, Gwendolen and Cecily discover that both Jack and Algernon have been lying to them and that neither is really named “Ernest.” When was the lie direct Gwendolen asks Jack who he really is. Jack could not accept this. With Jack finally were forced to tell the truth to the woman he loves Gwendolen (Wilde, 2006: 57)

4.3.4 Falling Action

After rise the conflicts until to the top situation. Now come to the down conflict section by getting some answer of the whole problem of the character, the name is falling action (Tuloli,2000:20)

An incidentally meeting between Lady Bracknell with Miss Prism to ask the existence of male baby, which she took care of twenty-eight years ago, makes Miss Prism tell the whole true story of Jack’s origin.

**Lady Bracknell.** [In a severe, judicial voice.] Prism! [Miss Prism bows her head in shame.] Come here, Prism! [Miss Prism approaches in a humble manner.] Prism! Where is that baby? [General consternation. The Canon starts back in horror. Algernon and Jack pretend to be anxious to shield Cecily and Gwendolen from hearing the details of a terrible public scandal.] Twenty-eight years ago, Prism, you left Lord Bracknell's house, Number 104, Upper Grosvenor Street, in charge of a perambulator that contained a baby of the male sex. You never returned. A few weeks later, through the elaborate investigations of the Metropolitan police, the perambulator was discovered at midnight, standing by itself in a remote corner of Bayswater. It contained the manuscript of a three-volume novel of more than usually revolting sentimentality. [Miss Prism starts in involuntary indignation.] But the baby was not there! [Everyone looks at Miss Prism.] Prism! Where is that baby? (Wilde, 2006: 73-74)

Finally Jack Confess to Gwendolen and Cecily that he doesn’t have any brother named Ernest. He makes reason of being Ernest in town is in
order to be easy to meet Gwendelon as often as he wants. And Algernon’s reason being Ernest is that he just wants to meet Cecily.

Then Miss Prism tries to explain what actually had happened twenty-eight years ago, she said that the baby in a handbag had been converted with novels of her work.

**Miss Prism.** Lady Bracknell, I admit with shame that I do not know. I only wish I did. The plain facts of the case are these. On the morning of the day you mention, a day that is forever branded on my memory, I prepared as usual to take the baby out in its perambulator. I had also with me a somewhat old, but capacious hand-bag in which I had intended to place the manuscript of a work of fiction that I had written during my few unoccupied hours. In a moment of mental abstraction, for which I never can forgive myself, I deposited the manuscript in the basinette, and placed the baby in the hand-bag. (Wilde, 2006: 74)

Miss Prism is revealed as the governess who mistakenly abandoned Jack as a baby and Jack is discovered to be Algernon’s elder brother.

After learning Jack and Algernon reason, Cecily and Gwendolen, at last, forgive them. This resolution is ended with a happy ending, which is Jack at last reveals his real parents through the explanation of Miss Prism. She says that she put the baby in a handbag, and involuntary she leaves the handbag in Victoria Station, The Brighton Line, London. The handbag is as a proof of Jack’s origin, who in fact Jack’s parents are also Algernon’s parents. Thus, there are brother.

**Jack.** Algy’s elder brother! Then I have a brother after all. I knew I had a brother! I always said I had a brother! Cecily, - how could you have ever doubted that I had a brother? [Seizes hold of Algernon.] Dr. Chasuble, my unfortunate brother. Miss Prism, my unfortunate brother. Gwendolen, my unfortunate brother. Algy, you young scoundrel, you will have to treat me with more respect
in the future. You have never behaved to me like a brother in all your life. (Wilde, 2006: 76)

4.3.5 Resolution (Denouement)

The end of a story is how the resolution of a problem. Tuloli (2000:20-21) said that in solving the problem, there is no end in divorce and ending with happiness. Function plot in contemporary fiction does not present the settlement or solution of the problem, contrary to present the matter to the reader who is expected to creatively develop their problem-solving. In the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Wilde presents the completion of the problems faced by the character Jack. To solves his problem. This was revealed when the Lady Bracnell also come Jack's home in the country. And then Miss Prism came to see Cecily, her students. Wilde presents where Jack's original name is still curious for him. He asks Lady Bracknell what was his original name. Lady Bracknell said that a son used to be named after his father. He tries to look it up under army lists, and it is said that his full name is Ernest John Moncrieff.

**Jack.** The Army Lists of the last forty years are here. These delightful records should have been my constant study. [Rushes to bookcase and tears the books out.] M. Generals... Mallam, Maxbohm, Magley, what ghastly names they have - Markby, Migsby, Mobbs, Moncrieff? Lieutenant 1840, Captain, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, General 1869, Christian names, Ernest John. [Puts book very quietly down and speaks quite calmly.] I always told you, Gwendolen, my name was Ernest, didn't I? Well, it is Ernest after all. *I mean it naturally is Ernest.* (Wilde, 2006: 77-78)

The very important thing is that Jack finally knows his real name is Ernest. Therefore, he feels no meaningless during the time telling to everyone that his name is Ernest and having a little brother.
4.4 The Influence of Conflicts Toward Plot In Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*

4.4.1 The Influence of Internal Conflict toward the Plot

A detail discussion is needed for a complete analysis of those two variables of the main characters’ conflicts and the plots. Therefore, in this study the writer find out the influence of those variables. After analyzing the characters, the main characters conflicts and the plots, are supported each other. Sequences of the plot prove that the conflicts mainly derive from the main characters.

Jack’s internal conflicts such as, his of being Ernest in town and Jack in the country, more or less as the cause of many events. For example, he begins to worry if someday Gwendolen does not love him again because his name is not Ernest. He, afterward, makes a plan “to kill” or disappear his created brother. As soon as he arrives from town, he makes an untruthful news to Cecily that his brother, Ernest, was die in Paris suffered from cold. He also asks Dr. Chasuble to christen him as “Ernest” as soon as possible.

The Jack’s internal conflicts as mentioned above causes the plot develops into climax, that is the revelation of his being Ernest. Although his undercover of being Ernest in the end is revealed, he still afraid of being left by Gwendolen. What he afraid of at last become true. Gwendolen goes angry and does not want to talk to him.

Jack’s inner conflicts develop to approach a clue about his origin. Here is the falling action of the plot appears. He still confuses who really he
is, as he, in fact, still has the handbag. Miss Prism’s statement is the first clue. The she points to Lady Bracknell when Jack pushes her to tell the truth about his parents. He understands and believes that he is Ernest when Lady Bracknell tells everything. What a happy moment and really a surprise when he realizes that Algernon is his brother.

The same internal conflict occurs to Algernon as well. Commonly, Algernon has the same problem as Jack, that is about their dual identity. Algernon’s created friend, “Bunbury”, is an object for him to refuse Lady Bracnell’s dinner invitation. Hereinafter, he is interested to use the name of Ernest to flirt Cecily. As the result, he gets the impact as Jack does. He has to choose the name Algernon or being Ernest who is loved by Cecily. Of course, he chooses the name Ernest, because Cecily is very charming and crazy about Ernest more than he knows.

The internal conflict of Algernon also causes the plot develops into climax, because the revelation of his character by Cecily happens at the same time as Jack. The appearance of Gwendolen at Manor House is the main cause. She thought that Cecily has been misunderstanding about Ernest, because the “Ernest” as Cecily known is Gwendolen’s cousin. In addition, Cecily clear up Gwendolen that her “Ernest” is Cecily’s guardian.

**Cecily.** [Very sweetly.] I knew there must be some misunderstanding, Miss Fairfax. The gentleman whose arm is at present round your waist is my guardian, Mr. John Worthing. (Wilde, 2006: 56)

**Gwendolen.** I felt there was some slight error, Miss Cardew. The gentleman who is now embracing you is my cousin, Mr. Algernon Moncrieff. (Wilde, 2006: 57)
Finally, Jack confesses that he have no brother named Ernest. Therefore, both Algernon and Jack’s identity are disclosed. It makes Gwendolen and Cecily upset and disappointed.

**Jack.** [Slowly and hesitatingly.] Gwendolen - Cecily - it is very painful for me to be forced to speak the truth. It is the first time in my life that I have ever been reduced to such a painful position, and I am really quite inexperienced in doing anything of the kind. However, I will tell you quite frankly that I have no brother Ernest. I have no brother at all. I never had a brother in my life, and I certainly have not the smallest intention of ever having one in the future. (Wilde, 2006: 58)

### 4.4.2. The Influence of External Conflict toward the Plot

While the external conflicts of the main characters influences the plot are begun with the conflict between Jack and Algernon or Algernon and Jack. The cigarette case is as the main cause of their conflict. Algernon suspects Jack has another woman named Cecily. Therefore, he will not let him to propose Gwendolen before Jack explains about the woman that is Cecily.

The conflict above is a beginning of the exposition of the plot which contains several obstacles faced by Jack and Algernon. The first conflict relates to the next conflict namely between Jack and Lady Bracknell. Lady Bracknell refuses to give her consent to their engagement, Jack and Gwendolen.

**Lady Bracknell.** Pardon me, you are not engaged to anyone. When you do become engaged to someone, I, or your father, should his health permit him, will inform you of the fact. An engagement should come on a young girl as a surprise, pleasant or unpleasant, as the case may be. It is hardly a matter that she could be allowed to arrange for herself... And now I have a few questions to put to you, Mr. Worthing. While I am making these inquiries, you, Gwendolen, will wait for me below in the carriage. (Wilde, 2006: 19)
Lady Bracknell considers Jack as man with a misfortune because he has lost his both parents. She will not give her consent until he found his parent. It is the rising action of the plot.

**Lady Bracknell.** Me, sir! What has it to do with me? You can hardly imagine that I and Lord Bracknell would dream of allowing our only daughter - a girl brought up with the utmost care - to marry into a cloak-room, and form an alliance with a parcel? Good morning, Mr. Worthing! (Wilde, 2006: 23)

Another external conflict is faced by Algernon towards Jack. Jack does not allow Algernon to know his address in the country, because he knows if Algernon knows it, Algernon would try to attract Cecily, and he does not want it happens.

**Algernon.** Where is that place in the country, by the way?

**Jack.** That is nothing to you, dear boy. You are not going to be invited... I may tell you candidly that the place is not in Shropshire. (Wilde, 2006: 10)

As Algy is a smart man, He uses his chance to know Jack’s address when Gwendolen meets Jack to ask his address. Carefully Algernon listen behind. The Algernon’s conflict above causes the advance of the plot into rising action. He plans to meet Cecily at Manor House alone.

The climax is the revelation of Jack’s secret about his brother Ernest. Then it is followed by revelation of Algernon identity in front of Cecily and Gwendolen. Since Jack knows that Algernon has arrived at Manor House, he goes mad because he knows Algernon’s intention. Then Gwendolen comes to see her “Ernest” at Manor House. At last, both Cecily and Gwendolen
identify that there is no one named Ernest, as Algernon and Jack have been
telling the untruth about their name.

Gwendolen [severely.] Had you never a brother of any kind?

Jack. [pleasantly.] Never. Not even of any kind. (Wilde, 2006: 58)

The climax above can be included that it is due to the conflict between
Jack and Algernon. If Jack told his address to Algernon and give his consent
to Algernon to love Cecily, their real identity would not revealed.

The climax goes down to falling action of Jack’s origin. Miss Prism is
the first key to reveal Jack’s origin. She is actually the person who abandoned
a baby at Victoria Station. The baby is Jack. Jack thought she is his mother,
but she does not. She points her finger at someone who can explain all about
him, she is Lady Bracknell. Lady Bracknell, in fact, is Jack’s aunt, because
his mother is Lady Bracknell’s sister. Moreover, Algernon is his brother.

Lady Bracknell. I am afraid that the news I have to give you will not
altogether please you. You are the son of my poor sister, Mrs.
Moncrieff, and consequently Algernon’s elder brother. (Wilde, 2006: 76)

The plot is ended with the resolution of Jack’s original name. Based
on the information he got from his aunt, Lady Bracknell, he found his original
name on army lists. And proudly he said that his name is Ernest.

Jack. … I always told you, Gwendolen, my name was Ernest, didn’t I?
Well, it is Ernest after all. I mean it naturally is Ernest. (Wilde, 2006: 78)

At the last, the writer considers that both falling action and resolution
are influenced by the conflict of between Jack and Miss Prism. If he did not
meet Miss Prism, he would never know his origin and his original name and his original parents.