

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

All of us as human being definitely go through stages of life. Each of the life stage has its own biological, psychological, and social characteristics, through which individuals pass over the course of their lives. From all stages that individuals go through, adolescence is the most important phase as this phase is the critical period for every person to find his/her self identity.

There are some theories exist about the concept of identity. Waterman (1993; as cited in Guardia, 2009) stated that identity reflects a person's best potential which is self-realizing. Identity is expressed through self-realizing activities which person feels as self-defining or fitting, engaging, energizing, purposeful, and helpful in fulfilling his/her goals of life. According to Berzonsky's social-cognitive theory of identity styles (1988; as cited in Guardia, 2009), identity is the cognitive model of how persons process and examines identity relevant information. Erikson (1968) proposed the most general and broad concept of identity. He described identity as a fundamental organizing principal which develops constantly throughout the lifespan. Identity provides a sense of continuity within the self and in interaction with others (—self-sameness!) as well as a frame to differentiate between self and others (—uniqueness!) which allows the individual to function autonomously from others.

Searching for self identity has been subject of discussion and talk for so many times in our society because there will be always adolescents who go through this phase and they are around us. The things like smoking cigarette, talking with inappropriate ways to their parents, friends or teachers, skipping school, telling what they think is the right thing to do, even starting having intercourse with the person they crush on are the common actions and behavior that we see from the adolescents. This subject also has attracted people who work in movie industry. A lot of movies about it have been conducted with films such as *Black Swan*, *Spirited Away*, *Youth in Revolt*, *Taxi Driver* and *American Beauty* as the instruments.

Another movie that also shows how adolescents try to find their self identity is *Lady Bird*. The film written and directed by Greta Gerwick in general tells about adolescents that lived in the era of 2002-2003. In particular it shows the main character —*Lady Bird*” as the reflection of an adolescent who is searching for self identity in her coming of age phase. It is a story of a young girl named Christine who lives in Sacramento and starts her senior year at a Catholic girls’ high school. As an adolescent, Christine wants to explore new things and experience that she has never had before. She has a dream of a life beyond her family and her hometown. She is ashamed about her family condition and she wants to get out of her hometown and goes where the culture is. She also goes through the hard period and time when she argues with her mother and brother Miguel.

There are scenes show the adolescent’s actions and behavior during the searching of self identity such as when the main character —Christine picks her own name —Lady Bird instead of her given name by her parents. She uses this in daily lives and she asks everybody including her mother to call her —Lady Bird. Other actions are such as her decision to go to New York to continue her study (going to college) without her mother’s permission, and risky actions like getting out of the car while it is moving on the street, having sexual intercourse with the boy she likes and joining the popular peers at her school give more characteristic of those who are searching for identity.

Since a research about searching self identity using this movie has not been conducted yet, therefore, the research is made. This is also to support the research that has been done by Tija Ragelienė with her journal title —Links of Adolescents Identity Development and Relationship with Peers. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4879949>)

Seeing the main character’s action scenes in this movie, the writer finds out that there are some same aspects shown in the movie and in the adolescents’ period of searching of self identity. To analyze much deeper about the connection between Christine’s characters that shown in her actions and behaviors with self identity searching, the writer conducts this research by using Erikson’s theory of identity versus identity confusion. This theory is used to give basic understanding

about searching self identity concept. With the theory of identity versus identity confusion of Erikson, the writer will demonstrate evidence that the movie relate to it. The evidence is obtained through the dialogues, expression and action of the characters in this movie.

1.2. Identification of Problems

The problem that can be identified from the background is how Christine as the main character finds her identity by going through a lot of things during the phase of her adolescence. I assume that the character of Christine is the representation of Erikson's theory of identity versus identity confusion. The theme assumption that I make for this research is —The adolescent's search of identity in —*Lady Bird* movie as the representation of Erikson's theory of identity versus identity confusion.

1.3. Limitation of the Problems

From the problems identification above, there are three important things that the writer would like to put in detailed discussion. The first is about the intrinsic approaches (characterization of the characters, setting and plot). The theory of Pickering is going to be used to analyze the above items. The second is the extrinsic approach which is the psychology approach about identity versus identity confusion theory by Erikson. The third is how the elaboration between the actions and behaviors shown by the characters and Erikson's theory are related.

1.4. Formulation of Problems

Based on the background mentioned above, the problems that are going to be discussed are as follows:

1. What are the characterizations of the characters, plot, and setting in *Lady Bird* movie?
2. What do actions and behavior that are shown in this movie relate to identity versus identity confusion theory of Erikson?
3. How do the intrinsic and extrinsic analyses support the theme of *Lady Bird* movie?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To analyze the characterizations of the characters, setting and the plot in *Lady Bird* movie.
2. To analyze the actions and behavior that are shown in this movie relate to identity versus identity confusion theory of Erikson.
3. To analyze how the intrinsic and extrinsic analyses support the theme of *Lady Bird* movie.

1.6. Methods of the Research

As this research is about self identity searching which connects with human behavior and actions and why they act the way they do and it is not about numbers or numerical data that is why qualitative method is used in this paper. For the qualitative data, the writer uses sampling method which is —*Lady Bird* movie as the primary resource. The script of the movie as the literary text is also used as the collection of data to be analyzed. This research also uses instrument which is the writer herself. To support the research more, the writer also uses some data that relates to the theory, concept and definition from books, dictionary and articles from the internet.

1.7. Benefits of the Research

In general this research is beneficial to give information to other people about how adolescents find their self identity and the process they go through it. It is also aimed for the adolescents to see that things that are shown in the movie some of them are reality that might happen to them; therefore, they will understand and comprehend how to deal with it. For science this research is hoped to give more knowledge about the concept of identity and identity confusion theory by Erik Erikson.

Meanwhile, for the academic purpose, this research is conducted to show that through one of the literature works (movie) that reveal human characters (adolescents) with their actions and behavior in finding their self identity, we can see that the literature work and psychology are related.

1.8. Systematic Organization of the Research

Abstract

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION, consists of : Background of the Problems, Identification of Problems, Limitation of the Problems, Formulation of the Problems, Objective of the Research, Methods of the Research, Benefits of the Research, Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER 2 : FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES, contains of intrinsic approach explanation such as characters, characterization, plot, and setting. For the extrinsic approach, Erikson's theory of identity versus identity confusion is used.

CHAPTER 3 : THE INTRINSIC APPROACHES OF —LADY BIRD— MOVIE, consists of the elements of intrinsic approach: characterization of the characters, plot and setting.

CHAPTER 4 : THE ADOLESCENTS' SEARCH OF IDENTITY IN —LADY BIRD— MOVIE AS THE REPRESENTATION OF ERIKSON'S THEORY OF IDENTITY VERSUS IDENTITY CONFUSION, consists of the evidence that shows the relation between the theory with the case found in the movie.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION, consists of the theme of the movie
Scheme of the Research

REFERENCES