

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background, statement of problem, research objective, research significances, and definition of key terms, conceptual framework, and previous study.

A. Background

Human beings, since given in birth, have been equipped with mind. It becomes a support for humans to be able to think and determine a decision in their lives, especially in determining their identity. Identity is the same as forming one's personality which involves behavior and characterization. According to Erickson (1998), identity is an overall psychological condition that makes an individual accept itself, have an orientation and purpose in directing life and internal beliefs in considering a number of things. A person who is looking for his identity is someone who wants to determine who or what he is in the present and in the future, this will occur during adolescence, which can also be called a period of identity crisis.

Regarding identity, *Boy Erased* is one of the films that tell about how the identity of the main character is formed. This film is set in one of the small cities of America. According to Bradshaw (2019), this film is an adaptation film from a book written by Garrard Conley entitled *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family* which was rewritten by Joel Edgerton in the movie script. It tells how the process of forming the main character named Jared in finding his identity based on a true story, as quoted from the website Rotten Tomatoes, "Boy Erased is the true story of one young man's struggle to find himself while being forced to question every aspect of his identity". This is one of the authors' interests in developing the topic of the formation of identity scientifically using a psychological approach.

Psychological analysis is something that will never be bored to be discussed, because not many are able to understand a person's mental condition, especially when someone determines his identity. People will ask how someone

makes himself as A or B, this is also what the author thought in examining the *Boy Erased* film written by Joel Edgerton. Through analysis of literary structures including Character and Characterization found in the film, when it relates to the psychoanalytic method, this research will be easy to answer how the identity of the main character in this movie *Boy Erased* is formed, and how the main character shows his identity, it is certainly the right way to find out how identity is formed.

Literary work has reached this level, where in its development literature has been believed to be a reflection of the real world, even though his work is a work of fiction. The elements in literary works have also been used as a foothold in this research, especially on the element of characterization. Characterization of the main character, for example, has been a lot of research that examines it in detail through the psychology approach of literature, especially in psychoanalysis as a tool to reveal the existence of literary works that are reflective of real life. This is not difficult to know why psychoanalytic has been widely used to study and understand literary work. Psychoanalysis deals with human beings in conflict with themselves and each other and often portrayed through literature.

The other reason using the psychology approach is because of in this movie script, the identity constructed through the personality structure and characterization that found in Jared, as the main character. Also the step of self identity formation is related to Marcia's theory about personality identity. Because of that reason, the researcher wonders how Jared's identity is processed in the story.

Jared is portrayed as a figure who has perfection, namely with a strong and athletic stature, a handsome face, who is equipped with an honest, friendly, and obey of the rules. But after he stepped on the college bench, Jared finds himself in troubles, that desiring to be free like a freedom, in taking decision and also in the way of life. Jared feels tired of the rules that have followed him since he lives in this world. He wants to live with his decision and by his ways without any people take hands in his live.

He realizes that he has to find his identity, so he will be able to get the freedom. Thus, when Jared starts to college, he decides to take the university that far away from home. It aims to free his life from the rules of his parents. Where his parents always remind him to the rules of god, also the rules of what they think is comfortable only in their mind. Since that, Jared change and began to be a person who is assertive, brave and lives by his decision. Whereas, he is an introverted and obey person before, the change left both parents shocked and surprised, what was behind Jared, especially when Jared declares his identity as a Gay in his family.

From its description, the researcher is interested in examining the identity of the main character, especially about how the identity was formed through characterization as well as what factors influence it through the study of psychoanalysis put forward by Freud by applying the study of Id, Ego, and Superego once used by other literary researchers, like Angga Feri Fadillah in her thesis entitled *The Mentality of Henry Townsend's Character in Constructing His Own Identity in Edward P. Jones 'The Known World'*, in his research it was produced that the formation of identity cannot be separated from the social sphere.

Fadillah (2016) also mentioned that in his research it produced several aspects that influenced the formation of identity, such as experience, trust and identification of childhood. Henry Townsend, who although he was a black man, was able to become a leader of slave, whereas in general black people are only considered inferior and foreign people, for whites. The author of the story also includes psychological elements such as Id, Ego and Superego, which more influences his childhood, is Id, then Ego in adolescence, and Superego in adulthood.

Another research was conducted by Wahyuni (2016), in a thesis entitled: *Id, Ego, and Superego of The Main Characters' Dominant Personality in J.G Ballard's High Rise: A Psychoanalytic Reading*. In the research, it was explained that each character has a tendency for different traits depending on the Id, the Ego

and the Superego possessed by the character. That means that the identity of the character has formed itself through the Id, Ego, and Superego.

The description above is used as the basis of the researchers' reference to analyze the formation of identity in the main character through Freud's psychoanalytic approach that races on Id, Ego, and Superego. As Freud has stated about the structure of the personality, Id is the main component that exists in humans, which is a human instinct that wants pleasure, peace, also freedom in determining something. This can also be called a principle of pleasure (Hall: 1954). Ego is a principle of reality that when it becomes dominant, the individual will become a super or the most. While the Superego is a principle of perfection that becomes a counterweight to the personality of an individual (Hall: 1954)

Based on the description of the structure of the personality, the researcher feels that those will be very useful and appropriate in conducting research on the main identity of the main character. By applying the text, whether Id, Ego, and the superego in Jared's characters in *Boy Erased* movie script are as dominant as each other or even appear unbalanced, so the researcher will know how the main identity of the main character named Jared.

In addition, not only through the psychoanalytic approach, researchers also included how the characterization of the main characters in the film script, so that it would simplify and clarify how Jared's personality and identity had been written by the author.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the research above which focused on the identity that experiences by the main character, this research formulates some problems as bellow:

1. How is Jared's characterization formed in *Boy Erased*?
2. How is Jared's identity status formed in *Boy Erased*?

A. Research Objective

Dealing with the statement of the problem, the research has two research objectives as follows:

1. To find out the process of Jared characterization in *Boy Erased*;
2. To explore Jared identity status that formed in *Boy Erased*.

B. Research Significance

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research is expected to give a new contribution, especially to the literary studies on Joel Edgerton's *Boy Erased*. The research wants to give more information and knowledge about Jared identity. Moreover, the researcher wants the result of this research to be useful as a reference and alternative information for others especially English literature students who conduct the similar research.

2. Practical Benefits

This research will help the researcher to enrich the knowledge dealing with structural elements and psychoanalytic analysis. This research also will give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to another researcher in analyzing Joel Edgerton's *Boy Erased* by using a different perspective. As well as this research is able to arouse the readers confidence in accepting themselves.

C. Definition of Key Term

Definition of key term made to avoid misconception in conceiving the terms in this research. The terms are classified as follows as:

- a. Psychoanalysis: a branch of science developed by Sigmund Freud and his followers, as a study of human psychological functions and behavior or a systematic science of human behavior.
- b. Identity: psychological condition that makes an individual accept himself, have an orientation and purpose in directing life and internal beliefs in considering a number of things.

- c. Characterization: is a figure or people's character who is put forward in narrative work which interpret by the readers having a moral quality and certain tendency through dialogues and their behavior (Nurgiyantoro: 1955).

D. Conceptual Framework

In this study the researchers tried to explore the formation of identity through the study of psychoanalysis that was put forward by Freud. The psychoanalytic study is classified into the structure of the individual personality, namely Id, Ego, and Superego, which researchers will try to find in Jared, a main character from the Boy Erased movie script by Joel Edgerton. Researchers are well aware that each individual must have a personality structure consisting of Id, Ego, and Superego. Even though there will always be more dominant in occupying the psyche of an individual, at least from that individual personality will be formed.

Apart from just trying to explore the personality structure of the main character Jared, the researcher will also explore how the characterization of the main character, Jared is formed, based on a theory written by Nurgiyantoro that characterization of characters in fiction can be known through several techniques. The technique consists of seven techniques; conversation techniques, behavioral techniques, mind and feeling techniques, awareness techniques, character reaction techniques, other character reaction techniques, and physical painting techniques.

However, Jared Identity will not be perfectly explained without including the personality development. For that reason, the researcher will examine the identity of Jared by applying the theory of personality development that has been put forward by Erickson and Marcia.