

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter will be divided into two parts. The first explains about the characterization of Landon Carter's and the second part explains the influence factors in determining Landon Carter's personality growth focuses on the stages of his psychosocial growth. The growth of Landon personality will be explained from childhood, adolescence and adulthood with several influence factors from his personality growth, crises which occur, the way he behaves and interacts with other person that arises in the story to show the process of development.

In conducting the discussion in this chapter, the major topic of discussion is following Erikson's stages of psychosocial development as guidance. Therefore, the findings from the novel are explained not specifically as the character, Landon Carter, growth. In the novel, Landon is fifty-seven years old. He narrates back when he was seventeen years old and childhood that influencing the growth of his personality. Based on Erikson's point of view about personality development, Landon's personality growth is examined. The researcher attempts to find out whether his personality development follows the eight stages of man or has its own pattern of development.

A. Major Character's Characterization in Nicholas Sparks' *A Walk to*

Remember

The character in the story can generally be divided into major and minor character depending on how important they are for the plot. Major character is the most important character that appears continually to the development and resolution of the conflict in the story. While minor character is a person of less importance than the major character, but who is necessary for the story developing (176). As a rule of thumb, major characters usually have a lot to say and appear frequently throughout the story, while minor characters have less presence or appear only marginally (Dinurriyah 114). So that the major character in story is dominated, therefore deserve close attention. It mostly tells in the story that connects with another character and determines the way of plot.

This part explains about Landon Carter as male character in the novel. In *A Walk to Remember*, Landon Carter is a male character considering his domination in the story starts from the beginning, middle, and the end of the story. Additionally, Landon influences the whole plot of the story. Meanwhile, Jamie Sullivan as a female main character in the novel as Landon lover has relation. She has important roles in the novel and influences the plot. Jamie also shows to Landon that she teaches him about loving and forgiving others and has great influences that cause the growth of Landon personality from an uncontrolled boy to be a good one.

The author uses memories and flashbacks device to tell this story. A memory is a character remembering something that happen, on the other hand a flashback actually takes the reader back in time to another place (154). In this novel, Landon Carter actually is fifty-seven years old but in the story is depicted when he was seventeen. He retells the story of his seventeen years old, the year that changes his life. Although he is fifty-seven years old, even now he can remember everything from that year down to smallest details. He tells his past memory and experience. He recalls that year often in his mind, brings it back to life. He realizes that when he recalls his memory, he feels a strange combination of sadness and joy.

From explanation above, it is clearly describes that Landon Carter's past gives an influence in the future that changes his life to be better. Hence, flashbacks show Landon's characterization in the novel, explain why he behaves the way he does and expose something important to the development of the plot that would otherwise not be known.

When I was seventeen, my life changed forever (Sparks 1).
It was, I remember, the most wonderful moment of my life. It is now forty years later, and I can still remember everything from that day. I may be older and wiser, I may have lived another life since then, but I know that when my time eventually comes, the memories of that day will be the final images that float through my mind. I still love her, you see, and I've never removed my ring. In all these years I've never felt the desire to do so (132).

Landon is a normal guy with many friends. At the beginning of the novel, Landon is not respectful and an immature boy who has a little idea of what he wants to do with his life. He thinks of himself as a rebel and just enjoying his life.

He is not especially good at anything and his main source of pleasure seems to be hanging out with his friends.

When we were younger, my friends and I would hide behind the trees and shout, "Hegbert is a fornicator!" when we saw him walking down the street, and we'd giggle like idiots, like we were the wittiest creatures ever to inhabit the planet (3).

Landon is a young man who lives in Beaufort, North Carolina. He lives with his father and mother. His father is from the richest family in the country. He is unhappy with his father existences and regulations because his father often forces him do what he wants, although finally Landon agrees with him. His father is very busy and not around him very much. His father lives in Washington, D.C. He is often away from home and he cannot get along with him. He is not accompanying Landon when he was growing up, which causes some tension in their relationship. So Landon does not get his father loving and becomes an uncontrolled boy.

My dad . . . he didn't love me . . . that's why I became a stripper and performed on The Jerry Springer Show. . . . I'm not using it to excuse the person I've become, I'm simply saying it as a fact. My father was gone nine months of the year, living out of town in a Washington, D.C., apartment three hundred miles away. My mother didn't go with him because both of them wanted me to grow up "the same way they had." (7).

My father was back in Washington, D.C., which made things a lot more fun around my house, primarily because I could sneak out the window again and head to the graveyard for my late night forays. I don't know what it was about the graveyard that attracted us so..... (31).

Landon grows up under the care of his mother. His mother is a nice lady, sweet, and gentle, the kind of mother most people dream about. Although Landon has a perfect mother, but she cannot change his father's position that mainly

After getting partner of homecoming dance, Jamie Sullivan, he worries about what costumes Jamie will wear. If she will wear casual clothes, it will make his prestige down. Especially he always thinks what people will say about him.

I admit that I also had some concerns about what she would wear, though it wasn't something I would tell her. When Jamie went to the church socials-which were encouraged by Hegbert-she usually wore an old sweater and one of the plaid skirts we saw in school every day, but the homecoming dance was supposed to be special. Most of the girls bought new dresses and the boys wore suits, and this year we were bringing in a photographer to take our pictures. I knew Jamie wasn't going to buy a new dress because she wasn't exactly well-off (23)

Now, I didn't want to do the play at all, and not only because I'd come to realize that drama was just about the most boring class ever invented. The thing was, I'd already taken Jamie to homecoming, and with her as the angel, I just couldn't bear the thought that I'd have to spend every afternoon with her for the next month or so. Being seen with her once was bad enough . . . but being seen with her every day? What would my friends say? (36-37).

In this novel, the author characterizes Landon as dynamic. A dynamic character is a person who changes over time, usually as a result of resolving a central conflict or facing a major crisis (176). In the beginning of the novel, same with his friends he says that Jamie is weird and her behavior is different with another adolescent. Jamie does not like hanging out, attends to party but she is religious girl. Then he starts to see something inside her that he likes. Moreover, he is the only one that actually nice, sympathy and not egoistic to Jamie.

But I didn't want her to wear the same thing she wore to school every day, either. Not so much for me-I'm not that cold-hearted-but because of what others might say. I didn't want people to make fun of her or anything (23).

Landon often looks anger to Jamie. It is because he gets influence from his friends and Jamie's father does not like him. For his friends, actually Jamie is kind, like helping another and always bring bible whenever she go, but it is

terms of character are familiar with protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the central person in a story, and is often referred to as the story's main character. Antagonist character is represents the opposition against which the protagonist must content. In the words, the antagonist is an obstacle that the protagonist must overcome (qtd. in Nurgiyantoro 178).

In *A Walk to Remember*, Landon is depicted as a protagonist. In the beginning of the story, he is immature and an uncontrolled boy. Then after known or especially falls in love to Jamie, he learns how to behave selflessly, with consideration for others. He also learns about religion and faith. By the end of the novel he has learned how to give everything he has to the one he loves. It is a notion that would have been meaningless to the boy he was before he got to know Jamie.

"Well," I said, trying to bluff, "I don't think that we're meant to understand it all the time. I think that sometimes we just have to have faith." (80)
 "You're a wonderful person, Jamie. You're beautiful, you're kind, you're gentle . . . you're everything that I'd like to be. If people don't like you, or they think you're strange, then that's their problem." (100).
 So that night I opened the Bible that Jamie had given me for Christmas and began to read (108).

In the end of the story, Landon shows that he is a gentleman to accomplish Jamie's dream. He asks Jamie to marry whatever happens with her, although she is dying of leukemia. No one forces Landon to marry Jamie. It is the main changes of his personality growth in the age of seventeen years old. The year that changes his life forever and very contrast personality before he falls in love to Jamie. That is from an uncontrolled boy to be the good one.

I know that some of you may wonder if I was doing it out of pity. Some of the more cynical may even wonder if I did it because she'd be gone soon anyway and

The up arrow represents relationship between Mr. Carter as father and Mrs. Carter as mother. Landon's parent represents with positive sign in blue arrow. While Mrs. Carter and Landon represent positive sign in blue arrow. The up-right arrow means that one's responsibility influences another's. It means that Mrs. Carter as a mother tries to construct healthy and warm relationship with him, but his father does not. When his needs is not fulfilled satisfactorily, the task of gaining initiative on parents, moreover the outer world, is not resolved. Erikson argues that forming child's healthy personality is determined by the ratio of initiative vs. guilt (39). It means that the development of Landon is not supported with parents' role. Therefore, Landon does not learn how to control himself and he has to learn significantly in having balance initiative vs. guilt.

In this stage, the obvious component of conflict occurs in Landon Carter's personality growth. That is unrestrained initiative and guilt. When the parents cannot provide a comfortable zone for children, they fail gaining foundation of initiative. While the unrestrained initiative causes confusion and less of morality (302). Hence in Landon childhood, his father does not accompany it causes unrestrained initiative. He prefers to move away from people because he feels strange in constructing relationship with other people. Landon Carter is gaining the guilt, therefore the virtue of this stage which Erikson states as initiative is not resolved satisfactorily.

In Landon Carter play age, especially when he was five years old, his father does not live together with him. He goes nine months of the year in Washington, D.C. So Landon cannot get along with him and grows up under the

things that construct his personality in later years. It is because adolescence became turning point for Landon, a transition between childhood and adulthood.

3.2.1 Pattern of Parental Behavior

Parents have a goal of having pattern of parental behavior or parental rules to make children learn in developing some controls over their bodily functions and impulses. It is because children have to live with others in society that has rules. It means that, children have to learn about society rules in order to be accepted by the society around. The sense of being acceptable in society is important in providing a healthy circumstance for children's development.

Parents have to make children behave at home as well as they behave in society. They have to be obedient children in order to gaining respect and award for them. In Landon's case, from the beginning it is obvious that his father does not pay attention and always leave home in taking care of him. He is growing up under the care of his mother. However, father does not take responsibility of what the children become or how they will deal with problems when they grow up. This problem makes Landon be an uncontrolled boy in the society.

When Landon is adolescence, his mother applies the parental rules. She teaches Landon how to behave with good manner. Although his father always leaves home, he also directs him to have better education. In general, he develops the sense of identity. Instead of using parental rules (reward and punishment) in conducting Landon's personality development, his father and mother direct him to gets better life and education.

3.3 Landon Carter's Adulthood

Erikson explains that individual's adulthood is divided into three stages. That are early adulthood, is begin experience when individual steps the age of 20-25; middle adulthood in the age of 26-64 years; and late adulthood in the age of 65-death (191). Each stage is also accompanied by crisis that has to be resolved as well as crisis in the earlier of psychosocial development.

In *A Walk to Remember*, the personality growth of Landon Carter is not clearly explained and row in the novel. The story just tells about Landon's play age and adolescence that influence until the age of fifty-seven. Although he is fifty-seven years old, he goes back to the time when he is seventeen years old. So that, Landon's adulthood is not specifically told in the novel.

Erikson observes that middle age is when tends to be occupied with creative and meaningful work with issues surrounding family. The significant task is perpetuating culture and transmits values of the culture through the family and working to establish a stable environment (308). Strength comes from through care of other and production of something that contributes the betterment of society. If human do not get through this stage successfully, they will become stagnation.

In the middle adulthood, Landon remembering when he is in seventeen years old. Instead he is having marriage and death of Jamie Sullivan. In this stage, Landon narrates flash back of his adolescent memory. In this last stage, Landon

Jamie. No one forcing him to grow, but that is what Landon wants for himself. So Landon has found his identity in the late adulthood in the age of fifty seven years old.

"Do you love me?" I asked her.

She smiled. "Yes."

"Do you want me to be happy?" As I asked her this, I felt my heart beginning to race.

"Of course I do."

"Will you do something for me, then?"

She looked away, sadness crossing her features. "I don't know if I can anymore," she said.

"But if you could, would you?"

Encouraged, I leaned closer and took a deep breath. When I exhaled, these were the words that flowed with my breath.

"Will you marry me?" (127-128).

In this case, Landon is success to create his self-confident that give big influence of his personality growth to take decision. Landon bravery takes decision to marry Jamie before his adulthood in the age of seventeen. In other hand, Landon is gaining self-realization in which this process seems to be not achieved before adulthood and only achieved by someone who strips off their ego and became the most important point of their personality and changes himself to be better (Jung 145).