# Emoni's Life as a Teenage Mother Depicted in Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High*

THESIS



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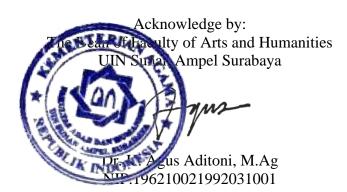
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# ABSTRACT

Sari, I. (2021). *Emoni's Life as a Teenage Mother Depicted in Elizabeth Acevedo's With the Fire on High*. English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

Keywords: Teenage mother, Psychological Condition, Psychosocial Development, Role-Confusion, Support-System.

This thesis aims to portray the life of the teenage mother in a novel entitled *With the Fire on High.* This study describes the psychological condition and the role of surroundings as being a support system. This research focuses on three problems of analysis. They are; (1) How is Emoni's life as a teenage mother described in Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High?* (2) How does Emoni's being a teenage mother affect her psychological condition? (3) How do the people around Emoni help her to deal with her psychological condition?.

This research uses qualitative as the method. The researcher uses new criticism theory to describe Emoni's life as a teenage mother. Second, Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory describes Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother. Whereas, the researcher used the role of surroundings being the support system theory to analyze the functions of the people around Emoni to help her deal with her psychological condition.

This study shows that Emoni's life as a teenage mother takes care of her daughter and education. Emoni is taking care of her daughter in many ways, such as prepared her daughter's needs for daycare and giving quality time to her daughter. More than that, she takes care of her daughter's tantrums, keeps a good attitude for her daughter, and gives her daughter a unique name. Moreover, she is also taking care of her education with hard work and passion. Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother was quite good. She has role confusion as a result of the incomplete fifth stage of psychosocial development. Even so, Emoni, who is in the sixth stage, can still get through it well and get the virtue of love. The significant role of the people around has a big impact on Emoni's psychological condition. Emoni's most crucial source of support is from her family, her grandmother, Aunt Sarah, and her father. Besides, the support came from her best friend Angelica and her school teachers, Ms. Fuentes and Chef Ayden.

#### ABSTRAK

Sari, I. (2021). Kehidupan Emoni Sebagai Seorang Ibu Remaja yang Digambarkan dalam Elizabeth Acevedo's With the Fire on High. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

**Kata Kunci:** Ibu Remaja, Kondisi Psikologis, Perkembangan Psikososial, Kebingungan Peran, Sistem Pendukung.

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan kehidupan ibu remaja dalam novel berjudul With the Fire on High. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan kondisi psikologis dan peran lingkungan sebagai support system. Penelitian ini berfokus pada tiga masalah analisis. Mereka; (1) Bagaimana kehidupan Emoni sebagai ibu remaja digambarkan dalam With the Fire on High karya Elizabeth Acevedo? (2) Bagaimana Emoni menjadi ibu remaja mempengaruhi kondisi psikologisnya? (3) Bagaimana lingkungan sekitar Emoni membantunya mengatasi kondisi psikologisnya?.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Peneliti menggunakan teori kritik baru untuk menggambarkan kehidupan Emoni sebagai ibu remaja. Kedua, teori perkembangan psikososial Erik Erikson menggambarkan kondisi psikologis Emoni sebagai seorang ibu remaja. Sedangkan peneliti menggunakan peran lingkungan sebagai teori sistem pendukung untuk menganalisis fungsi orang-orang di sekitar Emoni untuk membantunya mengatasi kondisi psikologisnya.

Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kehidupan Emoni sebagai seorang ibu remaja mengurus anak dan pendidikannya. Emoni merawat putrinya dengan berbagai cara, seperti menyiapkan kebutuhan putrinya untuk penitipan anak dan memberikan waktu yang berkualitas untuk putrinya. Lebih dari itu, dia merawat anak perempuannya yang tantrum, menjaga sikap yang baik untuk putrinya, dan memberikan nama yang unik untuk putrinya. Selain itu, dia juga mengurus pendidikannya dengan kerja keras dan semangat. Kondisi psikologis Emoni sebagai ibu remaja cukup baik. Dia mengalami kebingungan peran sebagai akibat dari tahap kelima perkembangan psikososial yang tidak tuntas. Meski begitu, Emoni yang berada di tahap keenam ini masih bisa melewatinya dengan baik dan mendapatkan keutamaan cinta. Peran penting orang-orang di sekitar berdampak besar pada kondisi psikologis Emoni. Sumber dukungan paling penting bagi Emoni adalah dari keluarganya, neneknya, Bibi Sarah, dan ayahnya. Selain itu, dukungan datang dari sahabatnya Angelica dan guru sekolahnya, Ms. Fuentes dan Chef Ayden.

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## **CHAPTER I**

# **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses the background of the study, the problem of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms, and research methods.

# **1.1 Background of the study**

According to Cosden (2011, p. 50), teenage mothers are women between the ages of 11 to 19 years who have gone through pregnancy and become parents at a young age to their children. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that it is estimated that there are 21 million girls age between 15-19 years old in developing areas that experience pregnancy at a young age and around 12 million of them give birth to babies every year. Moreover, Arai (2009, p.10) argues that a teenage mother today is more likely that if she is 17 years or older, they will conceive her baby by being single or living together without a marital status. If she is under 16 years old, she is more likely to have a legal abortion than her baby. Further, Arai (2009, p.20) states that teenage mothers mostly come from workingclass family backgrounds, but sometimes girls from wealthy or middle-class backgrounds choose to have abortions while pregnant as teenagers.

Discussing the impact of teenage motherhood, Boden, Fergusson, Horwood (2008, p.1) states that being a mother at an early age hurts adolescents' lives. Those who become young mothers face various challenges and obstacles such as mental health, educational qualifications, and participation in the workforce. Similarly, Watts, Liamputtong, and McMichael (2015, p.1) state that adolescent motherhood occurs at a critical developmental stage experienced in teenage life. Adverse social and health consequences are possible as a result of this phenomenon. Adolescent mothers also have psychological conditions, such as a sense of identity, self-esteem (UK Essays, 2019).

Furthermore, Boden, Fergusson, and Horwood (2008), in their journal entitled early motherhood and subsequent life outcomes, surveyed New Zealand women between 21-25 years old. The results show lower levels of workforce participation, higher welfare dependency, lower income, lower educational achievement levels, and higher mental health disorders. The journal results show that being a teenage mother has more negative effects than positive effects.

This study aims to portray the life of a teenage mother in a novel entitled *With the Fire on High* (2019). Elizabeth Acevedo is the writer of the book, a Dominican-American poet and writer. The researcher chooses this novel because this novel contains teenage mother issues, and the story presented how someone should achieve dreams even though there are many obstacles someone must face. Love and help, and moral support from family and friends explain as warm and pleasant. People present in life to help or become injured in the life journey are described in this novel, making it so natural for young people and engaging to discuss more deeply. Besides that, the writer also slipped the story behind the life of the main character. Losing the mother's figure when she was a baby, her father felt unable to care for her. Finally, she lived and was managed by *Buela* as grandma in Spanish.

With the Fire on High (2019) tells about the life of a teenager named Emoni Santiago, a seventeen-year-old girl studying at one of the high schools in Philadelphia. At a young age, Emoni has a three-year-old daughter named Emma. Emoni became pregnant with her school friend named Tyrone when she was fourteen in her freshman year. Her life is full of obstacles as a mother and high school student and through her final year as a student. She was struck by confusion and doubt whether she should continue her university education and major in culinary to pursue her dream as a chef. In the face of her chaos, she was assisted by her grandmother also her closest friends Angelica and Malachi. Her grandmother's role was also the main reason Emoni could live her life as a mother and a student in her final years while at the same time achieving her dreams. Her position as a young mother also a student made Emoni is psychology different from most adolescents of her age who have everyday teenage lives. The most striking difference is that teenage mothers have higher stress levels than teenagers of the same period due to the dual roles.

The researcher has found some researchers that have researched with the same theme. First, Fauziyah (2008) analyzed the teenage problem in the psychological analysis of the main character's personality in *Go Ask Alice*. Second, Muharam (2009) researched A Psychological Analysis on Two Main Characters' Friendship in the Novel *Veronica*. Third, Irawati (2018) using teenage problem racism in The Struggle of Black People to Avoid Stereotypes in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give*. Fourth, Susilo (2019) researched "Introverted Personality in Teenager" in *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell. Fifth, the research was

made by Rahmawati (2020) Redefining Power Construction over Adolescents with Asperger Syndrome in Beth Revis' Novel *A World Without You*.

This research is different from previous studies since they have not researched teenage mothers as the research issue. Thus, the gap will use by the researcher to discuss. Here, the researcher is triggered to fill the gap by researching teenage mother issues in it. From the description above, the researcher considers that this research might complete the findings of the previous studies conducted before. This research focuses on three problems of analysis. They are; (1) How is Emoni's life as a teenage mother described in Elizabeth Acevedo's *With the Fire on High?* (2) How does Emoni's being a teenage mother affect her psychological condition? (3) How do the people around Emoni help her to deal with her psychological condition?

# **1.2 Objective of the Study**

According to the statement of problems, this study has formulated three objectives:

- 1. To describe Emoni's life as a teenage mother in *With the Fire on High* novel.
- 2. To describe Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother in *With the Fire on High* novel.
- 3. To describe the kinds of help Emoni receives from the people around her to deal with psychological condition *with the Fire on High* novel.

#### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

The researcher desires that this study could give anyone benefits which are life lessons portrayed in the literary works, especially from *With the Fire on High*. The issue raised in this research is the teenage mother, a common problem in reallife reflected in *With the Fire on High* novel. The psychological condition as an adolescent mother depicted in this novel can provide us with life lessons so that in the future, anyone will not be trapped in the same issues experienced by Emoni Santiago. The researcher believes that this research could offer benefits plus new knowledge to study in the literature field. Also, this research can add understanding to the reader. The result of the study expectantly can give all students advantages, particularly for the English Department Student as the reference, evaluation, or even comparing with another research which has the same issues about teenage mother in literary works.

# 1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research used the novel *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo as a scope. The analysis of this study is divide into three parts. They are: about Emoni's life as a teenage mother, Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother, and the kinds of help that Emoni's received from her surroundings to deal with her psychological condition. Furthermore, this research obtained data from the narration, dialogue, and conversation in the novel *With the Fire on High* between Emoni Santiago and other characters. The theory applied in this research is the theory of literature, which is Psychological theory, Character, and Characterization.

## **1.5 Research Methods**

This chapter discusses the research design, data source, data collection, also data analysis. In this chapter, the researcher explains the methods that the researcher used to analyze this study below.

# 1.5.1 Research Design

The research design appropriate for this research is the qualitative research method. Walliman (2011, p. 130) states that this type of research is conduct using data in expressions of words that are description, opinion accounts, feelings, and other non-numeric terms. In other words, this research is non-numeric research and using descriptions as an explanation of the data. The data were the quotes from *With the Fire on High* with teenage mother issues to answer the research problems and give critical understanding to the reader.

1.5.2 Data Source

This research's data were narrative, dialogue, and conversations W*ith the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo. The researcher gets the edition published by HarperCollins Publisher in New York in 2019, which contains 290 pages and consists of three chapters as the data for this research. This research takes the second data from books, journal articles, also previous studies related to the issue in this research.

## 1.5.3 Data Collection

The researcher primarily used a descriptive qualitative method with the following steps to collect the data:

- 1. The researcher reads the novel book three times to get the best understanding.
- 2. The researcher determined the research problem to analyze.
- The researcher selected and decided which quotes are suitable for data, such as dialogues, sentences, or phrases.
- 4. The researcher classified the data got from the novel into the statements of the problems in this research.
- 1.5.4 Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the researcher did the following steps:

- 1. The researcher divides three significant issues from the research that has to be solved.
- The researcher portrayed the background of Emoni's life as a teenage mother.
- The researcher described the psychological condition of Emoni as a teenage mother.
- The researcher described the kinds of help Emoni received from the people around her to deal with her psychological condition as a teenage mother.
- 5. The researcher was analyzing three significant issues.
- 6. The researcher concluded based on the results and ensured that the outcome had answered the research question.

## **CHAPTER II**

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This section discusses the theories that use to analyze the data in this study. The theoretics that the researcher used for this research is new criticism that includes character, characterization. Besides, the researcher also employed psychological approaches on teenage mothers. Furthermore, the description below explains each theory in this study.

# 2.1 New Criticism

Castle (2007, p.122) states that new criticism is the study of literature that dominated from 1940 to 1960, which had a significant contribution in providing ways of reading and writing about literature. The concept held by new criticism concerns the nature of crucial textual evidence and concrete examples of the text itself, which validate our interpretations. New criticism relates to the text itself and has several formal elements, including metaphors, images, symbols, points of view, poems, characterizations, plots, etc. These elements form literary works and literary works referred to as formal elements states Castle (2007, p.137).

# 2.1.1 Character

Abrams (1985, p.32) states characters display certain intellectual, moral, and emotional qualities in a dramatic or even narrative work in literature that readers can interpret. And they can conclude what others say and have a unique way of conveying dialogue and what they do or act. Characters have basics such as character, desires, and moral traits called motivation for words and actions. Abrams (1985, p.33) argues that character remains stable in view and disposition, in the case of work whose process from beginning to end may or may experience changes where the change can be a gradual development process or the result of a crisis. Readers of traditional and realistic works expect "consistency" in which the character must not change suddenly or change in the middle of the road and act in a way that does not make sense based on his temperament because the reader already knows.

# 2.1.2 Characterization

According to Jones (1968, p.84), characterization depicts clear images derived from characters who participated in the story through their actions. Characterization is an intrinsic element in literary work such as novels, dramas, and short stories. Its role in academic work is to show the characters in a narrative. Characterization can help readers connect with events in the story since it explains details and highlights a character in a literary work. This literary device can use to create and describe figures or characters in literary works. Characterization scope is a description of character attributes and character personality. The way the character thinks, acts, and speaks can also add character characterization into the story.

## 2.2 Psychological Approach

Kouyoumjdian and Plotnik (2010, p.4) explain that psychology is a systematic and scientific study of behavior that can refer to an action or response and mental processes that cannot be directly observed to complex cognitive functions, like imagination, dreaming, or learning. Moreover, Lester (1987, p. 25) states that literature and psychology focus on human behavior. Both literature and psychology help each other in many aspects, such as using literature to test psychological theories, understanding human behavior through historical times, using psychological theories to analyze literature, and psychological studies of the author and the reader. This study is using a psychological approach to discuss teenage mothers.

# 2.2.1 Factors Influencing being a Teenage Mother

Domenico and Jones (2007, p.4) explained four factors influencing someone becomes a teenage mother. These factors come from the family and social environment. The first factor is family structure and relation, and the second is the age at first intercourse, the third is future expectations, and the last is sexual abuse. Those factors are associated with adolescent pregnancy and cause young women to become young mothers in their teens.

# **2.2.1.1 Family Structure and Relation**

Family structure and relation considered has enormous contribution influencing young women being teenage mothers. As Rosen (1997) explains, adolescent girls in an unstable family environment seek short-term comfort by becoming more sexually intimate. Poor treatment from the family, such as rejection from parents, lack of affection and warmth, causes adolescents to look for ways to increase their self-esteem by seeking relationships outside the family environment (Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.5). Hymowitz (1997) concludes that adolescent girls who do not feel the presence of a father in their lives have a higher risk of pregnancy at adolescence. The absence of parental figures, especially father figures for teenage girls, is one factor that significantly affects the risk of adolescent pregnancy and becoming a mother at a young age (Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.6).

#### **2.2.1.2 Age at First Intercourse**

Farber (2003) and Rodriguez Jr., & Moore (1995) said that puberty and pregnancy do not directly relate. Still, puberty that comes earlier combined with peer pressure and weak parental supervision causes adolescents to face early sexual activity decision making (Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.6). Furthermore, Manlove et al. (2002) and Xie et al. (2001) explain that adolescents who become young mothers can influence young women to have early sexual relations. It can cause teenagers to become parents in their teens (quoted in Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.6).

# 2.2.1.3 Future Expectations

Davies et al. (2004) state that teenage girls who choose to become pregnant and become young mothers usually think that being a young mother will make their future better because their future conditions are gloomy, and they have low income. Moreover, Brown & Barbosa (2001) and Rothenberg & Weissman (2002) explained that many adolescent girls view post-secondary education as unattainable, have few life and career choices. Seeing a gloomy future and a few positive examples to emulate led them to choose pregnancy and young mothers as their best alternatives (Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.6).

# 2.2.1.4 Sexual Abuse

Saewyc, Magee, & Pettingell (2004) explained that sexual harassment experienced by women could change their thinking about sexual behavior. Sexual harassment can lead to premature sexual activity and having multiple partners. Farber (2003) states that although most girls had their first sexual activity voluntarily, 40% of those aged 13-14 years indicated that the sexual activity with their older partner was accidental or unwanted (Domenico and Jones, 2007, p.6).

# 2.2.2 Teenage Mother Psychological Condition

Personality development can show the psychological condition of a teenage mother. According to Erikson (1950), there are eight stages of psychosocial development, which start from infancy (0-18 months of age) until adulthood (65 years old-death). For each step, the personality development of each individual has different outcomes. However, there will be two possibilities resulting from positives or negatives during someone's experiences psychosocial crisis for their psychological development. These crises are psychosocial and naturally occur because they involve individual psychological needs instead of social environments (McLeod, 2018, p.1).

#### 2.2.2.1 Trust vs. Mistrust

Erikson (1950, p.222) explained that the first stage occurs at age (0-18 months). In this early stage, the infant receives treatment and social contact from parents, especially the mother as a caregiver. If the treatment received is predictable, consistent, and reliable, it will impact psychological development, resulting in trust and security. On the other hand, if the infants receive inconsistent, unpredictable, and unreliable treatment, they will feel mistrust, suspiciousness, and anxiety in the world around them. This stage's success will generate a virtue of hope that can help when a crisis arises that someone else will support them. Failure to find the virtue of hope will lead them to a fundamental sense of distrust in other relationships. Besides that, they will feel the effects of anxiety, increased insecurity, and excessive suspicion of the world around them.

#### 2.2.2.2 Autonomy vs. Shame

The second stage of psychosocial development described by Erikson (1950, p. 226-229) in early childhood between 18 months to 3 years is a stage that focuses on developing control over a sense of physical skills and independence. When children are successful in this stage, they will get the virtue of will. At this stage, children learn to recognize their abilities and develop physically and motorically. If children get supportive treatment, they will feel self-confident and feel safe living the world's life. When they get unsupportive treatment and many restraints, they will feel insecure and dependent on other people. There will be a lot of doubt and shame while living their lives.

## 2.2.2.3 Initiative vs. Guilt

Play age between three until five years old is the third stage of psychosocial development by Erikson (1950, p. 229-230). During this stage, the children are more explorative about themselves. Children will develop a sense of initiative in themselves with the surrounding environment, such as play or activities that trigger their sense of creativity to emerge. When parents allow them to explore this sense of initiative, they will get security and leadership. When their parents limit them, guilt will arise. Feelings of guilt are necessary for a child's growth, but they will be harmful if too much. Initiative and guilt must balance. Success in this stage will lead to the virtue of purpose; otherwise, failure will generate a sense of guilt.

## 2.2.2.4 Industry vs. Inferiority

Erikson (1950, p. 232) states that the fourth stage of psychosocial crisis during school is between five and twelve years old. This stage is "the entrance into life" for the inner parts of the children because they learn the social approval. The teacher in this stage has a vital role in encouraging the children to their psychosocial development. Children start to realized and reached specific competencies achievements for pride and society acknowledging their passion. Success in this stage will lead them to the virtue of competence. Otherwise, if the teacher or their parents restricted their ability and initiative, it will lead them into inferiority, self-doubting about their skills and potential. Some failures may need for their self-modesty development.

## 2.2.2.5 Ego Identity vs. Role Confusion

The fifth stage of psychosocial development occurs between twelve until eighteen years old. During this stage, Erikson (1950, p. 235-236) explained that adolescents search for a sense of their identity by exploring personal values, beliefs, and goals. This stage is the most important because the transition from adolescence to adulthood occurs. Adolescents begin more independent, look at the future, such as careers, relationships, etc. The adolescent mind is a psychosocial stage between the morality learned during the child and the ethics developed by the adult. The adolescents will try to understand the roles as adults, and they try to find their self-identity. There are two identities included in this stage, the sexual and the occupational. Success in this stage will lead to the virtue of fidelity. If they fail to set up the sense of identity within society, it will lead to role confusion.

# 2.2.2.6 Intimacy vs. Isolation

The sixth stage of psychosocial development occurs from eighteen until forty years old. Erikson (1950, p. 237) states that intimacy in this stage is the subsequent development from adolescence to young adulthood. It can commit with others and have a serious relationship, even if it requires significant sacrifice and compromise. They want to fuse their identity with others' identity after search and insistence on identity in the previous stage. If this stage is unsuccessful, Erikson (1950, p. 239) explained that it would lead to isolation, avoiding contact with intimacy, loneliness, and sometimes depression. Otherwise, success in this stage will lead to a happy relationship, a sense of commitment, safety, and care. The virtue of love will get when someone is successful in this stage.

## 2.2.2.7 Generativity vs. Stagnation

In this seventh stage, between forty and sixty-five, generativity has a concept of productivity and creativity. Erikson (1950, p. 240) refers to making a mark by making creations or nurturing that will outlive a person and benefit others. We can contribute to our society by raising our children well, being productive at work and in society, involved in organizations or community activities. Success in this stage will lead to feelings of usefulness and achievement. In contrast, failure will lead to stagnation because we failed to involve the community and disconnected from the world. The virtue of care will get if success in this stage.

# 2.2.2.8 Ego Integrity vs. Despair

Erikson's last stage of psychosocial development theory (1950, p. 242) is sixty-five until death. During this stage, the person is on the final psychosocial development, and when we are old, we tend to look back on the achievements we have passed and get and develop integrity. Due to slow mobility, and tend to enjoy retirement. When we are successful in living our lives, we tend to be satisfied then get virtue wisdom. Our wisdom leads us to look at the past with a sense of perfection. In the closure, we can accept death without fear. A wise person experiences both ego integrity and despair. However, the failure of this phase will lead us to unproductive flashbacks. Feeling guilty about our past will affect being dissatisfied and developing feelings of hopelessness, leading to depression.

## 2.2.3 The Role of the Surroundings to Deal with the Psychological Condition

The surroundings have an essential role in teenage mother's psychological health conditions. People from teenage mother surrounding, such as family, friends, and community, are influenced adolescence mother has positive or negative vibes through her daily life as a young mother. Ngum Chi Watts, Liamputtong, and Mcmichael (2015, p.6) mention four circles from surroundings being the support system for early motherhood.

# 2.2.3.1 Support from Family

Ngum Chi Watts, Liamputtong, and Mcmichael (2015, p.6) assert that family support for teenage mothers can help them reintegrate with their life such as their education, employment, and their social life. However, the support depended on the relationship between teens and their families. Before pregnancy, if their relationship was good, they were likely to receive family support, especially from their mother or guardians. The form of support that teenage mothers can receive from their family is to take care of the baby and the young mother to give moral support to live the life. The biological father who lived separated from their daughter gave feeling loss to his daughter and lacking support. Further, Furstenberg, Jr., and Crawford (1978, p. 326) explain that teenage mothers who live with their parents got some privileges, such as parental assistance in financial, child-care, and psychological.

## 2.2.3.2 Support from Friends

Ngum Chi Watts, Liamputtong, and Mcmichael (2015, p.7) explain that friends' support varies depending on the relationship before the teenage mother's pregnancy. When an adolescent mother has loyal friends, they will support during pregnancy and help as a caregiver to the baby. As good friends, their support was good because they give moral support and perhaps not infrequently materially.

# 2.2.3.3 Support from Baby's Father

Ngum Chi Watts, Liamputtong, and Mcmichael (2015, p.7) explain that the baby's father is often absent during or after pregnancy. A father who was not missing for the baby and teenage mother will support financial, emotional, or physical, but unfortunately, it is insufficient. Some of them try to get social benefits for the mother rather than help her with the baby. However, they do not support the mother because their relationship has ended before the baby's birth.

## 2.2.3.4 Support from Community

Ngum Chi Watts, Liamputtong, and Mcmichael (2015, p.7) explain that the community often excluded teenage mothers and labeled them as bad roles for other younger girls. Society left embarrassment and shame for adolescent mothers. They did not support the adolescent mother in their environment. Moreover, the community did not give support to the baby. They let teenage mothers feel isolated from the environment.

## 2.3 Previous Studies

Fauziyah (2008) analyzed the teenage problem in the psychological analysis of the main character's personality in *Go Ask Alice*. In her research, Fauziyah discussed the leading character personality portrayed in the novel and the primary character personality needs viewed by Abraham Maslow's theory of motivation (hierarchy of needs). The main character, named Alice, is a teenage girl who has had a problem with drugs. As a result, the main character has three personalities: sensitive, unrealistic, and pessimistic. The personality needs of the main character viewed by Abraham Maslow's theory of motivation are psychological, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and selfactualization needs.

Muharam (2009) researched A Psychological Analysis on Two Main Characters' Friendship in Novel "Veronica." In this study, Muharam analyzed the factors underlying friendship using Robert S. Fieldman's theory and analyzed Alison and Veronica's friendship using J.W. Thibaut and H.H. Kelley's social exchange theory. The study results show that a company needs eternity factors such as similarity, reciprocity of liking, positive qualities, physical attractiveness, and physical appearance. After that, Muharam discovers that Alison and Veronica's friendship is satisfactory, stable, and interdependent.

Irawati (2018) analyzed teenage problem racism in The Struggle of Black People to Avoid Stereotypes in Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give. In her research, Irawati analyzed the impacts of racial discrimination and the struggle of black people against racism to avoid stereotypes in the novel. As a result, the effects of racism are oppression, the death of black people, and psychological condition resulting from discrimination. The small act can manifest the struggle of black people against racism that can give changes to society.

Susilo (2019) researched "Introverted Personality in Teenager" in *Fangirl's* novel by Rainbow Rowell. Susilo's research discussed Cath's personality, factors that influenced Cath's personality, and Cath's character viewed by Jung's theory. Cath is a young girl who has an introverted personality because of her parent's divorce. The result of this study is Cath's personality is introvert also. She does not like to interact with other people, which influenced her to have that personality because of her parent's divorce. Jung's theory explains the nature of Cath.

Rahmawati (2020) analyzed Redefining Power Construction over Adolescents with Asperger Syndrome in Beth Revis' Novel *A World Without You*. In this study, Rahmawati analyzed the conflict that adolescent characters experienced in the novel then motives that stimulate young adolescent family treating him differently as a mental disorder adolescent. The last explains how discriminatory teenage families in parenting style reveal power relations between family members. As a result, the intrinsic element shows the conflict between adolescents in the novel. The binary opposition and its opposite describe the power relationship between the adolescent character and his family. Last, power relation among characters brings reconciliation through each character's affection and acceptance.

Much research uses the teenage problem from many research conducted above, but none discussed adolescent mothers. This study is different from the study conducted above because this study using the teenage mother as an issue in the novel *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo.



## **CHAPTER III**

# ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the analytical descriptions of the three problems of this study. The analysis is divided into explaining Emoni's life as a teenage mother, Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother, and the description of the kind of help that Emoni receives from people around her to deal with her psychological condition.

# 3.1 The Description of Emoni's life as a Teenage Mother

Here, the researcher discusses the background and factors that influence Emoni to become a teenage mother using explanation theory by Domenico and Jones (2007). This section describes Emoni Santiago's life as a teenage mother. She spends most of her time taking care of her daughter Emma Santiago. Besides, Emoni also takes care of her education to reach her dream as a chef.

# 3.1.1 Taking Care of Her Daughter

## **3.1.1.1 Prepare Her Daughter's Needs for Daycare**

Emoni's life as a teenage mother was hard. She had to take care of her daughter and herself. Emoni, who was still in her final year of high school, had to divide her roles as a young mother and a student. Before she went to school, Emoni needed to prepare her daughter for daycare.

"Babygirl doesn't even cry when I suck my teeth and undo her braid for the fourth time. If anything, I'm the one on the verge of tears, since at this rate we're both going to be late. "Babygirl, I'm sorry. I know it hurts. Mommy just doesn't want you looking a hot mess." (p. 4).

Here, Emoni tried to tie her daughter's hair four times which made her so

frustrated. She sucked her teeth in irritation. Emoni did not want her daughter to

look messy and neglected. Although she could be late for school, Emoni kept

carrying out her duties as a mother. She tried her best to be a good mother to her

daughter. Emoni could always ask her grandmother for help, but she did not want

to burden her more.

"Babygirl, Mommy needs to go to school. You make sure you're nice to the other kids and that you pay attention to Mamá Clara so you learn a lot, okay?" Babygirl nods as if I just gave her the most serious Jada Pinkett Smith success speech. I hug her to my stomach, making sure not to nuzzle her too tight and fuzz up the braids I spent an hour doing. With a final kiss on her forehead, I take a deep breath and grab my book bag off the sofa, making sure to wipe down the plastic cover so' Buela doesn't get annoyed with me" (p.6).

In the quotation above, Emoni gave a message to her daughter to behave

well during daycare. She wanted her daughter to pay attention to her teacher

Mama Clara and be good friends with her friends. After that, Emoni gave her

attention and affection by kissing her Babygirl on the forehead and hugging her

gently. Emoni's attention to her child showed her hard work to be a good mother.

"'Buela, don't forget her snacks. Mamá Clara said we need to supply them every day. Oh, and her juice! You know she gets fussy." As I walk past 'Buela, I lean in real hush-hush. "And I also packed a little bottle of water. I know she doesn't like it as much, but I don't want her only drinking sugary stuff, you know?" (p. 6). The quotation shows how Emoni cares for her daughter's health. She told

her grandmother that Babygirl must get what she needs when she is at the daycare.

Emoni remembered Mama Clara's instruction for Babygirl's needs. She paid

attention to her daughter's needs well. She even packed a little water bottle for

Babygirl to not consume sugary stuff because that was not good for her health.

Emoni tried to be a good and caring mother, even though she never got any

examples from her mother.

When Emoni is at school, she is still worried about Emma's condition in the daycare because her grandmother has a doctor's appointment while she was supposed to pick up Emma at the daycare.

"When she sees me pulling out my phone, she presses her hand to lower mine. "Girl, what are you doing? The summer must have canceled your brain. You know your phone will get taken if a security guard sees you pull it out. They live for that shit." "Buela has a doctor's appointment at four-thirty, and I may not have time to check in later. I just wanted to send a quick text to see how Babygirl's drop-off went" (p.26).

Here, Angelica reminded Emoni to hide her phone from the security

guards because if security guards caught them removing their phone in the school area, their phone would confiscate. However, Emoni could not help but take out her cellphone because she was worried about Babygirl's condition in daycare. Her grandmother has a doctor's appointment at four-thirty, which is why Emoni is worried about Babygirl's drop-off went. Emoni is very worried about her daughter. Even though she could get into trouble using her cell phone at school, Emoni does not care. Her love and concern for Emma outweighed her fear of the security guards.

# 3.1.1.2 Giving Quality Time to Her Daughter

Emoni always makes quality time for her daughter. After completing her activities, such as school or part-time work, she always gives quality time to her and Emma. As she did that afternoon, Emoni puts Emma into her hips and makes her closer to Emoni, "I settle Babygirl on my hip, even though she's getting heavier and I'm not getting any bigger" (p.29). However, she thinks that her Babygirl has grown heavier while she did not.

"Did you learn a lot, Babygirl?" She nods and snuggles into my neck, still cradling her juice cup. I run my finger down her chubby cheek. My favorite silent game to play is to try and find my family in her features. Her big brown eyes and long lashes have to come from me; 'Buela has the same eyes. Her lips are the same shape as her father's. Aunt Sarah has shared some baby pictures of my mother and her as children, and I like to think I can see that lineage in her button nose, the seashell of her ears. And then there's the pieces of Babygirl that belong to her alone" (p.29-30). The quotation above proves that Emoni loves her daughter. She asked

Emma about her daycare day. A common question about is she learns a lot or not? But that is one of the mothers caring for her daughter. She also liked staring at Emma and find out her family in Emma's features. Her finger runs down into Emma's chubby cheek. Emoni finds out her family in Emma's features also Tyrone's lips which same as Emma and she get big brown eyes and then long lashes from Emoni. However, Emma still has a feature that no one has.

When Emma tells Emoni that she learns the choo-choo trains book, Emoni tries to understand what her daughter said chugga, chugga, choo-choo train! To her, "I nod at Babygirl as she garbles out a summary of the choo-choo trains book. At least, I assume that's what she's telling me" (p.30). Emoni also shows her affection as a good mother to Babygirl with tells a story before going to bed, "Well, that's great. Babygirl, 'Buela or I will read to you tonight before bed. I think we have a choo-choo book around here somewhere," I set Babygirl down" (p.30). This quotation shows how Emoni treated her daughter well. She wants to read a book that Emma learned in daycare before she is going to bed. Every Saturday, Tyrone picks Emma to have quality time with him at his house, "...on the weekends he has to pick up Babygirl, he shows up like clockwork" (p.47). As a mother, Emoni trying to protect Emma (Babygirl) and make sure that she is fine when she gets along with her father.

"Her snacks are packed in her bag. So is her favorite picture book. Anything else just text me. I'll be at work this afternoon, but I can answer during my break. And 'Buela will be here all day. So you can call the house phone, too." I'm babbling." (p.47-48).

The quotation above proved Emoni wants to make sure Tyrone knows if he needs something else to take care of Emma. However, Emoni has packed everything that Emma needs, such as snacks and her favorite books, but she is still worried about her daughter. Emoni is afraid Tyrone cannot handle Emma, so she tells him that she will answer his calling when she has time break when Tyrone needs help. Emoni is a hard-working mother. She did part-time at burger joints to fulfill Emma's needs. She will try her best to be there for her lovely daughter anytime Emma needs her.

"Everything inside me wants to reach out, snatch her from his arms, and shut the door in his face, let her know I won't ever let anyone take her from me, but I force myself to be still. This has happened the other four times he came to pick her up" (p.48-49). When Tyrone takes Emma to spend time together with him, on Emoni's

inside, she wants Tyrone to stay away from Emma, but she is holding it. She just wants Emma to stay with her. No one can take her from Emoni, even if it's Tyrone, Emma's father. However, Emoni does not want her to have a selfish personality because it will hurt Emma. She holds it for Emma, who needs father figures in her life. She just needs to wait until Sunday evening until Tyrone brings Emma back into her house, "I inhale the scent of her vanilla perfume and begin the countdown until seven p.m. on Sunday. Only thirty-two hours to go" (p.49).

Emoni counts it, and its needs thirty-two hours to see Emma.

The day Emma returns to Emoni's house, Emoni cannot be relaxed on her weekend with her grandmother. She is waiting for her Babygirl to come back

from Tyrone's house.

"The whole weekend when I wasn't at work 'Buela and I have circled around each other, neither one of us wanting to say that we miss Babygirl. You'd think that finally having a day free would mean I would go out with Angelica or enjoy not having to be responsible for a whole other human, but instead it feels like a rip in the fabric of my life that won't get stitched back together until Babygirl walks through the door" (p.52).

The quotation shows that Emoni cannot have a happy weekend even

though she has free time. Emoni and her grandmother only worried about Emma. They want Emma to come back home soon. Here, Emoni shows how big she loved her daughter. Emoni cannot think about her happiness or enjoy her free time. She only thinks about Emma. She makes an analogy about her most profound feeling about missing her daughter shows how Emoni feels towards Babygirl. She will feel complete only when Emma comes back to her arms.

Tyrone brings Emma back at 7.03 p.m. "Babygirl gets home at 7:03, …" (p.52). Then they walk in a rush to pulls Emma into Emoni's arms and hug her, "Tyrone gives us a brief update before heading back to the car, but I don't hear a word. "Mommy missed you so much, Mommy missed you so, so much," I say into her soft cheek" (p.53). Here, Emoni's reaction through her daughter expressed her feelings that she missed her daughter so much. Emoni even ignored Tyrone's explanation about what was happening. The only matter is her daughter arrived safely, and she can see her anytime without any worries.

#### **3.1.1.3 Taking Care of Her Daughter's Tantrum**

When Emoni and Emma have quality time together, they spend that time

doing things they usually do, like playing, reading books, and others. That night,

they spend their quality time reading a book before going to bed. However,

Emma, who was too happy with the story of the rabbit, did not want to sleep and

ended up with Emma having a tantrum, making Emoni have to be patient with it.

"Have a carrot," said the mother bunny.' The end." I close the picture book and kiss the top of Babygirl's head. She's snuggled against me with her thumb in her mouth. "Babygirl, I told you to stop sucking on your thumb. It's a bad

habit," I say, taking her hand in my own to get it away from her lips" (p.76).

The quotation above is the conversation between Emoni and Emma. After

Emoni reading a book for Emma, she kissed her daughter on the forehead. Emoni also warns her daughter not to suck her thumb in her mouth. She is a caring mother and then taking away Emma's thumb from her lips. She is taking care of her daughter well, constantly watching her habit and not doing bad habits. But Emma wants to re-read her bunny book, "Read 'gain, Mommy." (p.76). Yet, Emoni cannot re-read the book since she has homework even it's the weekend, "Not tonight, babes. It's time for bed. Mommy has to do homework." (p.76). So she refused Babygirl's request to read her book.

However, Emma does not want to hear and understand her mother's situation. She keeps asking her mother to read the book, "I want read it 'gain!" (p.77). Emoni's reaction to her daughter is strict. She wants her daughter to understand and discipline. Emoni teaches Emma that she cannot always get everything that she wants.

"Emma Santiago," I say, using her government name because it's the only way to get ahead of her tantrums. "Yelling won't work. I know you want me to read it again. But we've already read it three times and you have to learn you can't always get what you want." (p. 77).

Emoni tries to hold and patience to face Emma's tantrum. She counts

under her breath, "So when she starts wailing, crying, and throwing her stuffed animals out of her crib, all I can do is sigh and count under my breath." (p.77). She tries to say her daughter's bad habit of making her understand, "You were the same way, you know? When you wanted something, you let the whole world know." (p.77). Emoni calms down, her daughter looks amateurish, which is natural considering that Emoni is still in the teenage stage and has become a mother. Dealing with child tantrums is certainly not easy because it is the first time she becomes a mother.

Then, Emoni realizes and tells her daughter softly and gives her more understanding about the situation, but Emma's response is terrible.

"Babygirl," I say, walking up to the crib. "We can read the story four times tomorrow. I love that you love reading. But right now, it's time to go to sleep." She responds by throwing a doll at me. "That's enough, Emma," I say. I don't use my no-nonsense voice often, but I bring it out now. "Just because you're angry doesn't mean you throw things at people."

The quotation above shows how Emoni and Emma are in a terrible tantrum situation. Emoni using her no-nonsense voice to her daughter after Emma throws her toys into Emoni. Emoni warns her it's not good behavior to throw something at people when angry. She does not usually bring her angry voice, but she brings it to calm and understand her daughter. However, it does not work for Emma. It makes her more crying, "She curls up, still crying loudly but exhausted." (p.78). Emoni's way of fixing her daughter's tantrum does not work

and makes Emma cry more loudly and exhausted.

In the end, Emoni stays still and lets her daughter crying and finished her

terrible tantrum by herself.

"Her small body heaves with sobs, and everything inside me wants to run my hand down her little head and just read her the damn story again. Just give her what she wants to stop her from hurting. But I keep still until she quiets down, until her breathing turns heavy. Once she's asleep I pick up the stuffed animals and place them neatly at her feet, then wipe the wetness off her cheeks. I turn her night-light on and close the door to our room. Thirty minutes wasted and it's all the bunny's fault." (p.78).

The preferred way to deal with her child's tantrums is to let Emma cry and

vent her emotions. Emma, whose desire to re-read a rabbit's book cannot fulfill, was crying loudly and exhausted to sleep. Emoni, who saw her daughter crying, felt sad and wanted to read the book, but she prefers to stay so that Emma understands discipline and learns that all her wishes cannot always be fulfilled. When Emma is asleep, Emoni put her to bed, wiped the remaining tears on Emma's cheeks, then turned on the nightlight and closed the door. Thirty minutes was a waste, and Emoni blamed the rabbit in the book.

#### **3.1.1.4 Keep Her Good Attitude for Her Daughter**

Angelica as Emoni's best friend, has an excellent relationship. This relationship made Angelica act like a regular friend who was very close to Emoni. So, she often did things or said real and rarely controlled stuff like she did into Emoni. It made Emoni call her the potty mouth.

"I swat her on the arm. "This is why I don't let you around Babygirl; you have such a potty mouth." "And you don't?" She gives me one of her pursed-lips looks. "Yes, but I picked it up from you. And I've been working on it." I accidentally slipped in front of Babygirl a few weeks ago and almost died when I heard her saying "sh-sh-sh" as if practicing the word. I've cut out my cursing since" (p.11). In the quotation above, the conversation between Angelica and Emoni

showed how Emoni tried her best to be a good mother for Emma. She kept her mouth and people around her to say nice words only. It's all for Emma's goodness because Emoni does not want her daughter to grow up in a bad environment. Her daughter practiced swearing to imitate Emoni's speech, and Emoni nearly died when she found out. Since then, she does not use cursed words anymore in her daily life.

"And so, I go to the only person who can make me feel better. Babygirl's daycare isn't too far from the house, and instead of taking the bus or train, I walk the whole way there, using the hour to clear my head and getting there right around pickup time. I peek through the window into her classroom. She's standing at a play kitchen swinging a large plastic spoon. It's one of the cutest things I've ever seen and for some reason I tear up." (p.133-134). The quotation above shows Emoni's feelings for Emma. The only person

who can comfort and make Emoni feel better when trouble strikes her is her daughter Emma. She goes to visit Emma's daycare and intends to pick her up. She walked instead of taking public transport to clear her head. Arriving at the daycare, Emoni saw Emma swinging a large plastic spoon while playing in the kitchen. It touched Emoni's heart. It was the cutest thing she had ever seen. As a mother, Emoni felt touched. Feelings filled with a deep love for her daughter brought her to tears.

"In a couple of months, you'll be an adult. I trust you with that child; I should trust you with yourself." And although her trust should make me feel better, I feel a slight pang in my chest. Every day it seems 'Buela is stepping back, not just giving me full rein in Babygirl's life, but also in my own. And I know I should love the freedom, but I don't think I'm ready for all the safety nets to be cut loose. Doesn't she know I still need her? That I still wish someone would look at the pieces of my life and tell me how to make sure they all fit back together?" (p.134). Here, Buela (Emoni's grandmother) gave Emoni complete trust in taking

care of Emma and become a whole mother. Emoni feels relieved and happy with her grandmother's freedom, but the pain goes with it too. She was not ready to fully control his daughter. She is not prepared to let go of the safety net of her life. As Emma's mother, she must be ready to accept these consequences even though she still needs her grandmother's help in her life. Emoni hopes to become an independent mother, but her grandmother has already given her a chance and fully trusted Emoni's motherhood.

# **3.1.1.5 Giving Her Daughter a Special Name**

Emoni's love for her daughter is so big, like the other mother. She has a unique nickname for her daughter, *Babygirl*. When Babygirl needs a name and birth certificate, she wanted to give her daughter the best name, "I wanted to give Babygirl a nice name. The kind of name that doesn't tell you too much before you meet her, the way mine does" (p.8). She wants to give a unique name to her daughter, which nobody can judge because of her name. Emoni had terrible experiences because of her name, "Because nobody ever met a white girl named Emoni, and as soon as they see my name on a résumé or college application they think they know exactly what kind of girl they getting" (p.8).

People judge from Emoni's name. She did not feel pleasant about what people think before knowing her. Then, Emoni believes that her name reflected her race and her origin. So, she did not want her daughter to get the same experience as her in the future. She gave her daughter the name Emma, "That's why I fought Tyrone tooth and nail to name her Emma" (p.8). Emoni exactly wants the best for Babygirl. She was even ready to fight Tyrone for her daughter's name. Emoni is a teenage mother, but she has visionary thoughts and courage for her daughter's best future. "But I know in that moment I felt this huge emotion; I wanted to do whatever I could to give my daughter the best opportunity in the world" (p.9).

She wants Emma to get the best opportunity in the world. She does not want her daughter to suffer and wants her to live happily ever after. "I know a name alone can't guarantee new opportunities, but at the very least it'll give her a chance to get in the room, to let other people realize she's someone they want to learn more about" (p.9). Here, Emoni shows her feelings towards Emma's names that she made it very special for her. In Emma's name, she hopes for a great opportunity and bright future for her. Emoni also hopes that her daughter could be someone who wants to be known more by others, not from the judgments of others when reading or hearing her name as she had been through all this time.

#### **3.1.2 Taking Care of Her Education**

Emoni does her best for her daughter as a teenage mother even though it is not easy for her because she is still a student.

"Now that Babygirl's two, 'Buela insists that I have to take on more responsibility in raising her. Which I don't mind, since Babygirl is the coolest kid on the block. It's just hard juggling work, her, and now the new school year, without 'Buela taking on the big role she took the first two years of her life" (p.12). Now that her daughter is two, Emoni must take over her grandmother's role, which was previously more enormous in taking care of her daughter. Although it is difficult to divide as a mother and her school, Emoni should dominate caring for Babygirl. Her grandmother already took care of her daughter for the first two years of Babygirl's life. Emoni does not mind what her grandmother said about Emma's upbringing because it is Emoni's responsibility in reality.

Emoni's school has a new elective course for senior years and its culinary arts: Spain immersion and a weeklong trip to Spain. Emoni's advisor, Ms. Fuentes looks so happy that Emoni finally follows her passion and decides to take culinary arts class, "Ms. Santiago, I'm so glad you've decided on the culinary arts class. It's perfect for you." (p. 40). Emoni and Ms. Santiago have a good relationship since she is Emoni's advisory, and she helped Emoni chase her dream. They have talked to each other about Emoni's dream. And this opportunity makes Ms. Fuentes excited that Emoni can join the class, "You've talked so much in advisory about how you love to cook. I think taking this class and traveling abroad will be an amazing opportunity." (p. 40).

However, Emoni does not want Ms. Fuentes to know about her worries, the money, "I don't want Ms. Fuentes to know that 'Buela and I are worried about the fee." (p. 40). Then, Emoni has ideas to cover the cost that she must pay off to go to Spain. Emoni is the head of the fund-raising committee, and the goal for her class is eight thousand dollars for the trip. She was drafting a concept to convince chef Ayden to do the fund-raising. Angelica and Malachi also helped her. "I feel a thrill in my body; I'm excited to put my proposal in motion. I know we can make this work. But first I'll have to convince Chef Ayden. Angelica helps me write up my presentation with graphics and pie charts, and Malachi checks my numbers to make sure all the math is correct." (p. 193). Emoni presented her proposal to chef Ayden and expressed her idea by

selling lunch at the cafe next to the kitchen where they practiced and winter dinner. The idea she made with the help of advice from Angelica, her father, and Malachi went well. Emoni believes she can carry out her vision to be able to go to Spain to learn new things about cooking, "I hadn't counted on more work. But I puff up my chest. I got this." (p. 194). Emoni is worried about her daughter because she will have a tight schedule in her school. Still, her grandmother convinces her and gives her a solution to engage Tyrone and his parents to help them look after Babygirl while Emoni is busy with school. Then finally, she got the bright side for her problem, "I reach out and give 'Buela a tight hug, inhaling her familiar scent. She's right about all of it. I have a lot of decisions to make, but tonight I'm going to dream about cooking, and Spain, and graduation." (p. 196).

Since submitting the proposal was two weeks ago, the school administration and chef Ayden have finally agreed to the fund-raising idea that Emoni is planning. Emoni officially has a new schedule to open a cafe for serving lunch at her school.

"I wake up an hour and a half earlier than I used to, before the sun has even blinked awake, and get ready for school. The guards know two of us have special permission three mornings out of the week to be let into the kitchen early, where chef waits to start the lunch special for the day." (p. 206). Even though this is difficult, Emoni still tried to fulfill her desire to go to

Spain with her classmates to cook. She got up earlier than usual to do a job selling

lunch at school. The school guard had noticed that there was activity in the kitchen three times a week in the early mornings. When she arrived, chef Ayden was already there and waiting to start making special lunch. She even did two other part-time jobs to get her way. She worked at a burger joint and became a math tutor. She also never forgot her duty as a young mother. To give her time and attention to Emma, "And putting all this effort at school isn't easy. I'm still working hours at the Burger Joint, going to tutoring after school for math, and spending as much time with Babygirl as I can manage." (p. 207).

The day the winter dinner has come on Monday, December 9, at Schomburg Charter High School. The winter dinner went so well until chef Ayden announced the results of the winter dinner on stage, "And the final tally for the evening is . . . two thousand dollars!" (p. 221). Emoni then calculates the total costs that need to be incurred individually from this trip. Unfortunately, she still needed more money to go to Spain for two hundred and seventy-five dollars. It was bigger than the money she had saved and raised.

"I quickly tally all the amounts from the lunches and auction revenue with tonight's money. At fifteen dollars a ticket we have about two thousand dollars left after we cover the cost of the food. With the new total each individual owes about two hundred seventy-five dollars. That's more money than I have saved, especially with the balance being due by the end of the week. I blink back the tears in my eyes. This is a happy moment, Emoni. Something to be proud of. Don't let them see you cry." (p. 221). Emoni feels proud of her hard work finishing the winter dinner and fund-

raising with her classmates and chef Ayden. She feels delighted to shed tears of joy. She is proud of herself and should try to collect the required shortfall by the end of the week. She has a good moment and is happy with the winter dinner

event, which the ideas come from her. However, she did not want anyone to know she was crying for her hard work.

The deadline for payment for travel to Spain is Friday. She still needed a

hundred and eighty dollars for the trip, "But that still means I have two days to

find a hundred and eighty dollars." (p. 231). When Emoni is feeling pessimistic,

she finds hope that comes from her aunt, Aunt Sarah. Her aunt sent her three

hundred dollars for her since Emoni told her she held a fundraising event.

"I open the email and the first thing I see is a dollar amount: \$300

Note: Hey, niece. Sorry this is late. I know you told me in your last email the fund-raiser would end earlier this week. I pooled this together from all your other aunties and uncles and cousins; I hope you can still use it. I loved the pictures you sent from the dinner. I've never been anywhere farther than Raleigh, but I gather everyone needs some pocket change when they leave home, right? We are all so proud of you. Nya would be proud of you, too. Love, Aunt Sarah & the Family" (p. 233-234).

In the quotation above is the email from Aunt Sarah for Emoni. She helps

Emoni with the money that she gathered from their family members. Aunt Sarah

also did not forget to encourage Emoni and give support for her dream. She was

so passionate about helping Emoni that she raised funds from other family

members. Aunt Sarah feels proud of Emoni as well as the other family. She also

wrote that Emoni's mother must be proud of her. Emoni was shocked when her

aunt sends money. Things she never had before, even she never thought she would

get such an extraordinary gift from her aunt and family there.

"Aunt Sarah is my email auntie, the strongest connection to my mother, my kitchen confidante, but she's never sent money before, never organized that side of the family to send me a gift. I look out the window at the clouds parting in the same way my bad mood is, sunlight peeking through both, and I know for a fact there's more than one kind of magic in this world." (p. 234).

However, Aunt Sarah is Emoni's most supportive person besides her grandmother in her family and is her kitchen confidant. Now she is showing her best support through the assistance money she sends to Emoni. The grace and help that suddenly approached her made Emoni realize that there was magic in this world. The email from her aunt made her feel relieved. It is like the sun is peeking through a cloud split in two as she analogized her feelings. Hope and dreams that she wants to realize are getting closer to her. It is because of the people around Emoni who helped her and Emoni's hard work.

Finally, Emoni was able to go to Spain, and she was excited to learn new things in Spain for a week. She had prepared her needs for a week in Spain, assisted by her grandmother, "Are you sure you have everything?" "Sí, 'Buela," I answer for the fiftieth time." (p. 273). Then tomorrow is the day Emoni will go to Spain.

"This time tomorrow I'll be in Spain. And this is the most excited and scared I've been since I birthed this little being. For a whole week I'll be able to birth a new version of myself. And I can't wait." (p. 274).

The quotation above shows Emoni's feelings towards her trip departure for tomorrow. She is being excited also scared about the trip because she will have a new version of herself. She will learn many things about cooking in Spain that she never experienced before. She cannot wait until she left Philadelphia for a week and got new Spain experiences that she will never forget. In Spain, Emoni has a chef mentor who will accompany her to cook and teach her knowledge. Emoni and each person are given a professional and experienced chef to provide new knowledge and lessons they have not previously known. Chef Ayden announced the names of each and the chefs who will accompany them for a week in Spain, "Emoni, you'll be working with Chef Amadí. Modern cuisine with a twist—sounds just like you." (p. 285). The first lesson that Emoni received was testing her knowledge of cooking ingredients.

"Emoni, I'm looking forward to working with you this week. First, let me learn what you already know. Can you name me these ingredients?" Chef Amadí points to the different herbs and spices. "I can see that you know," she says. And I do know." (p. 286).

Emoni quickly answered all the questions and mentioned the ingredients in front of her. Chef Amadi was amazed and gave Emoni a wink, "She nods and shoots me a wink." (p. 286). Emoni learned a lot with Chef Amadi, ingredients that she had never seen and processed before, as well as new cooking techniques she learned from Chef Amadi, "No more oil, that's good." She takes the bowl of marinated octopus from my hand, covers it with a red cloth, and puts it in the fridge." (p. 288). Until the last day, Emoni studied in Spain with chef Amadi. That day went well and smoothly. Chef Amadi is delighted to be working with Emoni, "Emoni, it was so wonderful working with you." (p. 342).

In their last meeting, Chef Amadi gives encouragement and motivational words to Emoni that Emoni has extraordinary abilities, "The pork shoulder will be wonderful. I can't wait to try your marinade. Be good and safe, and oh, Emoni, trust. Okay? Trust. Yourself, mainly, but the world, too. There is magic working in your favor." (p. 342-343). Chef Amadi gave her wise words to Emoni that she had to be kind, confident in herself and the world because there was a miracle that would benefit Emoni in the future. Emoni's trip to Spain ends beautifully. She spent her last night in Spain with Pretty Leslie and Mariana in the dining room. They eat together and listen to music, "Mercedes Sosa was full of duende. Of inspiration and passion." I savor this new word as if it were the last bite on my plate, and I know now I'm ready to go back home." (p. 345).

Graduation came, and Emoni did not expect that she would accept into Drexel College. She felt her value was not too high, but she was passed there.

"I didn't think I would be accepted into Drexel. My grade point average was a little below what they say a student needs, so I'm still shocked. Unlike the guidance counselor in middle school, Ms. Fuentes pushed me to apply even though it was a reach school. It's close to home. It's a great school. And it has a culinary arts program that focuses not only on cooking, but also on restaurant management." (p. 352).

In the quotation above, Emoni was shocked that she was accepted into Drexel College. And her advisory, Ms. Fuentes, told her to apply there. It's a short distance from home, and it is an excellent college because they have a culinary arts program that focuses on cooking and restaurant management. The program is perfect for Emoni, which can make her dreams even easier to come true. However, the obstacles that hinder Emoni come at a cost. She was worried about how she could help pay the bills if the burden of paying for school also approached her. That is what made Emoni hesitate to take a program at Drexel College, "But I don't know how I'll help pay bills if I'm also paying for school." (p. 352). On the last day of depositing the bill, her grandmother gives Emoni a surprise. Help that would greatly determine Emoni's future. Her grandmother left a blank check beside her bed and wrote beautiful words there, so Emoni would make her dream come true. Finally, Emoni followed to make her dream come true by emailing the registration form she had filled out.

"The last day before the deposit has to be postmarked, 'Buela leaves a blank check by my bedside with a note. Follow your dreams, nena. The rest will figure itself out. And so I complete the forms and I mail my decision." (p. 367).

After being accepted into Drexel College, Emoni looks for a part-time job and remembers the restaurant Chef Ayden's friend owned when they met at Winter Dinner, "And so, I pulled up the card Chef Ayden's friend gave me at the Winter Dinner." (p. 382). Emoni tries to meet Chef Williams and introduces herself, then says the intention of coming to her restaurant this time is to ask for work for Emoni, "She remembers! "I came here today because I want a job. I know food better than anyone, and I was wondering if I could work for you." (p. 384). After that, Emoni explained more about herself, her desires, and the reasons why she should get a job at Chef Williams's restaurant.

"I understand. And although I'll be attending Drexel's Culinary Arts program on a part-time basis, it's not too far from here, so I can go to classes in the morning and be here by the lunchtime rush. My family is helping me out to make sure I can commit to the long hours." I give her a soft shrug. "I want to stay in Philly and work in Philly and learn from a restaurant in Philly." (p. 384). Emoni explained that she would try to meet her work hours during

lunchtime after finishing her morning classes at Drexel College. She also assures Chef Williams that Emoni's family supports her in doing this, so she does not have to worry about Emoni just messing around in her restaurant. Emoni's final words clarified that she wanted to live, work, and study in Philadelphia. Then because of her explanation, Chef Williams accepted her to work in her restaurant, and Emoni can start her part-time job right on that day, "Today. Today seems like a great day to begin." (p. 385).

# 3.1.3 Factors Influencing being Teenage Mother

# **3.1.3.1 Family Structure and Relation**

One of the factors that are influencing someone can become a teenage mother is family structure and relation. Background family in teenage mother case has a vital role in influencing someone's decisions to have sexual activity. Emoni was raised by her grandmother, whom she called her *Buela*. Her mother died when she was young, "... I was too young to remember: it was at my mom's funeral" (p.55). Since that day, Emoni does not have a mother's presence, love, and affection in her life.

The absence of her mother makes her question her life. Maybe if her mother were still alive and accompany her, her life would not end up as a teenage mother but as a typical teenager, "All the time I catch myself thinking: Would she be proud of me? If she were around, would I have gotten pregnant and had Babygirl? If she were still alive, would my father have stayed in Philadelphia?" (p.54). Then, she also questions her father, who left her to live alone with her grandmother in Philadelphia.

The absence of parental figures has a significant impact on children's lives. It can influence them to look for pleasure and comfort outside the home. Emoni tries to get those feeling from people around and closest to her. She keeps

in touch with her mother's oldest sister, Aunt Sarah, from her mother's family. Emoni keeps the connection between her and her aunt close because she found herself the same as her aunt in cooking. "She sends me family recipes when she has a moment to type them out, although she cooks the way I do: no actual measurements, only ingredients, and partial directions." (p.55). The presence of Emoni's aunt in her life slightly treats her longing for her mother.

"But I hold this connection close since Julio never talks about my mother, and 'Buela just didn't know her well enough to tell me much. Sometimes Aunt Sarah's recipes will include a tidbit about my mother trying that food for the first time" (p.55).

The quotation above shows that Emoni's central family is not present in her life. Her grandmother is the only one who raised her, and always beside her cannot replace the feeling of losing a mother figure. Besides, when she interacts with her aunt about recipes, she will give a slice of happy memories when Emoni's mother tries her aunt's recipes for the first time. So, it makes one can figure out about her mother from her aunt Sarah. The only person who knows Emoni's mother well than the other family members is her oldest sister, Aunt Sarah. Fortunately, she can give Emoni information about her mother when she is still alive.

Emoni had thought about giving her mother's name as the middle name of her child. She told her mother, whose name was Nya, "My mother's name was Nya, and I thought about making that Babygirl's middle name, but it didn't feel right when I never knew her" (p.55). However, she gave up her intention because she felt it was not right. After all, she did not know the figure of her mother directly.

"Can you miss someone you never met? Of course, the answer is yes. I've made up a story about who my mother was, and I miss that person, whether it's how my actual mom would have been or not. I imagine her patient but strict. Someone who would paint her nails with me, and straighten my hair, and take me prom-dress shopping, but who would also demand good grades, and go to every parentteacher conference, and wouldn't just say my food was good, but give me tough criticism" (p.56)

The quotation above proved that Emoni lost her mother figures in her life. She explained how if her mother was still alive. She imagined it in her fantasy mind. She made her own story about her mother, whether it is true or not. She wondered mother-daughter relationship, like how it is in general and those things Emoni sees through her friends at school or the people around her. This event is an experience that Emoni had never felt in her life. However, Emoni still has a chance to know how her mother looks like through a photo taken when she was still in her mother's womb with her parents holding hands, "It's the only picture I have of the three of us: my parents cheesin' and in love and holding hands, and me fully formed inside her belly, knocking on the door of skin, impatient to get out before everyone left" (p.56).

Meanwhile, Emoni's father lived separated from her. Her father lived in San Juan, "I may question a lot of his actions, but his phone calls from San Juan and his attempts to instill a love of knowledge into me aren't among them" (p.80). They lived in a different place, but her father always visits her every year at the beginning of July. "These days, he doesn't read to me when he comes to visit, and he visits at the same time every year. Julio arrives at the beginning of July, usually with a full agenda" (p.80). This quotation shows that Emoni still has interaction with her father, although it's rare. Her father is still there for Emoni even though their relationship is not good.

"This past summer, he rented a chair at the barbershop down the block and cut a couple of heads in the morning, volunteered at the cultural center in the afternoon, and attended summer lectures and readings at whichever one of the universities in the city was having an event. Every day he invited me to come with him on his afternoon adventures, but I'm not one for lectures, and my relationship with my father is complicated" (p.80-81).

Their relationship is not going well because Emoni's father usually has a

busy plan, even though he visits his daughter. Although Emoni's father invites her to an event he attends, Emoni prefers to reject him because she feels unfit. Emoni's relationship with her father is complicated, according to Emoni's point of view. The absence of father figures in Emoni's life makes their relationship difficult. Her father seemed to exist and was not in her life. Her father did not fully pay attention to Emoni because he was busier with his own life. This situation makes Emoni still lose more of her father figure in life than the love and attention.

There are a few things that make Emoni lost her father figures from her father. Her father's behavior suddenly left her without any goodbye words or notice.

"But poof! Houdini in the flesh. Or rather, in the disappearance. He didn't leave a note, he didn't text goodbye. He called a week later like nothing had happened and asked if I could send him Angelica's Netflix password so he could watch a documentary on the Young Lords" (p.82).

The quotation above proved that Emoni's father left her without hesitation and let her daughter lived alone again with her grandmother. Her father's unkind actions towards her made their relationship unfavorable. Emoni was left without prior notice that her father was going. This action can be selfish because Emoni's father did not respect his family, Emoni and his mother. He acts as if he lives alone without a family, and even her father has no sense of guilt and acts as if nothing happened after his unannounced departure. In addition, Emoni's father casually asked Emoni for the password for Angelica's Netflix account to watch a documentary. His father's attitude that did not reflect a mature father could not use as an example by his daughter. It made Emoni unable to imitate good parenting from her father.

"And maybe because I struggle to learn certain lessons, this one has taken me years and years to learn: You can't make too much space for a father like mine in your life. Because he'll elbow his way in and stretch the corners wide, and when he leaves all you have is the oversized empty—the gap in your heart where a parent should be" (p.82).

The quotation shows how Emoni's feelings towards her father. She feels empty and lost in father figures because of her father's behavior. She even needs a lot of time to realize her relationship with her father. Then, she realized she has a space in her heart for her father and mother, which cannot be filled and replaced. Emoni is the only daughter of her father, but she cannot get the affection she must deserve. Emoni and her father's relationship is complicated. She also does not have a mother to feels empty of parental figures. Her grandmother cannot replace that position even though she raised Emoni by herself. However, Emoni still thought of her grandmother as her parent, but it was strange for her, "It's a strange thing to become a mom when the only example you ever had wasn't even your mother. Not that I don't think of 'Buela as my parent, but..." (p.54). so, the loss

of parental figures in Emoni's case cannot replace by anyone, and it left space in her heart.

#### **3.1.3.2 Age at First Intercourse**

Age level can influence a person in making wise decisions or not. The situation of young children will always need assistance because they are not yet mature in making decisions in daily actions that still need direction. Weak parental supervision and peer pressure can lead teenagers to make wrong decisions to have early sexual activity. If adolescents lack parental supervision, it can lead to bad associations or faulty decision-making, hurting their lives. So, weak parental control can affect a young children's future. Emoni, who lived with her grandmother since she was a baby, makes her lacks parental supervision. Her father is the only parent that she has after her mother died leaving her.

"My grandmother chose to raise me when my father settled me onto her lap, asking her to watch me for a while, and then left the hospital. "A while" became seventeen years. It was in that exchange of my body from his hands to hers that the entire course of my life changed" (p.59-60).

The quotation above shows that her father left Emoni to her grandmother until seventeen years. Then since that day, Emoni's life was changed, lived without her parent, left by her father, her mother died and must survive with her grandmother. Being abandoned by someone we love, who should love and protect you with all their soul and body, is painful and does not feel okay. Emoni must grow up without the attention and affection of his parents because her father just left her and chose to live alone his way. "My grandmother says that my father couldn't handle being a single parent after my mother died. That before that, my mother kept him in check, but he'd had an itch under his skin to return to his island. My grandmother and grandfather moved when he was only fourteen, and they say he didn't adjust easily to the cold, the English, the way these streets were run so different from his own" (p.59).

Here, Emoni's father left her because he cannot be a single parent for her daughter. He could not adapt to the new environment with cold weather, which was different from the warm place of his birth. Besides that, he is not fit with the environment and language. Her father moved with his parents to Philadelphia when he was fourteen years old. Emoni's father even experienced skin problems, such as itching due to not fitting with Philadelphia's weather, until he decided to return to his hometown, Puerto Rico, after leaving Emoni to his mother. Emoni's father's actions are irresponsible because, as a father, he should not leave his daughter alone with other people even though that person is still his family.

Meanwhile, due to her father's actions, which left her since she was a baby, their relationship was not going well. Emoni, who keeps everything to herself, behaves the same as her father as if nothing happened is proof of the consequences of her father's bad behavior towards Emoni. "But still, when we hang up, neither one of us says I love you. Neither one of us says I miss you. Neither one of says just come live here, with me. He doesn't say, I'm sorry for leaving. And I don't say, I'm so angry you left" (p.122). This quotation shows Emoni's feelings towards her father. She keeps her feelings for herself rather than speak up to her father. Emoni experiences the emptiness of a parental figure and a lack of attention and supervision. Emoni was angry with her father for leaving her. She missed him, loved her father, and wanted to invite him to live with her father. It is just a wish that she never expressed and realized because of the complicated conditions of their relationship.

The effect of lack of parental supervision makes Emoni chooses the wrong decision that burdens her life. She had sexual activity when she was freshman year of high school, "The day I lost my virginity, I had a half-day at school and Tyrone skipped the rest of his classes to meet up with me" (p.44). Then she gets pregnant when she was fourteen years old, "His parents kept telling him it probably wasn't his, that a fourteen-year-old who gets pregnant her freshman year probably had a few people she was letting scratch her itch" (p.50). Emoni engages in sexual activity at such a young age because she feels chosen by Tyrone, a pretty young boy who is a year older than Emoni. The way Tyrone treats Emoni so well makes Emoni like him.

"It" just seemed like what people were doing, and why not Tyrone? He was fine, older, and mostly nice to me. At least, I convinced myself he was nice. And most important, he wanted me. He could have sex with any girl, but I was the one he was after. Even thinking about it now I get a little twisted up inside. So much of my decision to have sex had more to do with being chosen than it did with any actual sexual attraction" (p.43).

The quotation above shows that Emoni had sexual intercourse for the first time with Tyrone because of the affection given by Tyrone. Emoni feels chosen by Tyrone. She feels respected and desired. He gave her a sense of being worthy and desirable. Her poor experience left by her father made Emoni unable to feel the love or special treatment. She lives alone with her grandmother, with the

arrival of Tyrone into Emoni's life making her choose to have sexual activity because she feels chosen rather than attracted to actual sexual activity.

"To this day I couldn't tell someone why Tyrone. Maybe because I didn't expect him to pick me. Maybe because most boys looked past my stick-board skinny body, more interested in the bubble-butt girls. Maybe because when I made him a cupcake he said it was too pretty to eat and waited a week, when the cupcake had gone stale, before taking a bite and still said it was the best thing he'd ever tasted; said it reminded him of a favorite birthday memory. Said he wanted to make me his girl" (p.43).

Here is the proof of why Emoni chooses Tyrone as a man who is taking her virginity. He treated her so well. He is a sweet and pretty boy. While other boys prefer girls that they find more physically attractive, Tyrone chooses the less attractive Emoni, according to Emoni's opinion. She did not even think that Tyrone would choose her as his girl. The cupcake that Emoni treated was so pretty. He even ate the stale cupcake. Then still praised that it was the best and reminded Tyrone of his favorite sweet birthday memories. So, attention and treatment that Emoni could not feel before from the male figure in her life and parental supervision make Emoni make the wrong decision. She got good affection from a boy who was a year older than her. Tyrone treats Emoni so sweetly. That's what makes Emoni melt and have sexual intercourse with him.

# **3.2** The Way Emoni's as a Teenage Mother Affects Her Psychological Condition.

Emoni's condition as a teenage mother affects her psychosocial development will be discussed in a sub-chapter that adapts to the concept of the psychosocial stage by Erik Erikson.

#### 3.2.1 Identity vs. Role Confusion

Emoni was fourteen years old when she was pregnant, "...that a fourteenyear-old who gets pregnant her freshman year probably had a few people she was letting scratch her itch." (p.42). She had to raise her child at a young age, at which age she should focus on school and develop her talents and interests for her future. According to Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, at the age of fourteen, Emoni is ideally in the fifth stage, identity vs. role confusion. In this stage, adolescents search for their identity by exploring personal values, beliefs, and goals.

The adolescents will try to learn the roles as adults, and they try to find their self-identity. There are two identities included in this stage, the sexual and the occupational. Success in this stage will lead to the virtue of fidelity. Suppose they fail to set up the sense of identity within society. In that case, it will lead to role confusion. What happened to Emoni was that she was supposed to be in the fifth stage of psychosocial development, but because of her condition, being pregnant in her teens, she stepped over a step that she should have gone through. In this case, Emoni is in the sixth stage of psychosocial development by Erikson.

It means that she failed in the fifth stage, which has a role confusion effect on her psychology.

Emoni's role confusion is the result of the incomplete fifth stage of psychosocial development. This role confusion caused adolescents to be unsure of themselves and confused about what they will become when they grow up. Emoni experiences role confusion and is insecure, and she does not know about her future since having children. This condition shows when Emoni is confused about whether she should take Culinary Arts: Spain Immersion class or not when her best friend Angelica mentions it.

"That martyr thing you do when you want something but convince yourself you can't have it because of Babygirl, or 'Buela." I swallow. Is she right? Is that what I'm doing? Sometimes your girl reads you better than anyone else. "I just wish I had it figured out like you, Gelly. The girlfriend, the art school dreams, the grades." (p. 27).

The quotation above shows that Emoni's role confused her choice of choosing culinary arts because of her children and grandmother. She feels doubtful and unsure of her ability to determine her future. She cannot move freely because of her role as a mother. In addition, the effect of not completing the fifth stage of psychosocial development has the role confusion that Emoni must face. Emoni also felt that she did not know what she was going to do in her last year of school when Angelica asked her, "...It's senior year, the last time we get just to be teenagers. If you can't try something new now, when can you?" (p.27). Emoni's response to Angelica's statement with the answer that was in her mind at that moment that she did not know and only answered modestly and the possibility

that could happen to her, "I don't know. Maybe. I'd like to learn how to cook food

from Spain." (p. 27).

On the sidelines of their conversation about new elective courses for final year students, Emoni thought about how complicated the situation was. She felt like she could not control it. She was overthinking as she devoured her sandwich.

"I just take another bite of my sandwich, close my eyes, and savor, because I can't think of a single way to make my life more how I imagine it, but I can imagine a hundred ways to make this sandwich better. And sometimes focusing on what you can control is the only way to lessen the pang in your chest when you think about the things you can't." (p. 27).

The quotation above shows Emoni's thoughts, who did not know the future she would face and go through. She chose to eat her sandwich and thought about how to make the sandwich taste better. She cannot control the situation and cannot think about the future she wants. She felt a pain in her chest because of her condition, but Emoni was just trying to turn her attention to what she could control. So, Emoni experiencing situations and feelings has resulted from role confusion because she failed to pass the fifth stage of Psychosocial Development.

#### **3.2.2 Intimacy vs. Isolation**

Emoni Santiago is in the sixth stage of psychosocial development because of her condition. Pregnant and having children at a young age make her fight for her life and her daughter, Emma Santiago. Emoni faces problems that she should not have experienced at her age, such as taking care of children, working parttime, and others. According to Erikson, this stage occurs between eighteen until forty years old. In the sixth stage, intimacy vs. isolation is the result of psychosocial development. Intimacy in this stage is the subsequent development from adolescence to young adulthood that can commit with others and have a serious relationship. Even it requires significant sacrifice and compromise. If this stage is unsuccessful, it will lead to isolation, avoiding contact with intimacy, loneliness, and sometimes depression. Otherwise, success in this stage will lead to a happy relationship, a sense of commitment, safety, and care. The virtue of love will get when someone is successful in this stage.

In Emoni's case, she is successful in the sixth stage because she can handle her problems well. Emoni is faced with adult problems, taking care of her daughter as a breadwinner to help meet her daughter's needs. Besides that, she also has to focus on school. The problem she faced did not suit her age, but she had to deal with it, and luckily Emoni was able to handle it well. Success in this stage will lead to a happy relationship. Emoni has a happy relationship with her surroundings, who supported her, such as her grandmother, best friend Angelica, and father.

From the beginning, Emoni's grandmother has always supported her with all her heart and looked after her. She was the closest person to Emoni, who had a happy relationship. They both care and love each other, as evidenced by the last day of the deposit that must postmark. Emoni's grandmother left a check and asked Emoni to follow her dream, "The last day before the deposit has to be postmarked, 'Buela leaves a blank check by my bedside with a note. Follow your dreams, nena. The rest will figure itself out. And so I complete the forms, and I mail my decision." (p. 260).

Angelica is Emoni's best friend in high school. They often get along at school and outside of school. Angelica is one of the closest people to Emoni, who always supports and helps Emoni when the situation is complicated. Angelica gave her help when Emoni needed time to text her grandmother to determine that her daughter's drop-off went because her grandmother had a doctor's appointment. "Angelica changes sides with me to cover my body from any security guards or teachers who might be watching." (p. 26). They have a happy relationship as a best friend, caring and loving each other.

Meanwhile, Emoni's relationship with her father ended in a happy relationship even though they had a bad relationship before. Her father abandoned her since she was a baby and he returned to Philadelphia stayed with Emoni for a little longer to help her with Emma and the bills. They have talked a lot about Emoni's mother and why her father never stays because Philadelphia reminds him of her wife and mother raising Emoni well.

"It was never you, Emoni. I tried. Every year I came I said this would be the year I stayed and helped to raise my daughter. But you didn't need me. Moms did such a good job while I was gone and I wasn't built for a place like this. I miss the ocean. I miss the warmth. I miss having a real purpose. There are so many tough reminders for me here." (p. 267-268).

That night, Emoni knows everything about the answers to her questions over this time. After their deep talk, Emoni tries to understand and give her father a chance to better their relationship. Emoni feels her father's good intentions and covers her father's hands. So, their relationship becomes a happy relationship after a deep conversation to clear Emoni's feelings towards her father. Moreover, success in the sixth stage will lead to a sense of commitment, safety, and care. Emoni owns those outputs. She commits her life. She steps on with confidence and is ready for the next challenge she will face. Emoni will live better, she knows what she wants and the goals she wants to achieve.

"And like a map I've been following without knowing the exact destination, I know now I've been equipping myself with tools from the journey to help me survive when I arrive. Although I don't have all the answers for what is coming next, I can finally see a glimpse of where I, Emoni Santiago, am going." (p. 381).

Here, Emoni shows a positive attitude and a commitment in her life. She is committed to keeping moving forward with her equipped tools from the journey at her disposal for survival. She does not stop for her dreams and goals despite the many obstacles that will come. Emoni is aware and can see at a glance where she is going. The sense of commitment that appears in Emoni shows the success of the sixth stage of psychosocial development. Her success led Emoni to become a person who commits her life. She does not lose her way and understands the purpose of life that she wants to realize.

Emoni has safety and cares through the people around her, especially her grandmother. They also protect and care for each other. The virtue of love is also obtained by Emoni, as she does to those around her. She gives attention and affection to her grandmother, daughter, Aunt Sarah, best friend Angelica, and father. Emoni has the virtue of love for those who have supported and helped her. She builds lasting and secure relationships. Emoni has not cut ties with anyone and has a good relationship with them. So, Emoni's success in this sixth stage is the sense of commitment, safety care, and the virtue of love she has received. She can establish loving and affectionate relationships with other people and find meaningful connections with others.

Therefore, the psychological condition of Emoni Santiago as a teenage mother can be categorized as quite good because Emoni was able to overcome the confusion of her role in the fifth stage, successfully in the sixth stage by getting the virtue of love. Even though she failed in the fifth stage and got role confusion, she rose and thanks to her closest people who gave a significant role in her life journey as a teenage mother. It makes Emoni succeeded in the sixth stage by establishing a good and meaningful relationship with the people around her also gets the virtue of love.

# 3.3 The Role of the Surroundings on Teenage Mother Psychological Condition

### **3.3.1 Support from Family**

Family support is essential for teenage mothers because they are the closest relation and help them have difficulties. Emoni's family plays one of the most significant roles in her life. Her family helps Emoni deal with crises in her life, starting from her pregnancy to helping her daughter. Emoni's grandmother was the most respected person in her life, then her aunt Sarah, and finally, her father, who was there to help even though it was late. Emoni's grandmother is the biggest supporter of her. She helps look after Emoni's daughter, provides financial assistance for school and other necessities. When Emoni went to school, her grandmother replaced her in taking care of her daughter, "Emoni, vete. It's time for you to head out. I'll fix her hair." (p. 12). Her grandmother also bears Emoni's

school fees and needs. Even when Emoni goes to university, her grandmother helps with her tuition fees. "The last day before the deposit has to be postmarked, 'Buela leaves a blank check by my bedside with a note. Follow your dreams, nena. The rest will figure itself out." (p. 260).

Aunt Sarah is the only family member of Emoni's mother who is closest to her. Emoni often exchanged news with her aunt via email and several times over the phone. They often discussed recipes and several times discussed Emoni's mother. Since they have a very close relationship, Aunt Sarah took part in helping Emoni's difficulties. Apart from sending delicious recipes, Aunt Sarah also helped Emoni when she was having financial problems due to a trip to Spain for the culinary arts class that she was taking. Aunt Sarah helped Emoni by raising money from other family members and raised \$300 to cover the cost of Emoni's trip to Spain, "Note: Hey, niece. Sorry this is late. I know you told me in your last email the fund-raiser would end earlier this week. I pooled this together from all your other aunties and uncles and cousins; I hope you can still use it." (p. 166). The help given by Aunt Sarah means a lot to Emoni during the difficulties she faces. It affected her mental health, which was at a stable level because of her aunt's help.

Emoni's father is the last person from a close family relationship with Emoni. Even though their relationship did not go well, her father explained why he had left Emoni to live with her grandmother. In the end, her father tried to repair their relationship. Emoni's father tries to make up for what he has been unable to do, which is to support and help Emoni. On the night before Emoni's

graduation, her father said that "I want to keep on trying even though you are too grown to need me. I know you got many changes coming, and I was thinking maybe I could stay for a while this time and help you with Emma and the bills. That could work, right? While you get used to what's coming next?" (p. 268).

#### **3.3.2 Support from Friends**

Angelica is Emoni's best friend in senior high school. She is the closest person outside of the family relationship and helps Emoni greatly through moral and material support. The moral support she did for Emoni is when Emoni doubted her abilities. Angelica always gives encouraging and positive words to Emoni to make her does not feel sad and down. Like she did when Emoni thought she could not choose an extra class devoted to her senior year at school because of her child and grandmother. "You're stronger than anyone I know, Emoni Santiago. It's senior year, the last time we get to just be teenagers. If you can't try something new now, when can you?" (p. 27).

Angelica also provided material support to Emoni. During Halloween, Angelica help prepared a costume for Emoni's daughter, Emma Santiago, "Angelica pulls out the measuring tape and her design notebook. She starts flipping through the book with her Fuschia-tipped hair swinging. "I was thinking we could do a doctor! Or maybe even an astronaut! A Chiquita Banana girl with a fruit crown? It all depends on what you want. What should it be?" (p. 145). The help given by Angelica to her best friend Emoni is precious and helps Emoni's psychological condition as a young mother remain excellent and stable.

#### **3.3.3 Support from Baby's Father**

Tyrone as the father of Emoni's child does not help much in her life. Tyrone neither supports nor provides moral support to Emoni. He is only present for his daughter Emma, not for Emoni. He comes every weekend to pick up his daughter, and he invites her to stay at his house. Tyrone and Emoni's relationship is quite complicated. They remain connected because they are Emma's parents. However, in the end, Tyrone wants to help Emoni take care of Emma's needs when he gets a job and a new apartment. He tried to be a good father to Emma, "But I am here about Emma. I want you to know that I got a job recently, and my own apartment. So I want to help you out more with money; my mother tells me all the time babies are expensive, and I know I could be doing better by you and Emma. Even if I can't offer a lot just yet." (p. 262).

Tyrone does not help in stabilizing Emoni's psychological state as a teenage mother. On the contrary, he tends to put pressure on her even it's not directly as he did to Emoni when discussing that he wanted to extend his visitations from Friday evening to Monday morning. Of course, it caused an uncomfortable feeling for Emoni, even though Tyrone was Emma's father. She seemed to fall freely from the air, "I keep my face stone cold; I keep all my feelings tucked tight like a gymnast holds herself when she's tumbling through the air. But that's exactly how I feel, like I'm free-falling." (p. 263).

#### **3.3.4 Support from Community**

The support from the community that Emoni received came from teachers at her school. At her school, she gets help and positive vibes from her advisor,

Ms. Fuentes. She is quite helpful in educating Emoni. She provides positive support so that Emoni can be like other students who can achieve their goals. Including when there is a culinary arts class, Ms. Fuentes is very supportive of Emoni joining the class because she knows it is Emoni's passion, "Ms. Santiago, I'm so glad you've decided on the culinary arts class. It's perfect for you." Ms. Fuentes moves like a ninja." (p. 35). Apart from Ms. Fuentes, one teacher who supports Emoni discussed the cost of the trip to Spain for her culinary arts class with Chef Ayden, she doubted that she could travel with her classmates because of the cost.

However, chef Ayden supported Emoni and gave words of reassurance words that he will pay if necessary so that Emoni can go on a trip to Spain, "He slides the bills over to me, then pats my hand. "Of course you're going, even I have to pay for it myself," he says." (p. 165). In addition, chef Ayden also provides solutions and assistance to talk to principal Holderness to find creative solutions, "He pats my hand again. "We just have to come up with a creative solution. I'll talk to Principal Holderness. Hold on to your money for now." (p. 166). Ms. Fuentes and Chef Ayden are the people around Emoni who give her moral support. The two teachers helped Emoni in overcoming her problems at school. They played a significant role in Emoni's good psychological condition as a teenage mother who also had to continue her education.

#### **CHAPTER IV**

#### CONCLUSIONS

With the Fire on High is a novel written by Elizabeth Acevedo in 2019. The story is about Emoni Santiago, a seventeen-year-old girl who grown without her parents, lived with her grandmother in Philadelphia and her daughter named Emma. Emoni, who is still in her teens, has a daughter. She has two different roles, as a mother and a high school student. She is working part-time at a burger restaurant to meet her daughter's needs. Her grandmother assists Emoni in taking care of her daughter. Since she has a daughter and a teenage mother, Emoni went through a difficult time and affected her psychological condition.

The researcher was choosing this novel to be analyzed because this study was never conducted before. It has an interesting teenage mother issue to be discussed in more depth. Teenage mothers' issues were not yet completed early in the adolescent problem theme, so it differs from previous studies, which did not analyze teenage mothers as an issue. In this research, the researcher portrayed the life of Emoni Santiago as a teenage mother and a high school student who is trying to pursue her dream as a chef. However, because she has two roles at the same time, it affects her psychological condition. Besides, this research portrayed factors influencing someone to be a teenage mother, showing a deeper understanding of adolescent mothers.

The result of this study shows that Emoni's life as a teenage mother is taking care of her daughter and her education. Emoni took care of her daughter in

many ways, such as preparing her daughter's needs for daycare and giving quality time to her daughter. More than that, she also takes care of her daughter's tantrums, keeps a good attitude, and gives her daughter a unique name. Moreover, she is also taking care of her education with hard work, passion, and support from Emoni's closest. Some factors influencing someone can be a teenage mother. In Emoni's case, the factors influencing her can be teenage mother were family structure, relation, and age at first intercourse.

Emoni's psychological condition as a teenage mother was quite good because of support from her closest. She has role confusion as a result of the incomplete fifth stage of psychosocial development. Emoni is in the sixth stage of psychosocial development, a stage she should not have gone through because she has not met the age requirement at that stage of eighteen years. Even though her life journey as a teenage mother is difficult, she has enormous support from those closest. As a result, Emoni managed to get through her difficult time and the effect of her role confusion. In the sixth stage, Emoni managed to get the virtue of love for succeeding in standing at that stage. Emoni went through the sixth stage well because she could not separate from the support of the closest people who loved her. She managed to interpret a relationship that every relationship with loved ones is meaningful.

The significant role of the people around has a big impact on Emoni's psychological condition. Support and enthusiasm managed to make Emoni go through a difficult time in her life. Emoni's most significant source of support is from her family, her grandmother, Aunt Sarah, and her father. Besides, the support came from her closest friend, Angelica. Tyrone as the father of Emoni's daughter is not very helpful. His presence is purely for his daughter. Emoni also received support from people outside of family and friends, from her school teachers who care about Emoni's future, Ms. Fuentes and Chef Ayden.



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