

**CARLA'S IDENTITY CONFUSION IN *DROP BY KATIE*
EVERSON**

THESIS



BY:

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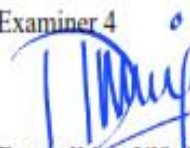
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Penulis

(MUKLIS CAHYONO)

Adolescence in this stage is vulnerable to suffering identity confusion if they fail in exploring their identity. As adolescence, they need good support from parents and also their peers to achieve a good identity.

Adolescence relationships with their parents and peers are associated with their mental health and ability to adapt to the environment. Although their relationship with parents is also relevant, the center of adolescent life is related to peers (Tarant, 2002: 110-124). Belonging to a regular or popular group is also positively related to teenage adaptation to the environment.

Adolescence's center of life is their relationship with their peers (Tarant, 2002: 110-124), so self-comparison with their peers is essential for youth when they try to match their identity to their peers. Member of the peers could model their habit to reach the group norms.' Therefore, peers groups could play a significant part in adolescent identity development.

In the identity vs. role confusion stage, adolescents should try to figure out who they are. During this period, adolescence should explore possibilities and begin to form their unique identity. According to Erikson (as cited in Alwisol 2005), the source of identity is from strengthening or disappearance the identity from childhood. Bee (1992) stated that the outcome at the end of this stage should be a reintegrated sense of self, what she wants or wants to be, and one appropriate sex role. Failure to establish their unique ability leads to identity confusion. Identity confusion involves individuals unsure about themselves or what they need to do.

Identity confusion is the state that someone Does not know what to do or what they will do. According to Erikson (1994), the big question of identity vs. role confusion is who I am. Adolescence needs to figure out how they could answer this question to avoid identity confusion. Identity confusion is also described as confusing being or doing something, confused about where they belong, and confused about who they indeed are.

Humans in the real world are experiencing identity confusion, but an imaginary character from literary works is sometimes also suffered from identity confusion. The object of literature may be from the author's imagination with real-life experience or just the author's imagination. So it is possible that a character from literary works experienced identity confusion because the character is sometimes portrayed from a natural person or half based real-life person or entirely imaginary person.

One of the examples of literary works is the novel. The novel is a story that tells about character's experiences, complex or easy thoughts, feelings, and the world that the characters live in. There is no specific word length for literary works to be automatically called a novel, but a short novel is shorter than a novella is a short fiction.

Drop is a novel written by Katie Everson. The story is about Carla, who wants to be popular and has good grades, *a good life* described in her favorite movies. "*This is my time to shine,*" Carla said in the novel. So, she changes her whole life in the future. She transforms into an innocent girl being to the drug addicts. This transformation was due to her parent's attitude toward her. They

Erikson claimed that before adapting and “adapting” to these changes, teenagers might feel temporarily unwell. If individuals pass this stage, it will lead to loyalty (Erikson, 1968). Loyalty includes being able to dedicate oneself to others based on accepting others even if there are differences in ideology. In this period, they tend to explore various possibilities and start to form their identities based on the results of the exploration. Failing to achieve a sense of identity or failing to find a role model in life (“I do not know who I want to be when I grow up”) can lead to identity confusion. Identity confusion involves individuals not being sure about themselves.

To cope with identity confusion or identity crisis, teenagers may begin to try a different lifestyle (such as education, community, organization, and work). Similarly, pressing an individual into an identity can lead to rebellion.

2.4 Identity Diffusion

Identity diffusion is part of the teenager’s identity development to figure out who they are. The term identity diffusion refers to teenagers who have not fully realized their social identity and are not actively seeking it. Individuals in the identity diffusion stage do not participate in self-exploration or make firm commitments (Kroger and Marcia, 2011). Diffusion arrives in various structures, yet they all have a short or non-existent exploratory time and the powerlessness to make substantial responsibilities. Diffusion can show up unimaginably flexible, beguiling, and vastly versatile at their best. Diffusions are confused and isolated at their worst, filled with feelings of emptiness and meaninglessness. (Kroger and Marcia, 2011).

2.5 Previous Study

The literature review has a crucial part in a study. Before conducting the research, a researcher needs to comprehend the previous studies related to their issue. This comprehension will help them get the insights and understanding of those issues and then develop it into complete research. The writer finds two previous studies that examine identity vs. role confusion stages, however, the writer did not find previous studies that examine *Drop* by Katie Everson. The two of them are Linda Lestiana (2019) and Dessy Christin (2018).

The first paper is by Linda Lestiana entitled Jacob Portman's Identity Confusion in Ransom Riggs' *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. This study discussed identity confusion in the story, which used Erikson's Psychosocial Development theory to analyze it. The result shows that the character experiences identity confusion with the symptoms that he cannot answer the question "who am I", change the sense of life, and his life was divided into before and after. Several possible factors caused the character to experience identity confusion. They are lack supports from his parents. The parents force them to create an identity, and they do not decide things for their lives.

Dessy Christin conducted a study entitled The Adolescents' Search of Identity In "Lady Bird" Movie as The Representation of Erikson's Theory of Identity Versus Identity Confusion. This research discussed adolescents' process of searching for their identity according to Erikson's theory. This research proves the relation between intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story about Erikson's theory of identity vs. identity confusion.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of the discussion presented by the researcher based on the data found in the literary work. This chapter has been divided into two sections, as the researcher stated in the research question. The first main topic is discussing Carla's identity as depicted in the story. In this part, the data was analyzed with New Criticism theories. While in the second main topic, Identity confusion with the causal factor was discussed. In this part, Erikson's psychosocial development helps the researcher analyze the data found through the stories.

This study analyses *Drop* novels, which tell us about a teenage girl named Carla that moved and stayed in London several times after moving between cities. Before they stayed in London, they permanently moved every 3, 4, and six months because of her mother's job. Now that Carla stays in London for the rest of her life, she would try the social life she dreamed of. Having some friends and lovers made her blind and caused her to fall into the drugs and alcoholic life.

3.1 Carla's Identities

Carla, at first, is just a teenage girl who loves art. "art is a subject I enjoy. Ideas bubble inside me. Bursting to get out" (Everson, 2015: 24). She loves art because she can express her feelings. Carla could not tell her feelings because of the circumstance of her family that had to move because

