IDENTITY CRISIS EXPERIENCED BY AMIR IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER*

THESIS

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2022

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Malang, 17 September 2022

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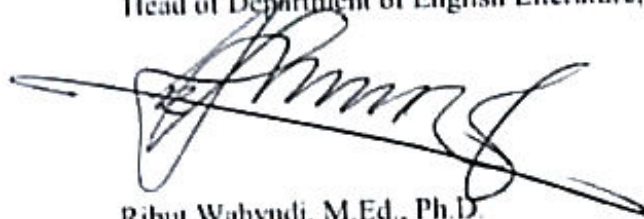
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MOTTO

Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.

Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

(Jalaluddin Rumi)

DEDICATION

To my beloved mother and father,

who had loved and supported me in a way that nobody ever had,

To my beloved brother and sisters,

who had taught me many lessons in life,

To all my friends, especially Maystika and Dara,

who have stayed with me and put up with my weird self,

This thesis is dedicated to you

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Foremost, all praises are delivered to The Almighty Allah SWT for without His mercy and blessings, this thesis could not have been brought to fruition. In this opportunity, the researcher would like to express her utmost gratitude to certain individuals who have contributed to the process of completing this study. It is thanks to these people that the researcher was able to finalize the study given the limited time and they are including:

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Finally, the researcher hopes that the readers are willing to give suggestions regarding the study for the betterment of the thesis in the future.

Malang, 17 September 2022

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ABSTRACT

Arraihan, Ashfiya (2022) *Identity Crisis Experienced by Amir in The Kite Runner.* Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum.

This study is psychological literary analysis research that aims to describe how identity crisis is represented in the novel *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini. This study uses the theory of identity and identity crisis by Baumeister, Saphiro, and Tice to help the analysis of the data. This study focuses on two objectives. The first objective is to examine the causes of identity crisis experienced by Amir, the main protagonist of the novel. The second objective is to analyze how Amir resolved his identity crisis throughout the novel. The type study is psychological literary criticism applying the narrative analysis method. The finding of the research implies that Amir's crisis is identified as identity deficit which is identity crisis characterized by the lack of commitments. Amir struggled with identity deficit in adolescence and mid-life. The causes of the adolescence crisis include Amir's ambivalence towards his father and his cognitive advance. Meanwhile, in mid-life, it is caused by the inadequacy of Amir's existing commitment. In resolving the identity deficit crisis, Amir has to undergo two. The first step is resolving the value issue where Amir needs to gather and select a basic value to form an abstract image of the goal. The second step is resolving the instrumental issue where Amir needs to choose the possible way to achieve his goal which is the most compatible with his value and condition. Once he settled on one, he starts putting it into action which completes the identity deficit resolution.

مستخلص البحث

أريحان ، أثفية (2022) أزمة الهوية التي واجهها أمير في " The Kite" Runner. أطروحة جامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي ، كلية العلوم الإنسانية ، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلام الحكومية مالانج. المشرف الدكتور: شمش الدين الماجستير.

الكلمة المفتاحية: الهوية ، أزمة الهوية ، عجز الهوية

هذ البحث عبارة عن بحث تحليلي نفسي وأدبي يهدف إلى وصف كيفية تمثيل أزمة الهوية في رواية "The Kite Runner" التي كتبه خالد حسيني. تستخدم هذ البحث نظرية أزمة الهوية من نظرية Baumeister , Saphiro , Tice للمساعدة في تحليل البيانات. تركز هذا البحث على هدفين. الهدف الأول هو فحص أسباب أزمة الهوية التي يعيشه أمير كبطل الرواية الرئيسي. الهدف الثاني هو تحليل كيفية حل أمير لأزمة هويته في جميع أنحاء الرواية. نوع البحث هو النقد الأدبي النفسي باستخدام أسلوب التحليل السردي. تشير نتائج البحث إلى أن أزمة أمير يتم تحديدها على أنها عجز في الهوية وهي أزمة هوية تتميز بانعدام الالتزام. عانى أمير مع نقص الهوية في فترة المراهقة ومنتصف العمر. من أسباب أزمة المراهقة تباين أمير تجاه والده وتقدمه المعرفي. في هذه الأثناء ، في منتصف العمر ، يكون سببه عدم كفاية التزام أمير الحالي. في حل أزمة عجز الهوية ، يجب أن يمر أمير بعمليتين. الخطوة الأولى هي حل قضية القيمة حيث يحتاج أمير إلى جمع واختيار قيمة أساسية لتشكيل صورة مجردة للهدف. الخطوة الثانية هي حل المشكلة الأداتية حيث يحتاج أمير إلى اختيار الطريقة الممكنة لتحقيق هدفه الأكثر توافقًا مع قيمته وحالته. بمجرد أن يستقر على واحدة ، يبدأ في وضعها موضع التنفيذ مما يكمل حل عجز الهوية.

ABSTRAK

Arraihan, Ashfiya (2022) *Pengalaman Krisis Identitas oleh Amir dalam Novel The Kite Runner.* Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum.

Kata kunci: identitas, krisis identitas, defisit identitas

Penelitian ini merupakan sebuah penelitian analisis psikologis sastra yang mana bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana krisis identitas digambarkan dalam novel *The Kite Runner* yang ditulis oleh Khaled Hosseini. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori identitas dan krisis identitas oleh Baumeister, Saphiro, dan Tice dalam membantu analisis data. Penelitian ini berfokus pada dua objektif. Tujuan pertama yakni meneliti penyebab-penyebab krisis identitas yang dialami oleh Amir, tokoh protagonis utama dalam novel. Tujuan kedua yaitu menganalisis bagaimana resolusi krisis identitas Amir dalam novel. Jenis penelitian ini merupakan kritik psikologis sastra dengan mengaplikasikan metode analisis naratif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa krisis yang dialami Amir merupakan defisit identitas yaitu krisis identitas dimana seorang individual tidak memiliki sebuah komitmen. Di dalam novel, Amir mengalami defisit identitas pada masa remaja dan juga masa paruh baya. Faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan munculnya krisis identitas masa muda tersebut yaitu ambivalensi Amir terhadap ayahnya dan kemajuan kognitif. Sedangkan pada masa paruh baya, krisis identitas Amir disebabkan oleh kekurangan pada komitmen yang telah dimiliki Amir sebelumnya. Dalam mengatasi defisit identitas tersebut, Amir perlu menyelesaikan dua proses seperti yang telah diusulkan Baumeister *dkk* dalam teori mereka. Langkah yang pertama adalah menyelesaikan persoalan nilai-nilai. Amir harus mengumpulkan, mempertanyakan dan memilih sebuah nilai yang akan dijadikan prinsip dasar dan untuk kemudian membentuk gambaran abstrak sebuah tujuan. Langkah kedua yaitu menyelesaikan persoalan instrumental. Amir harus memilih sebuah cara yang paling memungkinkan untuk mencapai tujuan yang telah dibangun. Pilihan cara ini harus merupakan yang paling sesuai dengan prinsip dasar dan kondisi Amir. Setelah itu, ia harus merealisasikannya dengan tindakan yang mana memenuhi resolusi defisit identitas.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains explanations of the context and purposes of the study. In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of conducting the study, the problems of the study, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations, and also the definitions of key terms. Furthermore, previous studies which are related to the topic of this study are also mentioned and explained in this chapter.

A. Background of the Study

Every human has a certain uniqueness that distinguishes themselves from each other. People are defined not merely by their appearances, but also by personality traits, beliefs, qualities, races, ethnicities, and other components. These components which make a whole individual are called the identity. One's identity consists of dimensions that are established by one's life background, including family, culture, religion, and many others. This means that the process of identity formation exists in the core of the individual and also in the core of one's culture shared by his community (Erikson, 1968, p.22). This is why every individual have their own distinct identity for they live through different background from each other.

In the course of forming identity and attaining a sense of self, people will eventually experience what is called the identity crisis. Identity crisis refers to the crisis of attaining ego identity through the process of identity formation (Coles,

1970, p.88). It is a developmental event where the individual starts to question his place and values in the world. In other words, the individual begins analyzing different ways of looking at himself intensively instead of exploring his identity unconsciously. Identity crisis mainly occurs in adolescence because it is the time of preparing for adulthood (Erikson, 1968, p.17). It is common for teenagers to question what they want to become as an adult in the future. This crisis is the trigger that motivates adolescents to begin considering and shaping their identities.

An identity crisis is also described as a crisis in which people are faced with the problem of making a commitment. One of the essential aspects of identity formation is one's commitment to goals and values which are included in identity components. Committing to particular values and goals can give people a sense of coherence which is the characterization of identity achievement. By evaluating the theories of Erikson, Baumeister, Saphiro and Tice have distinguished identity crisis into two kinds based on the presence of commitment. Identity deficit is a crisis where one is lacking of commitment to value of identity components and has the desire to make one. The second type is the identity conflict in which people need to solve the contradiction of two or more existing commitments.

Considering that the normative crisis of identity occurs during adolescence does not mean that identity crisis cannot transpire in adulthood. In his theory, Baumeister also suggested that his identity crisis types do not all occur in adolescence, but in adulthood as well. Identity deficit crisis mainly occurs in adolescence but is also common to transpire in adulthood. Mid-life identity deficit

might happen if one does not properly resolve the adolescence crisis. Identity conflict is most likely to occur in post-adolescence and early adulthood, depending especially on whether one has made a commitment or not. In other words, young adults might also experience an identity crisis.

Identity crisis is the conflict that people, mainly adolescents, have to resolve to gain a strong sense of self. It does not occur without a trigger and cause. Identity crisis may be caused developmentally or not depending on its type. Identity deficit tends to be triggered by changes that come from within the person himself. Meanwhile, identity conflict may be caused by changes that transpire from certain circumstances.

As mentioned before, identity development is important to provide people with a sense of direction in the future. Teenagers must develop a sense of identity for serving themselves after they start to live in and adapt to society. Failure in resolving an identity crisis is the same as failing to shape identity which may cause people to face many difficulties when confronted by conflicts in the future. In contrast, people who succeed in resolving identity crisis have also achieved identity formation and gained a stronger sense of self. Having an ego identity brings many advantages, including confidence in making decisions in life and developing a sense of commitment. People with a strong sense of self can easily establish and preserve relationships with other people, solve problems in the future, and accomplish many things in their life.

Identity crisis have been formulated as a conflict in almost all literary works as well. Most of the characters in literary texts employed by the author are

presented as complex as humans in real life. It is important to be able to build characters that seem alive so that the readers make them part of the journey of self-understanding. Despite being a part of the author's imaginative creations, characters should be built with real human nature for the sake of the story's plausibility content (Nurgiyantoro, 2012, p.167). They will also have to go through development which is significant for the progress of the story. Similar to human experience, in the process of development, characters in literary texts may undergo a conflict against themselves in the story. In a narrative, man against self is an internal struggle where a character has to overcome his nature or recognized his own identity. Therefore, identity crisis is one of many conflicts experienced by the characters in literary texts.

Literature is described as a representation or reflection of the world in the form of text. It gives people a way to see and be in the world from a new perspective in which the world seem more attractive (Castle, 2013, p.7). All human productions, including literature, are results of human experience and the reflection of their conflict, desire, and potential and thus, literature can be interpreted as an effort to learn, understand, and evaluate ourselves as humans. This leads to literature as a study object for psychology since it tells about human behavior and which creation process comes from the human mind.

According to, a novel is literature in a long-narrative form in which the characters serve as the functions of the text (Rainsford,2014, p.49). In this study, the researcher focused on the novel as the object of study considering that it is clearly the most popular form of literature and it has characters as their primary

element. The novel that is analyzed is the work by Khaled Hosseini with the title of *The Kite Runner*. The story revolves around the life of Amir who lived in Kabul from his childhood to adulthood. Amir is a boy born to a quite well-known family who spent his childhood with his servant, Hassan, who in the novel will later be revealed as Amir's half-brother. They were always stuck to each other despite Hassan being of lower status than Amir until a tragic incident separated them. It is a novel about brotherhood, loyalty, guilt, responsibility, and there are still many more themes.

Khaled Hosseini is an Afghan-American novelist who has published three successful novels. All his novels represent stories with various social themes revolving around the country Afghanistan. One of them is his debut work titled *The Kite Runner* published in 2003. According to *Nielsen BookScan*, it was the best-selling novel in the United States in the year 2005. The novel was able to hold the position in The New York Times Best Seller List for 101 weeks long including three weeks at position number one. The book has even gotten a film adaptation with the same title and was released in 2007. Hosseini seemed to take inspiration from some parts of himself in writing the novel for some of the protagonist's experiences in the story resembles those of the writer.

Amir is a representation of a confused teenager who was undergoing identity formation to develop himself. The story of the novel begins at the time when Amir was still twelve years old which is the age of early adolescence. Based on Erikson's assumption, it can be suggested that the story begins exactly at the time when Amir was at the age where an identity crisis is most likely to occur. It

is plausible to assume that this novel is more than just about reminiscence of the past, but also about the main character's identity formation. Hence, the researcher attempts to examine how Amir experienced identity crisis and how he resolved it in the story. Several prior studies have been conducted to critically analyze the novel *The Kite Runner*. A journal article called *Exploitation of Existentialism in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner* (2019) conducted by Vashni Maria Baniel explored the concept of existentialism represented in the novel. The researcher focused on how the characters strived to find meaning in their life in the middle of their country's despairful state.

In conducting this study, the researcher used previous studies as a means to gain justification and substantial information about the research. The first one is *Frank Li's Identity Crisis Portrayed in David Yoon's Frankly in Love* (2021) written by Cindy Oktavia. The researcher used the theory by Baumeister et al. to analyze the identity crisis experienced by the main character of the novel. The second study is a journal article by Andi Jaihutan Silitonga and Ismaniar Ambarita entitled *Self-Identity Crisis in Trisha Ashley's Every Woman for Herself* (2020). The researcher analyzed the cause and the impact of the main character's identity crisis, and how she coped with it. The third prior study is an article written by Muhammad Azeem et al. with the title *Critical Analysis of Identity Crisis in Hanif Kurieshi's Novel "The Buddha of Suburbia"* (2020). This research studied the relationship between identity crisis and racism in colonialism represented in the studied novel. The next study is conducted by Iram Rubab et al. under the title *A Critical Analysis on Identity Crisis in Hala Alayan's Salt Houses* (2019). It is a

study of Palestinians' identity crisis represented in the novel *Salt Houses*. The researcher highlighted the concept of cultural conflict between Palestinians within and outside their country in the novel.

The Kite Runner is a novel that reflects the life of humans as individuals in real life by taking many issues revolving around the psychology of humans and society as themes. This is the reason why the researcher decides on Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* as the object of this study. The researcher also aims to specifically analyze the main character, Amir, as an individual who has successfully resolved the identity crisis by using Baumeister's theory. In this study, the researcher examines the causes of Amir's identity crisis throughout the story and how he found resolutions to it.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study explained above, the researcher formulates the problems which were discussed in the study as follows:

1. What are the causes of identity crisis experienced by Amir in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*?

2. How does Amir resolve his identity crisis in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. The study aims at understanding the causes of Amir's identity crisis in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*..

2. The study aims at revealing how Amir resolved his identity crisis in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

D. Significances of the Study

The researcher expects this study to give insight and understanding to the readers on the topic of an identity crisis, specifically of its representation in English literature. Moreover, the study is expected to result in contribution for further research on the discussion about identity crisis representation in literary works.

E. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the identity crisis the character Amir has experienced through the story of the novel *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini. The researcher also intends to focus on the causes and the resolution of Amir's identity crisis. The data collection is conducted by applying close reading on the novel *The Kite Runner*.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misconception of the whole context within the study, the definition of key terms is provided to help the readers to understand the meaning of the key terms contained in the study.

1. *Identity* is the character or personality belonging to an individual that can be distinguished from another.

2. *Identity components* are the life aspect that makes an identity.

3. *Identity formation* is the process of making commitments to certain life domains to shape the self by exploring different roles.

4. *Identity crisis* is a developmental event where an individual questions their sense of self or place in the world.

5. *Mid-life identity crisis* is identity crisis that occurs in adulthood if an individual did not resolve his adolescence crisis properly.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This is the section of the study in which the researcher elaborates the theories that helped analyzing the object of the study. The theories presented concern literature and psychology, identity and identity crisis, the causes of identity crisis and the resolution of identity crisis.

A. Literature and Psychology

According to Ahyar, literature is defined as the reflection of the human heart which purposes are to explain the existence of human and draw attention to reality throughout time (Ahyar, 2019, p. 7). In other words, literature is born to give new perspectives of the world through the respective author's own view. Although there are still many people who hold the assumption that a novel is not more than biased fiction and thus is meant for mere entertainment, many also argue that this opinion is no longer considerable. Literary texts are communication tools to give pieces of information to the readers (Jabrohim, 2012, p.15). In the process of creating literary text, there is a collaboration between heart and mind of which it can be concluded that literary texts hold knowledge and intelligence. Therefore, literature is to be considered as a study object in social science research.

Psychology is a field that studies the mind and behavior or in other words, how behavior relates to the mind. As concluded by Sobur, psychology studies the mind or soul by observing behavior (Sobur, 2016, p.22). It explores the mind to be able to explain the behaviors that may be rooted there. Literary works are also

considered as kind of behaviors as results from the human mind which, in this case, is the author. Works of literature are the reflection of the author's mind and therefore, they could be analyzed using psychological approach (Tarigan, 2015, p.215).

Psychology can be applied to literary texts since literature covers humans and their behavior in a given society. Psychological literary criticism is a way of analyzing literary texts using psychological lens. Literary text can be studied with psychology from different views, including the characters employed in the text by the author. As mentioned before that in the process of writing a literary text, the author naturally involves their perspective of the world, either as an individual or a social creature. They put their experience of individual or social events into their work. It is to be noted that these experiences are not simply memories since they also apply their thinking while writing them. Character is one of the elements of literature in which an author puts his ideas in its writing. Most characters in literature are equipped by the readers with particular moral, emotional qualities, and intellectual by their distinctive dialogue (Abrams, 1999, p.32). This means that the characters in literary texts also have their own complexity which also concludes that their behaviors can be studied using psychology.

B. Identity and Identity Crisis

The term identity refers to beliefs, history, and abilities that belong to the individual which are organized into a true persona of self (Woolfolk, 2020, p. 65). Identity is the personal characteristics belonging to individuals that distinguish themselves from each other which have combined with the social environment the

individuals live in. These personal characteristics or attributes are established through people's life background from the time they are born. The concept and definition of identity are asserted both in psychology and sociology. An individual's identity is defined by their roles in society or their community.

Roy F. Baumeister *et al* suggested that identity crisis can be distinguished based on the presence and adequacy of one's commitment to values and goals. In his study, Baumeister evaluated Habermas' theory which proposes two type of identity crisis in the social system including legitimation crisis and motivation crisis. A legitimation crisis is described as a social entity's inability in fulfilling expectations and demands that it has accommodated on itself. The other type of identity crisis is motivation crisis referring to the lack of or inadequacy of existing motivation. Although Habermas proposed this theory with the primary focus on social system crisis, Baumeister suggested that it is also applicable to individual identity crisis (Baumeister *et* al, 1985, p.408).

1. Identity Deficit

A motivation crisis or identity deficit is the type of crisis which is characterized by a lack of commitment to values and goals. Identity deficit is the crisis where people feel inadequate about themselves. If one has clarified what is important in his life and what he aspires to become or achieve, he will consider to always make choices based on his basic values. On the other hand, people who have not yet made commitment to values and goals will always face difficulty in making consistent decision in life. When they start to develop a sincere desire to make commitment and struggle to find one, identity crisis might arise as they

explore different roles. Identity deficit mainly occurs at the time of adolescence and mid-life. Identity deficit in mid-life will more likely transpire in people who did not resolve identity crisis properly (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.420).

2. Identity Conflict

Legitimation crisis or identity conflict refers to identity crisis where people find incompatibility in their existing commitments. Unlike the identity deficit, this identity crisis occurs after one has made commitment. When experiencing identity conflict, an individual is faced with contradictions in demands for action from his different commitments. This can cause inconsistency in one's identity. Identity conflict can arise in two ways. The first one is when there is a sudden conflict between two components that have always been reconcilable at first. The second one is when an individual commit to a new identity which component will shortly contradict the component of the long-standing one. This kind of identity crisis mainly occur after one has made commitment, that is at the time of post-adolescence and early adulthood.

C. Causes of Identity Crisis

The trigger or causes of identity crisis are different depending on the type. Baumeister suggested that the cause of identity deficit is more likely developmental since it tends to be triggered by internal changes. Baumeister equalized identity deficit with Jame Marcia's identity moratorium which is considered a normal course of psychological development. Here, the researcher divides the cause of identity deficit into adolescence and mid-life. On the other

hand, the causes of identity conflict usually involve situational changes or extraordinary development.

1. Identity Deficit

Based on Baumeister's *et al.* theory, identity deficit is the kind of an identity crisis that does not only occur in adolescence, as what has been suggested by Erikson, but also in midlife. This is because unlike identity conflict, identity deficit emerges in developmental process. Baumeister *et al.* also concluded that people who experience adolescence identity deficit are more likely to experience midlife identity deficit (Baumeister *et al,* 1985, p.420).

a. Adolescence Identity Deficit

Identity deficit is very common for young people as adolescence is the normative time for identity exploration. Teenagers realize they have to prepare themselves for entering adulthood and society and to do this, they will try to examine different roles. In the process exploring, they might experience identity deficit which may be triggered by three causes.

i. The Ambivalence Between the Child and Parent

Ambivalent relationship means that there are uncertainties or inconsistencies in the way parent treat their children and how the children regard their parents. A study by Bourne (1978) found that people who were currently undergoing or having experienced identity crisis recognize the inconsistencies in their parent's behavior. In other words, there are both acceptance and rejection in the way the parents treat them, such as a mother who is overcontrolling but keeps demanding the son to be independent. Aside from the parent's ambivalence, this

factor is also characterized by the conflicting feelings of the child, especially the awareness of one's desire to merge with the parent is regressing as suggested by Falk (1976) (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.410). The adolescent will develop a fear of being separated as he realizes he is no longer devoted to the parent as much as before.

ii.   Cognitive Advance

As a toddler grows up to become an adolescent, he will gain cognitive advance which helps increase the adolescent's self-consciousness. The adolescent will become more aware of his surrounding and of how other people perceive himself as an individual. This self-consciousness can make the adolescents gain increasing control of their identity, thereby also make them consider identity problems (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.410). Having much self-awareness can trigger an individual to develop an identity crisis.

iii.   Situational Demand for Choices

When the adolescent develops a desire to make commitments, they will also consider the incompatibility of different identities they might face in the future. Then they might feel reluctant to let go of any other possibilities which could also lead to the reluctance of making commitment. This situational demand for choice is one of the causes of identity deficit crisis.

b. Mid-Life Identity Deficit

Following Erikson's view that failing to deal with a developmental task at the proper age will result to further problem in the future, Baumeister *et al.* concluded that midlife identity deficit comes as a result of unresolved adolescence

crisis. Mid-life identity deficit crisis is considered to be the result of failure of one's values and goals (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.411). An individual will experience mid-life crisis as he realizes that the commitment he has made is inadequate. Either he found that the commitment he has made will not fulfill his ambition or he discovers that the fulfillment does not satisfy his expectation. This crisis usually occurs if an adolescent has made commitment too early that it develop only some parts of the self but neglects the other. Then the parts that have been neglected will make the nonfulfillment feels excruciating for the individual which causes mid-life identity deficit to occur.

2. Identity Conflict

The common cause of identity conflict is the combination of the essence of making choice and the contradictory order of one's current commitment. One has to face a situation when making choice is necessary while also confronted by the incompatibility found in the existing commitments to determine the occurrence of identity conflict. It should be noted that for the necessary precondition of this identity crisis, an individual must hold a strong and personal commitment to the two identity components (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.412). The emotionally strong feeling of commitment will make the individual face difficulty in making choice which constitutes identity crisis.

D. Resolution of Identity Crisis

Identity crisis is the essential crisis for human psychological development. Resolving it is important as it influences the formation process of human personal identity which is one of life's foundations. Meanwhile failing to resolve the crisis

can result to lacking confidence in making life decisions. The failure will also come as a problem in the future for them.

1. Identity Deficit

The resolution of identity deficit requires two-step process, that is resolving the issue of value and then the instrumental issue.

a. Value Issue

At the stage of resolving the issue of value, the individual tries to determine which values are the most important for them in life. Adolescents who are undergoing this first step of resolution usually question every belief and value to gather a set of basic principles. This is why they tend to be either compliant or deviant toward any influence. Even so, once they have found the acceptable value, they will become more capable of adapting to any influence. Baumeister suspected that adolescents may accept value uncritically from other individuals whom they have utmost trust in or other sources such as mass media (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). When they have formed their set of basic principles, they should test other values that are compatible with the set. After the adolescents resolved the first step, they will attain the ability to shape an abstract goal or indefinite concept of what they want to become or achieve in the future.

b. Instrumental Issue

In the stage of resolving instrumental issue, the individual will have to put the values and goals into practice. He should decide on identity components that are able to fulfill the goal's requirement. After the individual has finally found the compatible one, he begins initiating activity in fulfilling it which completes the

resolution of identity deficit. There are two kinds of final result that come from these two-step processes, either the individual forms a new identity or the individual returns to the previous value he had before experiencing the crisis (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.418).

2. Identity Conflict

Unlike identity deficit, the resolution of identity conflict is a one-step process. There are three possible resolutions to identity conflict depending on the type of the conflict and situation. The first one is to make allegiance to the two conflicting identity components. The situation which supports this way of resolution is that the individual is able to find compromise which enables the aspects of the declined commitment to be integrated into the final self which result in a new identity. The second option is abandoning one of the conflicting commitments. This resolution is enforced if the individual could not find compromise between the conflicting commitments. The third possible resolution is compartmentalization, that is keeping up with the different components while separating them into different spheres of life. An example is someone who acts differently in his or her public and private life based on his or her ethnicity (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.419).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the researcher explains the method or technique applied in conducting the study. The chapter contains explanations of the type of the research, the data forms and data source, the data collection, and the analysis of the data.

A. Research Design

The type of this research is literary criticism with psychology as an approach. As implied by Aras, psychoanalytical criticism in literature focuses on the characters who take the role of exemplary figures to reveal the meaning of life by serving as symbols of existence and the world (Aras, 2015, p.252). Aside from that, examining the mind of the author is also considered in psychological literary criticism. This study aims to analyze the identity crisis experienced by the main protagonist of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, namely Amir. In this study, the researcher used a psychological approach since Amir had been classified as a complex character and the objectives of this study concern exploring his identity crisis.

In this research, Baumeister's theory of identity crisis is applied to help the analysis. According to Baumeister, identity crisis is divided into two kinds: 1) Identity deficit is identity crisis in which the individual is lacking commitment and has the desire to establish one, and 2) Identity conflict in which the individual

is stuck in the conflict between two identity components. Based on the type, identity crisis is caused by different factors. The identity deficit is a result of either of three causes: 1) Ambivalent relationship with the parent, 2) Increasing self-consciousness, and 3) situational demand for choice. The researcher analyzes the type of Amir's identity crisis and then proceeds to examine the causes of it.

Another theory by Baumeister is the resolution to the two kinds of identity crisis. According to Baumeister, the resolution of identity deficit requires a two-step process: 1) Resolving issue of value and 2) Resolving instrumental issue. The researcher applies this theory to analyze how Amir resolved his identity crisis in the novel.

B. Data and Data Source

The data source is the novel by Khaled Hosseini entitled *The Kite Runner* that was published in 2003. The data are in the form of words, sentences, and dialogues extracted from the novel. Aside from the novel by Khaled Hosseini, the data source include several previous researches with the same topic or the same research object.

C. Data collection

The data are collected by reading the text of the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. The researcher classifies the time setting of the novel into two settings, namely Amir's adolescence and midlife. After classifying the time setting of the novel, the researcher takes notes of the dialogues and narration

which are significant to the topic of the study. The data collected are selected based on their relevance to the theory applied in the analysis.

D. Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses narrative analysis technique, that is interpreting texts that have a form of story to derive the focused topic of insight from it. The researcher connects the data that have been gathered from the novel with the context of the study. First of all, the researcher identifies what kind of identity crisis is experienced by Amir based on Baumeiter' theory. Then, the researcher examines the causes and the resolution of Amir's identity crisis in the novel.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher examines how Amir developed and experienced identity crisis and how he resolved it in the novel *The Kite Runner*. The researcher applies the identity crisis theory by Baumeister et al. to analyze the causes of Amir's identity crisis and the resolution of it. The researcher only focuses on Amir, the main protagonist of the novel *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini. By analyzing Amir's identity crisis, this study is expected to persuade readers to critically appreciate the characterization of Amir in the novel and inspect the novel through psychological view.

A. The Causes of Amir's Identity Crisis

In this section, the researcher explains the causes of Amir's identity crisis. It is to be noted that Amir's identity crisis type here is identified as identity deficit. This is concluded as he struggled to gain his father's attention while not being able to fulfill his expectations. Amir had the desire to please his father but also felt the pressure of his father's expectations. Baumeister mentioned that identity deficit is a combination of the lack of commitments and the desire of making commitments (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.408). The dilemma of wanting to be acknowledged and his own inability in becoming more like his father triggered identity deficit in Amir's self.

Amir's experience of identity deficit crisis occured at adolescence and midlife. At adolescence, Amir did not feel content with himself since he did not

turn out to be the son his father had been expecting. Then, as he entered adulthood after resolving the adolescence identity crisis, Amir was dissatisfied with the decision he has made when resolving the crisis. This feeling of dissatisfaction led to crisis in his mid-life whereas mid-life identity deficit tends to be caused by the failure of commitment from the previous crisis. Therefore, the analysis will be based on Baumeister's theory of identity deficit.

1. Adolescence Identity Crisis

a. Ambivalent Relationship with Parents

Amir harbored great admiration towards his father that he mostly spent his early youth searching for opportunity to gain Baba's affection and acknowledgement. Despite this, sometimes he found himself hating his father for being who he was. It was also because his father was being too hard on him and often treated him with cold shoulders. Amir's admiration and resentment towards Baba are indicated as contradictory or ambivalent. The following quotations show Amir's ambivalent feelings toward Baba:

> *The problem, of course, was that Baba saw the world in black and white. And he got to decide what was black and what was white. You can't love a person who lives that way without fearing him too. Maybe even hating him a little. (Hosseini, p. 47)*

> *Most days I worshiped Baba with an intensity approaching the religious. But right then, I wished I could open my veins and drain his cursed blood from my body. (Hosseini, p. 79)*

As mentioned by Falk (1976) and Schafer (1973), identity crisis in an adolescent might be provoked by the adolescent's ambivalence toward his parents (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.410). Ambivalence here means a constant feeling of accepting and rejecting. Amir felt contradictory about how he should think of his father. He admired Baba's way of thinking but also sometimes could not agree

with and accept this side of baba. Therefore, a feeling of resentment came to exist and intrude his admiration toward his father. This existence of both feeling of resentment and admiration, which are two contradicting feelings, within the relationship between a child and parent might be the primary cause of adolescence identity crisis (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.409). Both quotations above explains Amir's contradicting feelings toward Baba.

> *When they left, I sat on my bed and wished Rahim Khan had been my father. Then, I thought of Baba and his great big chest and how good it felt when he held me against it, how he smelled of Brut in the morning, and how his beard tickled my face. I was overcome with such sudden guilt that I bolted to the bathroom and vomited in the sink. (Hosseini, p. 79-80)*

The following quotation shows Amir's ambivalence toward his father which was described by Falk and Schafer as feeling of fear of one's decreasing desires to merge with the parent (Baumeisterr, 1985, p.410). The quotation above shows Amir's confusion about his feeling toward his father which led to his particular behavior. Rahim Khan was a close friend of Baba who, unlike his own father, often treated Amir kindly. His kindness made Amir temporarily wished that his father were to be Rahim Khan. After that, he thought of Baba and the things that made him love his father. Amir was suddenly overwhelmed by a feeling of vehement guilt that it even affected him physically. Amir's wish that Rahim Khan had been his parent and his sudden feeling of guilt afterward indicated ambivalence in Amir's feelings toward Baba.

b. Cognitive Development

As Amir became an adolescent, his consciousness about himself and how other people perceived him began to develop. Amir's cognitive development gradually triggered identity crisis to occur in adolescence. He started to give more

attention to himself as perceived by his father and as compared to Hassan. The over self-consciousness led to decreasing self-esteem and then triggered identity crisis to occur in adolescents. His increasing self-consciousness is shown in the following quotation:

> *"Self-defense has nothing to do with meanness. You know what always happens when the neighborhood boys tease him? Hassan steps in and fends them off. I've seen it my own eyes. And when they come home, I say to him, 'How did Hassan get that scrape on his face?' And he says, 'He fell down.' I'm telling you, Rahim, there is something missing in that boy."*
> *. . . The next morning, as he was preparing my breakfast, Hassan asked if something was bothering me. I snapped at him, told him to mind his own business. (Hosseini, p. 61-62)*

The quotation above shows the scene where Amir heard his father with Rahim Khan talking about him. Baba compared him to Hassan and then proceeded to express his disappointment about it. Afterward, it is implied that he snapped at Hassan. An observation by Blos (1962) found that adolescents develop the ability of thinking to understand themselves and the world around them better than when they were still children (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.410). It means that they become increasingly conscious of their place in the world as individuals. Amir's attitude toward Hassan as a response to his father's disappointment showed that he felt conscious about himself as compared to others.

Amir was especially upset since the discouragement comment came from Baba whom he had been admiring throughout his life. His father was the most influential figure in his life so he start becoming more sensitive about every response Baba showed whenever he did something particular.

> *I cried all the way back home. I remember how Baba's hand clenched around the steering wheel. Clenched and unclenched. Mostly, I will never forget Baba's valiant efforts to conceal the disgusted look in his face as he drove in silence. (Hosseini, p. 58-59)*

The following quotation shows the time when Amir was crying after witnessing a brutal scene at a *Buzkashi* tournament. Baba had brought Amir to watch the tournament as one of his efforts to shape his passion in sports. However, not only did Amir fail to take interest in it but he also cried which embarrass Baba even more. The disgusted look on Baba's face was the most unforgettable thing for Amir since he began paying more attention to him self as perceived by others. According to Lead-beater and Dionne (1981), cognitive advance enables adolescents to use formal operations to think about identity problems (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.410). Amir considered his father's disappointment as a problem to his identity which caused him to become overly conscious of how he responded to anything he did.

Moreover, since Baba compared him with Hassan, Amir began to pay more attention to Hassan's qualities. Amir started getting concerned with his own self compared to Hassan's since he thought that his father favored Hassan over himself. The following quotations show several moments where Amir became overly conscious of Hassan.

> *"If you asked, I would," he finally said, looking right at me. I dropped my eyes. To this day, I find it hard to gaze directly at people like Hassan, people who mean every word they say. (Hosseini, p. 122)*

> *I was stunned. That particular point, so obvious it was utterly stupid, hadn't even occured to me. I moved my lips soundlessly. It appeared that on the same night I had learned about one of writing's objectives, irony, I would also be introduced to one of its pitfalls: the Plot Hole. Taught by Hassan, of all people. Hassan who couldn't read and had never written a single word in his entire life. (Hosseini, p. 83)*

In the first quotation above, Amir found it uncomfortable to regard people of Hassan's character who always kept their words. Amir's self-consciousness made him perceive himself as inferior and caused him to have low self-esteem. In the

latter quotation, Amir was irritated at Hassan for teaching him a new knowledge despite having more privileges than Hassan. Adolescent cognitive development can lead to unhealthy self-consciousness such as dealing with embarrassment by feeling angry and hostile or having low self-esteem (Legg, 2017). In this case, Amir's cognitive advance triggered his identity deficit to develop in adolescence as his self-consciousness also became unhealthy.

2. Mid-Life Identity Crisis

The cause of mid-life identity deficit crisis is the inadequacy of the commitment one has made before. Baumeister suggested the cause is either one realizes he will not fulfill his goals or one fulfills his goals but feels unsatisfied with the result (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.411). In this case, Amir's commitment which he gained from the previous identity crisis did fulfill his ambition of proving his worthiness to Baba. His father paid more attention to him since he had managed to achieve something, that was winning the kite tournament. However, this fulfillmient did not satisfy his expectation which led to mid-life identity crisis as shown in the following quotation:

> *It shouldn't have felt this way. Baba and I were finally friends . . . I finally had what I'd wanted all those years. Except now that I had it, I felt as empty as this unkempt pool I was dangling my legs into. (Hosseini, p. 180-181)*

In the quotation above, Amir expressed his unsatisfied feeling after achieving his ambition. Instead of feeling content because he finally fulfilled his main goal which he had been desparately wanted for a long time, he developed feeling of emptiness as the outcome. Amir found that the earlier commitment he has made did help him reaching his ambition but it did not turn out to be what he had expected. Some parts of himself were able to develop because of making

commitment, however, such as making decisions in career paths and being capable of keeping an intimate relationship. Nonetheless, according to Baumeister, some parts of the self are left neglected and will torment the individual in the future (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.411). Amir's self-esteem was the part of himself which was left undeveloped that brought painful feelings to his dissatisfaction with his goal's fulfillment.

B. The Resolution of Amir's Identity Crisis

In this section, the researcher explains the resolution of Amir's identity crisis in adolescence and mid-life. Since Amir experienced the identity deficit crisis, the resolution of his crisis both in adolescence and midlife required going through two steps, those are resolving the issue of value and the instrumental issue.

1. Adolescence Identity Crisis

a.   Value Issue

Resolving the value issue involves the process of thorough questioning about values and beliefs. It requires ruminating about what is important and what they should believe in their life. This process of questioning is required for determining one's basic values. However, Baumeister suggested there are some values that one might accept uncritically from other people without process of questioning (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). Amir's basic value was received by other people without critical questioning. Throughout his adolescence, Amir's basic value referred to his devotion to his father. He had heard of many stories about what made Baba become famous from other people. Through these stories,

he grew more attached to his father and then he always looked up to him as the ideal figure of a man. Amir had devoted himself to Baba as he implied in the following quotation:

> *Hassan and I fed from the same breasts. We took our first steps on the same yard.*
> *And, under the same roof, we spoke our first words.*
> *Mine was Baba.*
> *His was Amir. My name.*
> *Looking back at it now, I think the foundation for what happened in the winter of 1975–and all that followed–was already laid in those first words. (Hosseini, p. 38-39)*

The quotation above shows Amir's narration as he reminisce about his past. Amir tried to connect the meaning of his and Hassan's first word with what happened in his adolescence. By "what happened in the winter of 1975" he referred to the event where he had decided to betray Hassan. At that time, Amir had won in kite tournament and was going to bring it to Baba as a means of gaining his acknowledgement. However, Hassan had to protect the kite from Assef and his friends by letting them assaulting him. Amir had decided to abandon Hassan for the sake of protecting the kite, for Baba's acknowledgement. Here, he realized how much Baba had influenced his past life that he referred to him as the "foundation" of his adolescence life. He regarded Baba and his devotion to Baba as the basis of making decisions in any choice, including when he decided to abandon Hassan.

After the basic value has been set, the first step will be completed when the individual test other values or beliefs based on the compatibility with his basic value (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). Amir's process of choosing belief for compatibility with his basic value is shown in the following quotation:

> *"I see you've confused what you're learning in school with actual education," he said in his thick voice.*

"But if what he said is true then does it make you a sinner, Baba?" (Hosseini, p. 49)

The quotation above shows the moment where Amir asked Baba about his thought on what was taught in Amir's class. Here, Amir was confused about the belief concerning drinking as a sin that was taught by his teacher in school. This is because he knew that drinking was one of Baba's hobbies and then considered if Baba had been committing sin all this time. Adolescents tend to question anything concerning beliefs and values that they have doubt in (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417)). Amir doubted the idea of his Baba being a sinner since he had always been devoted to him. Hence, he questioned and dismissed other values that were not compatible with his basic value.

> *"There is no act more wretched than stealing Amir," Baba said. "A man who takes what's not his to take, be it a life or a loaf of naan . . . I spit on such a man. And if I ever cross paths with him, God help him. Do you understand?"*
> *I found the idea of Baba clobbering a thief both exhilarating and terribly frightening. "Yes, Baba." (Hosseini, p. 53)*

After discovering the belief was not compatible with his basic value, Amir abandoned it by agreeing with Baba. He had accepted the belief that stealing was the worst sin which led him to go through another process of rumination. One's beliefs are more likely to affect one's values or moral ethics in daily life. When Amir had accepted that stealing was the worst kind of sin, he assumed that he had committed the most loathed sin in his life.

> *I watched him fill his glass at the bar and wondered how much time would pass before we talked again the way we just had. Because the truth of it was, I always felt like Baba hated me a little. And why not? After all, I had killed his beloved wife, his beautiful princess, hadn't I? The least I could have done was to have had the decency to have turned out a little more like him. But I hadn't turned out like him. Not at all. (Hosseini, p. 53-54)*

In the quotation above, he assumed that he was involved in the death of his mother since she had died while giving birth to him. This fact led him thinking

that his father held a little feeling of hatred towards him. The presumption caused him to conclude that he had to made up for it by fulfilling Baba's expectation. The expectation was for Amir to have Baba's traits so Amir thought he should at least bear a bit of resemblence to Baba.

Furthermore, Baba's belief about stealing and Amir's devotion to him became all the more reasons to Amir why he should fulfill Baba's expectation of him to atone for his fault. However, it turned out that he was becoming more unlike his father which made him even more guilty and discouraged. Amir was put in cornered position here where he realize he would not gain Baba's forgiveness with ease. This process of thinking could be considered as rumination about value which, in Amir's case, concerned responsibility to atone for his fault.

b. Instrumental Issue

By resolving the issue of value, an abstract goal or the indefinite concept of what should be achieved will be gained (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). Amir's abstract goal was that he must took responsibility of his fault for taking his mother's life and prove to Baba that he was a worthy son. The next thing Amir had to do was to think of a way for making the abstract goal into a concrete image and then decide on it. In the novel, Amir settled on the kite tournament as a way to fulfill his goal..

> *Baba's casual little comment had planted a seed in my head: the resolution that I would win that winter's tournament. I was going to win. There was no other viable option. I was going to win, and I was going to run that last kite. Then I'd bring it home and show it to Baba. Show him once and for all that his son was worthy . . . And maybe, just maybe, I would finally be pardoned for killing my mother. (Hosseini, p. 125-126)*

The following quotation shows when Amir settled on one idea in transforming the abstract goal into concrete image, which was by winning the kite tournament. He thought that "there was no other viable option" meant that it was the only option compatible with his situation. It should be noted that Amir understood he would not be able to gain Baba's acknowledgement by fulfilling his expectations of becoming more like him. The idea of winning the kite tournament was the only possible option for him since it could help him fulfill his goal and was also compatible with his situation which was lacking of his father's traits. However, while he was initiating the act of fulfilling his goal, Amir was put in a situation where he should made another decision which affected the outcome of his resolution.

> *I had one last chance to make a decision. One final opportunity to decide who I was going to be. I could step into that alley, stand up for Hassan – the way he'd stood up for me all those times in the past – and accept whatever would happen to me. Or I could run. (Hosseini, p. 166)*

The following quotation shows when Amir was being cornered in a demanding situation after winning the kite tournament. In winning the tournament, Amir was helped by Hassan who had the duty of running after the kite he had cut. When Hassan was running after the kite, he was confronted by Assef who proceeded to assault him. At first, Assef ordered him to give him the kite but then he changed his mind and decided to sexually assaulted him. Hassan was protecting the kite from Assef by sacrificing himself. Amir who saw this felt pressured and by what he should do next. There were only two options provided, whether he became a coward and ran away or turned brave and stood up for Hassan. At that moment, he finally decided to become a coward.

In the end, I ran.
I ran because I was a coward. I was afraid of Assef and what he would do to me. I was afraid of getting hurt. That's what I told myself as I turned my back to the alley, to Hassan. That's what I made myself believe. I actually aspired to cowardice, because the alternative, the real reason I was running, was that Assef was right: Nothing was free in this world. Maybe Hassan was the price I had to pay, the lamb I had to slay, to win Baba . . (Hosseini, p. 166-167)

The quotation above shows when Amir made another decision while initiating activity in fulfilling his goal. Amir decided to run away and thought of it as a sacrifice he had to make to win his father. It was also the option that was the most compatible with his situation while it could fulfill the requirements of his goal. Amir had decided to choose the kite as a way of gaining Baba's attention so he also made the decision to sacrifice Hassan based on it. He still believed it was impossible for him to become like his father so he saw the kite as the only way of proving his worth to Baba, therefore, he chose the kite over Hassan. This decision had influence to the result of his resolution.

. . . I loved him in that moment, loved him more than I'd ever loved anyone, and I wanted to tell them all that I was the snake in the grasss, the monster in the lake. I wasn't worthy of this sacrifice; I was a liar, a cheat, and a thief. And I would have told, except that part of me was glad. Glad that this would all be over with soon. Baba would dismiss them, there would be some pain, but life would move on. (Hosseini, p. 219)

The quotation above shows when Amir made a decision based on his cowardice. Since deciding to commit to becoming a coward and sacrificing Hassan, he was overwhelmed by guilt everytime he saw Hassan's presence and felt his loyalty. With the purpose of removing the guilty feeling, Amir made a choice to slander Hassan of stealing his watch and money. This was a carefully thought plan which Hassan had consciously regarded as a means to escape from his guilt. It was the first decision he made as a coward and he did not hesitate to admit it. Amir had made new commitment to his old values in which he finally

accepted his cowardly personality and did not try to deny it anymore. Baumeister mentioned that returning to previous values could mean making new commitments to the values or just abandoning the struggle (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.418). Returning to old values with new commitments is the result of the resolution of Amir's adolescence identity crisis.

2. Mid-Life Identity Crisis

a. Value Issue

Unlike in the previous identity crisis' value issue resolution, Amir went through several processes of detailed rumination instead of accepting values uncritically from other people. First of all, Amir had to eliminate his previous basic value, that was his devotion to Baba. Amir had learned that it would only bring guilt to him.

> *My cheeks burned and guilt coursed through me, the guilt of indulging myself at the expense of his ulcer, his black fingernails and aching wrists. But I would stand my ground, I decided. I didn't want to sacrifice for Baba anymore. The last time I had done that, I had damned myself. (Hosseini, p. 275)*

In the previous identity crisis, Amir had to sacrifice Hassan with his devotion to Baba as his foundation. Amir foresaw that he would have to sacrifice something or someone again since he could not please his father by his own self. This did not lead to satisfaction for himself which made him recognize it as unnecessary. Amir decided not to devote himself to pleasing Baba anymore and let Baba see himself as a coward despite he felt guilty of it. Engle (1960) and Kahn (1969) suggested that in psychotherapy related to identity can develop from ruminating about the present to focusing on the future (Baumeister *et al*, 1985,

p.418). Here, Amir was questioning his previous commitment to consider his future life.

In the first step of resolving mid-life crisis, Amir also considered about his commitment to cowardice. One day, Amir was called by Rahim Khan who then reminded him of his past. He told Amir how Hassan was killed by the Taliban and asked him to save Hassan's son from them. Rahim Khan also told him about Baba's secret to make Amir reconsider his refusal to the request. The sudden reveal of the truth about Baba and Rahim Khan's request put Amir, once again, in a demanding situation where he had to make decision. At that moment, Amir questioned and ruminated about everything Rahim Khan had told him.

First of all, Amir considered about the truth about Baba and Hassan which brought many changes to everything about his life. Rahim Khan revealed to Amir that his father had an affair with the wife of Ali, their old loyal servant, and that Hassan was actually his half-brother.

> *Here is another cliche my creative writing teacher would have scoffed at; like father, like son. But it was true, wasn't it? As it turned out, Baba and I were more alike than I'd ever known. We had both betrayed the people who would have given their lives for us. And with that came this realization: that Rahim Khan had summoned me here to atone not just for my sins but for Baba's too. (Hosseini, p. 443-444)*

Amir had to discover that his father had been concealing his sin from other people to save his own honor. Furthermore, in order to do that, Baba had to betray Ali and Hassan who had been loyal to them all those times in the past. This truth made Amir feel even more guilty about his cowardice. Then he realized that Rahim Khan was asking him to take responsibility for both his and Baba's betrayal. However, this time, the object of his responsibility was Hassan instead

of his father. After that, Amir also considered his commitment to becoming a coward.

> *Rahim Khan said I'd always been too hard on myself. But I wondered. True, I hadn't made Ali step on the land mine, and I hadn't brought the Taliban to the house to shoot Hassan. But I had driven Hassan and Ali out of the house. Was it too far-fetched to imagine things might have turned out differently if I hadn't? (Hosseini, p. 444)*

When Amir was hesitant to take his request, Rahim Khan told about Baba's worry that Amir would grew up as someone who could not stand up for himself. Amir said his father might be right about that which made Rahim Khan feel sorry for him. Nevertheless he had trust in Amir and suggested Amir was just being too hard on himself. He doubted that because of what he had done to Hassan and his father, Ali. At the past, after deciding to sacrifice Hassan, Amir had driven Hassan and Ali out of his house after slandering him for stealing his watch. This was an effort to avoid his guilt since Hassan still remained loyal to him.

In the process of questioning value, an individual will try to doubt every possibility to find the one that will truly hold up (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). Amir wondered whether he had actually been too hard on himself or he had really become a coward. He had a doubt about Rahim Khan's opinion since the unfortunate things that had happened to Hassan and Ali were mostly caused by his cowardice decisions. Amir tried to doubt the possibility of changing his commitment to become someone who could stand up for himself. Although Rahim Khan put so much trust in him, he could not believe in his own ability. However, he proceeded to think that he might be able to change.

> *. . . I remembered Baba saying that my problem was that someone had always done my fighting for me. I was thirty eight now . . . I was older now, but maybe not yet too old to start doing my own fighting. Baba had lied about a lot of things as it turned out but he hadn't lied about that. (Hosseini, p. 445-446)*

Amir was reminded of the time where he heard Baba's worry about him because of Rahim Khan. He reconsidered about it and concluded that it might not be too late to change himself. He also realized he could not blame Baba for everything since Baba was right about him not being able to fight for himself. All of Hassan and Ali's misfortunes were not all Baba's fault because Amir had also wronged Hassan for his own sake. In the first step of resolution, Amir learned the value of confidence.

b. Instrumental Issue

After resolving the first step, Amir learned to have confidence in himself as a capable individual. He tried to develop trust in his own ability to make decision and to stop depending on other people to stand up for him. Therefore, he decided to not run away from his guilt again and face it properly. Amir's abstract goal which was formed after gaining the value of self-confidence was to put an end to his and Baba's faults, take responsibility to Hassan and Ali, and change into a better person. Then Amir was going to achieve these goals by taking up Rahim Khan's request, that was saving Hassan's son who had been left alone in Kabul.

> *I wished Rahim Khan hadn't called me. I wished he had let me live on in my oblivion. But he had called me. And what Rahim Khan revealed to me changed things. Made me see how my entire life, long before the winter of 1975, dating back to when that singing Hazara woman was still nursing me, had been a cycle of lies, betrayals, and secrets.*
> *There is a way to be good again, he'd said.*
> *A way to end the cycle.*
> *With a little boy. An orphan. Hassan's son. Somewhere in Kabul. (Hosseini, p. 445)*

After listening to Rahim Khan about Baba's secret, Amir realized that his betrayal was just the continuation of Baba's. The fact that he was not the only who had wronged someone's loyalty and that Hassan was not the only victim

gave Amir more desires to take responsibilty. Since Amir had decided to learn

trusting himself more, he determined to set the responsibility as his goal. Then he

made the decision to put it into a concrete action by saving Hassan's son from

Kabul which had not been safe since the Taliban took control. Amir viewed this

option as the most possible one since it was compatible with his condition and

value (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.417). By saving Hassan's son, he would made up

for his and Baba's guilt to Hassan and Ali and become a person who could rely on

his own self.

> *He needn't have worried. I would never forget the day after Daoud Khan overthrew*
> *the king. My entire adult life, whenever I heard Daoud Khan's name, what I saw*
> *was Hassan with his slingshot pointed at Assef's face, Hassan saying that they'd*
> *have to start calling him One-Eyed Assef instead of Assef Goshkor. I remember how*
> *envious I'd been of Hassan's bravery. Assef had backed down, promised that in the*
> *end he'd get us both. He'd kept that promise with Hassan. Now it was my turn.*
> *(Hosseini, p. 556)*

The quotation above shows when Amir met Assef who had become one of

the Taliban in Kabul. The Taliban had bought Hassan's son as a slave and Amir

had to confront Assef if he wanted to take him. Amir had been afraid of Assef

since he was a child especially after witnessing the incident of him raping Hassan.

When Assef demanded him to fight him before taking Hassan's son, he realized

that it was the chance of proving he could stand up for himself. At that moment,

he did not have anybody else to rely on anymore and he had been letting Hassan

stand up to Assef for him. In the past, he would have refused to fight and run

away, but at this moment, he decided that he would not. Amir's determination of

confronting Assef by himself even though he was aware of his fear indicates that

he had developed a new identity as the result of the resolution.

> *. . . I looked at Hassan, showing those two missing front teeth, sunlight slanting on*
> *his face. Baba's other half. The unentitled, unprivileged half. The half who had*

inherited what had been pure and noble in Baba. The half that, maybe, in the most
secret recesses of his heart, Baba had thought of as his true son.
I slipped the picture back where I had found it. Then I realized something: That last
thought had brought no sting with it. Closing Sohrab's door, I wondered if that was
how forgiveness budded, not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering
its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced in the middle of the night.
(Hosseini, p. 691)

The quotation above also shows how Amir had changed and shaped a new identity which Baumeister mentioned is also one of the results of identity deficit resolution (Baumeister *et al*, 1985, p.418). In the past, everytime he considered himself as inferior to other people, he always felt hurt by the thought. When he was still a teenager, he was always jealous of Hassan because he thought Baba had loved Hassan more than himself. Amir often overly compared himself to Hassan and felt irritated when being exposed as inferior to him although he had the lower status. Furthermore, in his early adulthood, he always looked at himself lower than other people not out of modesty but low self-esteem. He felt inferior to his wife for having the courage to confess her past mistakes to him. Amir was a man with low self-esteem, especially after committing to be a coward.

However, at present, when he thought of Hassan as a much better person and the true son of Baba, he did not feel jealousy and upset about it anymore. He had accepted the fact that he was indeed less a noble person and accepted that if his father had really been favoring Hassan over him in the past. Amir had developed a new self as he had forgiven himself as someone who had done many mistakes in the past and who had committed to cowardice several times.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion which the researcher has drawn from the finding and discussion of the research. The explanation of the conclusion will be provided according to the problem of the study. Aside from conclusion, several suggestions are also contributed for the betterment of future researches regarding the scope of the study.

A. Conclusion

The researcher concluded that Amir experienced identity deficit crisis in adolescence and midlife. The causes of Amir adolescence identity deficit are his ambivalent feeling towards his father and his increasing self-consciousness. Meanwhile the cause of Amir's midlife identity deficit is the unsatisfied feeling of achievement which is gaining his father's acknowledgement. In resolving both identity crises, Amir had to go through a two-step process including resolving the values issue and the instrumental issue. In the adolescence crisis resolution, Amir set his basic value as the devotion to his father. Then he decided to win the kite tournament and sacrifice Hassan as the instrumentals of achieving his goal of attaining his father's attention. In resolving the midlife identity deficit, Amir abandoned his previous basic value and gained the value of self-confidence or self-esteem. He attained the abstract goal of taking responsibility to Hassan and Ali. Then Amir attempted to go save Hassan's son in his hometown Kabul which completed the instrumental issue resolution.

B. Suggestion

In regard to the method of the study, the researcher suggests the readers to try applying psychological lens in reading literary works. By analyzing a literary text using psychology, the readers might be able to relate further to the characters and find a new meaning within the story to be appreciated. Moreover, the researcher hopes that by reading this study, the readers could understand the definition of identity crisis and its representation on literary texts. It is to be respected if the readers could gain the awareness about identity crisis in real society since it concerns the issue of mental health.

With this study, the researcher also hopes to contribute to further researches focusing on literary analysis, specifically for the researchers who are interested in psychological literary criticism. The topic of identity crisis is also recommended to be applied in analyzing other literary texts. Furthermore, the researcher suggests other researchers to employ the novel *The Kite Runner* as their study object using different approach.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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