

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter consists of some important aspects and theories from experts about self-identity. All the theories added with the writer's explanation to make the readers understand more about the theories in types of identity and the development process of the main character in discovery about the true identity.

2.1. Definition of Self

In the literature, the self is defined in terms of consciousness, reflective awareness, and stimulated self-regulation; impulse control and other forms of conformity. Since the self is the primary actor of the identity formation process inside the person, one should also learn how social psychology define the thing called as self. According to (Hitlin, 2003:118) stated, "*Self is one of the greatest discoveries in the history of the social sciences*". As we all know, in this world there are so many people that lived on Earth. But despite that, every human being has his own unique and special characteristics inside of themselves. Whether we are being alone or together with another human beings, every behaviors and actions will be innumerable in order to discover it.

While taken from Stets & Burke (2000:224) explained, "*Self is reflexive in that it can take itself as an object and can categorize, classify, or name itself in particular ways in relation to other social categories or classifications*". Precisely, there lots of people lived in the world regardless of their diversity. But when a person is exists and have the different looks from others, for example just like from physical

or traits then unintentionally they will basically automatically categorize, or separate that person from the same category if there is no sameness in any way for classify the person to be the part of a certain group or community.


By those references, it means that every individual could choose what they wanted to become to be. A person wants to understand by understanding their own self or someone's identity, the question will arise in the surface, “Who am I?”. Nowadays, people generally believed that each of individual has his/her own “me”, and that “I” will acts or experiences something in their life. “*Normal*” people have a strong impression, that they are an entity or unit that is separated and different from other people or objects around it. Sometimes people usually judge themselves based on a trait or personality features such as “I am a gloomy” or “I am generous”, meanwhile there is a certain nature that amount to which a person could have either judged other people or their own self.

2.2. The Definition of “Identity”

Each human has their own identity. Identity has been described as an awareness of personal unity and continuousness, a unique unity that maintains the continuity of the meaning of his own past for himself and others; unity and continuity that integrates all opinion of yourself, both received from others and imagined by themselves about what and who they are and what they can make in relationships with themselves and others.

According to Leary & Tangney (2012) stated that identity is the features and characteristics, social relations, roles, and social group membership that determine

who the individual is. It means that identity can be focused on the past, present, or future, where someone feels obliged to try to be 'who' they want to be, or someone's fear can make the person to be 'who' they want to be as. While taken from Cast & Burke (2002) concluded that identity is a set of meanings that represent the understanding, feelings, and expectations that are applied as occupants of social positions. It means that identity is the experiences that act as a continuity inside of itself and in the relationship out of themselves, also identity can be considered as an adjustment to the social role which there will be a change in value. The person can use the nature or behaviour so they can blend in society for a specific time with their chosen features and characteristics.

Meanwhile, Gunarsa (2003)  stated that identity can be interpreted as a personal core that persists despite gradual changes with age development and environmental development. Gunarsa also added that identity can also be interpreted as a certain way of life that has been formed in previous times and determine which social role that they will choose. Identity is also a result obtained in adolescence, but which is still undergoing change and renewal. Whereas Andreouli (2010) mentioned that identity has been conceptualized as a position towards 'other' in relation to social representation in which the position allows individuals to see identity as a relational and dynamic process. Furthermore, Panuju & Umami in Purwanti (2013) also argued that identity is a unity. Unity formed from principles, ways of life, views that determine the next way of life. Thus, unity is the core of a person who determines how to look at oneself in association and his own review of himself.

By those explanations, it means that the identity is the ace card of getting to know who and what kind of the connection from the person to find that she/he is sharing same crucial things with other people. For example, a group of friends who have the same hobby, the same personality, likes the same boybands, or a rock music lover community, and so on.

Based to Erikson's theory, there is an important thing other than *Personal Identity* to build the identity which is called as *Ego Identity*. Specifically, it means to remember the characteristic of its own individuality. In this kind of matter, it is a private similarity as well as its unique personal lifestyle must be accepted and improved by others and the public. So, here it can be said that the ego identity is the similarity of stability in its individualistic style, and it is recognized by oneself and others if it is accompanied by existential qualities as an independent subject capable of resolving conflicts within his own mind and society. With ego identity, the identity crisis will appear and make the identity formation started to process.

The process of identity formation takes place slowly and initially occurs unconsciously in the core of the individual. Erikson in Alwisol (2008:91-1103) have split the human psychological development into the certain stages, which started from the period of trust versus mistrust and will be ended with the period of integrity vs despair.

Adolescence is a period when there are so many statuses or decisions in society, where there are so many important choices regarding the future must be determined. Santrock (2007) has explained that this is the fifth stage of Erik

Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, which is called as *Identity vs. Role Confusion*. It occurs during adolescence, from about 13 - 21 years. During this stage, adolescents search for a sense of self and personal identity, through an intense exploration of personal values, beliefs, and goals. In adolescence, it is the most important thing to do the transition from childhood into adulthood. Children will be becoming more independent and begin to look at the future in terms of calling, relationships, families, and the existence purpose. It is the sign that an individual wants to belong to a society and fit in.

Erikson claimed that the adolescent may feel uncomfortable about their body for a while until they can adapt and “grow into” the change of it. If they accomplished it, the stage will lead to a virtue called as *fidelity*. Fidelity involves being able to commit one's self to others based on accepting the others, even if when there is may be some of ideological differences. During this period, they explore numerous possibilities and begin to form their own identity based upon the outcome of their explorations. But if they failed, the failure to establish a sense of identity within society such as ‘I don’t know what I want to be when I grow up’ can lead them into a state of role confusion.

Role confusion involves the individual not being sure about themselves or their place in society. For example, the life choice they need to go through are about what or where they are going to go to work, school, or the decision about love partner in marriage and where to live at. According to Clinard in Pranawa (2013) has declared that adolescence is a period of identity seeking. Meanwhile taken from Hall, et. al in Yuniardi (2010) has also stated that adolescents normatively at their development stage face the intimidating task of achieving a self-identity that satisfies

itself as well as a burdensome society also the responsibility that the identity must be acceptable in the community.

By those references, adolescence is the most major stage of development where the child must learn the roles she/he will occupy as an adult while going on the way in the future. It is during this stage that the adolescent will re-examine the identity and try to find out exactly who he or she is, and one of the important tasks faced by teenagers is to find a solution questions that concern identity and develop the constant self-identity.

2.2.1. Types of Identity

Erikson has mentioned two types of identity, namely *Personal Identity* and *Ego Identity*. Personal identity is the person's individual identity that created branches from experiences they had gone through by themselves. Immediately, that will have caused him to will remain the same in so many years. Dramatic changes in personal identity are occurring when new feelings and emotions are being explored. During this time teenagers will begin to develop many personality traits that will affect the other side of life.

Meanwhile, taken from to Marcia (2003) stated that ego identity means that it is sustaining a style of individuality inside of the person. This secret similarity and unique personal lifestyle should be accepted and confirmed by other individuals or the community. So here it can be said that ego identity is the similarity of continuity in its individualist style which is can be recognized by the person who has it and the others. Ego identity itself is an identity that deals with the existential assets of the subject, which means that the subject is independent with a distinctive personal style.

Erikson's theory in Upton (2012) has stated that ego identity is constantly changing because of new experiences and information obtained in daily interactions with others. There are several of conclusions of the explanation above. The first one is that the identity is qualified as an individual sense of similarity and steadiness with self-increasing. Human experienced that in the inner self she/he remained alone, has remained the same with their own self. The second is that ego identity is not only a subjective consciousness, but also a process of identity formation which is the unconscious effort to achieving a personal disposition thread plays an important role in it. The process of identity growth is a development process which in essence slowly happens unconsciously in the core of your Individual. Third is that identity is a psychosocial thing because identity is act as an inner solidarity with the group's identity ideals and identity formation is a process that occurs within the individual's personal core and in the midst of community.

That being said, *Personal Identity* and *Ego Identity* are two types of identity which that is very vital and have to be developed correctly and gradually despite many changes going on, otherwise it will be fatal for the person who tend to hold back when searching their identity and it will cost them into lost their identity and will feel as if the person will be all alone in the world and had no one but nothingness of lost.

2.2.2. Aspects of Identity

In various terms, Erikson in Santrock (2003) suggested the complexity theory of the development of an integrative thinking about identity is a task that really takes such a long, complicated, and tough time. It's rare, maybe not many or even no

teenager has unclear doubts in carrying out several roles capably, but with that, those dimensions can help individuals to find their identity easily. The specific views from Erikson's complex about identity has involved to seven aspects such as:

1. Genetic

Erikson had described that the development of identity as an outcome that included individual experience in eight stages first from development. The development of identity reflects the way individuals deal with previous stages such as trust versus mistrust until the last stage which is integrity vs despair.

2. Adaptive

This development of identity in teenagers can be seen as something adaptive results or achievements. Identity is a tool for the teens who need the adjustment about their special skills, abilities, and strength into the community in which they lived in.

3. Structural

It is a regressive process in the perspective of time, initiative, and ability to coordinate current behaviour with goals in the future front. This setback shows a deficit structural thing for the person who had gone through with it.

4. Dynamic

Erikson believes that identity formation begins when the benefits of identification is at the end. This process happens when the person's childhood identification with adults that later then draw them to create a new form of identity. On the contrary, it will become dependent on the role of the community for youths.

5. Subjective or based on their life experience

Erikson is sure that individuals can feel a concrete and cohesive feeling or absence certainty in him based from the events that had been the person gone through in their life.

6. Psychosocial exchange

Erikson emphasizes reciprocity between adolescents, the world they are lived in and their social communities. The identity development is not only a representation of the soul, but also involving relationships with other people and groups or communities.

7. Existential state

Erikson argues that teenagers seeks the meaning in his life specifically as well as the meaning of life in general way, as it deserves an existentialism philosopher about the way of the self can be found in life.

Based on all of the explanations above, it can be concluded that the aspects of identity have many sources, and those things can influence on how the person who is looking for the identity will decide their value and seeking the meaning of life and their 'identity' to blend in the group or community and do the various things on the outside and live the life they had.

2.3. Definition of Self-Identity

Self-identity is composed with some moderately everlasting self-assessments, such as their character traits, knowledge of the skills and capabilities, the career and interests, or even awareness of one's physical attributes.

On other side, Kartono & Gulo in Purwanti (2013) stated that self-identity is a principle of unity that distinguishes oneself from others. The individual must decide who he really is and how his role in life will be.

With that clarification, it can be considered that self-identity defines our unique sense of ourselves and our relationship to the outside world. Dictionaries also defined self-identity as the conscious recognition of the self as having a particularly unique identity. It is an awareness and also identification with oneself as a part of separated individual to be one whole person. Self-identity as a psychological construct of individuals which is formed through time a long process, as a wake up, self-identity consists of various elements the basic ones, so that identity can really be an aspect of that characterizing an individual is completely different from other individuals.

According to Erikson in Desmita (2005) mentioned that someone who is looking for identity will try to 'being someone', which means trying to experience yourself as 'I' is central, independent, unique, which has an awareness for his inner unity, it also means being 'someone' accepted and recognized by many people.

It is explained further that people who are looking for identity is someone who wants to determine ‘who’ or ‘what’ she/he wanted in the future. If they have obtained identity, then he will realize the characteristics of his personality, such as likes or his dislike, aspirations, anticipated future goals, feelings that he can and must adjust the orientation of his life. Self-identity is interpreted also as a union formed from principles or ways of life, views that determine the next way of life.

By those definitions, it can be concluded that the self-identity is not always restricted to the present. It is also including the person’s past selves and their future selves. While future selves can represent the individuals’ ideas of what they might become in the meantime, what they would like to become, and also what they are afraid of becoming as well. They can correspond to the hopes, the fears, the standards, the goals, and the threats. Possible selves may also have the function as motivations for the future behavior and they also provide an evaluative and interpretive context for the current view of self.

2.3.1. The Process of Self-Identity Development

Self-identity continues to develop during life, changing along with travel and dynamics, according to the life experiences. Development and changes in self-identity occur due to the influence of education, culture, gender, and environment.

According to Erikson in Reich and Siegel (2002) mentioned that the implicit assumption that people will exist in stressful situations, inherent individual security must be more open to intellectual and environmental exploration that underlies the

process of forming identity. Self-identity as a subjective aspect of self that is consistent and develops over time.

Thus, Erikson's theory in Papalia (2009) of *Identity versus Role Confusion* confirmed that the main task of adolescence is to be a unique adult with coherent self-understanding and a valuable role in the society. While taken from Kroger in Papalia (2009) had mentioned that adolescents shape their identities by combining previous identifications into “*new psychological structures, greater than the number of parts that make up them*”. Papalia also added that Identity is formed when adolescents solve three major problems, namely about career or work, the selection of values or ideology to be applied in the person, and the development of satisfying sexual identity.



Hence, there are several conclusions of factors that influence or impact the process of adolescents' self-identity formation, which are are parent-adolescent relations, adolescent personality, previous identity (pre-adolescent), parenting style, idolized model or figure, environmental homogeneity, cognition development, individual traits, mass experience children, social interactions, peers, social climate, school community, and last but not least is culture.

According to Marcia in Desmita (2005) who also mentioned, that the formation of identity also requires two important elements, namely *Exploration* or people usually called it as *Crisis* (in Identity Crisis) and *Commitment*. The ‘*Exploration*’ referred to a particular time when someone is obsessed with exploring the numerous alternative personalities or choices and give great attention to the beliefs and values they needed in the selection of these things.

Whereas '*Commitment*' refers to the efforts to make decisions regardless about the work or ideology in the person believed to determining various strategies to realize the final decision. Based on the two elements above and the self-identity formation, a teenager will experience an *identity crisis* to go on a *commitment*, which can be said that it is a temporary final and sometimes the fatal decision on the future that will happen and affect in their life.

From the descriptions above, it can be concluded that there are several important elements in the formation of self-identity, including the exploration of the environment and social, the personality and role research, also identification of the past and the anticipated future when an individual try to discover their identity by those things above.



2.3.2. Achieving the Self-Identity

Based on the explanation by Erikson in Desmita (2005) that the process of searching the self-identity has been going on since children develop the need for trust, autonomy about themselves, feeling capable to take the initiative, and a sense of being able to produce something. These four components contribute to formation of self-identity. Meanwhile taken from Marcia in Ginanjar & Yunita (2002) developing a theory based on ideas from Erik Erikson, called as the theory of achieving the self-identity. A person who has achieved a successful self-identity can be seen from commitments that have been made, especially in work and relationships personal.

We can tell if a teenager who has managed to achieve a stable self-identity such as she/he had obtained a clear view of what they are, understanding differences and similarities of themselves with others, realized about their strengths and weakness, stay confident regardless what other think about them, and respond to various situations. They also be able to make important decisions, anticipate future challenges, and knowing their role in society.

Therefore, based on those references, we can conclude that achieving the self-identity means when someone with a strong individuality and strong confidence has gone through a conflict or crisis to search the self-identity and finally found it in the end. The person would solve the problem and have a commitment to prove it. Despite of failure, the person will never give up until they achieved the true identity and know their role whether in individual or community into various factors of life to live in the world.

2.4 The Definition of Psycholinguistic

Psycholinguistics is a relatively new subject of linguistics because it involves not only language study but psychological aspects as well. Psycholinguistics is the study of language acquisition and linguistic behaviour, as well as the psychological mechanism responsible from them. In general, psycholinguistic studies have revealed that many of the concepts employed in the analysis of sound structure, word structure, and sentence structure also play a role in language processing. According to William O'Grady (2001) explained that Psycholinguists study how word meaning, sentence meaning, and discourse meaning are computed and represented in the mind.

They study how complex words and sentences are composed in speech and how they are broken down into their constituents in the acts of listening and reading. However, an account of language processing also requires that we understand how these linguistic concepts interact with other aspects of human processing to enable language production and comprehension. John Field (2004) also explained that psycholinguistics is the relationship between human brain and any language, language has a linguistic system which goes from the process of the idea in the brain, communication which is the language to say a code and speech when a code come through mouth with speech.

