

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Result

Adolescence is the most vulnerable stage in the growth cycle. According to The World Health Organization (WHO) definition adolescents as those people between 10 and 19 years of age. Therefore, the great majority of adolescents are included in the age-based definition of "child", adopted by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as a person under 18 years old. The age varies depending on each country. A person begins their teenage years at the age of 13 years and ends when he is 20 years old (World Health Organization *Adolescent Health* 2017).

In his article entitled *Social, and Emotional of Adolescent* Bimal Charan Swain, explains that Adolescent is a period of complex transition that is developmentally different from childhood. In this period, boys and girls grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially from childhood to adulthood. Some of the emotional characteristics marked during Adolescence are heightened emotions, dynamic mood variations, emotional complexity, emotions of love, fear, anger, worry, jealousy, etc. (Swain, 2015)

In the discussion of literary works, there is a genre called young adult literature. Young adult literature is generally described as books written for an audience of 12-20-year-olds. It may also include books primarily written for adults that appeal to younger readers. Offered by the 'Department of English at Southern Connecticut State University, Young adult literature belongs to a different genre

from children's books. It first appeared in the 20th century, between the 1930s and the 1960s, when teenagers began to have a considerable economic impact. The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Board of Directors adopted Michael Cart's white paper, *The Value of Young Adult Literature* 2008. The sections below are taken from that document. The word "young adult literature" is inherently ambiguous since the categories "young adult" and "literature," which make up the phrase, are dynamic and change as culture and society, which serve as their backdrop, do. In the late 1960s, when teenage readers between the ages of 12 and 18 were the book's intended audience, the phrase was originally used to characterize realistic fiction. It addressed topics, events, and conditions that interested people and was set in the actual (as opposed to imaginary) world. According to the number of books being reviewed by an authoritative journal, the number of books published for this audience has also increased due to these newly expansive words, maybe by 25%. Industry insider Albert Greco asserts that sales of young adult books increased 23% between 1999 and 2005.

Departing from the discussion about Adolescent and young adult literature, in this study, the researcher will use a literary work by S. E Hinton entitled *The Outsiders*. Hinton is an American writer best known for her young adult novel set in Oklahoma, especially *The Outsiders* (1967), which she wrote during high school. Hinton is credited with introducing the Young Adult genre. S.E Hinton began her career writing rhymes at the age of sixteen while attending Will Rogers High School in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hinton began writing her first novel, *The Outsider*, inspired by the split of students at her school, the "Greaser" and "Socs" groups. *The Outsider* was later published in Hinton's first year at the University of Tulsa. Since

it was first published, *The Outsider* has become a sensation among teenagers. Hinton's work is thought to have spoken to the hearts of teenagers in America and helped teens see more of their world. *The Outsider* delivered Hinton to the pinnacle of fame. In 1988, S.E Hinton received the Margaret A. Edward Award of the American Libraries Association for her outstanding contribution to writing youth literary novels. This award is given to honor a writer whose work has contributed greatly to the development and insight of teenagers in America.

Known as the author of young adult novels, this novel shows the phenomenon of differences in social classification in the Adolescents world. In other words, this novel is about social identity. In the novel *The Outsiders*, social identity plays a central role in the lives of the characters. The story explores the clash between two rival group, the Greasers an The Socs, who come from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Moreover, it discusses the influence of the environment on adolescent characters especially the main character, also social stratification, stereotypes, and social rules that tend to create status conflicts between characters. Therefore, the research entitled *Social Identity crisis of Ponyboy as the main character in The Outsiders by S.E Hinton*.

1.2. Identification of Problem

The Outsiders implies an in-depth view regarding how a teenage boy has to feel discomfort in society about class stratification. In this novel, Hinton wants to show that society plays an essential role in determining the division of social class. This novel presents the life of the main character, Ponyboy Curtis, and his struggles with right and wrong in a society where he believes that he is an outsider. Ponyboy feels that the class division system implemented by society does not suit him, but

on the one hand, he is forced to accept the rule. Ponyboy recounts his experience of classist inequality as a driving force in his life through escalating conflict steeped in class divisions and increasing awareness that classism and its violence are not inevitable facts of life. Ponyboy has a moment of critical understanding, a quantum leap in his view of his situation, which allows him to break free of his self-image as a victim.

I argue that this novel shows that the society plays a significant role on the shaping of teenager identity. Thus, taking Poniboy as the object of research, this thesis is examining his psychosocial development which lead to the shaping of his social identity.

1.3. Review of Previous Study.

Not only in the real world, some writers make Adolescence a hot topic to discuss, one of which is young adult literature that discusses teenagers and their problems, and psychosocial views of adolescents are also discussed. Because of this problem, I have found several articles, theses, and books that cover similar topics about teenagers.

One of the essential articles to help this research is an article by Joanne S. Gillespie entitled “Getting inside S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*” sources by The English Journal, Vol. 95, No. 3 (Jan. 2006). In this article, the author describes that *The Outsiders* continues to be relevant to adolescents, opening discussions on rejection, acceptance, and stereotyping. The author is a junior high school teacher. She uses the novel *The Outsiders* as learning material because, according to the writer, *The Outsiders* discusses the problems of Adolescents, which are timeless

and suitable for discussion with his students in their teens. In this article, the author prioritizes using the discussion method casually and providing space for students to express their opinions. Students learn how characters relate to one another. Also, the author gives the reason why she used *The Outsiders* is that the novel has "To discover how literature can capture the richness and complexity of human life". The writer concludes that *The Outsiders* is an exciting story that the students like. The characters in *The Outsiders* have a tough exterior, but they are also individuals who are sensitive in responding to difficult situations. According to the author, *The Outsiders* has moral values that are timeless, and the story inspires teenagers today to think about accepting and rejecting as well as the value of each individual. After reading and understanding this article, I think it is an exciting and helpful article for my research because the author reflects on the novel *The Outsiders* in the lives of teenagers today by conducting open discussions with junior high school students in their teens.

The next is a thesis analysis novel by S.E Hinton, *The Outsiders*, written by Gisela Winska Esmeralda, entitled "Social Stratification as Depicted In *The Outsiders*" The Faculty Of Humanities at Diponegoro University (2019). This thesis analyzes the novel's social stratification and its impact on social stratification. Social stratification-related stereotypes of the Greasers and the Socs will also be examined. Two classifications are the basis for the stereotype. However, the Greasers and Socs are indeed stereotyped as belonging to different social classes, with the Greasers being the lower class. After reading this thesis, I assume that the author only focuses on the discussion of social stratification contained in the novel *The Outsiders*. The author does not explain the theory or literary approach she uses

in analyzing the novel *The Outsiders*. Also, the author only describes the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel without conducting an in-depth discussion. Unfortunately, the discussion is not detailed, and the author does not explain the purpose and the final result of the research on *The Outsider* novel she studied.

The next and most important article about the novel *The Outsiders* is by Sandra Beals entitled “Modeling Liberation: Audience, Ideology, and Critical Consciousness in S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*” source *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, Volume 43, Number 2, Summer (2018). This article raises the issue of social rules or social systems. The author of this article argues that *The Outsiders* focuses specifically on social class and hierarchical power structures. For the discussion of social class stratification, the author discusses using the main character's point of view. *The Outsiders* is a novel that reflects the social culture in the United States. *The Outsiders* offers a granular and realistic window into life in a classist environment from the perspective of an underclass person. *The Outsiders* novel also discusses violence perpetrated by teenagers, not physically but also causes mental violence by causing effects on victims and describes how they cover up their violent acts. This article also explains that the division of social class has been a hereditary culture; both "Socs," groups of teenagers with upper-class social status, and "Greasers," groups of teenagers with lower social qualities, show their acceptance of classist ideology/class division through beliefs. Implied or expressed. They even assume that there is nothing they can do about the system of domination. They act and speak as if the system was given and cannot be changed. According to the author, *The Outsiders* secretly assigns higher values to upper-class characters compared to lower-class characters. After analyzing this article, I think this article

uses too many complicated terms, and the language is difficult to understand. In this article, the author quotes too many sentences from the novel, and the explanation is too long and convoluted. In this article, it is difficult to analyze the important points and main points of the article discussion.

The next article that would be relevant to this research is a journal from Remschmidt H entitled “Psychosocial Milestones in Normal Puberty and Adolescence” Directed by *Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Philipps University, Marburg, FRG (1994) (Vol, 41)*. In this article, the author relates the psychosocial influence on adolescent development at puberty. According to her, psychosocial factors can alter the pubertal processes' timing and outcome. The emergence of abstract thinking, the increasing capacity for introspection, the development of personal and sexual identity, the establishment of a set of values, increasing independence from family, the importance of peer relationships, which can have a subcultural quality, the establishment of a system of values, and the increasing autonomy from family are the most significant psychological and psychosocial changes in puberty and early adolescence. These changes can be seen as developmental tasks during normal development, but they can also be used to analyze developmental aberrations and psychopathological diseases. From the developmental psychopathology perspective, several puberty and adolescence psychiatric problems can be seen differently. In this article, I found psychosocial influences on adolescent development, especially in developing traits, thought patterns, and behavior. In my opinion, this article is related to the novel *The Outsiders* because it has the same topic, discussing teenagers and the social sphere. One example is in the story *The Outsiders*, the two groups of teenagers indirectly

follow society's perspective on the existence of social stratification.

The last article that may help this research is an article by Randall M. Jones, John M. Vaterlaus, Mark A. Jackson, And Torrey B. Morrill, entitled “Friendship characteristics, psychosocial development, and adolescent identity formation.” (2014). The author of this essay discusses how young individuals complete psychological development, identity status, and friendship measures. Friendship conflict and support were related to psychosocial development and identity statuses. According to Erikson's prescription in this article, early psychological stages were important to identity statuses. After statistically controlling for the predictive variability contributed by trust, autonomy, initiative, and industry with the identity status measures, conflict and support within friendships contributed to identity achievement (3.2%), moratorium (2.4%), and diffusion (2.5%) but were not associated with foreclosure scores. Support within friendships was adversely associated with diffusion, while competition within friendships was positively related to moratorium and diffusion. Based on those previous studies, I conclude that my research is about Adolescence and the Psychosocial view on teenagers and their development also their problems. The research focuses on the Psychosocial analysis of teenagers in young adult literature in the novel *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton by applying Psychology and Psychosocial. I also investigate whether the lesson in the story still is relevant nowadays.

1.4. Research Questions

The main focus of this research is to explain how literary works can reflect psychosocial views of Adolescence and society, especially in young adult

literature. That will be implied in *The Outsider* by S. E. Hinton. The research will be conducted by focusing on answering these three questions:

1. How the perspective of society on the Greasers?
2. Does Ponyboy have an identity crisis as a member of Greaser? How about Ponyboy's true identity?

1.5. Scope of The Research

The research is intrinsic and focuses on how the continuation of the developmental stage of a teenage boy (Ponyboy) is caused by issues related to social stratification. I will analyze how the novel shows society rules about social class in this novel and the impact on Ponyboy's identity. The research also shows how Ponyboy struggles to solve problems in a fight for his rights as an underclass in society.

1.6. Objective of The Research.

This study uses the Psychosocial approach and Social identity theory, especially those related to social identity crisis. This reveals the social aspects of each group of teenagers in society and identity crisis of the main character, Ponyboy. It shows Ponyboy's feelings that he is having doubting his identity and his place in the society because of social stratification. More than that, it shows the way of Ponyboy as the main character to solves his problems to help himself to find his identity and express all his feeling of the rules made by society regarding social stratification.