

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The writer has analyzed the data in Chapter IV. The data contain the narration, dialogs and descriptions from the novel of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (*TPOBW*) by Stephen Chbosky (1999). The data analysis focuses on the two main characters of the novel, Patrick and Brad, who had problems with their identity development and relationship as homosexuals in their society.

5.1 Conclusion

The data analysis employs the theory of the homosexual identity development process by Eli Coleman and new criticism according to Lois Tyson. Based on the research findings and the discussions in relation to the answers to the research questions, the writer has drawn her conclusion concerning the answers to the research questions. The answer to the first research question deals with the stages of homosexual identity development that was faced by Patrick and Brad. The answer to the second research question was the struggles that Patrick and Brad had experienced as being a homosexual in adolescent.

With regard to the answer to the first question on the stages of homosexual identity development, based on the data analysis, the writer found that Patrick experienced the five identity developmental stages of homosexual whereas Brad stuck in the first stage when they faced their own problems in society, living with their sexuality. The five developmental stages of homosexual identity development were experienced by Patrick – pre-coming out, coming out, exploration, first love and integration. With regard to the issue of having a

relationship with Patrick, Brad was denial and having a hard time to accept his sexuality as homosexual. Therefore, Brad kept coming back to the first stage of pre-coming out. This stage is the one where the individual often feels the self-hatred and the denial of being homosexual. This stage was only undergone by Brad and it was filled with repression, shame, negative self-concept, and depression that leads to the addiction of alcohol and drugs.

Brad had such behavior towards his homosexuality because mostly the social attitudes and his dad were the causes. The coming out stage was where Patrick acknowledged his sexual orientation and could finally accept the way he was attracted to men. This acknowledgement is an important stage in homosexuality on how they act towards their sexual identity development. Once Patrick overcame the pre-coming out stage to the coming out stage, he finally gained his fully personality and could tell others about his sexuality. What he did was also important. He received positive feedback from his surroundings to accept his sexual orientation, for instance, when he told Charlie about his homosexuality. The love life of Patrick and Brad explained the first love stage of homosexual identity development. In the first love stage, both Patrick and Brad were engaged in the secret relationship because Brad still did not embrace his homosexuality. He was still denial about his sexuality. Therefore, they had to hide their relationship and act like strangers at school. In their relationship, they also did the exploration by going through their sexual exploration when they had sex for the first time with the same sex partner. Unfortunately, their first love did not last long because of the obstacles they had to endure, especially when Patrick and Brad were still students. Brad lived in a homophobic family and his friends were

popular kids who hated the homosexual and took homosexuals as a joke or something shameful and uncool. After having a heartbreaking moment over their secret relationship, Patrick could finally find himself getting through the next stage of integration. Where he finally moved on from his first relationship with Brad and opened himself into new opportunities by meeting a new guy and focused more on himself.

With regard to a struggle of a love for Patrick and Brad as homosexual couple. They had to face some challenges and struggles since they started dating as a homosexual couple. From the six basic concepts of Individual Psychology, Patrick has experienced fictional finalism where Patrick experienced the struggles over his love life with Brad because he had a desire to make their relationship works. Patrick had to endure the rejection and the broken heart due to the treatment from Brad who was denial about his homosexuality. Brad often ignored Patrick and treated him as if he was not worthy. Furthermore, Patrick felt as if Brad had not loved him that much because he could make Patrick felt disgusted and ashamed about himself. Besides that, Brad has experienced Inferiority Feelings and Compensation where he had to struggle in accepting his homosexuality because he is lived in a homophobic environment, Brad got beaten up by his dad because of his homosexuality.

5.2 Suggestion

With regard to her research on the analysis of the homosexual characters in the novel *TPOBW*, the wirter would like to give her suggestions as follows.

1. Her readers understand homosexuality, another sexuality, except the

heterosexual. Issues on homosexuality might be still hard to be accepted in the society since people normally live along with the culture and value of morality. However, by doing this research the writer hopes the readers can acknowledge the existence of homosexuals as something as valuable as the heterosexuals.

2. With the analysis of the stages of homosexual identity development, her readers deeply understand homosexuality. In addition, seeing the struggles of being homosexuality that have been faced by Patrick and Brad, the writer hopes it could bring sympathy to those who suffer from unfavorable judgments from their society with regard to their sexuality.

3. Readers, in particular lecturers of literature, use this research paper to teach their students about the identity development of homosexuality, as one of the essential elements of the research. Patrick and Brad, the two main characters of the novel *TPOBW* experienced such the homosexual identity development. In this regard, with the use of Coleman's theory of homosexual identity development process, it is important that the students understand that homosexuality has its stages of development. They are pre-coming out, coming out, exploration, first love, and integration.

4. Next researchers conduct further research on different elements of the above novel by utilizing applicable theories of literature and homosexuality as the issues of homosexuality are worth discussing and examining further.

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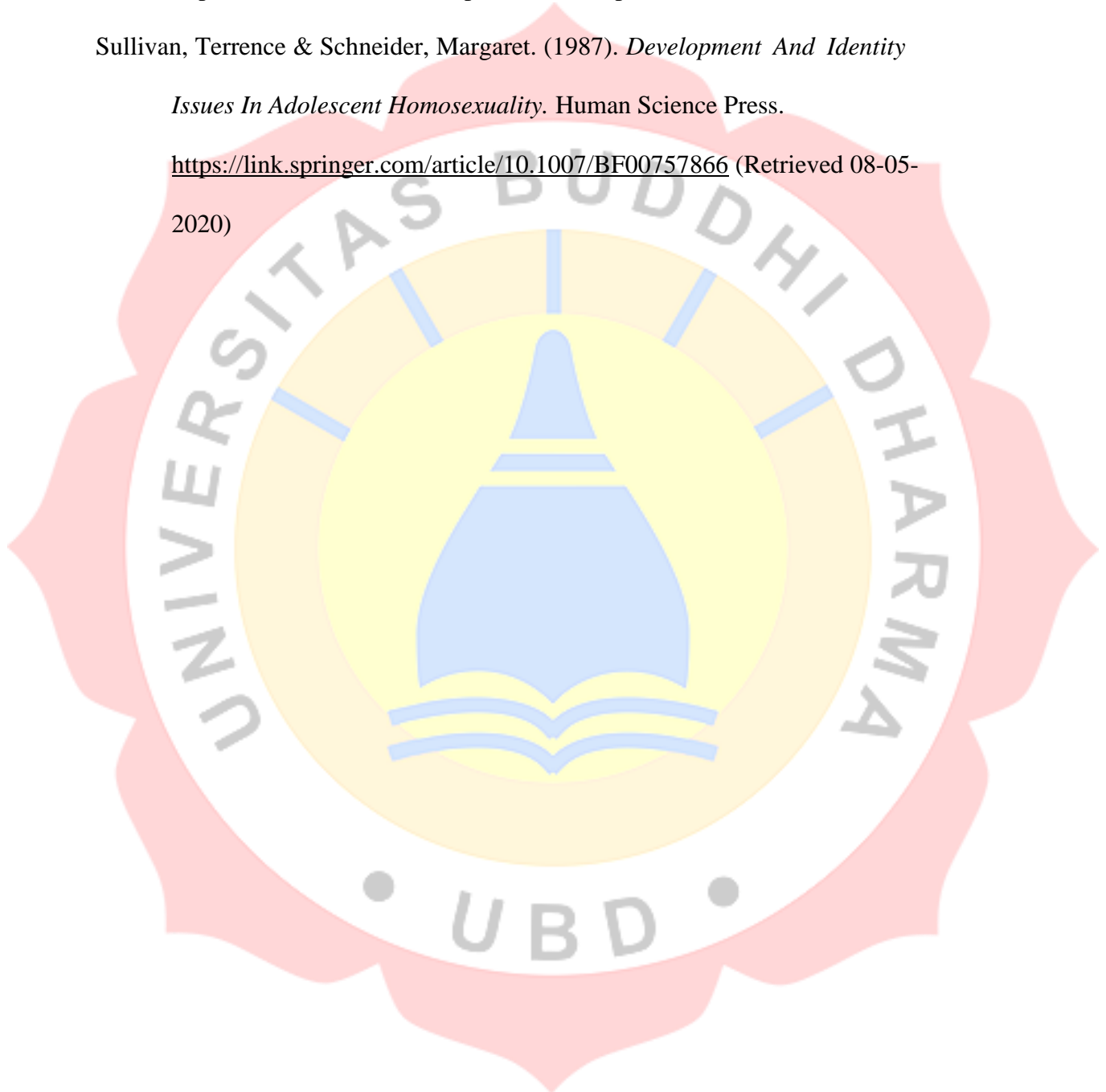
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SYNOPSIS OF THE NOVEL
“THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER”

Charlie, the fifteen-year-old narrator of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, has just entered his freshman year of high school when the book begins. Charlie is the eponymous “wallflower.” He is quiet and withdrawn, but he is also extremely observant and thoughtful, always paying close attention to everything going on around him, even if he is only a silent witness. Charlie writes the entire book as a series of letters to an anonymous “friend.” The reader never learns who this “friend” is, and the “friend” never writes back. Each letter begins with the greeting “Dear friend” and ends “Love always, Charlie.” Because the recipient of the letters never writes back, the novel reads like a series of diary entries.

Charlie begins to participate in events and then he becomes friends with Patrick and his stepsister, Sam, who integrate him into their friend group. Patrick, a high school senior who befriends Charlie, comes to replace the role that Michael filled in Charlie’s life in middle school. Charlie approaches Patrick at the homecoming football game because Charlie recognizes him as the kid from shop class whose nickname is “Nothing.” But Charlie doesn’t refer to Patrick as “Nothing,” and Patrick becomes a full-fledged, faithful friend. Patrick, Sam, and Charlie form a close trio, a sort of strange triumvirate or Three Musketeers-esque band of misfits.

When Patrick accepts Charlie and folds him into his friend group, Patrick demonstrates the vital importance of being inclusive.

Even though Patrick accepts and embraces others' quirks, Patrick himself must face the brute force of bigotry. Patrick is gay, and throughout most of the novel, he is having a closeted affair with Brad, the quarterback of the football team. Throughout much of the novel, Patrick and Brad privately see each other but do not interact romantically in public, and their tacit arrangement seems to work well for them. However, when Brad's father finds out about the relationship and Brad withdraws, Patrick gets thrown into a depressed spiral. Even though Patrick often seems lighthearted, spontaneous, and a bit goofy, his sexuality is still raw and new, and Brad's derogatory comments hurt him tremendously. In a role reversal from the beginning of the novel, Patrick turns to Charlie for emotional support, rather than the other way around.



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 Judul Skripsi : The Analysis of The Homosexual Identity Development of Patrick and Brad as seen in Stephen Chbosky's Novel The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Tanggal	Catatan	Paraf
2020-03-16	Proposed Title	
2020-03-26	Discussion of Chapter 1	
2020-04-07	Submission of Chapter 1 and Discussion of Chapter 2	
2020-04-14	Revision of Chapter 1	
2020-04-21	Submission of Chapter 2 and Discussion of Chapter 3	
2020-04-28	Revision of Chapter 2	
2020-05-08	Submission of Chapter 3 and Discussion of Chapter 4	
2020-05-22	Revision of Chapter 3	
2020-06-08	Submission of Chapter 4 and Discussion of Chapter 5	
2020-06-15	Revision of Chapter 4	
2020-06-22	Submission of Chapter 5 and Discussion of Abstract	
2020-06-22	Revision of Chapter 5	
2020-06-29	Submission of Abstract	
2020-07-01	Revision of Abstract, Review of the Whole Thesis and Approval	

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